THE COURT: Please be seated. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

THE JURY: Good morning.

THE COURT: Well, you have been practicing that.

Nice to have you back this morning. Everyone got paid this morning?

THE JURY: Yes.

THE COURT: Good.

Let me just suggest that you are all required to stay in the jury room and you may not leave the jury room unless the Court authorizes you to do so, so I saw somebody starting to come in the courtroom and you have to wait for us to bring you in.

I promise you we will bring you in as quickly as we can.

We are going to be getting you all the pads and pencils. Jill is going to be getting those, and she will be having those for you in just a few moments.

This morning we are going to begin with the opening statements of counsel. We will start first, as I indicated, with the plaintiffs and then the defendants.

I want to wait for a moment to get you the pads so that you can make whatever notes you might like to make of whatever counsel say to you.

Please keep in mind that counsel are, as I indicated, advocates. They are professionals. They have prepared their case, and they will present it in the manner in which they think is appropriate.

Please don't anticipate anything that they say. Whatever they say is by way of advocacy. They are not witnesses. They have not been sworn and nothing they say is evidence.

The opening statements are for the purpose of giving you an outline of what they intend to prove on behalf of their respective clients during the course of the trial.

MS. TOSTANOSKI: Your Honor, we have set up two chairs over there and so as not to interrupt the

plaintiffs' opening, do we have permission to move over --

THE COURT: Absolutely. All counsel can move over to their right whenever they think it is appropriate.

MS. TOSTANOSKI: Thank you, Your Honor.

(Whereupon, discussion off the record.)

THE COURT: Everyone has their pad and pencil.

Mr. Ignatowski, you may begin, please, sir.

OPENING STATEMENTS

MR. IGNATOWSKI: May it please the Court, good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning counsel.

That is diffuse malignant mesothelioma. That is what this case is about, ladies and gentlemen.

It is diffuse because it covers the lining of the lung and the cavity in which they sit and it covers the lining of the abdominal cavity and the organs that sit within the abdominal cavity.

It is malignant because it is a cancer. It is incurable, it is untreatable, it causes excruciating pain to the point that there is no treatment except for that called palliative, the use of heavy dose narcotics such as Dilaudid and morphine because that is the only way to keep the individuals comfortable.

It is caused in the United States by only one thing, asbestos exposure.

The evidence in this case will show that each and every one of these men had significant occupational exposure to asbestos in their jobs.

There will be no dispute whatsoever that each of these gentlemen developed and died from malignant mesothelioma. There will be no doctor from the defense side of the case who will say otherwise. It is undisputed.

It is a disease that is invariably fatal within nine to 18 months of diagnosis.

Mr. Grewe -- Mrs. Grewe, would you please stand.