## ORIGINAL

PAUL HASTINGS LLP 1 JAMES A. ZAPP (SB# 94584) jameszapp@paulhastings.com 2 CAMERON W. FOX (SB# 218116) 3 cameronfox@paulhastings.com MELINDA A. GORDON (SB# 254203) DEC 27 2011 4 melindagordon@paulhastings.com 515 South Flower Street John A. J.L 5 Twenty-Fifth Floor -cor/Clerk Los Angeles, CA 90071-2228 Telephone: (213) 683-6000 6 Facsimile: (213) 627-0705 .7 Attorneys for Defendant -8 CALIFÓRNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES** 11 12 13 DAVID COPPEDGE, an Individual, CASE NO. BC 435600 14 Plaintiff, **REPLY ON MOTION IN LIMINE #7** 15 DEFENDANT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE VS. OF TECHNOLOGY'S REPLY IN 16 JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, SUPPORT OF MOTION IN LIMINE #7 form unknown; CALIFORNIA ("DML 7") FOR AN ORDER EXCLUDING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, form 17 PLAINTIFF'S SUBJECTIVE OPINION OF unknown; GREGORY CHIN, an HIS OWN JOB PERFORMANCE; 18 Individual; CLARK A. BURGESS, an DECLARATION OF CAMERON W. FOX Individual; KEVIN KLENK, an Individual; 19 and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, FSC Date: February 24, 2012 9:00 a.m. Time: 20 Defendants. Place: Department 54 Judge: Hon. Ernest M. Hiroshige 21 March 7, 2012 Trial Date: 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 LEGAL\_US\_W # 69958280

### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Coppedge missed the point of Caltech's Motion entirely. His Opposition does not even address the category of evidence Caltech seeks to exclude: Coppedge's conclusory opinions about his overall job performance, such as contending (as he did in deposition and in opposing Caltech's summary judgment motion) that he was "the best SA," "the most qualified SA," or that "nobody worked harder to be a better employee and a better -- provide better service to the customers than [he did]." Caltech has shown that these types of self-serving conclusions lack foundation, are irrelevant to what motivated the decision makers in this case, and run a substantial risk of confusing the jury.

Coppedge instead argues he should be allowed to present two *other* types of evidence not at issue in this motion: (1) *facts* regarding his employment, such as how long he worked as a Cassini SA and the tasks on which he trained other Cassini SAs, and (2) opinions regarding what "he believes drove JPL's disciplinary decisions" and "his opinions about why he was demoted and disciplined." Opp'n at 3:24-25, 4:4-5. Neither argument has anything to do with this Motion, and neither supports the admissibility of Coppedge's conclusory statements of his overall performance. With respect to (1), Caltech does not seek to exclude Coppedge's factual testimony about his tenure, job duties, experience and the like. As for (2), which seeks to permit Coppedge to testify as to the ultimate issues in the case, such testimony should be barred for all of the reasons stated in Caltech's Motion in *Limine* No. 8.

Coppedge also uses his Opposition for an additional, equally meritless, purpose: he asks the Court to block Caltech from presenting relevant evidence of others' dissatisfaction with his work – having failed to bring a motion *in limine* on the topic. Worse, in making the argument, he blatantly misstates the record. The Court should reject this improper and baseless request.

LEGAL\_US\_W # 69958280

DEFENDANT'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION IN LIMINE #7 ("DML 7") FOR AN ORDER EXCLUDING PLAINTIFF'S SUBJECTIVE OPINION OF HIS OWN JOB PERFORMANCE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Deposition of David Coppedge at 207:11-15, 387:11-15, 552:11-23, attached to the accompanying Declaration of Cameron W. Fox at Exhibit A. See also Coppedge Deposition at 883:4-12 ("Q. . . . [I]n which areas did you feel you were the best qualified SA? . . . . A. I would characterize it as the sum total of a number of areas which added up to a collective technical capability that should have qualified me as the best qualified to remain on."), 874:19-875:11, attached to Declaration of Cameron W. Fox in support of Caltech's moving papers.

#### II. DISCUSSION

A. Coppedge's Self-Serving Conclusory Opinions Of His Overall Job Performance Are Irrelevant, Speculative, And Barred By Evidence Code Section 352.

Coppedge's opinions of his *overall* job performance – that he was a "great" SA, or that "nobody worked harder [than he]" – are merely subjective, self-serving conclusions that have no relevance to this case. How Coppedge thinks he performed at Caltech has no bearing on his actual job performance in the eyes of the internal customers for whom he provided services or the managers who (in making employment decisions) relied upon their own observations of his performance as well as the feedback they received from those customers regarding Coppedge's performance. Accordingly, Coppedge's own conclusions about his performance are irrelevant under Evidence Code Sections 210 and 350.

These opinions are also baseless speculation, likely to confuse the jury. After all, Coppedge cannot have personal knowledge of the true opinions of his customers and managers. And if he is permitted to testify to his own self-interested perception of their opinion, it will just confuse the jury as to the actual opinions and rankings on which Caltech's layoff process was based. Thus, Coppedge's subjective conclusions regarding his overall job performance are likewise barred by Evidence Code Sections 702 and 352. Coppedge's Opposition does not challenge any of these realities and raises no argument in support of the admissibility of this evidence at trial.<sup>2</sup>

### B. <u>Coppedge's Opposition Addresses Unrelated Issues That Do Not Affect This Motion.</u>

Instead of responding to Caltech's actual Motion, Coppedge spends the first half of his Opposition arguing that he should be allowed to testify to facts regarding his employment as an SA, such as the length of his employment, tasks on which he trained other SAs, and his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Coppedge does, however, waste an inexplicable amount of ink challenging Caltech's assertion that it is the motivation of the decision makers, not Coppedge's own evaluation of his performance, that is the relevant inquiry in this case. Coppedge's protests on this issue are just noise. This is a religious discrimination and retaliation case. There can be no rational debate that the key relevant question at trial will be whether the decision makers made their decisions because of discriminatory animus. Coppedge's citation to cases such as *Flait v. North American Watch Corporation*, 3 Cal. App. 4th 467, 479 (1992), for the general proposition that pretext can be inferred, is inapposite and unhelpful.

experience in performing certain work duties. Of course Coppedge may testify to those matters – they are *facts* (not opinions) of which he has personal knowledge and which are relevant to establishing his employment and work experience at Caltech.

Coppedge spends the second half of his Opposition arguing his position on an entirely separate motion in *limine*: that he should be permitted to opine on the reasons *he believes* he was disciplined and laid off (i.e., that he believes the decisions were "discriminatory" and "retaliatory"), which are ultimate legal issues in the case. Of course Coppedge may not do so, for all of the reasons described in Caltech's Motion in Limine No. 8. Caltech incorporates by reference (and refers the Court to) the briefs for that motion, rather than repeating all of the same arguments here. In any event, Coppedge's discussion of that totally separate issue is irrelevant to this Motion.

### C. Coppedge's Request to Bar Caltech from Presenting Evidence of His Job Performance From Witnesses Whose Feedback The Decision Makers Relied On Is Legally Baseless And Procedurally Improper.

At the end of his Opposition brief, Coppedge attempts a disturbing sleight of hand that misrepresents the record, lacks legal support, and flouts procedure, all in an improper effort to suppress highly relevant evidence that JPL employees were dissatisfied with his work.

First, Coppedge mischaracterizes Caltech's position that the opinions of the layoff decision makers are relevant, by suggesting that Caltech meant that *only* those opinions are relevant. Citing nothing, Coppedge contends:

Coppedge agrees with JPL that only its layoff decision-makers witnesses [sic] should be permitted to testify regarding the reasons for Coppedge's layoff. The opinions and mental states of employees who were not directly involved in making the decision to terminate Coppedge are irrelevant.

Opp'n at 4:12-15. The record shows that this is a totally false account of Caltech's position. As Caltech's Motion for Summary Judgment (filed July 1, 2011) makes clear, Caltech considers the perspective of those who worked with Coppedge relevant. *Id.* at 3 ("Chin received complaints from as many as <u>twenty-five</u> individuals about Coppedge, including his uncooperative attitude and poor interpersonal skills.") (record citations omitted). When Coppedge challenged evidence

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of this kind in his Objections to Evidence, filed concurrently with his Opposition to the Motion for Summary Judgment, Caltech filed a response, confirming that such evidence is both relevant and admissible. See Caltech's Reply To Plaintiff's Objections To Evidence In Support Of Caltech's Motion For Summary Judgment Or, In The Alternative, Summary Adjudication Of Issues.

Second, Caltech never would have agreed with Coppedge on this point, because Coppedge is wrong. Evidence regarding the opinions of those who worked with him is highly relevant, even if those individuals did not participate directly in the employment decision in question. Decision makers do not operate in a vacuum. Here, the decision makers properly relied upon the observations of internal JPL customers regarding Coppedge's performance, as well as their own observations of his performance, when making the decisions to remove his lead activities and to select him (and another SA) for layoff following the Cassini budget reduction. This evidence is not only relevant, but otherwise admissible as well, as non-hearsay evidence that goes to the state of mind and motivations of the decision makers. See Evidence Code section 1200(a) (defining hearsay as that which "is offered to prove the truth of the matter stated"); Wegner, et al., Cal. Prac. Guide Civ. Trials & Ev. (The Rutter Group) at ¶8:1049 ("An out-ofcourt statement is not hearsay if offered to show the effect on the hearer ... e.g., that a party had prior notice or knowledge; that a party was given a warning; or to prove a party's motive, good faith, fear, etc...") (emphasis in original)<sup>3</sup> And, since it is clear that Coppedge intends to challenge the credibility of the decision makers, the other witnesses' testimony also constitute admissible prior consistent statements that show a clear pattern of work-performance-based dissatisfaction with Coppedge for several years preceding the events in this case. See California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1236. Given this, there can be no legitimate dispute that these witnesses' testimony, upon which the decision makers relied, is relevant and admissible.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Id. (citing Rufo v. Simpson, 86 Cal. App. 4th 573, 591-592, (2001); Hickman v. Arons, 187 Cal. App. 2d 167, 171 (1960); First Western Bank & Trust Co. v. Omizzolo, 176 Cal. App. 2d 555, 563 (1959)).

To the extent that Coppedge's argument could be viewed as suggesting that Caltech's evidence on state of mind should be limited to the layoff decision, it must likewise be rejected. Evidence showing the motivations for all of the decisions at issue in the case (not just the layoff) is relevant. Thus, the opinions and mental states of those who informed and made the decisions to LEGAL US W # 69958280

Next, building on these misrepresentations and with complete disregard for procedure, Coppedge inserts what amounts to a motion in limine in the Conclusion section of his Opposition, asking that the Court "bar JPL, its counsel and witnesses (other than layoff decision-makers) from introducing testimony, evidence, argument or comment pertaining to their subjective opinions concerning Coppedge's job performance." Opp'n at 4:18-21. This request is completely lacking in merit – the evidence is plainly relevant, as discussed above – and completely improper. Motions in limine in this Court are governed by the California Rules of Court (3.1112(f)), the Los Angeles County Superior Court Local Rules (3.25(h)(2); 3.57), and the rules of this Department. None of these rules permit Coppedge to include an affirmative request to exclude evidence in an opposition to a motion in limine. In fact, these rules confirm that Coppedge's request is defective and must be denied: he did not discuss the subject in advance with Caltech's counsel, as required (LASC Rule 3.57(a)(2)); he did not include the required declaration (Id. 3.57(a)); and he did not comply with the formatting and procedural requirements of this Department. Even if his request were otherwise compliant (it is not), the Court should deny it as untimely; the parties had agreed. to file motions in limine by November 30, 2011, meaning this request (contained in Coppedge's Opposition, filed on December 14, 2011) came more than two weeks late.

#### III. **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Caltech respectfully requests that the Court grant its motion in limine, and bar Coppedge, his counsel and witnesses from introducing testimony, evidence, argument, or comment pertaining to Plaintiff's subjective conclusory opinions of his overall job performance. Caltech also respectfully requests that the Court deny Coppedge's posthoc request for an order barring Caltech from offering evidence from witnesses other than the layoff decision makers concerning Coppedge's job performance.

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discipline him and remove his informal "lead" designation - both decision makers and those who worked with Coppedge – are relevant as well.

LEGAL US W# 6995828

### **DECLARATION OF CAMERON W. FOX**

I, Cameron W. Fox, declare:

- 1. I am an attorney at law duly admitted to practice before this Court and all of the courts of the State of California. I am an associate with the law firm of Paul Hastings LLP ("Paul Hastings"), counsel of record for the California Institute of Technology ("Caltech") in this action. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this Declaration, or know of such facts by my review of the files maintained by Paul Hastings in the normal course of its business, and if called as a witness, could and would testify as to their accuracy.
- 2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Defendant's Reply In Support Of Motion *In Limine* For An Order Excluding Plaintiff's Subjective Opinion of His Own Job Performance ("Motion").
- Attached hereto as Exhibit A are true and correct copies of excerpts from Days
   One, Two, and Three of the deposition of David Coppedge, taken on September 30, 2010,
   October 1, 2010, and October 22, 2010.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 27th day of December, 2011, at Los Angeles, California.

Cameron W Toy

12/27/2011

### **CERTIFIED COPY**

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DAVID COPPEDGE, an Individual,	) CASE NO. BC 435600
Plaintiff,	) }
vs.	
JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, form unknown; CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, form unknown; GREGORY CHIN, an Individual; CLARK A. BURGESS, an Individual; KEVEIN KLENK, an Individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,	) ) ) ) ) ) )
. Defendants.	)

DEPOSITION OF DAVID COPPEDGE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

VOLUME 1

(Pages 1 through 256)

REPORTED BY:

( )

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EXA

15:48:32 1 15:48:35 2 15:48:36 3 15:48:39 4 15:48:41 5 15:48:43 6 15:48:48 7 15:48:51 8 9 15:48:53 15:48:57 10 15:48:58 111 15:49:01 12 15:49:07 13 15:49:10 14 15:49:13 15 15:49:16 16 15:49:18 17 15:49:21 18 15:49:23 19 15:49:25 20 15:49:29 21 15:49:32 22 15:49:33 23 15:49:35 24 15:49:36 25

BY MR. ZAPP: Well, I'm done for now. Q Did you want to say something? MR. BECKER: THE WITNESS: Well, yeah, I was going to add just that I felt it's a shame that these individuals, these fine men, have to be drawn into this because this is not about them. It's about my freedom to share my sincerely held beliefs on intelligent design with coworkers without being singled out and, I feel, harassed and retaliated against for doing so. And I understand the questioning. intended to try to make me look bad. But I can assure you that nobody has worked harder trying to be a better employee and a better -- provide better service to the customers than I have. And --BY MR. ZAPP: Well, let me just say there's O not a point in getting into a debate. I'm not trying to make you look bad, Mr. Coppedge, but I am trying to identify facts of things that occurred. And so --And I'm sharing facts of how I responded to Α the things that occurred. I understand. Q And I have notes to that effect to support Α it.

PAGE/LINE	ORIGINAL	CHANGE TO:
23:20 .	Yeah.	Yes.
29:18 -	center	synod
51:5	Infotech	Infotec
67:7-8°	I think it's the belief that there is a creator rather than things happening on their own.	Creation simply means that the universe was created by a Creator, usually assumed to be God.
67:22-25	I think that there — that creationism, as you would call it, is a subset. It's one answer to the question of the designing intelligence, whereas intelligent design itself is	No. Intelligent design does not depend on a belief in a creator to arrive at its scientific conclusions.
68:13-15 :	It means that there is a designing intelligence, a creator, as opposed to things happening without a designing intelligence.	Creation per se just means a Creator created the universe.
68:17-19	Intelligent design does not answer that question, but Biblical creationism would identify the designing intelligence as God.	Yes, creationism usually posits God as the Creator. In most uses of the term these days, creationism refers to the belief that the God of the Bible created the world according to the account in the book of Genesis. Intelligent design is restricted to inferring design, not the designer, using the methods of science. Creationism is concerned with proving that the designer is God.
69:23-24	There are certainly non-Christians and nonreligious people who consider it a valid, scientific question.	I misunderstood the question, which upon re-reading, makes no sense. Creation implies a Creator. I am unaware of anyone teaching that creation occurred without a creator; that would be illogical.
70:5-7	It's not focused on the identity of the intelligence but just the effects of design, whether they are discernible or not.	Upon re-reading, this question makes no sense, either. An intelligent source is a creator by definition. If you are asking whether ID teaches the intelligent source is God, then the answer is no; intelligent design doesn't teach any such thing; because that's outside its domain. That question is left to philosophers and theologians.

70.7 00		Intelligent design is a scientific theory,
70:7 cont.		focused not on the identity of the
	•	designer but on the evidence for
		design, whether it is detectable or not
	•	using well-tested methods of science
		and mathematics and logical inference.
		Those same methods are routinely
		used in other scientific fields, like
	•	archaeology, information theory, and
;		genetics. Even lawyers rely on it! They
		use the same methods to decide if a
		body died of natural causes or was
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	murdered. See? Some designers can
•		be evil, but intelligent design theory
		doesn't get into the nature of the
		intelligent source, interesting as that
		question might be, because it's
· :		focused on the evidence, not the
	·	person. In the same way, investigators
		gather clues from a crime scene, and
	·	the coroner makes a determination
		between chance, natural law, or
		murder. It's up to others to figure out
		the motives and purposes of the
		murderer-an evil designer in this case.
		This shows it's possible to use
		intelligent design theory without
		getting into questions about God.
71:15 •	Production	Productions
71:21	honorary	honoraria
73:23 .	don't want to speculate.	For 2009, gross revenue reported was \$2302.
82:15 '	the. This	this .
92:6	Ken	Cab
97:23 •	1	l've
98:189	There's	There are .
98:24 •	persons. And	persons, and
117:8	what I was being accused of.	that I had been accused of anything.
118:8	Yeah	Yes
119:10 '	Yeah	Yes
132:21	Yeah.	Yes.
133:9	Yeah	Yes
134:18-25	I didn't believe it was that what I was saying was	Yes. I did not believe what I was doing
	religious. But apparently they did. And if they did,	in handing out DVDs on intelligent
)	then they had a right to accommodate and protect	design constituted religious activity,
	that. But they were – you know, they were saying I	but apparently Greg Chin did. But
	was pushing religion. Well, if that's what their	rather than respecting my free speech
	argument is, then I should be able to, you known,	and accommodating what he deemed
	defend my right to be able to discuss that.	to be religion, he gave me a blanket
		order to shut up or be fired.
138: <b>3</b> 3	of that	from that

110/27/2011

139:3 .

Yeah

(Does not mater w transcript

184:1	yeah	yes
186:8	Yeah.	Yes.
188:15	Yeah.	[delete line; irrelevant]
188:23	3 and I don't think she had direct	I don't believe she had
190:3-4	when I heard that, you know — I think her name came	when her name came up in one of the
190.3-4	up in one of the meetings with Greg.	meetings with Greg
190:11-12	In terms of when I was probing for like who is	I would ask him who specifically was
	unhappy,	complaining, and
191:18\	saying, you know, how can we do better? How	asking, how
191:21 `	up, gave	up to our offices and
(3:5-6 ?	And I believe it	And it
194:25 ~	doubt any-expect any problem	expect any problem
196:20 •	And you know, these	These
197:24 •	There was not, you know, the	There were no
200:3 、	I had — could	I could
200:8	no	"no"
200:13	by alleverybody	by everybody
200:18-19	And it — and some people read into that that I'm just,	Some people read into that that I was
	you know, saying	saying
200:23	I'm not doing I'm	l'm
203:3	customer, do	customer, to do
204:17 -	For seven—	For several [Seven does not make
		sense here; strike?]
205:16 .	far after	long after
206:16	Uh-huh	Yes
211:5-6 •	Can't say until I find out what the acronym is.	This was a New Tribes Mission film
· _		about a remarkable true story of a
	·	missionary bringing hope and joy to a  New Guinea tribe. I shared it one time
		with a fellow Christian.
211:11-12 •	just a little tiny thing.	a reduced-size package of the same
	just a neces any annig.	film.
212:24 •	Yeah.	Yes.
214:6 •	· Uh-hun.	Yes.
217:22 •	Sometimes. Not always.	Sometimes, but not often.
219:19 -	blasting	blatantly promoting
220:21-	this, that	this – that
220:23•	an artificial	something artificial
221:4	You know, that was kind of an acronym	"LGM" was actually an acronym
221:5	life and they	life. Later, they
222:11-	and saying	and saying,
222:20•	the whole process a whole list	the others a short list
223:17•	film, he talks	film, talks
224:17	No, I think — I'm	No, I'm
224:19 •	theistic Darwinists	theistic evolutionists
229:2 :	would	could
230:19 .	Yeah, for like	Yes, for
230.13	reall, for like	165, 101

236:7 *	in my discuss no,	in sharing it that year. No,
236:12-13	accused, yeah, of Christian	accused of pushing
237:5	Yeah,	Yes,
246:22-23 ,	And it's kind of like in	tt's in
248:4 .	Yeah well, not	Yes. Not
251:25 i	program. Now	program now
252:1:•	Planet Quest	Planet Quest
	•	

### REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

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-8 : 

I, Deborah R. Meyers, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify:

That prior to being examined, the witness named in the foregoing proceedings was by me duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

That said proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth and were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to computerized transcription under my direction and supervision;

That the dismantling of the transcript will void the reporter's certificate.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, any party to said proceedings, nor in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 12th day of October, 2010.

DEBORAH R. MEYERS, CSR NO. 8569

### CERTIFIED COPY

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DAVID COPPEDGE, an Individ	ual, ) CASE NO. BC 435600
Plaintiff,	
vs.	')
JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, form unknown; CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, funknown; GREGORY CHIN, an Individual; CLARK A. BURGE an Individual; KEVEIN KLEN an Individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,	SS, )
Defendants	}

### DEPOSITION OF DAVID COPPEDGE

OCTOBER 1, 2010

VOLUME 2

(Pages 257 through 462)

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14:19:24

14:19:26

14:19:30

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please let me know.

And yet Greg says people's perceptions are hard to change. Well, that may be true, but I also believe in redemption and improvement, and I did everything in my power to improve.

Q Did you ever come to realize that people simply may have lost confidence in you such that it was not going to change?

MR. BECKER: Assumes facts not in evidence, lacks foundation, argumentative.

THE WITNESS: I don't understand why the onus is being put on me. I mean, who else worked harder to create good relationships with customers? And if they won't reciprocate and respond back, then that's their problem, not mine.

Q BY MR. ZAPP: Let me restate the question. Would you agree that -- well, strike that.

Did you believe it was possible that some of the customers with whom you worked simply lost confidence in you such that, you know, their view of you was not going to change?

MR. BECKER: Same objections.

THE WITNESS: I don't believe that. Greg would tell me that, but I went, for instance, to one of the persons he mentioned that might feel that

#### REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

- 8

I, Deborah R. Meyers, a Certified

Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify:

That prior to being examined, the witness named in the foregoing proceedings was by me duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

That said proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth and were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to computerized transcription under my direction and supervision;

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DEBORAH R. MEYERS, CSR NO. 8569

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DAVID COPPEDGE, an Individual, )

CASE NO. BC 435600

Plaintiff,

VS.

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, form unknown; CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, form unknown; GREGORY CHIN, an Individual; CLARK A. BURGESS, an Individual; KEVEIN KLENK, an Individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF DAVID COPPEDGE

OCTOBER 22, 2010 ·

VOLUME 3

(Pages 463 through 757)

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12.02.20	25

№12:03:30

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influence that she was having. The strife that she was creating was creating all kinds of controversy about the SA team.

And the SA team -- in fact, Cab may recall that they went to his office one time giving me a vote of confidence, saying it's unfair what Dave's being accused of here. And I would go out on the mall with Nick Patel, for instance, and he would feel really bad about the situation and give me his confidence that --

Q Let me restate the question. In other words, what you're saying is except for what Pam Woncik said or did, you would not have had any issues or difficulties in working with -- none of these people would have felt they had any issues or difficulties in working with you; is that correct?

MR. BECKER: Vague, ambiguous, calls for speculation.

I don't know what issues they might have had or cannot mad their minds. All I can

Say is that I had a clear conscience about my actions with them, and we qualify that with everybody has difficulties to deal treated one another consistly and respectfully. Everybody worked with in any office situation. And nobody worked harder to resolve those difficulties than I did, and I think the record shows that.

Q BY MR. ZAPP: When you said "no," did you mean that you didn't think you had difficulties or

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

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PAGE/LINE	ORIGINAL	CHANGE TO:
471:17	Yeah, they	They
473:1	thought was nice	selected for business reasons
477:11	which is the organization that the	the organization whose leadership
477:12	mantle landed on me	mantle fell on me
498:22	No, I don't believe so.	I don't remember when I discontinued any
		phone calls to Casey Luskin, but at some point
		in this period I discontinued conversations
	•	about this case with any attorneys besides Bill
502:8	Yes	Becker.  Yes if it was not a blanket order restricting my
302:6	res	rights of free speech.
506:19	by myby the	by my
507:8	Every day they were-I was	Every day I was
511:7	being,	being -
511:8	you know, a breath someone that's	a breath someone who's
512:7	forensics, what you	forensics. What a
512:8	do as a lawyer for instance, you're trying to	lawyer does, for instance: he tries to .
512:10	You know, you have to	You have to
512:17	science, where we weren't here for the	science. In cases where humans were not
		present for the
512:18	origin of these things but we infer from the	origin of these things, we infer from the
513:8	harassment people accused of	employees accused of
513:20	Well, that's what he said. And I think he	Yes, that's what he said. I think he
513:22	design isit's one of these unpopular ideas	design is a politically incorrect idea
514:7	monkeys, they ought to	monkeys ought to
514:22	This was this was	This was
515:6	heated first heated	first heated
515:13	responsibilities he had	his responsibilities
515:16-17	l didn't blink an eye.	l didn't falter.
515:21	Plus, another thing about that time,	Plus, another thing:
518:9	Yeah, what do you mean?	What do you mean?
521:10	be ought to have some meaning more	have a more formalized procedure
523:14	And how far how much farther could	And how much higher could
523:15	I go than the head of the Human Resources	I go with an appeal than to the head of the
	department	Human Resources Department?
523:16	with an appeal? That	That
523:25	without with	with
526:3	It was like I was	I felt I was
525:4	If I — if it's in	If it's in
526:8	to it.	to them.
526:24	1 just stated but I did state	But I did state
526:5	I had records of everybody I had shared these	I had records of everyone with whom I had shared these
527:1	with and the reactions were	DVDs, that the reactions were

528:23	everyone had opportunity	each person involved in the investigation had opportunity
531:7	you have more witnesses. Look at the data.	you have more witness who examine the evidence.
532:13	lead.	lead, and an apology issued for the violation of my rights.
532:18	harassment.	harassment. In addition, I wanted JPL to affirm the free speech rights of all employees.
533:3	There was no there was no	There was no
534:13-14	trying to trying to placate Pam, who was making a very,	trying to placate Pam, who was making a very
534:15	very demanding – Pam	unreasonable demand. Pam
536:1	He said, you know,	He said .
538:17	Oh, yeah.	Yes.
539:7-8	I can't answer a question like how do you rank the colors.	I can't answer a question like that. It's like trying to rank the colors.
544:6	throughout the office of that I was	throughout the office of uncertainty about me. I was
545:22-23	These were all for seven years there was no problem.	For seven years there was no problem.
546:1	There are facing	The team is facing
546:6	changes	changed
546:7	that, you know, Greg is	that, Greg Is
547:19	Yes. I mean, tammy Tammy Fujii	Yes. Tammy Fujii
549:22	conversations, and I never	conversations. I never
550:18	and – these	Wong were influenced by negative reports about me. These
552:19	I'm going to say no, but qualify that with everybody	I don't know what issues they might have had or not. I cannot read their minds. All I can say is that I had a clear conscience about my actions with them, and we treated one another cordially and respectfully. Everybody
554:6	And I was not trying to say	I was not trying to say
554:8	I think that's how he kind of took it	I think that's what he was inferring from my comment.
555:15	Yes, this was my feelings, my opinions	Yes; this represented my feelings, my opinions
556:1	In fact, he seemed like it	He acted as if it
556:3	"Oh, brother, I got to talk to	"Oh, brother, I have to talk to
556:5	And there was it was pointless.	It was pointless.
556:13	There was	There were
557:7	1 he Cab knows very well	Cab knows very well
558:4	Well, the yes.	Well, yes
560:1	No. I don't recall	1 don't recall.
561:18	was to, you know, put the I was taking the most	was to assign each SA to an office. I was taking the most
561:19	heat from IO at the time. And so to avoid further	heat from IO at the time. So to avoid further
561:20	controversy, he was trying to just – well, who can	confrontations, he was trying to decide who to assign to IO

561:21	we put that they hate the least to interface with	whom they dislike the least, to interact with
561:22	them? That was kind of just his attempt.	them. He was attempting to avoid
		controversy in a volatile situation.
562:7	I don't recall the specifics, but Greg was	I don't recall the specifics, but Greg had decided
562:8	trying to just parse out the work to, you know, give	to assign
562:9	each one of certain groups to focus on as part of	each SA certain groups to work with, as part of
562:10	this alleviating the heat that was going on around with	an attempt to alleviate the heat between offices,
562:11	the office at the time.	In particular with IO, at the time.
562.18	because I never had any direct dealings with Julie	because I did not provide services directly to
562:19	Webster and the cordial meetings we had ever had had	Webster. Any contacts with her had
562:20	always been friendly. And I found it hard to	always been cordial. I found it hard to
563:10	In fact, when after Greg had mentioned	In fact, after Greg mentioned
563:13	went to her with a bridge-building exercise:	took the initiative to improve our working relationship. I visited her office and asked her, Julie,
564:10	This was the scientific community who were	This was a group of scientists both inside and outside of JPL
564:11	receiving you know, unrelated to JPL	communicating
564:15	they one of them	one of them
564:19	It basically says, hey, there	It basically says that there
564:20	seems to be some questions	are some questions
565:2	though, that you get	though, you get
565:4	design, there's this	design produces a
565:7	reflects bad on JPL.	reflects badly on JPL.
566:9	the kinds of heat I	those heated conversations. I
566:10	was the first target of this kind of activity that	was the first target in their plan to get control.
566:11	they were engaged in, where we all the SA team	The SA team
566:12	all believed that the goal that they were after was	all believed that their goal was
566:13	to have carve out their own enclave of their own	to carve out their own enclave of their own
566:19	one point trying to talk about, you know, the to-	one point to discuss action items
566:20	list and is everything but it was impossible to	and answer questions, but it was impossible to
566:23	the others quickly knew, and Bob quickly changed his	the others quickly became involved. Bob Jobsky soon changed his
566:24	opinion, and in due time I think Greg was taking a	opinion about Pam Woncik, and in due time I believe Greg was taking a
567:18	It was I was getting a	I was getting the
569:1	rather than to — so I don't think I sent this to	rather than "To" so I don't recall if I sent this to
569:2	anybody else. I don't recall	anybody else.
570:18	have my family	have spoken with my family
570:23	comments that people brought to me, said they heard	comments I received from people who had heard

570:24	about this and they were very concerned and	about this and were concerned. They
	they	
573:13	The same day, yeah.	The same day; yes.
574:17	Yeah. He said that I had used poor	Yes, He said that he thought I had used poor
577:15	want	wanted
577:19	she we had	we had
578:3	duplicitous, that that's not how she you	duplicitous. He felt that
578:4	know, the way she talks is not necessarily what	the way she talks is not indicative of what
578:5	she's going to do. And he mentioned that. He can	she will do. He mentioned that to me once. He can
578:14	That was ~ that may	That may
579:20	to mean like can l	to mean, Can I
579:21	continue doing what I had done that got me into this	continue sharing the information on intelligent design that got me into this
582:24	questions remaining, and I wanted to at least, you	questions remaining, and I wanted to at least
582:25	know, state here's what I think it was kind	clarify that my recollections coincided with his. It was
583:1	like with that meeting with Greg. Here's what I	like that email to Greg, where I asked, Here's what I
584:11	May of 2004	May of 2010
585:21-22	this situation meant. But usually, you know,	a particular situation meant. But usually,
586:9	task, you know, and	task, and
586:10	And Oscar	Oscar
586:11	Castillo had had it. So	Castillo had the task before me.
587:7	lay out here's the tasks	lay out the tasks
588:2	bossy in terms of like he'd walk into my cubicle and	bossy. He would walk into my cubicle and
588:3	announce and say, Dave, we need to do this and here	tell me, Dave, I want you to do this
588:4	and here, and he'd basically, without any	right now. Basically, without any
588:5 ·	consideration of what I was already doing, just tell	consideration of other tasks I was working on, he would just order
588:6	me and assign tasks to me.	me around.
589:5	a little bit of	additional
S89:8	I think that that	I think Nick's behavior in light of job security
589:9	ought to be taken into account, the way that he's	ought to be taken into account. Nick is
589:10	sort of an interested party in keeping his job as	an interested party. He wants to keep his job
589:11	well as the rest of us are. And anything he could	like the rest of us. Anything he could
589:21	we would have go out	we would go out
590:8	tone and not — you know, I tried to offer	manner. He was not asking about things; he was accusing me. I tried to answer
590:9	my defense of what, as I saw these things, he was	his allegations. I took notes
590:10	saying, and I wrote these up. But he was just	and later wrote them up. 'Nick was
591:10	No. I had — for a while I had	No. I had
591:25	like one	one :
592:17-18	I don't look at their over their shoulder	I don't look over their shoulder
593:19	nothing, you know, improper	nothing improper

595:1-2	them in my – in my recollection. I answered them thoroughly	them thoroughly.
595:4	It was I think basically I told the	The
595:15	He was making he was expressing	He was expressing
596:6	not any in any sense	not in any sense
596:18	had, you know, gone	had gone
596:20	any anything	anything
598:4	but I like I said,	but like I said,
598:22	a lot of a diverse	a diverse
599:7	key on science sites	keen on science sites
599:14	Yes.	No, but on evolutionnews.org.
608:11	seconds, you know, I	seconds, I
613:10	I think that it was that	I think that
623:13-14	I mean, where does the diversity rule?	I mean, what does diversity include?
625:3	formality, you know. You have your it's not	formality. You have your input, but it's not
625:5	But I took note of the of these	But I took note of the negative
625:18	fact, you can often I recorded sometimes	fact, you can often overhear non-work-related conversations. I took note of
625:21	And why	Why
633:25	like an outline	an outline
635:3	anything above 70 is considered excellent.	anything about 70 is passing and anything above 90 is considered excellent.
638:2	While we not optimal	"While we not optimal."
639:9	And I cannot	cannot
639:10	be why that should be written up in my	be responsible for other people's feelings.
	employee	Why that should be written up in my
<del></del>		employee
639:11	review as a problem is beyond me.	review as my problem is beyond me.
641:2	I believe that's what I yeah, I think	1 think
644:18-19	High School who had never many of them had never	High School, many of whom had never
644:23.	And this was – amount to	And this amounted to
645:18	writes this up as if	writes this
645:22	Just I'm I'm	l'm
646:25	work he says	work l aspire to. He says
647:5	oblivious to any what had happened	oblivious to the controversy over the DVDs and conflicts with IO from
647:6	the prior year	prior years
647:9	And he thought it was everything was great.	And he thought everything was great.
647:18	And this the only thing	The only thing
649:5	Yes, uh-huh.	Yes.
649:17	I was not I was never	I was never
652:1	It just that	That
653:1	manner.	manner. As it turned out, the servers needed a reboot for other reasons, so the interruption caused by my error was moot.
656:21	Yeah,	Yes,

657:6	And to have her, you know, pick out good	And for her to pick out good
657:7	things I had done and to encapsulate them in my	things I had done and present them as flaws in
037.7	things that do no and to encapsurate them in my	my
659:4-5	I had I had improved on a sloppy situation	I had improved on a sloppy situation I
,	where	inherited from prior SA's, where
659:6-7	And I decided, you know, we need to have a	I decided it would help to have a method
	system	
659:10	Patty	Patti
659:11	she just for whatever reason,	for whatever reason,
659:15	is well, let's	was, let's
659:17	get them all — it wasn't	get them all. It wasn't
659:18	Patty	Patti
650:13-14	We had - what I think was confusing Patty	What I think was confusing Patti
661:3	Patty	Patti
662:14	had said earlier that words	had earlier said words
665:1	And my I think my	And I think my
665:14	but want to have a	but have a
666:13	Burgess.	Burgess have done so.
666:16	for up	up
666:18	you get	l got
667:5-6	I need all the friends I can get.	I'm trying.
669:7	and to go through	to go through
669:10-11	I the	The
669:15	find – dig	dig
671:11	that I was that was	that was
671:22	been had received	received
676:13	I think that if this — if I fail	I think that if I fail
676:15	on the entire lab	on the entire lab and the entire nation
676:18	that you dare to step out of the line of the Darwin	that if you dare to step out of line with the
		Darwin
676:19	dogma and your job could be at stake.	dogma, your job could be at stake.
677:13	situation that I find myself in, that I'm - you	situation that I find myself in.
677:14	know, I used to have a pretty – I used to walk	i used to walk
677:15	pretty proudly of	feeling gratified about
677:21-22	l you know, I don't	l don't
677:24	nobody you know, some people know about it,	nobody can talk about it. The situation has
	but	put a quash on all speech about intelligent
		design. Some people know about the case,
679.1	ivet big	but
678:1	just big	of pools are looking at me thinking \M/het
679:25	of people, you know, they're looking at me, what	of people are looking at me, thinking, What
680:4-5	joyful, you know,	joyful,
680:8	under this	under a
680:11	or with	with
683:12	i get i've	I've

686:8	back then.	As recently as 2008 I was healthy enough to
	,	run up Arroyo Seco a mile and back during
		lunch hour. I haven't felt good enough to do
		that since this incident started.
688:8	but, you know,	but
689:9	I you know, I'd	l,q
690:15	Well, you know at work ! I'm in fear	Well, at work I'm in fear
690:18	just freely	freely
690:22	people would like to see – some people, you know,	some people would
690:23	maybe like to see things that they could find fault	like to find occasions for fault
690:24	with so that they could shift the attention from	with me, so that they could shift the attention
<u> </u>		from
690:25	what happened to me as being a problem person.	the discipline I received for sharing intelligent design to me being a problem person.
696:25	I don't know. They probably were, yeah.	I don't know.
697:1	These are hard times.	[delete]
697:25	Yeah,	Yes,
699:15	not work.	would be bad policy.
700:4	Yeah,	Yes,
705:20	Patty	Patti
706:19-20	where, you know,	where
708:9	impression, was this	impression whether this
712:6	yeah.	yes.
712:25	the types of of slander that was was going	the types of slander that were going on.
715:8	mental conflict. Let's say that I would not be in	discomfort toward me. From that point on, I was not in
.715:9	his close circle of friends that he felt comfortable	his close circle of friends that he felt comfortable
715:10	with. Just leave it at that.	with actually, probably earlier, since the day he and I discovered we had opposite views about the lawsuit involving Grace Community Church. (The church won, by the way.)
719:3-4	had suggested to him can I go	had offered to go
719:5	them?	them.
723:16	This IS particular Incident	This particular incident
727:9	But I say, you know, this has happened to	I believe challenges are an opportunity
727:10	me for a purpose here.	to grow.
728:23	can – agreed	agreed
730:17	I the thing about the Ethics Office was	Regarding the Ethics Office,
730:18	saying is it	asked if it was
731:1	they are a biblical	they are a
733:6	Trip wire.	Tripwire.
736:9	just goes kind of shopping	goes shopping
736:14	This was I don't	I don't
736:16	And she would – in our SA	In our SA
736:17	meetings he would say don't do that, you know. We	meetings he would say, Don't do that; we

• .		
736:18	need to – that Caroli has this habit of just going	need to stand up against her tendency of
741:6	Community Church.	going  Community Church. Died of liver disease; I attended his funeral and saw Greg there.
741:18	great guy. I miss him.	Bo was a humble, godly, friendly man who had come on a couple of my hikes. I miss him.
742:7	this thing about intelligent design, and it may have	a dislike of intelligent design that apparently
742:8	cropped up in various ways. I don't know.	was expressed in his attitude toward me.
746:1	Look, this thing about unwelcome, you know,	Look, this thing about unwelcome:
746:14	have an interest?	have an interest in sharing this with my coworkers?
746:15	Well, I decided to, you know, just look at	Well, I decided to look at
746:19	doubts	questions
747:2	Cab kept	Cab
747:5	And no,	No,
747:9	that kind of thing.	I would say.
749:5	palsy	personable
749:22	Dave, let's we've got	Dave, we've got
751:5	wanted	want

DEFENDANT'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION IN LIMINE #7 ("DML 7") FOR AN ORDER EXCLUDING PLAINTIFF'S SUBJECTIVE OPINION OF HIS OWN JOB PERFORMANCE