

In The Matter Of:

*Judith Bechtold, et al. v.
Monsanto Company, et al.*

*George Levinskas, Ph.D
June 7, 1994*

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Page 1

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT - CITY OF ST. LOUIS
STATE OF MISSOURI
JUDITH BECHTOLD, wife of/and
STEPHEN E. BECHTOLD, ELIZABETH
TAMEWITZ, as Personal
Representative of her deceased
husband, Kenneth F. Tamewitz,
KELLIE LEE TRISLER, as Personal
Representative of her deceased
mother, NINA TRISLER, PHYLLIS
GOODMAN, as Personal Representative
of her deceased husband,
CHARLES GOODMAN, JR.,
Plaintiffs,
vs. NO. 922-00911
MONSANTO COMPANY and
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC
CORPORATION,
Defendants.
Deposition of GEORGE LEVINSKAS, Ph.D.
Taken on June 7, 1994

Page 2

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Page 3

Deposition of GEORGE LEVINSKAS, Ph.D.,
taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs, at the law
offices of Husch & Eppenberger, 100 North
Broadway, Suite 1300, in the City of
St. Louis, State of Missouri, on the 7th day
of June, 1994, before Victoria L. Wilson,
Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
Public.

Page 4

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Page 5

INDEX	PAGE
Examination by Mr. Murray	6
Examination by Mr. Carney	45
Examination by Mr. Murray	46
EXHIBITS	
(None marked)	

Page 6

[1] GEORGE LEVINSKAS, Ph.D. [2] of law-
ful age, having been first duly sworn to
[3] testify the truth, the whole truth, and
[4] nothing but the truth in the case
aforesaid, [5] deposes and says in reply to
oral [6] interrogatories propounded as
follows, to-wit:

[7] EXAMINATION

[8] QUESTIONS BY MR. MURRAY:

[9] Q: Good morning, Dr. Levinskas. My
name [10] is Joe Murray. I represent the
plaintiffs in [11] this case and I'm here
today to ask you [12] various questions
about some of the issues [13] involved in
the case. Most of the issues in [14] this
case are similar, if not identical, to [15] the
issues involved in the Cecil Scott versus
[16] Monsanto case which was tried back
in 1987 or [17] '88, as I remember it, and
I believe you gave [18] testimony in that
case, as well as a [19] deposition; is that
correct?

[20] A: I was deposed. I did not testify.

[21] Q: Okay. I have got your deposition
[22] here and I'm going to try not to
repeat what [23] was asked in that depo-
sition to try and [24] shorten this up as
much as possible. So most [25] of the
questions I will be asking you today

Page 7

[1] will relate to the time period after
1987, [2] okay?

[3] A: 1987?

[4] Q: '87 when you were deposed, yes,
sir. [5] I say most, not all.

[6] Now, as you know from being depo-
sed [7] before, this lady is going to be
taking down [8] everything that's said so
it is necessary for [9] you to answer out
loud whenever a question is [10] ad-
dressed to you, okay?

[11] A: Yes.

[12] Q: Okay. Now, Dr. Levinskas, I want
to [13] go way back with you right now
and talk about [14] your education, both
undergraduate and [15] graduate school,
okay? Give me the name of [16] the col-
lege that you graduated from in [17] un-
dergraduate school.

[18] A: Wesleyan University.

[19] Q: And as I understand it, that was a
[20] degree in chemistry?

[21] A: It was a major in chemistry, yes.

[22] Q: BS?

[23] A: BA, AB.

[24] Q: What year was that?

[25] A: 1949.

Page 8

[1] Q: Were there any toxicology
courses [2] that you took in your un-
dergraduate studies?

[3] A: None.

[4] Q: And as I understand it, you did not
[5] receive a Master's but went straight to
a [6] Ph.D., correct?

[7] A: Right.

[8] Q: And what school was that from?

[9] A: University of Rochester.

[10] Q: Is that different than Rochester
[11] Institute of Technology?

[12] A: Yes, sir, it is.

[13] Q: Separate college completely?

[14] A: Completely separate.

[15] Q: What year did you receive your
Ph.D.?

[16] A: 1953.

[17] Q: And in what field was that Ph.D.
[18] awarded?

[19] A: Pharmacology.

[20] Q: Would that be the same course
that I [21] would take if I wanted to be a
pharmacist?

[22] A: No.

[23] Q: Pharmacology relates to what?
Tell [24] me generally what that is.

[25] A: It is the study of the science of

Page 9

[1] drugs, their effects.

[2] Q: Does it include the study of the [3]
effects of chemicals that are not consid-
ered [4] as drugs?

[5] A: It covers some but it is not [6] pri-
marily directed to that subject.

[7] Q: Tell me — can I make a distinction
[8] for our purposes today between tox-
icology and [9] pharmacology, meaning
the — for our purposes [10] "toxicology"
referring to health effects or [11] toxico-
logical effects of chemicals and [12]
"pharmacology" would be the effects of
drugs?

[13] MR. CARNEY: Let me object. Are
you [14] asking him if it is okay if you do
that or are [15] you saying is that a fair
way to do it?

[16] MR. MURRAY: I'm asking him if we
can [17] agree on that definition for these
purposes [18] today.

[19] A: I don't think it would be a valid
[20] definition.

[21] Q: Tell me how we can distinguish
[22] between those two fields, if you can.

[23] A: I think the nature — the intent of
[24] the chemicals differs. Any drug given
in [25] excess dose will produce toxic
signs so you

Page 10

[1] are studying the effects of chemicals,
both [2] good and bad, on biological tis-
sues or living [3] organisms and I accept
one set of chemicals as [4] more associ-
ated with industry and the other is [5]
more associated with medicine but I
don't [6] think that distinction is really
this —

[7] A: I would say at the present time that
[8] the procedures are probably [9] indis-
tinguishable. Back when I started out,
[10] there was a tendency to be more —
different [11] spectrum of tests being
used with some overlap [12] in each of
these two fields.

[13] Q: That's what I want to get into today [14] and I'm talking now in terms of back when you [15] were doing your graduate work in the early [16] fifties. What were the standard tests run on [17] industrial chemicals to determine the toxic [18] effects on humans, if there were any?

[19] MR. CARNEY: In the fifties?

[20] MR. MURRAY: Yes, I'm talking about [21] the early fifties.

[22] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object [23] because I don't know that this witness was [24] involved. When did you graduate from —

[25] A: '53.

Page 11

[1] MR. CARNEY: '53. You know, all I'm [2] saying is don't speculate. If you know how to [3] answer his question from firsthand knowledge, [4] that's fine but don't speculate about what you [5] might think happened before you were involved [6] in that area.

[7] A: Oh, back in the fifties there were no [8] standards or reference points or defined, [9] agreed-upon procedures for doing the testing, [10] either in drugs, that I am aware of, or in [11] industrial chemicals.

[12] Q: Okay. Tell me, then, what the study [13] of pharmacology was all about during that time [14] period. What type of courses is did you [15] take? What was the general thrust of your [16] studies?

[17] A: I took more or less the pre-clinical [18] sciences that the medical students took at the [19] university — the medical school at the [20] University of Rochester — physiology, [21] biochemistry, pharmacology — subjects of that [22] sort, the pre-clinical sciences.

[23] Q: Did any of those courses deal with [24] the tests that were being used at the time, [25] whether there was standard tests or not, the

Page 12

[1] potential, the possible testing that could [2] occur to determine the toxic effects of either [3] drugs or chemicals on humans?

[4] A: We had laboratory sessions with [5] tests, if you will, or lesson plans that [6] demonstrated the effects of chemicals. [7] Insofar as I recall or I can recall from [8] others, there were no — there were no [9] procedures describing testing or how one goes [10] about finding the adverse effects of [11] chemicals.

[12] Q: Well, how were they determined back [13] then?

[14] A: Largely through the efforts of [15] individual investigators and their own [16] thoughts.

[17] Q: And they would, I assume, develop [18] tests or experiments or some

sort of [19] scientific procedure to determine what the [20] adverse effects might be?

[21] A: Yes.

[22] Q: All right. And during your studies [23] at the University of Rochester, were you made [24] aware of the procedures that these individuals [25] would use?

Page 13

[1] A: The textbooks that were used would [2] describe the experiments or refer to the [3] experiments that earlier researchers had done [4] to uncover or discover or understand the [5] biological effect of drugs. To that extent, [6] we were exposed to testing procedures which [7] was a recital of an individual investigator's [8] efforts and hopefully some exposure to his way [9] of thinking.

[10] Q: So back even in the early fifties [11] when an article, scientific article, was [12] published talking about the results of an [13] experiment that was run, the person writing [14] that article would usually talk about what he [15] did in order to reach his conclusions, right?

[16] A: That would be common practice, yes.

[17] Q: In the early fifties, did it ever [18] occur that a scientist would use feeding [19] studies to try and determine the toxic effects [20] of drugs? And when I am saying, "feeding [21] studies," I'm talking about animal studies.

[22] A: There are published reports of animal [23] studies that predate the fifties, yes.

[24] Q: And did those studies have a [25] generally accepted length of time that they

Page 14

[1] would run?

[2] A: I have —

[3] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object to [4] the question as to what's meant by "generally [5] accepted." I think he has testified there [6] really wasn't any generally accepted procedure [7] during that time.

[8] A: I have seen reports labeled, "The [9] Chronic One-month Toxicity Studies in Rats," [10] and I have seen reports, "Chronic Two-year [11] Toxicity Study in Rats." If the term [12] "chronic" was used for one-month and for 24- [13] month duration tests, I would have to conclude [14] there was very little standardization.

[15] Q: There were, during the early fifties [16] and possibly before then, two-year studies [17] that were run, feeding studies?

[18] A: Yes.

[19] Q: Do you remember during that time [20] period —

[21] MR. CARNEY: Are you talking about [22] for industrial chemicals or drugs or anything?

[23] MR. MURRAY: No, I'm just talking [24] about feeding studies.

[25] MR. CARNEY: Okay.

Page 15

[1] Q: Do you remember why, if there were [2] reasons given, why one person might choose one [3] month and one person might choose two years if [4] they were both labeled "chronic"?

[5] A: I would have no reason to even [6] speculate why they would use that terminology.

[7] Q: Now, let me get to the gist of [8] Mr. Carney's previous objection. Were these [9] feeding studies only done with regard to [10] pharmaceutical drugs as opposed to industrial [11] chemicals?

[12] MR. CARNEY: Are you talking about [13] the two-year ones?

[14] MR. MURRAY: Yes.

[15] A: I wouldn't profess to be able to [16] speak to all the literature but my general [17] impression, I think it would be substantiated, [18] is that most of the long-term studies at that [19] time were being done on non-drug materials.

[20] Q: Okay. Industrial chemicals, then?

[21] A: Industrial or other use chemicals, [22] yes.

[23] Q: Let me make sure we are not [24] miscommunicating. Is it your understanding [25] that the long-term studies were being done on

Page 16

[1] the industrial chemicals?

[2] MR. CARNEY: Let me object. Again, [3] don't speculate. If you know —

[4] Q: I'm only asking for your [5] recollection.

[6] MR. CARNEY: But if he is talking [7] about in the fifties, now —

[8] A: I would say in the fifties that there [9] were probably more long-term studies done on [10] non-drug uses of materials than on drug uses.

[11] Q: Now, when you graduated in 1953, what [12] did you do?

[13] A: I went to the University of [14] Pittsburgh to the department of occupational [15] health in the school of public health, [16] graduate school of public health, to do [17] teaching and research.

[18] Q: What fields were you — first of all, [19] let's go with teaching. What fields were you [20] teaching in?

[21] A: I developed a course that was called [22] "Applied Toxicology" and I gave a series — [23] not a series — I gave lectures in several [24] other courses at the school.

[25] Q: And what was your field of research?

Page 17

[1] A: We had contracts with the government [2] and the general topic was health hazards of [3] military chemicals and, most specifically, a [4] class of compounds called boron hydrides.

[5] Q: Boron hydrides?

[6] A: Hydrides.

[7] Q: And what were you attempting to learn [8] from your research?

[9] A: We wanted to improve our [10] understanding of what effects these chemicals [11] would produce in military personnel who were [12] using them and also to get some idea of how [13] they produce these effects and what we might [14] do to protect or to treat individuals who [15] might be exposed.

[16] Q: Were your efforts directed towards [17] acute effects or chronic effects or was any [18] distinction made?

[19] A: Predominantly acute effects because [20] the materials were very limited in supply.

[21] Q: And what type of tests or experiments [22] did you develop to try and learn about these [23] chemicals?

[24] A: We did what many other people have [25] done; we would take animals, expose them to

Page 18

[1] the chemicals by the various routes of [2] exposure that people would be exposed if they [3] handle them.

[4] Q: And that would either be injection, [5] inhalation or skin absorption?

[6] A: Correct.

[7] Q: And what were the durations of the [8] tests that you ran?

[9] A: As I indicated, most were short [10] term. We did one inhalation study for six [11] months and I spent several months working with [12] test tube experiments without whole animals.

[13] Q: How long were you at the University [14] of Pittsburgh?

[15] A: Five years.

[16] Q: Was the thrust of your research [17] during that entire five-year period on these [18] boron hydride chemicals?

[19] A: That was the major — the major [20] research effort was on that, yes, it was.

[21] Q: Okay. Were there any other [22] chemicals — let me ask you specifically, were [23] you doing any chronic studies on any chemicals [24] during that five-year period?

[25] A: No.

Page 19

[1] Q: Where did you go after the University [2] of Pittsburgh?

[3] A: I joined the American Cyanamid [4] Company.

[5] Q: As I understand it from your previous [6] testimony, American Cyanamid had its own [7] toxicological lab and you were the director of [8] it; is that correct?

[9] A: That's correct.

[10] Q: What type of chemicals was American [11] Cyanamid producing during that time period?

[12] A: At that time they had a rather wide [13] range — agricultural chemicals, various dyes, [14] polymers, organic chemicals — general all- [15] around chemical producer.

[16] Q: Did American Cyanamid have a policy [17] when you went with them with regard to the [18] testing of its products?

[19] A: I am not aware of any formal policy.

[20] Q: How did you determine what products [21] to test and which ones didn't need testing?

[22] A: There would be a variety of reasons. [23] One could be regulatory requirements, another [24] could be customer complaints or employee [25] complaints, a third one could be just general

Page 20

[1] interest of the people who were manufacturing [2] the product wanted to know more about it.

[3] Q: You first went with American Cyanamid [4] in 1958?

[5] A: That's correct.

[6] Q: Did you run — let me back up. You [7] left them in what year?

[8] A: 1971.

[9] Q: During the time period between 1958 [10] and 1971, did that toxicological laboratory [11] run any chronic feeding studies?

[12] A: Yes.

[13] Q: Was that something that was done on a [14] regular basis or was it something unusual?

[15] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object to [16] what you mean by "regular basis" or what you [17] mean by "unusual."

[18] Q: How often did it occur that you would [19] run chronic studies?

[20] A: First, I guess we would have to [21] define the term "chronic."

[22] Q: Okay. What was your definition of [23] "chronic"?

[24] A: I would regard any study of less than [25] a year's duration as either being acute or

Page 21

[1] subchronic. It would be hard to guess but I [2] would say probably — certainly less than a [3] dozen chemicals at the

time at Cyanamid that [4] we ran a chronic study on.

[5] Q: When you first went to work there in [6] 1958, were there any chronic studies going on [7] at that time?

[8] A: There was one that was just being [9] finished when I joined them.

[10] Q: Do you remember the duration of that [11] test?

[12] A: Two years.

[13] Q: You used the term "subchronic." I [14] have also heard the term "subacute" used. [15] What would be the distinction between those [16] two?

[17] A: Those of us who use "subchronic" are [18] older in the field than those who use [19] "subacute."

[20] Q: They are basically the same term?

[21] A: They cover the same basic term but it [22] is a generational phrase, I think.

[23] Q: Are you aware of any chronic studies [24] that were done, let's take the time period [25] while you were at Cyanamid but I want to talk

Page 22

[1] about just in general terms, not just at [2] Cyanamid, but were you aware of any chronic [3] studies that were done that did not use [4] feeding as the method of exposing the animal [5] to the chemical?

[6] A: I have indicated we did a six-month [7] inhalation study with boron hydrides.

[8] Q: Under your definition, though, that [9] would be subchronic?

[10] A: That would be subchronic. That's my [11] definition, though. I am not aware of studies [12] that would last two years other than the [13] feeding studies at that time.

[14] Q: Has that changed over the years? Are [15] there any of those type of studies other than [16] feeding studies done nowadays?

[17] A: Yes.

[18] Q: Okay. And would those studies use [19] both inhalation and absorption or only [20] absorption or only inhalation?

[21] A: Well, absorption is the process of [22] the chemical getting into the animal.

[23] Q: I guess I'm talking about skin [24] absorption.

[25] A: Skin studies are done; inhalation are

Page 23

[1] done; feeding are done.

[2] Q: And is the general time period used [3] nowadays still about two years?

[4] A: It may be slightly beyond two years [5] because some of the strains of rats they are [6] using are living a little bit longer than they [7] used to.

[8] Q: Basically, when you do a long-term [9] chronic study, you want to use the — well, [10] let me ask you that. Is the general intent [11] when doing a long-term study to try and do it [12] over the life span of the animal?

[13] MR. CARNEY: Object to him [14] speculating as to what other people's [15] intentions are.

[16] A: It depends on the purpose of the [17] study and it would be true only for the [18] shorter-lived animals; it would not be true if [19] we were working with elephants.

[20] Q: All right. Let's talk about the time [21] period now, Dr. Levinskas, of 1987 and [22] beyond. You were asked various questions in [23] your previous deposition about your opinion [24] with regard to health hazards associated with [25] PCB exposure and I guess I want to make sure

Page 24

[1] or find out if that general opinion has [2] changed in the period subsequent to 1987. I [3] guess the thrust of my question is has any new [4] scientific evidence come out that makes you [5] think that exposure to PCB's might cause [6] something other than the chloracne liver [7] effects and the dermal effects that you [8] described in your previous testimony?

[9] MR. CARNEY: Well, let me object. I [10] don't think the witness — he may have [11] reviewed his testimony in Scott but I'm not [12] aware of it and so I'm not — I don't want to [13] oppose the line of questioning but I just want [14] to voice that objection and the other [15] objection I would make is this witness isn't [16] being proffered as an expert on what is going [17] on in science today. He is retired, as I [18] understand it, so I'm not sure he is qualified [19] to say what is happening in the literature.

[20] And I don't want you to speculate on [21] that unless you have followed the literature [22] and are comfortable.

[23] Q: I'm sorry about that, Dr. Levinskas. [24] I should have asked you that previously. You [25] are not still employed by Monsanto?

Page 25

[1] A: No, I'm retired.

[2] Q: All right. When did you retire?

[3] A: September '91.

[4] Q: During the period between '87 and [5] '91, did you attempt to keep up with the [6] scientific literature concerning PCB's?

[7] A: I kept a general interest in it but I [8] did not make a concerted effort to be kept up [9] to date.

[10] Q: What about the period after 1991?

[11] A: Less concerted.

[12] Q: In order to be fair to you, since you [13] really — you haven't reviewed your testimony, [14] let me talk just in general terms now about [15] your opinion today with regard to the toxic [16] effects of exposure to PCB's and let's first [17] take what I would describe as the acute [18] effects of exposure to PCB's. In your [19] opinion, are there any acute effects of [20] exposure to PCB's?

[21] A: I would say as a class of compounds, [22] they are relatively non-toxic, rather low in [23] toxicity in terms of single exposures by [24] essentially all routes of exposure.

[25] Q: So if somebody was working with the

Page 26

[1] material for a day and got some on their skin [2] and maybe even swallowed a little bit, that [3] normally wouldn't cause any acute effects? [4] And when I say, "a little bit," I talk about [5] something that might accidentally get in their [6] mouth as opposed to drinking a glass of it.

[7] A: As I indicated, other than the [8] messiness of the ones that may be oily, I [9] don't anticipate that there would be any [10] significant adverse health effects.

[11] Q: Now, I would like to talk to you, [12] then, about the potential chronic effects of [13] working with PCB's over a long period of time [14] and I don't want to go into a hypothetical [15] question that talks about, you know, if he got [16] this on his skin every day, I'm talking about [17] the potential effect if somebody was really [18] messy with it, what could be the potential [19] effect of it?

[20] A: Based on the animal studies, if you [21] have repeated prolonged exposure, like many [22] other compounds that we call the chlorinated [23] hydrocarbons, these would be absorbed and they [24] will attack and damage the liver.

[25] Q: In your opinion, is that the only

Page 27

[1] organ they would attack?

[2] A: I think that's the first thing that [3] one would see signs of, liver injury, liver [4] damage.

[5] Q: So I won't ask you about the — I [6] guess I'm talking about — I'm not interested [7] in the symptoms relating from that liver [8] damage. Tell me now if there would be any [9] other health effects other than liver damage.

[10] A: I guess my position would be I think [11] that unless you can get enough to produce [12] liver damage, I don't think you are going to [13] see anything else.

[14] Q: Okay. I understand that but —

[15] A: Yes.

[16] Q: But let's go beyond that. Let's [17] assume that you have got enough to produce [18] liver damage. Are there any other potential [19] effects that might occur?

[20] A: I guess my difficulty here is that if [21] one got liver damage, I would expect someone [22] to notice this and the exposures would stop. [23] In other words, I can't conceive of someone [24] having bad liver damage and continuing to be [25] exposed until something else triggers and

Page 28

[1] something else triggers and something else [2] triggers and so I think that the sentinel [3] warning sign would be the liver injury and [4] then that would cease or cause the exposures [5] to cease.

[6] Q: Let me ask you this: You talked [7] about chloracne in your previous testimony. [8] Would chloracne be a possible effect that [9] could be associated with PCB exposure?

[10] A: There are very early published [11] reports indicating chloracne from exposure to [12] PCB's. Subsequently, and not — I don't mean [13] in the fifties or sixties, but some years [14] after those twenties and thirties exposures, [15] they found that there probably were mixtures [16] of biphenyls with what they the halo axis [17] axis, the chlorinated axis, and that the [18] chloracne may be due to chlorinated paraffins, [19] so I really — I'm not aware of any reports [20] attributing chloracne solely to PCB's. I [21] think there is a lot of confusion in that [22] early literature and I really have a difficult [23] time making up my mind on this.

[24] Q: I was going to ask you that. The [25] articles that I have seen, in any event, that

Page 29

[1] talk about the combinations that may be [2] occurring and what might be causing the [3] chloracne versus what other thing might be [4] causing it, is it generally true that none of [5] those articles can ever make a definite [6] distinction as to this chemical is the one [7] that is causing it as opposed to that one? [8] Are you aware of any that have?

[9] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object. I [10] think it is a little — I assume you are [11] talking about the Tricker studies.

[12] Q: All of those. All of the studies [13] that you are aware of. Do you know of any of [14] them that have definitively attributed the [15] chloracne to one chemical as opposed to [16] another?

[17] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object for [18] the record that I think those studies speak [19] for themselves and

would be the best evidence [20] of what they say rather than this witness's [21] recollection of what they say and he might not [22] have seen those for a number of years.

[23] But if you know for sure — but I [24] just caution you not to speculate on what they [25] said.

Page 30

[1] A: My comment is, I think in this same [2] direction, that these published papers make [3] statements about what they think are causing [4] the chloracne and it is later work which cast [5] doubt on those, the validity of those [6] conclusions, and since we don't have the [7] samples that were used, essentially, to go [8] back and analyze, we are not in a position to [9] make a distinction. It is well known that the [10] so-called chlorinated paraffins, the halo [11] axis, as a trade name, particularly, are [12] notorious chloracne producers. I mean that [13] much is known. But some of those early [14] compounds, there is difficulty identifying [15] with certainty what was used and it makes it [16] difficult to draw conclusions.

[17] Q: Okay. And that's my understanding of [18] the literature, as well. I mean it is not [19] something that can be definitively stated one [20] way or another, is it?

[21] A: No.

[22] Q: Now, with regard — well, let's be [23] specific. Have you read anything over the [24] years between '87 and throughout that makes [25] you believe that PCB's could be a potential

Page 31

[1] carcinogen?

[2] MR. CARNEY: In humans?

[3] Q: In humans, yes.

[4] A: I have not seen anything that would [5] cause me to think they would be a potential [6] carcinogen in years.

[7] Q: I have some documents that I want to [8] go over with you, Dr. Levinskas, some of which [9] don't have your name anywhere on them and my [10] intent in asking you about these documents is [11] just to see if you recognize them and can tell [12] me what they are. I'm going to first show you [13] a document which has been marked as [14] MONS040440.

[15] A: I really don't recall having seen [16] this document before. I may have but I really [17] don't — I really don't — it doesn't ring a [18] bell.

[19] MR. CARNEY: It looks like it is out [20] of something else.

[21] MR. MURRAY: That's what I thought [22] and I couldn't tell what it was, that's why I [23] was going to take my shot with Dr. Levinskas.

[24] A: It has three other trade names. I [25] don't think those are Monsanto trade names.

Page 32

[1] Gofin is not, I'm sure.

[2] MR. CARNEY: That's the European PCB, [3] isn't it?

[4] A: It sounds like — looks like an [5] industry type document but I don't recall [6] having seen it before.

[7] Q: Let me ask you, then, Dr. Levinskas, [8] if you would agree with the statement that [9] when dealing with PCB's at elevated [10] temperatures via hot ovens, welding, et [11] cetera, where vapors are apparent, inhalation [12] of these vapors must be strictly avoided by [13] using proper exhaust ventilation and organic [14] cartridge respirators or air-blowing apparatus [15] away from operators?

[16] MR. CARNEY: I'm going to object to [17] the question because I think it is vague and [18] it talks about elevated temperatures but it [19] doesn't talk about what they are and, you [20] know, what kind of other ventilation there [21] might be. There are a lot of variables there [22] that I didn't recall in your reading it that [23] might be necessary to really definitively [24] answer that question.

[25] A: There are so-called threshold limit

Page 33

[1] values that have been set for Aroclors and at [2] elevated temperatures it would be easier to [3] increase the airborne concentration so taking [4] those two, you would — it would be prudent to [5] advise people to take extra precautions if [6] they are working in a heated atmosphere [7] because it just makes the air concentrations [8] that much higher.

[9] Q: I guess I should have read that whole [10] paragraph and it does talk about at room [11] temperature PCB's give off negligible fumes [12] and are, therefore, harmless to breathing. [13] Would you agree with that?

[14] A: I would say yes.

[15] Q: At room temperatures, do PCB's give [16] off an odor?

[17] A: I haven't really looked at large work [18] places. I'm not conscious of any appreciable [19] odor from the small quantities that I have [20] handled.

[21] Q: So you would expect if there is an [22] odor in the air that it is more likely than [23] not it's been heated to some extent?

[24] A: Well, the elevated temperatures will [25] increase the air concentration. It is my

Page 34

[1] understanding that at room temperature the [2] vapor pressure which would indicate the ease [3] with which it gets in the air is so low that [4] they don't represent much of a hazard. I [5] haven't been exposed to, you know, extended [6] periods of time or large volumes but I don't [7] recall any particular odor associated with it.

[8] Q: So your answer is really you don't [9] know?

[10] A: Yes.

[11] Q: Okay. This is another one of those [12] documents that your name is on here, although [13] it doesn't appear that you wrote it. Can you [14] look at that and tell me if you recognize it? [15] This is, for the record, labeled MONS030773 [16] and when I say, "labeled," that's just the [17] Bates number on the first page of the [18] document.

[19] MR. CARNEY: Did you say his name is [20] on here?

[21] MR. MURRAY: Not on that page, on the [22] next page.

[23] MR. CARNEY: Okay.

[24] A: This is an apparent epidemiology [25] study done on Monsanto employees. The primary

Page 35

[1] investigator is —

[2] MR. CARNEY: Well, what he asked you [3] is do you recall this document?

[4] A: I was going to say I was not involved [5] in this. This copy came across my desk [6] because Dr. Johanson was reporting to me but I [7] was not involved in it, other than reading the [8] memo.

[9] Q: Okay. Who is Dr. Johanson?

[10] A: At that time he was the manager of [11] toxicology reporting to me.

[12] Q: Do you know if he is still employed [13] by Monsanto?

[14] A: Yes.

[15] Q: Let me ask you this: During your [16] period at Monsanto, did Monsanto ever run any [17] in-house epidemiological studies, and when I [18] am talking about in-house, I mean actually the [19] employees of Monsanto performing the study?

[20] MR. CARNEY: On PCB's?

[21] Q: Yes, on PCB's.

[22] A: Yes.

[23] Q: All right. When was that done?

[24] A: This would be one of them, in August [25] '75. We had a young lady, Judy — did another

Page 36

[1] study, I think, and then Bill Gaffy may have [2] done some later on — Judy Zack, I think. I [3] think Judy Zack did one. She

was in the (4) medical department. And then later Dr. Bill (5) Gaffy joined us as an epidemiologist. I don't (6) know whether he did or not. He may have.

(7) Q: Judy Zack. Bill Gaffy. And this one (8) was apparently done by — is it Doctor or (9) Mister Johanson?

(10) A: Doctor. No, let me take it back. I (11) don't know whether Judy Zack did a PCB study. (12) She did some studies but I don't recall (13) whether it was PCB's.

(14) Q: Was any study, epidemiological study, (15) on PCB's done in-house by Monsanto ever (16) published?

(17) A: That I'm not aware of. I don't know (18) the answer to that. I don't recall.

(19) Q: The general gist of what I understand (20) from what occurred with Dr. Johanson is that (21) he did some preliminary epidemiological work (22) dealing with a mortality study, correct?

(23) A: I would have to reread the letter. I (24) don't recall. I was not involved in it and I (25) don't recall.

Page 37

(1) Q: He mentions a consultant in here. Do (2) you know who that was?

(3) A: As I say, I was not involved in (4) that. I don't recall the details of it.

(5) Q: He talks about a department 246 (6) cohort at Krummerick. Do you know which (7) department that was?

(8) A: No, I do not.

(9) Q: Do you know Mr. E. C. Barnes?

(10) A: That name doesn't ring a bell.

(11) MR. CARNEY: Is he a Westinghouse (12) person?

(13) MR. MURRAY: That's what I don't (14) know.

(15) MR. CARNEY: Is this in the forties?

(16) MR. MURRAY: Apparently, yes.

(17) MR. CARNEY: There is a —

(18) MR. MURRAY: But I didn't see the (19) letterhead so I couldn't tell who it is.

(20) MR. CARNEY: There is an E. C. Barnes (21) industrial hygienist at Westinghouse. The (22) reason I know that is I was just looking at a (23) letter, a 1947 letter, from Barnes to somebody (24) that came out of a Westinghouse file so I (25) assume — I think it is E. C., I'm not sure,

Page 38

(1) but that's my assumption. Can I look at that (2) Barnes letter?

(3) MR. MURRAY: This is the original. (4) Apparently it was retyped onto this.

(5) MR. CARNEY: Let me just read into (6) the record that Barnes Bates stamp. On the (7) original, there is an NPC00002135. In the (8) lower right-hand corner there is another Bates (9) stamp number 745090 and at the upper (10) right-hand corner there is an

HD000133 and (11) then there is a — the typed copy of this (12) letter has a HD000135.

(13) MR. MURRAY: Can I go on?

(14) MR. CARNEY: Yes.

(15) Q: Dr. Levinskas, who is K. Warren (16) Easley?

(17) A: He is a Monsanto employee who was in (18) our Washington office in some aspects.

(19) Q: Do you know if he is still employed (20) by Monsanto?

(21) A: I'm sure he is not employed. I don't (22) recall when he left.

(23) Q: What was his job description when he (24) was employed at the Washington office?

(25) A: I am not aware of it. When I would

Page 39

(1) make visits to Washington to meet with (2) regulatory agencies or something, he would be (3) there. I don't know his specific job (4) description.

(5) Q: Do you know if he was a lawyer or (6) not?

(7) A: I don't know his background.

(8) (Recess)

(9) Q: I'm going to take another shot with (10) you, Dr. Levinskas, and show you a document (11) which has Bates stamp number SEM76859 and ask (12) you if you have ever seen that.

(13) A: I don't really recall seeing this (14) document.

(15) Q: Don't recognize the handwriting?

(16) A: Other than to say it is not mine.

(17) Q: Okay. Do you know anybody with the (18) initials "WSJ"?

(19) A: I can't think of anybody with those (20) initials.

(21) MR. CARNEY: Did you read the Bates (22) stamp numbers in?

(23) MR. MURRAY: Yes. I read the SEM (24) number, anyway.

(25) MR. CARNEY: Okay.

Page 40

(1) Q: No idea of who may have generated (2) this document or where it may have come from?

(3) A: As I said, I don't recall seeing it (4) before and I really have no knowledge of it.

(5) Q: Okay. This document makes a (6) reference which reads, "Levinskas caused (7) Calandra (IBT) to change language from 'mildly (8) tumoragenic' to 'does not appear to be (9) carcinogenic.'" And then above that statement (10) it's got in parentheses, "(How justified?)"

(11) Do you remember anybody at Monsanto ever (12) discussing that issue with you?

(13) A: That's been brought up in (14) depositions. That goes back to a memo I wrote (15) where I had two sets of reports that IBT had (16) supplied and I reviewed them in their (17) editorial context and I said since you have (18) basically the same findings in all three (19) studies, you have — in the second go-round, (20) you have changed the terminology.

(21) Q: Doctor, I don't mean to interrupt you (22) but you are right, you have discussed that (23) issue in previous testimony.

(24) A: That's a reference to that.

(25) Q: My question related to do you

Page 41

(1) remember any particular person coming to you (2) during the time at Monsanto and specifically (3) asking you about that issue? And basically (4) what I am trying to get at is somebody who may (5) have generated this document.

(6) A: I don't recall anybody coming in (7) specifically to talk to that subject.

(8) Q: All right.

(9) MR. CARNEY: Other than his (10) conversations with lawyers.

(11) MR. MURRAY: Obviously. Obviously.

(12) A: So that's what I was trying to refer (13) to.

(14) Q: That's the only reason I was asking. (15) Again, I don't want to go back into all these (16) other issues. We might be here for a week if (17) I did.

(18) With regard to the epidemiological (19) studies that were done in-house at Monsanto, (20) do you know why they were done, at whose (21) suggestion they were done?

(22) A: No, I do not know.

(23) Q: You were not part of that process as (24) to making that decision to go ahead and do it (25) or not?

Page 42

(1) A: I was not involved in that.

(2) Q: Okay. Was there an epidemiological (3) department or a section at Monsanto?

(4) A: No, not at that time.

(5) Q: There is a document with an SEM (6) number of 052789 regarding a meeting that was (7) held with NIOSH apparently some time in 1974. (8) I will show you that document and just ask you (9) to review it and tell me if you recognize it.

(10) A: I have seen this document before in (11) depositions. To the best of my recollection, (12) I did not meet — I did not attend this (13) meeting with NIOSH.

(14) Q: Okay. Let me just direct your (15) attention to the last page of the document (16) where it lists those people

present at the [17] meeting and your name is present along with [18] others for Monsanto Company; is that correct?

[19] A: Yes.

[20] Q: That doesn't help you remember the [21] meeting, huh? Or do you think that that's [22] inaccurate?

[23] A: I know Dr. Wagener by reputation [24] only. I do not recall ever having met him. [25] And when I say I don't recall being at this

Page 43

[1] meeting, I still say I have never met [2] Dr. Wagener personally and had I been at that [3] meeting, I think I would have remembered him, [4] at least.

[5] Q: So you think that that's probably a [6] mistake?

[7] A: So I don't recall having been at that [8] meeting.

[9] Q: Well, let me ask you this: This memo [10] talks about a possible study with — an [11] epidemiological study with using Monsanto [12] employees and, as best I can tell from this, [13] it appears that NIOSH wants to do it. Do you [14] know whether or not such a study ever took [15] place?

[16] A: I — I really don't know anything [17] about the epidemiological studies.

[18] Q: Okay. Are you aware of the studies [19] that were done in-house by Monsanto on certain [20] Aroclors to determine dibenzol furan [21] contamination and dibenzol dioxin [22] contamination?

[23] A: I'm not sure of what, if anything, [24] was done for analysis.

[25] Q: Generally, are you aware that that

Page 44

[1] took place at some point?

[2] A: I think they probably were done but I [3] have no knowledge of such studies.

[4] Q: Let me ask you about knowledge of any [5] other studies that may have been done outside [6] of Monsanto with regard to that issue and I [7] guess specifically I'm more interested in the [8] time period after 1987. Are you aware of any [9] recent work that's been done in that field?

[10] A: I generally do not pay much attention [11] to the analytical data. I'm really not aware [12] of any analysis.

[13] Q: Okay. Let me just make sure I cover [14] all bases and ask you specifically if you are [15] aware of any work that has been done on any [16] Inerteen products with regard to furan or [17] dioxin contamination?

[18] A: I have no knowledge of work done on [19] Inerteens.

[20] Q: Okay. Let me ask you — I don't [21] remember this — did you ever visit

the [22] Westinghouse Bloomington plant?

[23] A: No.

[24] Q: During your time at Monsanto, were [25] you ever asked — strike that.

Page 45

[1] You didn't go to work for Monsanto [2] until after '71?

[3] A: July '71 I started.

[4] Q: Other than the IBT studies, are you [5] aware of any other chronic toxicity studies [6] that were done by Monsanto on any aroclor [7] product?

[8] A: I'm not aware of any others done by [9] Monsanto.

[10] Q: Were you aware of any others done at [11] the request of Monsanto?

[12] A: No.

[13] MR. MURRAY: Thank you, [14] Dr. Levinskas. That's all I have.

[15] MR. CARNEY: Let me just ask you a [16] couple of questions.

[17] EXAMINATION

[18] QUESTIONS BY MR. CARNEY:

[19] Q: You mentioned a long-term test that [20] was being done at American Cyanamid when you [21] got there. What kind of material was being [22] tested?

[23] A: That was a polymer, which is called a [24] wet strength resin, and it was to be used for [25] food packaging.

Page 46

[1] Q: You mentioned, I think, that during [2] the time you were at American Cyanamid there [3] were approximately a dozen tests, long-term [4] tests, that were done. Can you tell me what [5] kind of materials, just generically, were [6] being tested in those long-term tests?

[7] A: They are what we call food contact [8] chemicals used for packaging or holding food [9] and pesticides where there would be the [10] likelihood of a residue, if used according to [11] directions.

[12] Q: Residue on the food?

[13] A: On the food.

[14] Q: And was it generally true in the [15] fifties that the kind of long-term tests that [16] you were familiar with had to do either with [17] food contact materials or pesticides where [18] there was a residue?

[19] A: I would say that certainly the great [20] majority would be in that category.

[21] Q: Was it customary to your knowledge in [22] the fifties to do long-term studies on [23] industrial chemicals?

[24] A: I would say there were a few, if any, [25] being done on industrial chemicals.

Page 47

[1] MR. CARNEY: Okay. I don't have [2] anything else.

[3] EXAMINATION

[4] QUESTIONS BY MR. MURRAY:

[5] Q: Dr. Levinskas, wasn't "industrial [6] chemicals" the term we used earlier when you [7] talked about that the long-term studies that [8] were done were being done on industrial [9] chemicals?

[10] A: I tried to make the comment once or [11] twice of saying, "non-drug uses," and a food [12] packaging material is or isn't an industrial [13] chemical, depends on how you want to classify [14] it but it is certainly not a drug use.

[15] Q: There was certainly no prohibition [16] against doing those long-term studies on [17] industrial chemicals, was there?

[18] A: I'm not aware there has ever been a [19] prohibition against doing studies on a [20] chemical.

[21] Q: I guess the point I am making is [22] there is really — there wasn't some [23] obstruction to doing it on industrial [24] chemicals as opposed to chemicals that may [25] have contact with food?

Page 48

[1] A: Probably. The motivating force, I [2] guess, in doing them was somebody had to [3] perceive a need for it and it was not a [4] perception in most of the industry that there [5] was need for such studies at that time. [6] That's the only conclusion I could draw.

[7] Q: That's the point I'm making, though, [8] that if somebody wanted to do chronic testing [9] on chemicals in the early fifties, they [10] certainly could have done it and, in fact, [11] chronic testing was being done during that [12] period of time on other types of chemicals?

[13] A: In response to specific needs.

[14] MR. MURRAY: Okay. Thank you.

[15] MR. CARNEY: I have no further [16] questions.

Page 49

COMES NOW THE WITNESS, GEORGE LEVINSKAS, Ph.D., and having read the foregoing transcript of the deposition taken on the 7th day of June, 1994, acknowledges by signature hereto that it is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony given on the date hereinabove mentioned.

GEORGE LEVINSKAS, Ph.D.

Subscribed and sworn to me before this

_____ day of _____, 1994.

My Commission expires: _____

Notary Public

vw
Bechtold v. Monsanto

Page 50

[1] State of Missouri [2] SS. [3] City of St. Louis [4] I, Victoria L. Wilson, a Notary Public in [5] and for the State of Missouri, duly [6] commissioned, qualified and au-

0	actually 35:18 acute 17:17, 19; 20:25; 25:17, 19; 26:3 addressed 7:10 administer 50:7 adverse 12:10, 20; 26:10 advise 33:5 aforementioned 51:2 aforesaid 6:4; 50:16, 16, 22 Again 16:2; 41:15 against 47:16, 19 age 6:2 agencies 39:2 agree 9:17; 32:8; 33:13 agreed-upon 11:9 agreement 51:10 agricultural 19:13 ahead 41:24 air 33:7, 22, 25; 34:3 air-blowing 32:14 airborne 33:3 along 42:17 although 34:12 American 19:3, 6, 10, 16; 20:3; 45:20; 46:2 analysis 43:24; 44:12 analytical 44:11 analyze 30:8 animal 13:21, 22; 22:4, 22; 23:12; 26:20 animals 17:25; 18:12; 23:18 anticipate 26:9 anybody 39:17, 19; 40:11; 41:6 anyway 39:24 anywhere 31:9 apparatus 32:14 apparent 32:11; 34:24 apparently 36:8; 37:16; 38:4; 42:7 appear 34:13; 40:8 appears 43:13 Applied 16:22 appreciable 33:18 approximately 46:3 area 11:6 aroclor 45:6 Aroclors 33:1; 43:20 around 19:15 article 13:11, 11, 14 articles 28:25; 29:5 aspects 38:18 associated 10:4, 5; 23:24; 28:9; 34:7	assume 12:17; 27:17; 29:10; 37:25 assumption 38:1 atmosphere 33:6 attack 26:24; 27:1 attempt 25:5 attempting 17:7 attend 42:12 attended 50:13 attention 42:15; 44:10 attorney 51:12 attorneys 50:17; 51:14 attributed 29:14 attributing 28:20 August 35:24 authorized 50:6 avoided 32:12 awarded 8:18 aware 11:10; 12:24; 19:19; 21:23; 22:2, 11; 24:12; 28:19; 29:8, 13; 36:17; 38:25; 43:18, 25; 44:8, 11, 15; 45:5, 8, 10; 47:18 away 32:15 axis 28:16, 17, 17; 30:11	B BA 7:23 back 6:16; 7:13; 10:9, 14; 11:7; 12:12; 13:10; 20:6; 30:8; 36:10; 40:14; 41:15 background 39:7 bad 10:2; 27:24 Barnes 37:9, 20, 23; 38:2, 6 Based 26:20 bases 44:14 basic 21:21 basically 21:20; 23:8; 40:18; 41:3 basis 20:14, 16 Bates 34:17; 38:6, 8; 39:11, 21 believe 6:17; 30:25 bell 31:18; 37:10 best 29:19; 42:11; 43:12 beyond 23:4, 22; 27:16 Bill 36:1, 4, 7 biochemistry 11:21 biological 10:2; 13:5 biphenyls 28:16 bit 23:6; 26:2, 4 Bloomington 44:22	boron 17:4, 5; 18:18; 22:7 both 7:14; 10:1; 15:4; 22:19 breathing 33:12 Broadway 50:14 brought 40:13 BS 7:22	C C 37:9, 20, 25 Calandra 40:7 call 26:22; 46:7 called 16:21; 17:4; 45:23 came 35:5; 37:24 can 9:7, 16, 21, 22; 12:7; 27:11; 29:5; 30:19; 31:11; 34:13; 38:1, 13; 43:12; 46:4 carcinogen 31:1, 6 carcinogenic 40:9 carefully 50:19 CARNEY 9:13; 10:19, 22; 11:1; 14:3, 21, 25; 15:12; 16:2, 6; 20:15; 23:13; 24:9; 29:9, 17; 31:2, 19; 32:2, 16; 34:19, 23; 35:2, 20; 37:11, 15, 17, 20; 38:5, 14; 39:21, 25; 41:9; 45:15, 18; 47:1; 48:15 Carney's 15:8 cartridge 32:14 case 6:4, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18; 50:22 cast 30:4 category 46:20 cause 24:5; 26:3; 28:4; 31:5; 50:9, 12 caused 40:6; 50:25 causing 29:2, 4, 7; 30:3 caution 29:24 cautioned 50:20 cease 28:4, 5 Cecil 6:15 certain 43:19 certainly 21:2; 46:19; 47:14, 15; 48:10 certainty 30:15 certify 50:7, 8; 51:11 cetera 32:11 change 40:7 changed 22:14; 24:2; 40:20 chemical 19:15; 22:5, 22; 29:6, 15; 47:13, 20 chemicals 9:3, 11, 24; 10:1, 3, 17; 11:11;	12:3, 6, 11; 14:22; 15:11, 20, 21; 16:1; 17:3, 10, 23; 18:1, 18, 22, 23; 19:10, 13, 14; 21:3; 46:8, 23, 25; 47:6, 9, 17, 24, 24; 48:9, 12 chemistry 7:20, 21 chloracne 24:6; 28:7, 8, 11, 18, 20; 29:3, 15; 30:4, 12 chlorinated 26:22; 28:17, 18; 30:10 choose 15:2, 3 Chronic 14:9, 10, 12; 15:4; 17:17; 18:23; 20:11, 19, 21, 23; 21:4, 6, 23; 22:2; 23:9; 26:12; 45:5; 48:8, 11 Circuit 50:10 City 50:3, 10, 15 civil 50:9 class 17:4; 25:21 classify 47:13 cohort 37:6 college 7:16; 8:13 combinations 29:1 comfortable 24:22 coming 41:1, 6 comment 30:1; 47:10 Commission 51:18 commissioned 50:6 common 13:16 Company 19:4; 42:18 complaints 19:24, 25 complete 51:6 completely 8:13, 14 compounds 17:4; 25:21; 26:22; 30:14 conceive 27:23 concentration 33:3, 25 concentrations 33:7 concerning 25:6 concerted 25:8, 11 conclude 14:13 conclusion 48:6 conclusions 13:15; 30:6, 16 confusion 28:21 conscious 33:18 considered 9:3 consultant 37:1 contact 46:7, 17; 47:25 contamination 43:21, 22; 44:17 context 40:17 continuing 27:24	contracts 17:1 conversations 41:10 copy 35:5; 38:11 corner 38:8, 10 correctly 51:1 couldn't 31:22; 37:19 counsel 51:4, 5, 10, 12 couple 45:16 course 8:20; 16:21 courses 8:1; 11:14, 23; 16:24 Court 50:10, 12 cover 21:21; 44:13 covers 9:5 customary 46:21 customer 19:24 Cyanamid 19:3, 6, 11, 16; 20:3; 21:3, 25; 22:2; 45:20; 46:2
1	100 50:14 1300 50:14 14 51:18 1947 37:23 1949 7:25 1953 8:16; 16:11 1958 20:4, 9; 21:6 1971 20:8, 10 1974 42:7 1987 6:16; 7:1, 3; 23:21; 24:2; 44:8 1991 25:10 1994 50:17; 51:17 1997 51:18	2 24 14:12 246 37:5	5 53 10:25; 11:1	7 71 45:2, 3 745090 38:9 75 35:25 7th 50:17	8 87 7:4; 25:4; 30:24 88 6:17	9 91 25:3, 5	A AB 7:23 able 15:15 above 40:9 absorbed 26:23 absorption 18:5; 22:19, 20, 21, 24 accept 10:3 accepted 13:25; 14:5, 6 accidentally 26:5 according 46:10 across 35:5

determine 10:17;
12:2, 19; 13:19;
19:20; 43:20
determined 12:12
develop 12:17; 17:22
developed 16:21
dibenzol 43:20, 21
different 8:10; 10:10
differs 9:24
difficult 28:22; 30:16
difficulty 27:20;
30:14
dioxin 43:21; 44:17
direct 42:14
directed 9:6; 17:16
direction 30:2
directions 46:11
director 19:7
discover 13:4
discussed 40:22
discussing 40:12
distinction 9:7;
10:6; 17:18; 21:15;
29:6; 30:9
distinguish 9:21
Doctor 36:8, 10;
40:21
document 31:13;
16; 32:5; 34:18; 35:3;
36:10, 14; 40:2, 5;
42:5, 8, 10, 15
documents 31:7;
10; 34:12
done 13:3; 15:9, 19;
25; 16:9; 17:25;
20:13; 21:24; 22:3;
16, 25; 23:1, 1; 34:25;
35:23; 36:2, 8, 15;
41:19, 20, 21; 43:19;
24; 44:2, 5, 9, 15, 18;
45:6, 8, 10, 20; 46:4;
25; 47:8, 8; 48:10, 11
dose 9:25
doubt 30:5
down 7:7
dozen 21:3; 46:3
Dr 6:9; 7:12; 23:21;
24:23; 31:8, 23; 32:7;
35:6, 9; 36:4, 20;
38:15; 39:10; 42:23;
43:2; 45:14; 47:5
draw 30:16; 48:6
drinking 26:6
drug 9:24; 16:10;
47:14
drugs 9:1, 4, 12;
11:10; 12:3; 13:5, 20;
14:22; 15:10
28:18
duly 6:2; 50:5, 19
duration 14:13;
20:25; 21:10
durations 18:7

during 11:13; 12:22;
14:7, 15, 19; 18:17;
24; 19:11; 20:9; 25:4;
35:15; 41:2; 44:24;
46:1; 48:11
dyes 19:13

E

E 37:9, 20, 25
each 10:12
earlier 13:3; 47:6
early 10:15, 21;
13:10, 17; 14:15;
28:10, 22; 30:13; 48:9
ease 34:2
Easily 38:16
easier 33:2
editorial 40:17
education 7:14
effect 13:5; 26:17,
19; 28:8
effects 9:1, 3, 10, 11,
12; 10:1, 18; 12:2, 6,
10, 20; 13:19; 17:10,
13, 17, 17, 19; 24:7,
7; 25:16, 18, 19; 26:3,
10, 12; 27:9, 19
effort 18:20; 25:8
efforts 12:14; 13:8;
17:16
either 11:10; 12:2;
18:4; 20:25; 46:16;
51:12
elephants 23:19
elevated 32:9, 18;
33:2, 24
else 27:13, 25; 28:1,
1; 31:20; 47:2
employed 24:25;
35:12; 38:19, 21, 24
employee 19:24;
38:17
employees 34:25;
35:19; 43:12
enough 27:11, 17
entire 18:17
epidemiological
35:17; 36:14, 21;
41:18; 42:2; 43:11, 17
epidemiologist 36:5
epidemiology 34:24
Eppenberger 50:14
essentially 25:24;
30:7
et 32:10
European 32:2
even 13:10; 15:5;
26:2
event 28:25
every 26:16
everything 7:8
evidence 24:4; 29:19

EXAMINATION 6:7;
45:17; 47:3
examined 50:19
excess 9:25
exhaust 32:13
expect 27:21; 33:21
experiment 13:13
experiments 12:18;
13:2, 3; 17:21; 18:12
expert 24:16
expires 51:18
expose 17:25
exposed 13:6;
17:15; 18:2; 27:25;
34:5
exposing 22:4
exposure 13:8;
18:2; 23:25; 24:5;
25:16, 18, 20, 24;
26:21; 28:9, 11
exposures 25:23;
27:22; 28:4, 14
extended 34:5
extent 13:5; 33:23
extra 33:5

F

fact 48:10
fair 9:15; 25:12
familiar 46:16
feeding 13:18, 20;
14:17, 24; 15:9;
20:11; 22:4, 13, 16;
23:1
few 46:24
field 8:17; 16:25;
21:18; 44:9
fields 9:22; 10:12;
16:18, 19
fifties 10:16, 19, 21;
11:7; 13:10, 17, 23;
14:15; 16:7, 8; 28:13;
46:15, 22; 48:9
file 37:24
find 24:1
finding 12:10
findings 40:18
fine 11:4
finished 21:9
first 6:2; 16:18; 20:3,
20; 21:5; 25:16; 27:2;
31:12; 34:17; 50:19
firsthand 11:3
Five 18:15
five-year 18:17, 24
followed 24:21
follows 6:6
food 45:25; 46:7, 8,
12, 13, 17; 47:11, 25
force 48:1
foregoing 50:23;
51:1

formal 19:19
forth 51:2
forties 37:15
found 28:15
full 51:6
fumes 33:11
furan 43:20; 44:16
further 48:15; 51:11

G

Gaffy 36:1, 5, 7
gave 6:17; 16:22, 23
general 11:15;
15:16; 17:2; 19:14,
25; 22:1; 23:2, 10;
24:1; 25:7, 14; 36:19
generally 8:24;
13:25; 14:4, 6; 29:4;
43:25; 44:10; 46:14
generated 40:1; 41:5
generational 21:22
generically 46:5
GEORGE 6:1
gets 34:3
gist 15:7; 36:19
given 9:24; 15:2;
51:8
glass 26:6
go-round 40:19
goes 12:9; 40:14
Gofin 32:1
Good 6:9; 10:2
government 17:1
graduate 7:15;
10:15, 24; 16:16
graduated 7:16;
16:11
great 46:19
guess 20:20; 21:1;
22:23; 23:25; 24:3;
27:6, 10, 20; 33:9;
44:7; 47:21; 48:2

H

halo 28:16; 30:10
hand 51:15
handle 18:3
handled 33:20
handwriting 39:15
happened 11:5
happening 24:19
hard 21:1
harmless 33:12
haven't 25:13;
33:17; 34:5
hazard 34:4
hazards 17:2; 23:24
HD000133 38:10
HD000135 38:12

health 9:10; 16:15,
15, 16; 17:2; 23:24;
26:10; 27:9
heard 21:14
heated 33:6, 23
held 42:7
help 42:20
hereby 50:8
higher 33:8
holding 46:8
hopefully 13:8
hot 32:10
huh 42:21
humans 10:18; 12:3;
31:2, 3
Husch 50:13
hydride 18:18
hydrides 17:4, 5, 6;
22:7
hydrocarbons 26:23
hygienist 37:21
hypothetical 26:14

I

IBT 40:7, 15; 45:4
idea 17:12; 40:1
identical 6:14
identifying 30:14
impression 15:17
improve 17:9
in-house 35:17, 18;
36:15; 41:19; 43:19
inaccurate 42:22
include 9:2
increase 33:3, 25
indicate 34:2
indicated 18:9; 22:6;
26:7
indicating 28:11
indistinguishable
10:9
individual 12:15;
13:7
individuals 12:24;
17:14
industrial 10:17;
11:11; 14:22; 15:10,
20, 21; 16:1; 37:21;
46:23, 25; 47:5, 8, 12,
17, 23
industry 10:4; 32:5;
48:4
Inerteen 44:16
Inerteens 44:19
inhalation 18:5, 10;
22:7, 19, 20, 25;
32:11
initials 39:18, 20
injection 18:4
injury 27:3; 28:3
Insofar 12:7

Institute 8:11
intent 9:23; 23:10;
31:10
intentions 23:15
interest 20:1; 25:7
interested 27:6;
44:7; 51:13
interrogatories 6:6
interrupt 40:21
into 10:13; 22:22;
26:14; 38:5; 41:15;
50:25
investigator 35:1
investigator's 13:7
investigators 12:15
involved 6:13, 15;
10:24; 11:5; 35:4, 7;
36:24; 37:3; 42:1
issue 40:12, 23;
41:3; 44:6
issues 6:12, 13, 15;
41:16

J

job 38:23; 39:3
Joe 6:10
Johanson 35:6, 9;
36:9, 20
joined 19:3; 21:9;
36:5
Judy 35:25; 36:2, 3,
7, 11
July 45:3
June 50:17
justified?) 40:10

K

K 38:15
keep 25:5
kept 25:7, 8
kind 32:20; 45:21;
46:5, 15
knowledge 11:3;
40:4; 44:3, 4, 18;
46:21
known 30:9, 13
Krummerick 37:6

L

L 50:4
lab 19:7
labeled 14:8; 15:4;
34:15, 16
laboratory 12:4;
20:10
lady 7:7; 35:25
language 40:7
large 33:17; 34:6
Largely 12:14

last 22:12; 42:15 later 30:4; 36:2, 4 lawful 6:2 lawyer 39:5 lawyers 41:10 learn 17:7, 22 least 43:4 lectures 16:23 left 20:7; 38:22 length 13:25 less 11:17; 20:24; 21:2; 25:11 lesson 12:5 letter 36:23; 37:23, 23; 38:2, 12 letterhead 37:19 LEVINSKAS 6:1, 9; 7:12; 23:21; 24:23; 31:8, 23; 32:7; 38:15; 39:10; 40:6; 45:14; 47:5 life 23:12 likelihood 46:10 likely 33:22 limit 32:25 limited 17:20 line 24:13 lists 42:16 literature 15:16; 24:19, 21; 25:6; 28:22; 30:18 little 14:14; 23:6; 26:2, 4; 29:10 liver 24:6; 26:24; 27:3, 3, 7, 9, 12, 18, 21, 24; 28:3 living 10:2; 23:6 long 18:13; 26:13 long-term 15:18, 25; 16:9; 23:8, 11; 45:19; 46:3, 6, 15, 22; 47:7, 16 longer 23:6 look 34:14; 38:1 looked 33:17 looking 37:22 looks 31:19; 32:4 lot 28:21; 32:21 loud 7:9 Louis 50:3, 11, 15; 51:16 low 25:22; 34:3 lower 38:8	manufacturing 20:1 many 17:24; 26:21 March 51:18 marked 31:13 Master's 8:5 material 26:1; 45:21; 47:12 materials 15:19; 16:10; 17:20; 46:5, 17 may 23:4; 24:10; 26:8; 28:18; 29:1; 31:16; 36:1, 6; 40:1, 2; 41:4; 44:5; 47:24 maybe 26:2 mean 20:16, 17; 28:12; 30:12, 18; 35:18; 40:21 meaning 9:9 meant 14:4 medical 11:18, 19; 36:4 medicine 10:5 meet 39:1; 42:12 meeting 42:6, 13, 17, 21; 43:1, 3, 8 memo 35:8; 40:14; 43:9 mentioned 45:19; 46:1 mentions 37:1 messiness 26:8 messy 26:18 met 42:24; 43:1 method 22:4 might 11:5; 12:20; 15:2, 3; 17:13, 15; 24:5; 26:5; 27:19; 29:2, 3, 21; 32:21, 23; 41:16 mildly 40:7 military 17:3, 11 mind 28:23; 50:18 mine 39:16 miscommunicating 15:24 Missouri 50:1, 5, 11, 15; 51:16, 21 mistake 43:6 Mister 36:9 mixtures 28:15 MONS030773 34:15 MONS040440 31:14 Monsanto 6:16; 24:25; 31:25; 34:25; 35:13, 16, 16, 19; 36:15; 38:17, 20; 40:11; 41:2, 19; 42:3, 18; 43:11, 19; 44:6, 24; 45:1, 6, 9, 11 month 14:13; 15:3 months 18:11, 11 more 10:4, 5, 10; 11:17; 16:9; 20:2; 33:22; 44:7	morning 6:9 mortality 36:22 Most 6:13, 24; 7:5; 15:18; 17:3; 18:9; 48:4 motivating 48:1 mouth 26:6 much 6:24; 30:13; 33:8; 34:4; 44:10 MURRAY 6:8, 10; 9:16; 10:20; 14:23; 15:14; 31:21; 34:21; 37:13, 16, 18; 38:3, 13; 39:23; 41:11; 45:13; 47:4; 48:14 must 32:12	N name 6:9; 7:15; 30:11; 31:9; 34:12, 19; 37:10; 42:17 names 31:24, 25 nature 9:23 necessary 7:8; 32:23 need 19:21; 48:3, 5 needs 48:13 negligible 33:11 new 24:3 next 34:22 NIOSH 42:7, 13; 43:13 non-drug 15:19; 16:10; 47:11 non-toxic 25:22 None 8:3; 29:4 nor 51:13 normally 26:3 North 50:14 notarial 51:15 Notary 50:4; 51:20 nothing 6:4; 50:21 notice 27:22; 50:9 notorious 30:12 nowadays 22:16; 23:3 NPC00002135 38:7 number 29:22; 34:17; 38:9; 39:11, 24; 42:6 numbers 39:22	obstruction 47:23 Obviously 41:11, 11 occupational 16:14 occur 12:2; 13:18; 20:18; 27:19 occurred 36:20 occurring 29:2 odor 33:16, 19, 22; 34:7 off 33:11, 16 office 38:18, 24 offices 50:13 often 20:18 oily 26:8 older 21:18 once 47:10 one 10:3; 12:9; 15:2, 2, 3; 18:10; 19:23, 25; 21:8; 27:3, 21; 29:6, 7, 15; 30:19; 34:11; 35:24; 36:3, 7 One-month 14:9, 12 ones 15:13; 19:21; 26:8 only 15:9; 16:4; 22:19, 20; 23:17; 26:25; 41:14; 42:24; 48:6 onto 38:4 operators 32:15 opinion 23:23; 24:1; 25:15, 19; 26:25 oppose 24:13 opposed 15:10; 26:6; 29:7, 15; 47:24 oral 6:5 order 13:15; 25:12 organ 27:1 organic 19:14; 32:13 organisms 10:3 original 38:3, 7 others 12:8; 42:18; 45:8, 10 out 7:9; 10:9; 24:1, 4; 31:19; 37:24 outside 44:5 ovens 32:10 over 22:14; 23:12; 26:13; 30:23; 31:8 overlap 10:11 own 12:15; 19:6	parentheses 40:10 part 41:23 particular 34:7; 41:1 particularly 30:11 parties 51:12, 14 pay 44:10 PCB 23:25; 28:9; 32:2; 36:11 PCB's 24:5; 25:6, 16, 18, 20; 26:13; 28:12, 20; 30:25; 32:9; 33:11, 15; 35:20, 21; 36:13, 15 pending 50:9 people 17:24; 18:2; 20:1; 33:5; 42:16 people's 23:14 perceive 48:3 perception 48:4 performing 35:19 period 7:1; 11:14; 14:20; 18:17, 24; 19:11; 20:9; 21:24; 23:2, 21; 24:2; 25:4, 10; 26:13; 35:16; 44:8; 48:12 periods 34:6 person 13:13; 15:2, 3; 37:12; 41:1 personally 43:2 personnel 17:11 pesticides 46:9, 17 Ph.D 6:1; 8:6, 15, 17 pharmaceutical 15:10 pharmacist 8:21 Pharmacology 8:19, 23; 9:9, 12; 11:13, 21 phrase 21:22 physiology 11:20 Pittsburgh 16:14; 18:14; 19:2 place 43:15; 44:1 places 33:18 plaintiffs 6:10 plans 12:5 plant 44:22 point 44:1; 47:21; 48:7 points 11:8 policy 19:16, 19 polymer 45:23 polymers 19:14 position 27:10; 30:8 possible 6:24; 12:1; 28:8; 43:10 possibly 14:16 potential 12:1; 26:12, 17, 18; 27:18; 30:25; 31:5 practice 13:16	pre-clinical 11:17, 22 precautions 33:5 predate 13:23 Predominantly 17:19 preliminary 36:21 present 10:7; 42:16, 17 pressure 34:2 previous 15:8; 19:5; 23:23; 24:8; 28:7; 40:23 previously 24:24 primarily 9:6 primary 34:25 probably 10:8; 16:9; 21:2; 28:15; 43:5; 44:2; 48:1 procedure 12:19; 14:6 procedures 10:8; 11:9; 12:9, 24; 13:6 process 22:21; 41:23 produce 9:25; 17:11, 13; 27:11, 17 producer 19:15 producers 30:12 producing 19:11 product 20:2; 45:7 products 19:18; 44:16 profess 15:15 proffered 24:16 prohibition 47:15, 19 prolonged 26:21 proper 32:13 propounded 6:6; 51:4, 7 protect 17:14 prudent 33:4 public 16:15, 16; 50:4; 51:20 published 13:12, 22; 28:10; 30:2; 36:16 purpose 23:16 purposes 9:8, 9, 17 pursuant 50:8
M major 7:21; 18:19, 19 majority 46:20 makes 24:4; 30:15, 24; 33:7; 40:5 making 28:23; 41:24; 47:21; 48:7 manager 35:10	O oaths 50:7 object 9:13; 10:22; 14:3; 16:2; 20:15; 23:13; 24:9; 29:9, 17; 32:16 objection 15:8; 24:14, 15 objections 51:5	P packaging 45:25; 46:8; 47:12 page 34:17, 21, 22; 42:15 pages 51:1 papers 30:2 paraffins 28:18; 30:10 paragraph 33:10	Q qualified 24:18; 50:6 quantities 33:19 questioning 24:13	R ran 18:8; 21:4 range 19:13 rather 19:12; 25:22; 29:20		

Rats 14:9, 11; 23:5
reach 13:15
read 30:23; 33:9;
39:21, 23
reading 32:22; 35:7
reads 40:6
really 10:6; 14:6;
25:13; 26:17; 28:19;
22; 31:15, 16, 17;
32:23; 33:17; 34:8;
39:13; 40:4; 43:16;
44:11; 47:22
reason 15:5; 37:22;
41:14
reasons 15:2; 19:22
recall 12:7, 7; 31:15;
32:5, 22; 34:7; 35:3;
36:12, 18, 24, 25;
37:4; 38:22; 39:13;
40:3; 41:6; 42:24, 25;
43:7
receive 8:5, 15
recent 44:9
Recess 39:8
recital 13:7
recognize 31:11;
34:14; 39:15; 42:9
recollection 16:5;
29:21; 42:11
record 29:18; 34:15;
38:6
reference 13:2; 41:12
reference 11:8;
40:6, 24
referring 9:10
regard 15:9; 19:17;
20:24; 23:24; 25:15;
30:22; 41:18; 44:6, 16
regarding 42:6
regular 20:14, 16
regulatory 19:23;
39:2
relate 7:1
related 40:25; 51:13
relates 8:23
relating 27:7
relatively 25:22
remarks 51:4
remember 6:17;
14:19; 15:1; 21:10;
40:11; 41:1; 42:20;
44:21
remembered 43:3
repeat 6:22
repeated 26:21
reply 6:5
reported 50:24
reporting 35:6, 11
reports 13:22; 14:8,
28:11, 19; 40:15
represent 6:10; 34:4
reputation 42:23
request 45:11
requirements 19:23

reread 36:23
research 16:17, 25;
17:8; 18:16, 20
researchers 13:3
residue 46:10, 12, 18
resin 45:24
respects 51:6
respirators 32:14
response 48:13
results 13:12
retire 25:2
retired 24:17; 25:1
retyped 38:4
review 42:9
reviewed 24:11;
25:13; 40:16
right 7:13; 8:7;
12:22; 13:15; 23:20;
25:2; 35:23; 40:22;
41:8
right-hand 38:8, 10
ring 31:17; 37:10
Rochester 8:9, 10;
11:20; 12:23
room 33:10, 15; 34:1
routes 18:1; 25:24
run 10:16; 13:13;
14:1, 17; 20:6, 11, 19;
35:16

S

same 8:20; 21:20,
21; 30:1; 40:18
samples 30:7
saying 9:15; 11:2;
13:20; 47:11
school 7:15, 17; 8:8;
11:19; 16:15, 16, 24
science 8:25; 24:17
sciences 11:18, 22
scientific 12:19;
13:11; 24:4; 25:6
scientist 13:18
Scott 6:15; 24:11
seal 51:15
second 40:19
section 42:3
seeing 39:13; 40:3
SEM 39:23; 42:5
SEM76859 39:11
sentinel 28:2
Separate 8:13, 14
September 25:3
series 16:22, 23
sessions 12:4
set 10:3; 33:1; 51:1
sets 40:15
several 16:23; 18:11
short 18:9
shorten 6:24
shorter-lived 23:18

shorthand 50:24
shot 31:23; 39:9
show 31:12; 39:10;
42:8
shown 50:23
sign 28:3
signature 51:9
significant 26:10
signs 9:25; 27:3
similar 6:14
single 25:23
six 18:10
six-month 22:6
sixties 28:13
skin 18:5; 22:23, 25;
26:1, 16
slightly 23:4
small 33:19
so-called 30:10;
32:25
solely 28:20
somebody 25:25;
26:17; 37:23; 41:4;
48:2, 8
someone 27:21, 23
something 20:13,
14; 24:6; 26:5; 27:25;
28:1, 1; 30:19; 31:20;
39:2
sorry 24:23
sort 11:22; 12:18
sound 50:18
sounds 32:4
span 23:12
speak 15:16; 29:18
specific 30:23; 39:3;
48:13
specifically 17:3;
18:22; 41:2, 7; 44:7,
14
spectrum 10:11
speculate 11:2, 4;
15:6; 16:3; 24:20;
29:24
speculating 23:14
spent 18:11
SS 50:2
St 50:3, 11, 15; 51:16
stamp 38:6, 9;
39:11, 22
standard 10:16;
11:25
standardization
14:14
standards 11:8
started 10:9; 45:3
State 50:1, 5, 11, 15;
51:21
stated 30:19
statement 32:8; 40:9
statements 30:3
still 23:3; 24:25;
35:12; 38:19; 43:1

stop 27:22
straight 8:5
strains 23:5
strength 45:24
strictly 32:12
strike 44:25
students 11:18
studies 8:2; 11:16;
12:22; 13:19, 21, 21,
23, 24; 14:9, 16, 17,
24; 15:9, 18, 25; 16:9;
18:23; 20:11, 19;
21:6, 23; 22:3, 11, 13,
15, 16, 18, 25; 26:20;
29:11, 12, 18; 35:17;
36:12; 40:19; 41:19;
43:17, 18; 44:3, 5;
45:4, 5; 46:22; 47:7,
16, 19; 48:5
study 8:25; 9:2;
11:12; 14:11; 18:10;
20:24; 21:4; 22:7;
23:9, 11, 17; 34:25;
35:19; 36:1, 11, 14,
14, 22; 43:10, 11, 14
studying 10:1
subacute 21:14, 19
subchronic 21:1,
13, 17; 22:9, 10
subject 9:6; 41:7
subjects 11:21
subsequent 24:2
Subsequently 28:12
substantiated 15:17
suggestion 41:21
suit 51:13
Suite 50:14
supplied 40:16
supply 17:20
sure 15:23; 23:25;
24:18; 29:23; 32:1;
37:25; 38:21; 43:23;
44:13
swallowed 26:2
sworn 6:2; 50:20
symptoms 27:7

T

talk 7:13; 13:14;
21:25; 23:20; 25:14;
26:4, 11; 29:1; 32:19;
33:10; 41:7
talked 28:6; 47:7
talking 10:14, 20;
13:12, 21; 14:21, 23;
15:12; 16:6; 22:23;
26:16; 27:6; 29:11;
35:18
talks 26:15; 32:18;
37:5; 43:10
teaching 16:17, 19,
20
Technology 8:11

temperature 33:11;
34:1
temperatures
32:10, 18; 33:2, 15,
24
tendency 10:10
term 14:11; 18:10;
20:21; 21:13, 14, 20,
21; 47:6
terminology 15:6;
40:20
terms 10:14; 22:1;
25:14, 23
test 18:12; 19:21;
21:11; 45:19
tested 45:22; 46:6
testified 14:5; 50:22
testify 6:3, 20; 50:20
testimony 6:18;
19:6; 24:8, 11; 25:13;
28:7; 40:23; 50:24;
51:2
testing 11:9; 12:1, 9;
13:6; 19:18, 21; 48:8,
11
tests 10:11, 16;
11:24, 25; 12:5, 18;
14:13; 17:21; 18:8;
46:3, 4, 6, 15
textbooks 13:1
themselves 29:19
therefore 33:12
thereto 51:5
thereupon 50:22
thinking 13:9
third 19:25
thirties 28:14
though 22:8, 11;
48:7
thought 31:21
thoughts 12:16
three 31:24; 40:18
threshold 32:25
throughout 30:24
thrust 11:15; 18:16;
24:3
tissues 10:2
to-wit 6:6
today 6:11, 25; 9:8,
18; 10:13; 24:17;
25:15
together 51:3
took 8:2; 11:17, 18;
43:14; 44:1
topic 17:2
towards 17:16
toxic 9:25; 10:17;
12:2; 13:19; 25:15
Toxicity 14:9, 11;
25:23; 45:5
toxicological 9:11;
19:7; 20:10
toxicology 8:1; 9:8,
10; 16:22; 35:11

trade 30:11; 31:24,
25
transcribed 50:25
transcript 50:23;
51:7
treat 17:14
trial 50:12
Tricker 29:11
tried 6:16; 47:10
triggers 27:25; 28:1,
2
true 23:17, 18; 29:4;
46:14; 51:6
truth 6:3, 3, 4; 50:20,
21, 21
try 6:22, 23; 13:19;
17:22; 23:11
trying 41:4, 12
tube 18:12
tumorigenic 40:8
twenties 28:14
twice 47:11
two 9:22; 10:12;
15:3; 21:12, 16;
22:12; 23:3, 4; 33:4;
40:15
Two-year 14:10, 16;
15:13
type 11:14; 17:21;
19:10; 22:15; 32:5
typed 38:11
types 48:12
typewriting 50:25

U

uncover 13:4
Under 22:8
undergraduate
7:14, 17; 8:2
undetermined 50:10
University 7:18; 8:9;
11:19, 20; 12:23;
16:13; 18:13; 19:1
unless 24:21; 27:11
unusual 20:14, 17
up 6:24; 20:6; 25:5,
8; 28:23; 40:13
upper 38:9
use 12:25; 13:18;
15:6, 21; 21:17, 18;
22:3, 18; 23:9; 47:14
used 10:11; 11:24;
13:1; 14:12; 21:13;
14; 23:2, 7; 30:7, 15;
45:24; 46:8, 10; 47:6;
50:11
uses 16:10, 10; 47:11
using 17:12; 23:6;
32:13; 43:11
usually 13:14

V	Y				
vague 32:17	year 7:24; 8:15; 20:7				
valid 9:19	year's 20:25				
validity 30:5	years 15:3; 18:15;				
values 33:1	21:12; 22:12, 14;				
vapor 34:2	23:3, 4; 28:13; 29:22;				
vapors 32:11, 12	30:24; 31:6				
variables 32:21	young 35:25				
variety 19:22					
various 6:12; 18:1;					
19:13; 23:22					
ventilation 32:13, 20					
versus 6:15; 29:3					
via 32:10					
Victoria 50:4					
visit 44:21					
visits 39:1					
voice 24:14					
volumes 34:6					
W	Z				
Wagener 42:23; 43:2	Zack 36:2, 3, 7, 11				
waived 51:9					
wants 43:13					
warning 28:3					
Warren 38:15					
Washington 38:18,					
24; 39:1					
way 7:13; 9:15; 13:8;					
30:20					
week 41:16					
welding 32:10					
Wesleyan 7:18					
Westinghouse					
37:11, 21, 24; 44:22					
wet 45:24					
what's 14:4					
whenever 7:9					
whole 6:3; 18:12;					
33:9; 50:21					
whose 41:20					
wide 19:12					
Wilson 50:4					
without 18:12					
witness 10:23;					
24:10, 15; 50:16, 18;					
51:3, 8, 15					
witness's 29:20					
words 27:23					
work 10:15; 21:5;					
30:4; 33:17; 36:21;					
44:9, 15, 18; 45:1					
working 18:11;					
23:19; 25:25; 26:13;					
33:6					
writing 13:13					
wrote 34:13; 40:14					
WSJ 39:18					