

BEFORE THE ASBESTOS MDL PRE-TRIAL JUDGE
CAUSE NO. 2008-36868-ASB

JOHN JOHNSTON, Individually and) IN THE DISTRICT COURT
as Personal Representative of)
the Heirs and Estate of)
JERRY JOHNSTON, Deceased;)
FRED JOHNSTON and JUDY COURTS) HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

VS.)

AFTON PUMPS, INC., et al) 11TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
TRANSFERRED FROM
CAUSE NO. 47341

JERRY JOHNSTON, et al,) IN THE DISTRICT COURT
vs.) BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS
AFTON PUMPS, INC. et al) 29TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORAL DEPOSITION OF
DR. MICHAEL GRAHAM

MAY 18, 2010

ORIGINAL

ORAL DEPOSITION OF DR. MICHAEL GRAHAM,
produced as a witness at the instance of the
Defendant, and duly sworn, was taken in the
above-styled and numbered cause on the May 18, 2010,
from 10:20 a.m. to 12:12 p.m., before JULIE HUNDELT,
CCR in and for the State of Missouri, reported by
machine shorthand, at 1300 Clark Avenue, St. Louis, MO
63103, pursuant to Missouri Civil Procedures and the
provisions stated on the record or attached hereto.

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Dr. Michael Graham, The Witness

Julie Hundelt, Court Reporter

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I N D E X

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OBJECTIONS:

By Defendants - 50, 52, 57, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 76,
 79, 80, 81, 95, 96
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1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and
2 between counsel for the Plaintiffs and counsel for the
3 Defendants that this deposition may be taken in
4 shorthand by Julie Hundelt, CCR, and notary public,
5 and afterwards transcribed into printing, and
6 signature by the witness is waived.

7 *****

8 DR. MICHAEL GRAHAM,
9 Of lawful age, produced, sworn, and examined on behalf
10 of the Defendants, deposes and says:

11 EXAMINATION

12 QUESTIONS BY MR. TIVIN:

13 (Starting time of the deposition: 10:20 a.m.)

14 (Graham Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 were marked for
15 identification.)

16 Q Good morning, Dr. Graham.

17 A Morning.

18 Q Could you please introduce yourself to the
19 ladies and gentlemen of the jury?

20 A Dr. Michael Graham.

21 Q What do you do for a living?

22 A I'm a forensic pathology.

23 Q Now I'm going to show you what has
24 previously been marked as Graham Exhibit Number 1. Do
25 you see that?

1 A I can.

2 Q What is that?

3 A It's a copy of my curriculum vitae.

4 Q What is that?

5 A It's kind of a biography of my professional
6 career.

7 Q We're going to go through your background a
8 little bit in the beginning if that's okay with you,
9 Doctor.

10 A Okay.

11 Q Can you give the ladies and gentlemen of the
12 jury a brief educational background?

13 A I went to St. Louis University as an
14 undergraduate, got my degree from there in 1973. I
15 received my M.D. in 1977 from St. Louis University. I
16 then spent the following four years at St. Luke's
17 Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas, training as a
18 pathologist. Then came back to St. Louis University
19 for an additional year of training in forensic
20 pathology. I'm certified by the American Board of
21 Pathology in anatomic, clinical, and forensic
22 pathology.

23 Q Are you licensed to practice medicine in any
24 states?

25 A I'm licensed in Missouri.

1 Q That's where we are right now?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you work?

4 A I do.

5 Q What do you do?

6 A I'm a professor of pathology at St. Louis
7 University. I co-direct the Division of Forensic and
8 Environmental Pathology. My work assignment is as the
9 Chief Medical Examiner for the City of St. Louis.

10 Q Let's take those one at a time. Can you
11 please explain to the ladies and gentlemen of the jury
12 what the different types of pathology that you're
13 board certified in, what they mean?

14 A Pathology is one of the major specialties in
15 medicine that deals with the basic nature of diseases
16 and injuries. What they look like, what causes them,
17 how they affect people. The major field of pathology
18 is generally separated into two divisions.

19 One is called anatomic pathology which deals
20 with the examination of tissues taken from the body --
21 for example, during biopsies, surgery, or autopsies.
22 The other major area is clinical pathology which is
23 kind of the laboratory aspects of medicine -- the
24 blood tests, urine tests, things like that.

25 Within those two broad areas are a number of

1 small areas that most pathologists don't have much
2 experience in, and that requires additional experience
3 to practice them. One of those is forensic pathology
4 which deals with addressing pathology issues that come
5 in public forums such as in criminal investigations or
6 in civil lawsuits such as this one.

7 Q You also mentioned your teaching duties.
8 Are you familiar with what asbestos is?

9 A I am.

10 Q Do you teach anything that has to do with
11 asbestos in any of your pathology courses?

12 A Not in the general course to the medical
13 students. I do teach it in some of the continuing
14 education courses, some departmental conferences.

15 Q As a result of that, do you try to keep
16 abreast of the medical and scientific literature as it
17 relates to asbestos?

18 A I do.

19 Q You also mentioned that you're the Medical
20 Examiner. Can you please explain to the ladies and
21 gentlemen of the jury what that is?

22 A Yeah. I have the Government appointment
23 that is responsible for certifying how and why people
24 die when they die under certain circumstances
25 generally either suddenly and unexpectedly or when

1 some sort of outside influence may have played a role
2 in death.

3 Q I mentioned earlier a little bit about
4 asbestos. When did you first develop in interest in
5 the field of asbestos as it relates to medicine?

6 A I've always been interested in heart and
7 lung pathology. My interest in asbestos started when
8 I was in Houston back in the late 70's. Then I got
9 much busier in that area in the mid 80's.

10 Q And have you ever done any, written any
11 articles regarding asbestos or in which asbestos was a
12 topic?

13 A I've written one article that dealt with a
14 number of lung issues that come up in the forensic
15 setting. That article has part of it dealing with
16 asbestos.

17 Q You mentioned that you try to keep abreast
18 of the medical and scientific literature. Are you
19 familiar with a product called gaskets?

20 A I am.

21 Q Are you familiar with a product called
22 packing?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Are you familiar with the medical and
25 scientific literature generally as it relates to

1 gaskets and packing and asbestos?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Now you're doing some consulting work in
4 this case. Do you do that for free?

5 A No. The University bills for my time.

6 Q How much does the University bill for your
7 time?

8 A \$400 an hour.

9 Q Does it matter who hires you with regard to
10 how much you charge?

11 A No. All my time is billed at the same rate
12 regardless of who it's for and what I do.

13 Q Are you a member of the College of American
14 Pathologists?

15 A I am.

16 Q And are you involved in any committees from
17 the College of American Pathologists?

18 A I'm currently the vice chair of the
19 forensics committee.

20 Q Have you done any work for the US
21 Government?

22 A I have.

23 Q Can you please explain that to the ladies
24 and gentlemen of the jury?

25 A A number of years ago people may remember

1 the Branch Davidian incident, Waco, Texas, where David
2 Koresh and his followers were in a compound with a
3 stand-off with the US agents. There were shots fired.
4 There was a fire. Numerous people were killed. A few
5 years after the event the Justice Department reviewed
6 the entire incident, and I was the consultant
7 pathologist to that particular commission. I'm
8 currently doing some work for the National Institute
9 of Justice in some of their grants review.

10 Q Have you received any awards, professional
11 awards during your career?

12 A I have.

13 Q Can you please explain, tell the ladies and
14 gentlemen of the jury about those?

15 A I received some awards from my work in
16 transplantation. I've also received some awards from
17 the National Association of Medical Examiners for work
18 I did for them.

19 Q I don't mean to be jumping back and forth.
20 We talked a little bit about your consulting work.
21 Have you done work for plaintiffs and defendants?

22 A I have.

23 Q In your consulting work, do you charge the
24 same for plaintiffs and defendants?

25 A Yes.

1 Q How long have you been doing them,
2 consulting in asbestos related cases?

3 A Since the mid 80's.

4 MR. TIVIN: Now off the record. Off
5 video record.

6 (Whereupon, a moment was taken off the record.)

7 Q (By Mr. Tivin) Doctor, can you please tell
8 the ladies and gentlemen of the jury generally what
9 is asbestos?

10 A Asbestos is a certain type of mineral. It's
11 a hydrated silicate that comes in a number of forms,
12 but the ones that we're interested today are the
13 fibrous forms.

14 Q Are all types of asbestos commercially used?

15 A No.

16 Q Are you familiar with the different types of
17 asbestos used in different products?

18 A In a general sense, yes.

19 Q How have you become familiar with that?

20 A Primarily through the work that I've done in
21 this litigation.

22 Q Are you familiar with the term amphibole
23 asbestos?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What is that?

1 A The amphiboles are one of the major classes
2 or one of the two major classes of asbestos. The
3 fibers are primarily in the shape of little needles or
4 little rods. They're quite rigid, and they stay in
5 the body for long periods of time.

6 Q Are you familiar with the term serpentine
7 asbestos?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What is that?

10 A The serpentine group which only has one
11 member, is the other major type of asbestos. The sole
12 member of the serpentine group is chrysotile which
13 instead of being like little needles looks like little
14 rolled up parchments or when they're together almost
15 like a piece of yarn.

16 Q Does the body react to the different types
17 of asbestos the same?

18 A No.

19 Q What is the difference generally?

20 A The amphiboles are very poorly handled by
21 the body. Once they're in there and in the lung, they
22 tend to stay there for a very long period of time.
23 Chrysotile on the other hand because of its structure
24 and its chemical nature is well handled by the body
25 and it tends to basically fall apart and dissolve in

1 the body fairly readily.

2 Q Have you studied the ability of the
3 different types of asbestos and their ability to cause
4 disease in humans?

5 A I have.

6 Q Let's talk about this case for a moment.
7 Were you hired by my firm to look at this case?

8 A I was.

9 Q What did we ask you to do?

10 A Asked me to look at to see what disease or
11 diseases Mr. Johnston had whether there was any
12 evidence of any asbestos related conditions in the
13 body and whether gaskets and packing material played a
14 role in the development of his tumor and specifically
15 gaskets and packing from John Crane.

16 Q And as a result of that consultation, did
17 you prepare a report?

18 A I did.

19 Q I want to show you what's been marked as
20 Graham Exhibit Number 2. Do you see that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Is that the report you prepared in this
23 case?

24 A It is.

25 Q What materials did you review in this case?

1 A I had medical records, I had as I recall
2 answers to interrogatories, and I think maybe a case
3 report; and then I had microscopic slides prepared
4 from the tissues sampled during a biopsy, and I also
5 had the results of a report by Dr. Dodson, who
6 quantified how much and what type of asbestos he found
7 in the lung tissue.

8 Q Did you come to an conclusion within a
9 reasonable degree of medical and surgical certainty as
10 to whether Mr. Johnston suffered from an asbestos
11 related disease?

12 A He did.

13 Q What was your conclusion?

14 A He did.

15 Q What was the disease?

16 A Malignant mesothelioma of the pleura.

17 Q Have you studied the ability of the
18 different types of asbestos to cause malignant
19 mesothelioma?

20 A I have.

21 Q You've mentioned the different fiber types.
22 Can crocidolite cause malignant mesothelioma?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Can amosite cause malignant mesothelioma?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Can chrysotile cause malignant mesothelioma?

2 A In humans unless it's contaminated with an
3 amphibole, I don't think it does.

4 Q Can you compare the ability of crocidolite
5 to amosite in the ability to cause mesothelioma --
6 wait. Strike that. Are you familiar with the term
7 carcinogenicity?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What does that term mean?

10 A Just means that something is capable of
11 causing cancer.

12 Q Are you familiar with the term potency as it
13 relates to carcinogenicity?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you have an opinion based upon the
16 relative potencies of the various commercially
17 available fiber types and their ability to cause
18 mesothelioma?

19 A Of the commercial fiber types, crocidolite
20 is the most potent. Amosite is somewhat less potent,
21 probably about 10 percent as potent as crocidolite.
22 Then chrysotile it depends upon how much contamination
23 there is by some sort of amphibole. If you look at
24 the chrysotile that comes out of the ground in some of
25 the mines in Canada where we know that it can cause

1 disease, it's probably two or three orders of
2 magnitude less than crocidolite or amosite.

3 Q When you say two to three orders of
4 magnitude, does that mean two to three times?

5 A No. Those are factors of ten, so a hundred
6 to thousand times less potent.

7 Q What's the basis for that opinion?

8 A It's based upon looking at different
9 populations around the world and seeing how much
10 exposure individuals who get the disease if they get
11 it at all have, and kind of what's the lower limit as
12 to where you see it.

13 And what you see is that if there is
14 contamination to a sufficient amount of chrysotile by
15 some sort of amphibole, it takes very heavy prolonged
16 exposures before you see the disease. Even then, it's
17 very, very few workers get it.

18 For example, if you look at the Canadian
19 miners and millers, about four-tenths of a percent get
20 the disease. Then similarly you look at populations
21 exposed to amosite and to crocidolite, and you see
22 that those populations require much less exposure as
23 we mentioned before.

24 Q When you were talking about exposure, does
25 that relate to the concept of dose?

1 A It relates to it. There's always two
2 factors when you're looking at the administration of
3 toxic substance -- how much you get and for how long
4 you get it. And you have to consider both of those
5 factors.

6 Q Are you familiar with the term or the term
7 of art asbestos in the ambient air or ambient air
8 levels of asbestos?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Can you explain to the ladies and gentlemen
11 of the jury what that is?

12 A Basically if you go out and measure the air
13 just outside the door, you'll find a lot of particles
14 of different types of chemicals in the air. Some of
15 that will be asbestos. Generally what we consider is
16 the ambient air is just what you breathe day in and
17 day out assuming that you're not working in an
18 environment where asbestos is being actively used.

19 Q Does everyone over the age of 40 have some
20 background level of asbestos in their lungs?

21 A In North America, yeah.

22 Q Has that level of asbestos ever been
23 associated with any asbestos related disease?

24 A Not in the general population. There are
25 specialized areas or localized areas where that has

1 been true such as in Libby, Montana, with the
2 vermiculite, down in Louisiana near some of the
3 plants, and maybe one or two other spots. But just
4 generally for most of us, no.

5 Q Can you explain to the ladies and gentlemen
6 of the jury -- strike that. Are you familiar with the
7 term fiber year?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Or fiber CC year?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Can you explain what that is to the ladies
12 and gentlemen of the jury?

13 A Some of you may have heard about pack years
14 when we talk about smoking which is a way to quantify
15 someone's smoking habit over the year. So if you
16 smoke two packs of cigarettes a day for 25 years, that
17 would be 50 pack years. Or two packs a day -- or one
18 pack a day for 50 years would be 50 pack years. So
19 you just multiply how much is in your smoking versus
20 how much years you did it on a regular basis.

21 We do a very similar thing for asbestos, and
22 that is you find out how much fibers are in one CC of
23 air that you're breathing, and the number of years
24 you've been breathing that concentration. Generally
25 when you do that in relation to asbestos, you're doing

1 it in a timely period, which is basically eight hours
2 a day five days a week over a work year. So two
3 fibers per CC for one work year would be two fiber CC
4 years or what we often call two fiber years. If you
5 do that for two years, it would be two times two it
6 would be now.

7 Q Now you talked about some different types of
8 asbestos. Do you have an opinion as to the fiber CC
9 year dose that it causes for amosite to be related to
10 the causation of malignant mesothelioma?

11 A The lowest number that I've seen where
12 people talk about an increased incidence is somewhere
13 around three fiber years or five fiber years.

14 Q And what is, where have you read that?

15 A I think Dr. Rogley has mentioned that in the
16 past.

17 Q Well, I guess what I'm talking about, that's
18 something that you've seen in the medical and
19 scientific literature?

20 A I think I have seen that written. Yeah.

21 Q Do you have an opinion within a reasonable
22 degree of medical and scientific certainty as to the
23 fiber CC year dose of chrysotile that would be, if it
24 could ever be related to the development of malignant
25 mesothelioma?

1 A Again, if we look at the, some of the
2 studies out of Canada where we know that the
3 chrysotile does have contamination at least in some of
4 the mines, but if we look at some of the ore, we know
5 it causes disease, seems to start somewhere around 100
6 fiber years, maybe a little more or a little less.
7 But in that general ball park.

8 Q So if someone has an exposure to chrysotile
9 that is under two fiber per CC years or under one
10 fiber per CC year, would that give rise to cause
11 mesothelioma?

12 A I mean if it was contaminated enough and if
13 you live long enough, theoretically, but you may have
14 to live a hundred years or something in that
15 environment. In general though, no.

16 MR. PANATIER: Mark, let me interrupt
17 you real fast. Do you want to agree that all
18 objections are reserved until the time of trial?
19 I mean that's typically how we do it other than
20 objection to form in Texas.

21 MR. TIVIN: Okay. Is that agreeable to
22 everyone? Off the record.

23 (Whereupon, a moment was taken off the record.)

24 Q (By Mr. Tivin) Getting back to Mr. Johnston,
25 the ladies and gentlemen of the jury have already

1 heard about the different, I'm assuming have heard
2 about the different types of asbestos-related
3 diseases. So I'm not going to have you define them.
4 But did you find any evidence Mr. Johnston had
5 asbestosis?

6 A He did not have asbestosis.

7 Q Did you find any evidence that Mr. Johnston
8 had any pleural plaques?

9 A No.

10 Q Are you familiar with the concept of direct
11 exposure and bystander exposure as it applies to
12 asbestos?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is that?

15 A Direct exposure is generally defined as
16 someone who is actually directly working with the
17 asbestos fibers themselves or some product that
18 contains them. Bystander exposure is someone who
19 happens to be in the general area that's breathing the
20 same air, as the worker may be, or at least similar
21 air. But not directly working with the product
22 itself.

23 Q Did you receive any information about
24 Mr. Johnston's work history?

25 A Some. Yes.

1 Q Did you find anything in significance in
2 what you received?

3 A I had very little information about his work
4 history. I know where he worked when he worked there.
5 He did work in environments where I would expect that
6 there would be asbestos.

7 Q Are you familiar with what a tissue
8 digestion study is?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Did you review one of those in this case?

11 A I did.

12 Q Did you find anything significant in that
13 tissue digestion study?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What was the significance?

16 A There were two things. One is when the
17 number of asbestos fibers of the body had ensheathed
18 or put a coating of iron and protein on what we call
19 asbestos bodies, when that concentration was measured
20 was relatively mildly elevated, but clearly more than
21 you would expect in someone just walking around the
22 streets every day.

23 And then when the actual fibers were
24 counted, the only fiber that was observed was an
25 amosite fiber. But because of the amount of tissue it

1 was in, it does indicate that there was an increased
2 number or increased concentration of amosite fibers in
3 the lungs. Nothing else was seen.

4 Q And was that significant to you that there
5 was an increased amount of amosite fibers in the
6 lungs?

7 A Yes. It goes along with the increased
8 number of asbestos bodies. Amosite is an amphibole,
9 so it fits together fairly well.

10 Q Did you review any medical records in this
11 case?

12 A I did.

13 Q What did you review?

14 A I had a variety of his medical records, some
15 related to his tumor and some unrelated.

16 Q Did you find anything significant in the
17 medical records that you reviewed?

18 A Yeah. He had a number of significant
19 diseases in addition to his tumor. He had significant
20 heart disease related to hardening of the arteries to
21 the heart. He was a diabetic. He also at least at
22 one point was substantially obese, because he
23 underwent a surgical procedure to try to correct part
24 of that.

25 Then at least for our purposes here today,

1 early in 2008, he started getting fluid in the right
2 side of his chest. That lead to the diagnosis of
3 malignant mesothelioma that started on the lining of
4 the right chest wall.

5 Q And you know, just to be clear, you're not
6 saying that any sort of obesity or heart disease had
7 anything to do with the development of his
8 mesothelioma; is that correct?

9 A No. You were asking me what I guess
10 significant diseases that he had, and those are the
11 ones that the record reflected.

12 Q Those types of diseases, could they lessen
13 someone's life expectancy?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And how so?

16 A Well, the heart disease can cause heart
17 attacks or cause sudden death. He had had at least
18 two heart attacks and had a number of surgical
19 procedures to help forestall another. He also had
20 trouble with significant disturbances in the way the
21 heart beats, and he had an implantable defibrillator
22 implanted in his chest to try to at least correct one
23 of the more serious ones if it occurs. Diabetes is
24 associated with early death for a number of reasons
25 including heart disease, and overall obesity is

1 associated with shortening of life span.

2 Q Now based upon the medical records that you
3 reviewed, based upon the tissue digestion report and
4 pathology that you reviewed, do you have an opinion
5 within a reasonable degree of medical certainty as to
6 what type of asbestos caused Mr. Johnston's
7 mesothelioma?

8 A Based on the information that I reviewed
9 from our report, it was amosite, a type of amphibole.

10 Q And I represent a company called -- strike
11 that. Historically what types of products contained
12 amosite if you're aware?

13 A Most commonly thermal insulation, some type
14 of fireproofing. Those are probably the most common.
15 Some types of boards, but that was often used for
16 either fireproofing or thermal insulation.

17 Q I represent a company called John Crane,
18 Incorporated. Are you familiar with that company?

19 A I am.

20 Q Are you familiar with the products that John
21 Crane either made or sold?

22 A In general I am.

23 Q Those would be gaskets and packing?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Are there -- strike that. Are there any

1 articles in the medical and scientific literature that
2 relates gaskets and packing to an increased risk of
3 mesothelioma?

4 A Not that I'm aware of.

5 Q Are there any articles in the medical or
6 scientific literature that relates gaskets and packing
7 to an increased risk of any asbestos-related disease?

8 A Not that I'm aware of.

9 Q Can you explain to the ladies and gentlemen
10 of the jury what the difference is between risk and
11 causation?

12 A Risk is really generally defined for a
13 population and that is a given population has a
14 certain percent increased likelihood of getting that
15 disease based upon some characteristic that is
16 different to that population than from the general
17 population. Doesn't mean they're going to get the
18 disease. Doesn't tell you whose going to get the
19 disease; but that in this group of individuals, some
20 people, more people than you would expect will get the
21 disease. Causation really deals with once you got the
22 disease and finding out why you have it.

23 Q Do you have an opinion within a reasonable
24 degree of medical and scientific certainty as to
25 whether Mr. Johnston's alleged exposure to John Crane,

1 Incorporated, gaskets or packing was a cause of his
2 malignant mesothelioma?

3 A It was not.

4 Q So do you have an opinion?

5 A I do. Sorry. I do.

6 Q What is your opinion?

7 A John Crane gaskets and packing had nothing
8 to do with it.

9 Q Why do you say that?

10 A A couple of reasons. One is I'm not aware
11 that there's been any evidence that he was exposed to
12 John Crane gaskets or packing, but probably more
13 importantly on a scientific side, the asbestos fibers
14 and gaskets and packing are encapsulated or embedded
15 in a matrix. That prevents their release; or if
16 there's any release into the air, it's very, very
17 tiny, and I would not expect that to cause or contract
18 to any disease. It's such a small amount.

19 Most of the gaskets and packing that you
20 deal with are also chrysotile; and so without the
21 contamination and without heavy prolonged exposure to
22 contaminated chrysotile, you won't get the disease.

23 Q I want you to assume that Mr. Hays has
24 testified, and he has testified that Mr. Johnston was
25 exposed to between one and two fiber per CC years to

1 John Crane, Incorporated, gaskets or packing. Can you
2 assume that?

3 A Okay.

4 Q Based upon that type of fiber year exposure,
5 do you have an opinion whether that would relate to
6 the development of Mr. Johnston's mesothelioma?

7 A No. Chrysotile would not cause it at that
8 concentration.

9 Q Do you have an opinion as to whether
10 Mr. Johnston's exposure to amosite containing products
11 was a substantial factor that caused his mesothelioma?

12 A I do have an opinion.

13 Q What is the opinion?

14 A My opinion is based on the data that I've
15 seen, his mesothelioma was caused by exposure to
16 amosite.

17 MR. TIVIN: Thank you no further
18 questions.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 QUESTIONS BY MR. PANATIER:

21 Q Ready to keep going?

22 A Sure.

23 Q Sir, how many hours of time have you spent
24 so far reviewing materials for this case?

25 A Three.

1 Q And what's your billing rate for those hours
2 of review?

3 A \$400 an hour.

4 Q Is that the same rate that you billed for
5 the deposition?

6 A Right. All my time is billed at the same
7 rate.

8 Q What did you do for that three hours?

9 A I reviewed records, I looked at microscopic
10 slides, and I wrote a report.

11 Q Did you ever read Mr. Johnston's deposition?

12 A No.

13 Q Did you ask for it?

14 A I didn't know it existed.

15 Q You've done a lot of these cases; right?

16 A I have.

17 Q And typically there's a deposition of
18 someone who identifies products that have been used;
19 right?

20 A Sometimes there is. Not always. But --

21 Q Okay. Do you ask for one?

22 A I did not ask for one in this case. Given
23 the question that I was really asked to answer that
24 related to the chrysotile containing gaskets and
25 packing, and given the results of the fiber burden,

1 the deposition wouldn't really add to resolving that
2 particular question.

3 Q Well, one question that you answered, you
4 were asked questions about the alleged exposure to
5 John Crane, and you said you weren't aware of any
6 evidence of exposure to John Crane. But you didn't
7 read the deposition?

8 A No. I think Mr. Tivin mentioned that to me
9 that there was no specific indication of John Crane.

10 Q Oh, okay. Let me do this. I have one copy,
11 so I'll ask you to take my word for it. If you want
12 to review it, I'll certainly allow you to do that. I
13 want to read you some excerpts from the deposition and
14 ask you whether or not that was in line with what
15 Mr. Tivin told you. He was asked on page 37 with
16 respect to the John Crane gaskets, did you ever remove
17 a John Crane gasket? Answer, yes. What were those
18 gaskets made out of? Answer, asbestos. Is that
19 evidence that he worked with a John Crane gasket?

20 A Actually, I think I was incorrect before. I
21 think we were talking about the potential for
22 amphibole containing gaskets. So, yeah, I misspoke.
23 There was exposure to chrysotile containing gaskets.

24 Q There was exposure to John Crane
25 chrysotile-containing gaskets; correct?

1 A Yes.

2 Q You personally didn't inquire as to how
3 often he worked with or around those products; right?

4 A It's my understanding he worked around them
5 primarily, but yeah, I did not specifically ask for
6 the reasons I've discussed earlier.

7 Q Sure. You didn't get into the different
8 work practices that were used on the gaskets that he
9 was either working with or around, whether it be
10 scraping, wire brushing, power wire brushing,
11 etcetera. Fair?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What are you doing in the few weeks after
14 June 14?

15 A I will be on a mission trip to Costa Rica.

16 Q So you're going to be out of the country
17 which is why we're taking your video?

18 A Right.

19 Q You were asked about some professional
20 awards. I want to ask about a few professional awards
21 that Mr. Tivin did not ask you about. They are, looks
22 like you have two at least closest to the pin or
23 closest to the hole golf awards displayed prominently
24 in your office. Is that fair?

25 A That is the only two.

1 Q The only two. So you're telling the ladies
2 and gentlemen of the jury you have not done any better
3 than two closest to the hole awards?

4 A That is correct. I have not.

5 Q Looking at your report now, do you have a
6 copy of that?

7 A I do.

8 Q You went through with Mr. Tivin a series of
9 other conditions that Mr. Johnston had. You're not
10 saying in any way that any of those contributed to the
11 development of his mesothelioma; correct?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q In fact, we can agree he had malignant
14 mesothelioma of the pleura; right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q It was from asbestos; right?

17 A Yes.

18 Q He died from malignant mesothelioma;
19 correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So asbestos was the direct cause of his
22 death. True?

23 A No. The direct cause of his death was the
24 tumor. Indirectly was asbestos, because that's what
25 caused the tumor; but the direct cause was the tumor.

1 Q The tumor would not have existed but for
2 asbestos exposure. True?

3 A Probably not.

4 Q Let me ask you a few other questions about
5 your report. If you go to page 2 of your report, the
6 second paragraph, you're talking about --

7 A Second full paragraph?

8 Q The first full paragraph. You talk about
9 Dr. Dodson's report that I assume you've reviewed?

10 A Yes.

11 Q It said that light microscope evaluation of
12 the lung tissue digestate indicated the presence of 80
13 asbestos bodies per gram wet lung tissue. Can you
14 categorize that in your opinion as to how high above
15 background that is?

16 A That's probably about four times the upper
17 limit of background in most laboratories, maybe three.
18 It's a fairly mild increase given what we often see,
19 but it is clearly significantly above background.

20 Q And can all asbestos fiber types cause
21 asbestos bodies?

22 A It's possible almost all of them in North
23 America are based on amphiboles, but a couple percent
24 are based on chrysotile.

25 Q So the answer is yes to my question?

1 A It's possible, but realistically, if you see
2 an asbestos body, you know there's a 98 percent chance
3 it's going to be amphibole.

4 Q Asbestos bodies can be formed from
5 chrysotile; correct?

6 A Yes. They can.

7 Q The next sentence transmission electron
8 microscopy demonstrated an amosite fiber that was
9 indicative of 4097.5 fibers per gram wet lung tissue.
10 Can you characterize for us how much above background
11 that is?

12 A I would have to know what Dr. Dodson's
13 control study showed for the general population, but
14 again, that's a relatively mild increase over general
15 background; but it's still significantly increased.

16 Q But you can't tell you how much increased,
17 because you don't know his control for background?

18 A Yeah. I don't know what his numbers are for
19 his upper limit of background.

20 Q Did he include those in his report?

21 A No.

22 Q If you skip down to the second to last
23 paragraph.

24 A Okay.

25 Q Just a few sentences. It says that the

1 asbestos burden analysis performed on Mr. Johnston's
2 lung tissue confirms exposure to amphibole asbestos
3 amosite in excess of background. You can't tell us
4 how much in excess of background?

5 A Not the fibers. The asbestos bodies as I
6 said about four times the upper limit of what most
7 people's laboratories have as their upper limit of the
8 background.

9 Q But all you can say for the specific type
10 that was identified is it's elevated, but you don't
11 know how much it's elevated?

12 A Yeah. I can't tell you. It's not elevated
13 a huge amount, but exactly kind of what the number is
14 now, I can't tell you.

15 Q You also state there's accumulated
16 scientific information that these tumors,
17 mesothelioma, are caused by a contaminating amphibole
18 most commonly tremolite rather than the chrysotile
19 fibers. Let me ask you this question. If you find
20 tremolite in somebody's lungs, is that more likely
21 than not an indication of chrysotile exposure?

22 A No. I don't think you can say that. There
23 are other possible sources for it.

24 Q Such as?

25 A You'd have to look at the scenario.

1 Q Such as?

2 A Vermiculite would be one. Talc in some of
3 the talc mines would be one you'd have to consider.

4 Q Do you know whether or not Mr. Johnston was
5 exposed to vermiculite?

6 A I don't know if he was or not.

7 Q Do you know whether or not he was exposed to
8 talc-containing tremolite?

9 A I don't know the answer to that.

10 Q Do you know whether or not tremolite was
11 found in his lungs?

12 A Dr. Dodson didn't find any.

13 Q Have you been shown the report by Dr. Ron
14 Gordon?

15 A I saw it just before we started today.

16 Q And Dr. Gordon found crocidolite, tremolite,
17 amosite, and chrysotile; correct?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Can you tell the jury what the source of the
20 tremolite would be in Mr. Johnston's lungs?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you have evidence it was from talc?

23 A I don't have any evidence where it was from.

24 Q Including talc?

25 A Including talc.

1 Q You don't have any evidence it was from
2 vermiculite; right?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q You testified you know he had exposure to
5 chrysotile asbestos; correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Have you seen bulk sampling of John Crane
8 products where tremolite, actinolite, and
9 anthophyllite have been found?

10 A I don't know that I have.

11 Q They've not shown you those studies?

12 A I've seen bulk sampling studies from gaskets
13 and packing, but I don't know what company they were.

14 Q You can't testify that you've seen any bulk
15 sampling or analysis of John Crane chrysotile
16 products; correct?

17 A Yeah. Without going to look up at the date
18 again and see if they tell what the source is I can't.

19 Q And you certainly have not been shown any
20 studies by the John Crane lawyers. Fair?

21 A Not that I recall.

22 Q You haven't done any of that analysis on
23 your own; correct?

24 A Right. It's all been done by industrial
25 hygienists.

1 Q Do you dispute any of the findings of
2 Dr. Gordon's report?

3 A I don't know what the raw data is, so I
4 don't have anything to really offer an opinion about
5 whether it's correct or incorrect. Off the top of my
6 head, I have no reason to say it's incorrect. I can't
7 explain the discrepancy between his and Dodson's.

8 Q Well, certainly if you look at different
9 parts of tissues, you would expect to find different
10 fiber levels and different fiber types?

11 A Usually you don't find different fiber
12 types. If you're look at a different part of the lung
13 and looking at enough lung, it's not unusual to have a
14 discrepancy in the amount you're finding, because
15 there's not even distribution; but it would be unusual
16 to have such a difference in the fiber type analysis.

17 Q Well, another factor would be what type of
18 analysis you're looking at; right?

19 A Well, I think both of them are using
20 transmission electron microscopy, so they're using the
21 same testing. They're using the same techniques.

22 Q Did both of them using X-ray fraction?

23 A I don't recall what they used to analyze
24 fiber type; but as I recall, both used accepted
25 methodologies.

1 Q Did they both use the same type of analysis?

2 A Transmission electron microscopy, yes.

3 Q Well, there's more than one type of that;
4 right?

5 A Of transmission? No. It's a basic
6 transmission electron microscopy.

7 Q Can you use a transmission electron
8 microscopy to use spectrometry?

9 A That's a different attachment onto the
10 scope.

11 Q Sure.

12 A Yeah. That characterizes what type of fiber
13 there is. There are different ways to do that.

14 Q My question is did they do the same thing?

15 A I don't recall whether they used the same
16 techniques. I do recall they both used accepted
17 techniques. I just don't recall if they used the same
18 ones.

19 Q If Mr. Johnston had crocidolite in his lung,
20 would that be a contributed cause of his mesothelioma?

21 A Obviously, if it was above background, yes.

22 Q Do you recall from looking at Dr. Gordon's
23 report whether it was above background?

24 A He doesn't give his control background
25 levels either, but just doing some rough calculation

1 on it, it seemed to be.

2 Q You also stated in your report that it's my
3 opinion that Mr. Johnston's pleural malignant
4 mesothelioma was more likely than not caused by
5 occupational/paraoccupational exposure to amphibole
6 asbestos, paren, amosite, and was not caused or
7 contributed to by any chrysotile dust derived from
8 John Crane gaskets/packing to which he may have been
9 exposed. Can you identify any of the brand names of
10 any of the products containing amosite to which you
11 believe Mr. Johnston's was exposed?

12 A No.

13 Q Can you identify the percentage by volume or
14 weight of amosite in any of the products to which you
15 believe he was exposed?

16 A No.

17 Q Can you identify the frequency, proximity,
18 or duration of the exposure to Mr. Johnston of any
19 amosite containing product?

20 A No.

21 Q I've read to you some excerpts from
22 Mr. Johnston's deposition, and you have agreed that he
23 did have exposure to chrysotile from John Crane
24 products. That is actual exposure, that's no longer
25 alleged; correct?

1 A I mean there's not objective evidence that
2 he did in the sense that you can measure it, but I
3 don't have any reason to think that there was not some
4 trivial exposure assuming his statements were
5 accurate.

6 Q You don't dispute what he testified to?

7 A I haven't read it, so I don't have an
8 opinion one way or the other.

9 Q You don't have any suspicion having not read
10 it that he's not being truthful?

11 A Yeah. I don't have any undue suspicion for
12 that.

13 Q You said when Mr. Tivin or the John Crane
14 lawyers came to you and they asked you to be involved
15 in this case, the question they asked you was whether
16 gaskets and packing played a role in Mr. Johnston's
17 mesothelioma. Do you recall testifying to that?

18 A Whether John Crane gaskets and packing.

19 Q Sure. Before you reviewed any materials in
20 the case, you knew what your answer was going to be to
21 that question; correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You knew the answer to that question would
24 be no?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Before looking at any medical records, any
2 depositions, anything, you knew you were going to say
3 no?

4 A Assuming there was malignant mesothelioma,
5 yeah, gaskets and packing from John Crane was not
6 going to cause it.

7 Q Do you know whether or not Mr. Johnston had
8 any exposure to crocidolite John Crane packing or
9 gasket products?

10 A I see no evidence that he did. Certainly,
11 if he did, it wouldn't account for Dr. Gordon's
12 number. You couldn't get that number using gaskets
13 and packing; but whether there was any or not, you
14 could speculate pretty much, but I've seen no
15 indication that he was.

16 Q Sure. You have to speculate, because you
17 haven't read the deposition; right?

18 A Or I've not seen objective evidence that
19 they were even there, if they existed even.

20 Q Sure. Did you ask John Crane for invoices
21 or for any information as to the products they had
22 made that contained crocidolite, what operations they
23 worked on, or anything like that?

24 A No.

25 Q You said that the amount of crocidolite that

1 Dr. Gordon found would not account for solely on the
2 basis of gaskets or packing may or may not contain
3 crocidolite?

4 A Right.

5 Q You're not saying they couldn't contribute
6 to the number, you're saying they wouldn't, the whole
7 number?

8 A Yeah. You probably wouldn't get a
9 measurable difference by using gaskets and packing.

10 Q What do you mean by measurable difference?

11 A It's such a tiny exposure, especially
12 someone whose not directly working with it every day.
13 If you measured somebody's lungs, you would be in
14 background. You'd never be able to recognize it.

15 Q Are you saying that it's impossible to get a
16 substantial exposure to asbestos from gaskets and
17 packing work?

18 A Using them in the usual fashion with the
19 exception of cutting sheet gasket with a bandsaw,
20 yeah, that is correct.

21 Q So it's your opinion that you can't get
22 substantial exposure to asbestos from scraping off a
23 gasket?

24 A Yeah. Everything is below the current PEL.

25 Q You're saying that you can't get substantial

1 exposure from wire brushing off a gasket?

2 A Right.

3 Q You're saying you can't get substantial
4 exposure from power wire brushing off a gasket. True?

5 A Right.

6 Q You can't get substantial exposure from
7 pulling packing out of a piece of equipment; correct?

8 A Right.

9 Q You said because all of those exposures are
10 under the PEL?

11 A They're substantially under the PEL. It's
12 not because they're under the PEL. That's just a
13 reference point. It's because when you measure them,
14 if you find any at all, it's usually at least in an
15 the order of magnitude -- so you're talking in the
16 hundred's or thousand's of fiber per CC on a time
17 related average.

18 Q Isn't the amount of fibers in the air
19 dependent on the work you're doing, how many gaskets
20 or packing projects you do?

21 A No. It's not what's in the air. That will
22 give you a time difference, but it doesn't add more to
23 the air; because you don't really work on one at a
24 time. That's what's -- in the air. Again, you go to
25 another one, that's what will be in the air. It's not

1 like it's all in the air at a time, and you're adding
2 to it.

3 Q So if you work on one gasket, and then you
4 do a time weighted average over eight hours on one
5 day, then on day two you work on two gaskets, and you
6 do a time weighted average over eight hours, your
7 exposure is the same?

8 A No. You'll have more.

9 Q You have twice as much exposure; correct?

10 A Right.

11 Q If you do 10 gaskets on one day and 20
12 gaskets on the next day, you have twice as many
13 exposure on the next day?

14 A Theoretically.

15 Q More likely than not, that's the truth.
16 True?

17 A There's all kinds of other factors you have
18 to consider with air flow and differential release, so
19 it's not quite that neat to do it mathematically.

20 Q But if you work on more gaskets, you're
21 going to have more exposure?

22 A Right.

23 Q Okay. You state in your report that, and
24 you have stated here I believe that the use of
25 encapsulated chrysotile containing gaskets, slash,

1 packing is associated with the airborne release of
2 chrysotile dust within the current PEL .1 fibers per
3 CC. What's the support for that?

4 A That's the current PEL.

5 Q What's the support for your conclusion that
6 it's associated with airborne release of chrysotile
7 dust within the current PEL?

8 A There's a number of studies that have looked
9 at that. Mangold has looked at that. Bolter has
10 looked at it. Spencer, Spence, Lukinen, I think it's
11 been reviewed by Postenbach. I think those are the
12 ones I recall.

13 Q What about McKinnery and Moore?

14 A McKinnery and Moore, they had a higher
15 number, but it's out of line with everybody else's;
16 and the industrial hygienists have the explanation
17 why. I look at kind of what fits together. Outliers
18 I tend to disregard.

19 Q What about Chang and McDermott, are they
20 another outlier?

21 A Again, there was something about the way
22 they were doing it, the industrial hygienists have
23 looked at. But using current techniques and current
24 measurement methodologies, the numbers are uniformly
25 low.

1 Q What about Millet Mountain Haze, is that an
2 outlier?

3 A The Milette was using a little chamber. I'd
4 have to go back and look at it, but there are major
5 problems with that particular study.

6 Q Longo study is an outlier too?

7 A I'd have to look at it.

8 Q Can you specifically name any problems with
9 any of the methodology for any of the studies that
10 I've just mentioned to you?

11 A As I recall, some of them there was filter
12 overload on a number of them.

13 Q That's not a methodology problem?

14 A That is a methodology problem. That
15 shouldn't happen. You don't get an appropriate answer
16 when you have filter overload.

17 Q Did they actually try to count filters that
18 were overloaded?

19 A I don't recall, but that was one of the
20 criticisms.

21 Q By who?

22 A I don't recall. I'd have to go back and
23 look at all the articles again.

24 Q So there are criticisms, but you don't know
25 by whom?

1 A Not off the top of my head.

2 Q You're aware every single name I mentioned,
3 they were all published in peer review literature;
4 correct?

5 A I don't recall if all of them were in peer
6 literature. I'd have to look at them.

7 Q So you don't whether or not they were all in
8 peer review?

9 A I don't know if all of them. Some of them
10 --

11 Q Have you ever published a criticism of any
12 of those papers?

13 A No. I don't have enough knowledge to do
14 that. I would refer to the industrial hygienists.

15 Q Sir, do you rely on -- you mentioned the
16 Bolter paper. Do you rely on the Bolter paper that
17 the proposition that the use of gaskets and packing is
18 associated with the airborne release of chrysotile
19 dust within the current PEL .5 fibers CC?

20 A Some of Bolter's work, yeah.

21 Q Specifically what?

22 A He's done some removal of gaskets from
23 industrial maritime old equipment.

24 Q Do you know whether or not the gaskets that
25 he was working on just fell out or whether they had to

1 actually be worked to get the residue off the flanges?

2 A I'd have to go back and read them.

3 Q Sure. Have you seen Mr. Bolter's
4 correspondence with OSHA about his reports?

5 A No.

6 Q Let me just ask you if you've seen this.
7 (Graham Exhibit 3 was marked for identification.)

8 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, I'll hand you Exhibit
9 3. Have you ever seen that letter from OSHA to
10 Frederick Bolter before?

11 A No.

12 Q Going down to the first red underlined
13 statement, what does that say?

14 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

15 THE WITNESS: Furthermore, it is our
16 opinion that your data did not demonstrate that
17 the gaskets you examined possess the physical
18 property that these provisions require in order to
19 qualify for exemption from labeling.

20 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Then what's the second
21 part that's underlined say?

22 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

23 THE WITNESS: It is a reasonably
24 foreseeable occurrence for a person to perform the
25 same tasks in regard to 10 gaskets instead of 8

1 gaskets in an 8-hour period. In that event, a
2 person could be exposed to an 8-hour time weighted
3 average asbestos air concentration that could
4 exceed the 8-hour time weighted average of 0.2
5 fibers per CC.

6 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Now if you need to read
7 more of that, you certainly can. But based on just
8 Fred Bolter's numbers alone, OSHA is saying even
9 using your numbers, it's foreseeable someone could
10 exceed the time weighted average PEL of .01; isn't
11 that correct?

12 A That's what they say.

13 Q You can set that aside, sir. Sir, briefly
14 going back to the subject of tremolite, you've
15 identified talc, vermiculite, and potentially
16 chrysotile as three different sources of tremolite;
17 correct?

18 A Right.

19 Q You're unaware of any talc exposure he had,
20 vermiculite exposure he had, but you are aware he had
21 chrysotile exposure; correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q As you sit here right now, is it more likely
24 than not that the tremolite in his lungs came from
25 chrysotile products?

1 A I don't think you can say that.

2 Q But you can't identify an alternative
3 source; can you?

4 A I can't identify any source for it.

5 Q Okay. Here's the easy part. This is where
6 I ask you questions that I've asked you about before.
7 If you need to see the transcript, this is from the
8 Pelly case in 2007 in Los Angeles, December of 2007 I
9 think.

10 THE DEFENDANTS: I would just object to
11 the --

12 MR. PANATIER: I'll cut it. I'm just
13 telling him.

14 Q (By Mr. Panatier) So if you want to see an
15 answer or a question, I'm happy to show it to you.
16 Sir, just so I can get an update on this year, how
17 many times have you testified in a deposition this
18 year on behalf of asbestos defendants?

19 A I don't know. I don't keep count. We do
20 keep a list. I'll be happy to provide it to you. Off
21 the top of my head, no.

22 Q Do you have that list here?

23 A No. It's at the University.

24 Q Can you just give me a ball park?

25 A Off the top of my head again, it's not

1 something I even think about. Once I do them, I just
2 forget them.

3 Q Okay. So is it true then you couldn't tell
4 us whether it's been 5 times, 10 times, 50 times?

5 A I'm sure it's not 50 times.

6 Q Could it be 25 times?

7 A Probably not, but it could be.

8 Q Over the past 34 years, how many times have
9 you testified in deposition on average in asbestos
10 cases for defendants?

11 A You know, I don't know. Again, I don't keep
12 the list. My secretary does. I don't even pay
13 attention to it.

14 Q How many times have you testified at trial
15 this year?

16 A A few.

17 Q Like two?

18 A Two, three, no more than four.

19 Q Where?

20 A I think Los Angeles, yeah, Los Angeles. I
21 think Philadelphia.

22 Q Anywhere else you can remember?

23 A Not off the top of my head. I think there
24 may be another one in there, but I don't recall where.

25 Q Do you charge for travel time?

1 A I do.

2 Q What's your travel rate?

3 A Same.

4 Q So it's \$400 an hour?

5 A Yes.

6 Q For the time that you leave the door til you
7 get to the courthouse or to the hotel?

8 A I don't charge for sleeping and things like
9 that. If I'm traveling and I'm not doing otherwise
10 professional activity, yeah.

11 Q You said the school bills for your time?

12 A Right.

13 Q What percentage of that goes to you direct?

14 A About two-thirds of it.

15 Q All right, in 2007 I asked you over the last
16 six or seven years you billed about \$250,000 per year.
17 You said that's about what I earn per year. Fair?

18 A Between 250 and 300.

19 Q Has that remained consistent over the past
20 three years since 2007?

21 A That would be my general sense. Again, I
22 don't calculate that out per year, but that's my
23 general sense.

24 Q As of 2007, you said that you had made
25 approximately \$2 million as of 2007 in asbestos

1 litigation.

2 A You know, again, I don't count, but
3 somewhere in that ball park over the last 25 years
4 now, yeah.

5 Q This was 2007, so since then you've made
6 close to another million dollars. Fair?

7 A No. That's two years.

8 Q Actually, it's 2010. It would have been two
9 and a half years ago. So if you make \$250,000 a year,
10 and we're halfway through the third year, that's
11 almost \$700,000?

12 A Which is a lot less than a million.

13 Q Okay. Depends on whose counting. So you've
14 made approximately 2.7 plus; right?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q You've testified in hundreds of cases.
17 True?

18 A Over the years, yeah.

19 Q 85 to 90 percent of all your work is done
20 for defendants in asbestos litigation. True?

21 A Yes.

22 Q When was the last time you testified at
23 trial for a plaintiff in asbestos litigation?

24 A A couple of years, three years maybe.

25 Q When is the last time you testified in

1 deposition for a plaintiff in asbestos litigation?

2 A Probably about the same.

3 Q I'm going to read off a list of companies
4 you testified for, consulted for in asbestos
5 litigation. You tell me if I name some you haven't
6 worked for. Okay?

7 A Okay.

8 Q You've consulted and/or testified for, Ford,
9 General Motors, Chrysler, Volkswagen, Apex, Borg
10 Warner, Marimount, Bondex, Certainteed, Crane,
11 Durabla, Garloch, CS Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad,
12 Union Carbide, Ingersoll Rand, AB Chesterton, AW
13 Chesterton -- sorry -- Kelly Moore, Owens Illinois,
14 John Crane, Flextallic, Foster Wheeler, and Georgia
15 Pacific. True?

16 A Yes.

17 Q In 2003 some lawyers did a mock trial or a
18 mock testimony for you. True?

19 A I don't remember the year, but I've done
20 one.

21 Q It was kind of like, you were kind of like a
22 witness in a fake asbestos trial. Right?

23 A I don't know if it was really a trial. I
24 mean they, it was an examination of both the cross, or
25 direct and cross; but I don't know that there were

1 other aspects of it. But, yeah, it was from a witness
2 standpoint. Yeah. That's what it would have been.

3 Q Okay. Here's what you said. You said, I
4 don't know if it was to see how I handled it. I don't
5 remember what it was, but it was attorneys for
6 Ingersoll Rand had asked me to kind of be a witness in
7 kind of a fake trial. Fair?

8 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah. From an individual
10 witness perspective, yeah, that would be correct.

11 Q (By Mr. Panatier) You're familiar with the
12 Defense Research Institute; correct?

13 A I am.

14 Q That's civil defense for lawsuits; correct?
15 It's not like national defense. True?

16 A You mean like national strategic defense of
17 the country? Yes.

18 Q So Defense Research Institute --

19 A Yeah. It's primarily a litigation defense
20 oriented organization.

21 Q You've spoken there three times. True?

22 A More than three I think.

23 Q How many times have you spoken there now?

24 A Probably four or five total.

25 Q This was as of 2007 it was three. You've

1 done one or two since then?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q You're aware that the slogan of the Defense
4 Research Institute is the voice of the Defense Bar;
5 right?

6 A I've heard that.

7 Q I think I've asked you that before, so
8 that's probably where you've heard it. You're not a
9 pulmonologist; right?

10 A Right.

11 Q You're not an epidemiologist; right?

12 A Correct.

13 Q You're not a mineralogist?

14 A Right.

15 Q You're not an industrial hygienist?

16 A Right.

17 Q You're not an oncologist?

18 A Correct.

19 Q You don't personally conduct epidemiological
20 studies; right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Never participated in epidemiological study
23 on asbestos. True?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Not a researcher in the area of asbestos;

1 correct?

2 A Correct.

3 Q You have no specific training in public
4 health. True?

5 A No more than any other physician would have.
6 Right.

7 Q You don't consider yourself an expert in
8 occupational medicine; correct?

9 A As an occupational medicine practitioner,
10 that's correct.

11 Q You haven't done any epidemiological studies
12 on asbestos or chrysotile asbestos. True?

13 A Right.

14 Q No studies on asbestos inhalation or
15 injection studies in animals. True?

16 A Right.

17 Q How many total publications have you written
18 on asbestos?

19 A Part of one.

20 Q Part of one publication?

21 A Right.

22 Q That was part of a chapter or a paper?

23 A It's sort of both I guess. It's -- it was a
24 publication in sort of a chapter form I guess, and
25 that particular journal has chapter format type

1 articles in it.

2 Q When was that?

3 A '98 I think.

4 Q You've not been retained by any regulatory
5 or scientific body to be their go-to expert when they
6 have an issue of asbestos that comes up; right?

7 A Right.

8 Q You've never testified before Congress.
9 True?

10 A Right.

11 Q I think you testified in the past that you
12 agree it was generally accepted by 1960 that asbestos
13 caused mesothelioma; correct?

14 A 1960 is when the seminal article that most
15 people would agree indicated that asbestos can cause
16 mesothelioma.

17 Q And you're aware that specifically that
18 article, that's Vogner; right?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q That article actually cited to earlier
21 publications and reports in literature of individuals
22 getting mesothelioma from chrysotile asbestos,
23 specifically the Cartier article?

24 A It referred to other populations, but there
25 were no epidemiological studies. In fact in 1960, a

1 lot of people didn't even think that mesothelioma
2 existed.

3 Q The Vogner paper, was that an
4 epidemiological study?

5 A Formally it was not.

6 Q There was no control population; right?

7 A Right. But because of the rarity of the
8 disease, he was kind of lucky; and it kind of worked
9 out to be one almost. But if he would submit that
10 today, it wouldn't be accepted.

11 Q Right. You agree that all forms of asbestos
12 are carcinogenic; correct?

13 A With the exception of calidria chrysotile.

14 Q Calidria is the stuff that was mined by
15 Union Carbide in California?

16 A A particular area of California, yeah.

17 Q You don't believe that that type of asbestos
18 is carcinogenic?

19 A Yeah. It is has not been shown to be
20 carcinogenic in either animals or people.

21 Q The chrysotile asbestos that was going into
22 John Crane gaskets and packing is carcinogenic. True?

23 A It can cause lung cancer if it causes
24 asbestosis.

25 Q It does cause asbestosis. True?

1 A In high doses.

2 Q Chrysotile can cause pleural plaques. True?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You talked about Mr. Johnston specifically
5 about whether or not he had any indication of pleural
6 plaques or asbestosis. Is it necessary for you to
7 diagnose a person with pleural plaques or asbestosis
8 before you can contribute his mesothelioma to
9 asbestos?

10 A No.

11 Q If fact, you've attributed mesothelioma to
12 asbestos in this case. True?

13 A I have.

14 Q Sir, you've agreed before that cellular
15 studies shows that chrysotile can alter DNA; right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Mesothelioma is not caused by smoking.
18 True?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Sir, you've acknowledged in the past that
21 some of the studies of Canadian miners and millers
22 have been funded by the Quebec Asbestos Mining
23 Association. True?

24 A I think some studies in Canada have at least
25 partial funding from the association organization.

1 Yeah.

2 Q Specifically, the McDonald's have been
3 funded by QAMA or Q-A-M-A?

4 A Some of their stuff has. Yeah.

5 Q You know that QAMA is an organization that
6 represents asbestos mining companies in Canada?

7 A Right.

8 Q You were asked whether or not there were any
9 studies published that showed that people working with
10 gaskets or packing got asbestosis or mesothelioma. Do
11 you recall that?

12 A Yeah. I do.

13 Q Are you aware of any cohort of workers in
14 the entire world where all they do is work with
15 gaskets or packing?

16 A I mean if you exclude the people who make
17 them, no.

18 Q Well, the people who make them are not
19 grinding off the old gaskets; correct?

20 A I mean there's significant difference
21 between people who make gaskets and people who use
22 them. It wouldn't be appropriate to use data from one
23 to apply to the other, but I'm not aware of any
24 studies of a cohort where they're only exposed to
25 gaskets or packing in the general use of those

1 products.

2 Q In fact, in the general use of those
3 products, you might have several different trades who
4 might call upon the use of gaskets or packing as part
5 of their trade, but it certainly wasn't exclusive to
6 their trade?

7 A Right.

8 Q Sir, I just want to ask you about the
9 opinions of certain scientific and regulatory bodies.
10 I've done this before. Sir, do you agree OSHA is of
11 the opinion that chrysotile asbestos causes
12 mesothelioma and that there is no safe level of
13 exposure?

14 A They do -- yeah. That is their opinion.
15 Recognizing that they are basing that on contaminated
16 chrysotile, so they don't address the issue of
17 uncontaminated chrysotile. But contaminated
18 chrysotile, yeah, they do.

19 Q Can you site to me or provide me with
20 something where OSHA has specifically said our opinion
21 that chrysotile causes mesothelioma only applies to
22 contaminated chrysotile and not pure chrysotile?

23 A Yeah. If you look at their documents and
24 look at what they're referring to in the --

25 Q Which document?

1 A The OSHA documents.

2 Q Well, there's lots of them. Thousands of
3 them. If you tell me which one we can look at --

4 A Obviously, off the top of my head, I
5 wouldn't memorize all the OSHA documents. But as you
6 look through the regulatory documents from any of the
7 agencies, they cite back to the Canadian miners and
8 millers. Everybody recognizes those are contaminated
9 sources. And in the timeframe where those opinions of
10 those regulatory agencies came out, there had been no
11 studies of exposures of populations to pure chrysotile
12 which are available now. At least there's one
13 available now.

14 Q Where does pure chrysotile come from?

15 A Well, there's calidria is one source, but
16 also there's one of the mines in South America which
17 has been shown to be uncontaminated and where there's
18 a worker cohort that's been studied. A couple of the
19 mines in Canada are uncontaminated, but as far as I
20 know the workers to those mines specifically have not
21 been studied, or because of workplace shifts, you
22 can't assume that they're exposed only to the
23 uncontaminated forms. But the one mine in South
24 America --

25 Q Let me go rewind just a minute. Are you

1 aware of any statement by OSHA where they have said
2 only contaminated chrysotile causes mesothelioma?

3 A I'm not aware that OSHA ever addressed that
4 issue. Again, when you looking at the underlying data
5 for all the regulating agencies, it's all related
6 exposure of the contaminate.

7 Q Has OSHA said only contaminated chrysotile
8 causes mesothelioma?

9 A No. They have not addressed the issue.

10 Q In fact, OSHA has said chrysotile causes
11 mesothelioma. True?

12 A Chrysotile recognizing that the underlying
13 basis for that statement is contaminated chrysotile.

14 Q You're the one recognizing that, not OSHA?

15 A No. They recognize it, because they cite
16 those articles; and those populations are recognized
17 as being contaminated chrysotile populations.

18 Q Their statements after distilling everything
19 they have reviewed are that chrysotile causes
20 mesothelioma in human beings?

21 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection form.

22 THE WITNESS: Right. And that would
23 predispose that it's contaminated. They have not
24 addressed the issue at all and have not considered
25 data from uncontaminated sources. It wasn't in

1 existence when that opinion came out.

2 MR. PANATIER: I'm just going to object
3 as to unresponsive.

4 Q (By Mr. Panatier) OSHA stated chrysotile
5 causes asbestos?

6 A That is their statement.

7 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

8 Q (By Mr. Panatier) OSHA has also stated there
9 is no safe level of exposure from chrysotile;
10 correct?

11 A There's been none identified.

12 Q You're aware of the Consumer Product Safety
13 Commission is of the opinion that chrysotile causes
14 mesothelioma; correct?

15 A Again, based on contaminated sources, yes.

16 MR. PANATIER: I'm just going to object
17 as nonresponsive.

18 Q (By Mr. Panatier) They have stated
19 chrysotile causes mesothelioma; correct?

20 A They have stated chrysotile causes
21 mesothelioma, but recognizing contaminated chrysotile.

22 MR. PANATIER: Just object to the
23 unresponsive portion.

24 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, you understand the
25 International Agency on Research for Cancer is of

1 the position that chrysotile causes mesothelioma;
2 correct?

3 A Again, they recognize that chrysotile
4 including contaminated chrysotile causes mesothelioma.

5 Q Have you reviewed the special report for the
6 International Agency on Research for Cancer from 2009,
7 May?

8 A I don't think so.

9 Q They state epidemiological evidence has
10 increasingly shown that association of all forms of
11 asbestos, chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite, tremolite,
12 actinolite, and anthophyllite with an increased risk
13 of lung cancer in mesothelioma. Do you agree or
14 disagree with that statement?

15 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I agree with it.

17 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, you're aware that
18 World Health Organization has concluded that
19 chrysotile causes mesothelioma?

20 A I have. Again, recognizing they are
21 considering contaminated chrysotile in that population
22 or those populations.

23 MR. PANATIER: Objection.

24 Non-responsive.

25 Q (By Mr. Panatier) So here's what I'm going

1 to do. You were asked on December 4, 2007, this
2 question, you agree, sir, that OSHA is of the
3 position that chrysotile asbestos causes
4 mesothelioma; correct? And your answer was yes;
5 correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q You were asked the question, you are aware
8 that the Consumer Product Safety Commission is of the
9 opinion that chrysotile causes mesothelioma; correct?
10 Your answer was yes; correct?

11 A Yes.

12 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.
13 Improper impeachment.

14 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, you were asked in
15 2007, the International Agency of Research on Cancer
16 were of the position that chrysotile causes
17 mesothelioma? Your answer was yes; correct?

18 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.
19 Improper impeachment.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Same with the World Health
22 Organization, your answer was yes?

23 A Yes.

24 THE DEFENDANTS: Same objection.

25 Q (By Mr. Panatier) You don't dispute those

1 were your answers in 2007?

2 A No. My opinion is still the same today,
3 that contaminated chrysotile can cause mesothelioma;
4 and most people when we use the term chrysotile
5 recognize that there may be contamination.

6 Q Looking at what I just read from on that
7 page, I think it's page 868 to page 869, did you state
8 yes, but they only mean contaminated chrysotile and
9 not pure chrysotile?

10 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

11 THE WITNESS: Obviously, I'd have to
12 read through the deposition to see.

13 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sorry. That was at trial
14 testimony. Sorry. As you look at their documents
15 and what they based them on, invariably they
16 included the Canadian population, and that's all
17 contaminated chrysotile, or those populations have
18 contaminated chrysotile. If they're using that data
19 to make these statements, then they're considered
20 and not addressing the issue of uncontaminated. Did
21 I read those questions and your answers correctly?

22 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Improper
23 impeachment. Can we switch now?

24 MR. PANATIER: No.

25 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, where did John Crane

1 get their chrysotile asbestos from?

2 A I don't know.

3 Q Have you asked them?

4 A No.

5 Q You make a big distinction between
6 contaminated and uncontaminated chrysotile; right?

7 A Right.

8 Q You don't know where theirs came from?

9 A I don't know if it's important where it came
10 from. You'd want to know what actually goes into the
11 product and whether the product itself is
12 contaminated; because it's contaminated coming out of
13 the ground doesn't mean it's contaminated after
14 mining.

15 Q Are you aware of some way that's been
16 invented to take tremolite or actinolite or
17 anthophyllite out of the final product?

18 A The milling process removes at least some if
19 not all of the amphibole from different fractions.

20 Q How does it do that?

21 A Because -- you'd have to ask the milling
22 people the technical aspects of it. They don't want
23 those types of contaminants in the final product,
24 because it's not the type of fiber they're looking
25 for. So they use differentials in the way they float

1 and some other things.

2 Q Can you point me to any publication or
3 article at all that says that that actually gets done
4 where in the milling process they can remove all the
5 contaminants?

6 A You can see that, because there's at least
7 has been one study of the B sample of chrysotile which
8 is a mixture from different Canadian mines where
9 there's been no amphibole found. That's been looked
10 at by a number of researchers.

11 Q Who?

12 A I think Dr. Dodson has looked at it,
13 either -- I think Dr. Langert has looked at it.

14 Q Do you have those articles here? I mean
15 we're in your office; right?

16 A We're in my office at the Medical Examiner's
17 Office. No. I don't have those articles here.

18 Q This is your office? These are your golf
19 trophies; right?

20 A This is one of my offices. Most of my
21 literature is as you know at my University office.

22 Q Your literature is relevant to this
23 examination; right?

24 A I certainly did not anticipate that you
25 would be asking me about the Canadian B sample, and

1 I'm sure you're well aware of those studies anyway.

2 Q Unfortunately, I'm not testifying. You are.

3 So I'm asking you about them. You don't have them
4 here; right?

5 A No, I don't.

6 MR. PANATIER: Let's switch tapes.

7 (Whereupon, a moment was taken off the record.)

8 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Sir, you had said that
9 the -- let me start over. Sir, you said that 4097.5
10 fibers per gram wet that Dr. Dodson found was
11 elevated; correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q You're able to say it's elevated, but not
14 how much elevated over background; correct?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Now in Dr. Gordon's report, you said you saw
17 that?

18 A I saw it just before the deposition today.

19 Q He said that he found 22,623 fibers per gram
20 wet. That's substantially elevated above background;
21 correct?

22 A I mean it's above what I would expect to be
23 background. Again, I don't know what his control
24 population showed, but yeah, I would expect that. I
25 don't know if I would use -- it's significantly above

1 background. Again, it's not a huge amount of fiber,
2 but it is more than the average person would have
3 walking around.

4 Q It's consistent with someone who has
5 asbestos exposure in an occupational sense?

6 A Oh, sure. Both analyses are consistent with
7 that.

8 Q He said that he found chrysotile,
9 crocidolite, amosite, and tremolite in a ratio of 2 to
10 1 to 1 to 1.

11 A Right.

12 Q So the fiber that he found the most of as an
13 individual category was chrysotile. True?

14 A Right.

15 Q Then he found equal amounts in the area he
16 looked of crocidolite, amosite, and tremolite. Fair?

17 A That's what he reports, yes.

18 Q Sir, do you agree all exposures to amphibole
19 asbestos whether it be crocidolite, amosite,
20 tremolite, actinolite, or anthophyllite can contribute
21 to the development of mesothelioma?

22 A I wouldn't expect background North American
23 level exposures to contribute. That's not ever been
24 shown.

25 Q Let me ask you a better question. Excluding

1 background exposures to asbestos, do you agree all
2 exposed amphibole asbestos -- crocidolite, amosite,
3 tremolite, actinolite, or anthophyllite -- contribute
4 to the development of a person's mesothelioma?

5 A No. Again, even in occupational exposure
6 where you're effectively at background or historical
7 background concentration, I wouldn't expect to
8 contribute. Above that, you would have to look at how
9 often you're exposed over that; but if it's on a daily
10 basis or over a long period of time, it's above
11 traditional background, yeah, I would.

12 Q You've done no such analysis in this case
13 for Mr. Johnston to determine what his working period
14 of time was or concentration or frequency was for any
15 type of asbestos product; correct?

16 A Yeah. The opinion is primarily based on the
17 fiber burden analysis or the causation opinion.

18 Q Right. You have done really no work to
19 determine his occupational history in his testimony.
20 True?

21 A Right.

22 Q Do you agree there's no known safe level of
23 exposure to crocidolite?

24 A I wouldn't agree with that. Very, very low
25 levels of exposure have not been shown to cause any

1 disease. Crocidolite is potent at fairly low levels,
2 certainly theoretically could give you mesothelioma.

3 Q Sir, let me know if you want to see this.
4 This is your testimony. It's in the case of I don't
5 know how -- Dennis, it's Ciocao, C-I-O-C-A-O. I don't
6 know how to say that.

7 A Okay.

8 Q Ciocao. This is from August 31, 2009. And
9 I'll show this to you if you want to see it. You were
10 asked this question. Doctor, is there safe levels of
11 exposure to asbestos? Answer, yes. Question, what is
12 it? Your answer, I think it depends on the fiber
13 type. I'm not sure we know what it is for
14 crocidolite. Although, we do not recognize, one
15 fiber -- although, we do recognize that one fiber
16 doesn't hurt anybody, so there's a safe level.
17 Exactly what the lowest safe level is, I don't think
18 we know especially for the amphiboles. Is that still
19 your opinion?

20 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection to form.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 Q (By Mr. Panatier) So you don't know what a
23 safe level would be for crocidolite. Fair?

24 A We don't know what the minimum amount is
25 that would be considered safe. We know it exists. We

1 know that it's low, but we don't know what the number
2 is. The lowest number that I have again seen in the
3 literature related to the development of mesothelioma
4 is down around 0.3 or zero point fiber years. Some
5 people speculated it might be as low as 0.1. In the
6 published data, I think it's about 0.3.

7 Again, it's very low, but there is a level
8 where, for example, background in North America where
9 you find low crocidolite in people. It's not
10 considered to have an effect.

11 Q Right. You think there may be a level, but
12 you don't know what it is?

13 A We don't know what the number is, yeah.

14 Q Can you identify any specific product that
15 would be the source of the tremolite, the amosite, or
16 the crocidolite in Mr. Johnston's lungs?

17 A No.

18 Q But you can identify a source of a potential
19 source of the chrysotile in his lungs, because you
20 know he was exposed to John Crane chrysotile asbestos
21 gaskets and packing; right?

22 A Yeah. You mentioned a particular product,
23 and that would not be the source of what is found in
24 there. You would not get that much in the lungs, but
25 it is a potential source of chrysotile.

1 Q Certainly he had a potential of more than
2 just one exposure to a type of chrysotile product;
3 right? I mean in that setting we know about the John
4 Crane products, but he probably had exposures to other
5 chrysotile products. Fair?

6 A At least chrysotile containing products. It
7 may not be necessarily only chrysotile containing
8 products, but I would expect other sources of
9 chrysotile.

10 Q Including the John Crane. True?

11 A I'm not sure that any of the John Crane
12 would be measurable in here, but it would be at least
13 a mathematical source.

14 Q Have you ever seen any studies, air studies,
15 or work practice studies of John Crane products?

16 A Again, I'd have to go back and look at the
17 ones I cited and see if they're related to John Crane
18 or some other company.

19 Q As you sit here today, you can't say you've
20 actually seen any work studies done on John Crane
21 products?

22 A Yeah. I don't know if I have or not,
23 because I don't know what companies were used for
24 those studies.

25 Q So you don't know as you sit here what the

1 fiber release would be for a John Crane product.

2 Fair?

3 A Again, as I talked about before, the way the
4 literature indicates, it's all very low no matter the
5 company.

6 Q I'm just asking you if you know what the
7 fiber release would be for a John Crane asbestos or
8 packing product?

9 A Again, I would expect it to be very low
10 unless you can show me data otherwise.

11 Q I am not actually here to produce data. You
12 are, because you're the expert witness. Do you have a
13 study?

14 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

15 THE WITNESS: As I said, all of the
16 studies that fit together show uniformly low
17 release; and it, I don't see anything that seemed
18 to be company specific.

19 Q (By Mr. Panatier) What do you define as low
20 release?

21 A Those were -- some of them had no release,
22 and some studies was like I think .02, then everything
23 in between.

24 Q What makes something a low release to you as
25 opposed to a higher release of asbestos?

1 A Friable products would result in high
2 release. Encapsulated products, it's very low
3 numbers. I arbitrarily just use the current PEL for
4 low release, but obviously, they can get much lower
5 than that.

6 Q And they can get higher than that. True?

7 A Well, sure.

8 Q In fact, OSHA told Fred Bolter that using
9 his numbers, someone could experience asbestos
10 exposure above the time weighted average; correct?

11 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

12 THE WITNESS: Instead of using his
13 numbers, somebody could. They've never
14 demonstrated anybody has, but they're basically
15 taking the highest in assuming the worse case
16 scenario even though it wouldn't be associated
17 with an increased risk of disease.

18 Q (By Mr. Panatier) When you're talking about
19 risk of disease, once someone has the disease,
20 you're no longer talking about the risk?

21 A There is no risk. You're talking about
22 they've got it.

23 Q You've got the disease. Make sure I've got
24 through everything. We don't need to go off the
25 record or anything, but it just might take a second.

1 Few more questions. Sir, in all fairness, would you
2 agree that really outside the courtroom, you're not
3 really out there as an asbestos expert?

4 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

5 THE WITNESS: No. Outside -- I mean I'm
6 a forensic pathologist. Pretty much everything I
7 do has some sort of medical/legal bearing, and a
8 big part of my practice is asbestos. I'm not a
9 researcher in asbestos, but a substantial part of
10 my practice is evaluating asbestos-related
11 disease.

12 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Of your forensic pathology
13 practice?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q I mean -- and maybe I just watch too much
16 CSI, but we're in the office of the Medical Examiner.
17 That's you; right?

18 A I am.

19 Q And as the Medical Examiner, you like
20 evaluate the cause of death for people; right?

21 A When I'm acting as a Medical Examiner, yeah.

22 Q As a forensic pathologist, you're trying to
23 determine what a disease is or what caused it?

24 A Yeah. In many cases, yeah.

25 Q And just in a given year, how many cases do

1 you see as a Medical Examiner or forensic pathologist
2 that have to do with mesothelioma that don't come from
3 an attorney?

4 A Oh, very few.

5 Q Like how many?

6 A As a forensic pathologist, that's what I am,
7 I'll probably see a half dozen or so a year through
8 the hospital. As a Medical Examiner, I would not
9 expect to see any.

10 Q Right. So you might see half a dozen
11 through the hospital compared to --

12 A Right.

13 Q What? Fifty, a hundred that you might see
14 through litigation?

15 A Yeah. Over a hundred probably.

16 Q So would it be fair to say that you're more
17 of an asbestos expert in the courtroom than outside of
18 it?

19 A No. Because many of the cases I evaluate
20 never get to a courtroom. I give my opinion, and
21 that's kind of the end of my involvement in the case.

22 Q But it's your opinion that you give to
23 lawyers; right?

24 A Sure.

25 Q And for the most part 85, 90 percent of it

1 is defense lawyers in asbestos litigation. True?

2 A That's who I give my opinion to, yeah. They
3 don't always like it, but they get it.

4 Q When was the last time if at all that you
5 testified in a deposition or at trial that a
6 defendant's chrysotile product contributed to a
7 person's mesothelioma?

8 A Don't remember.

9 Q Have you ever done that?

10 A I think I've been asked -- I know I've been
11 asked a hypothetical that assumed that it was
12 contaminated chrysotile, and there was heavy exposure;
13 and would I attribute, and I did. And I don't
14 remember whether it was ever established that it was,
15 but that was the hypothetical that was given.

16 Q So what you can cite to me here is that in a
17 hypothetical you were given, you were able to
18 hypothetically attribute someone's mesothelioma to
19 contaminated chrysotile under certain circumstances.
20 Fair?

21 A Yes.

22 MR. PANATIER: I think that's all I
23 have. Thank you, sir.

24 MS. ECKERT: I don't have any questions.

25 MR. TIVIN: Does anyone on the phone

1 have any questions?

2 MR. SPRAGUE: This is Wes Sprague. I
3 actually have a couple questions. Only take three
4 or four questions I guess.

5 MR. TIVIN: Off the record.

6 (Whereupon, a moment was taken off the record.)

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 QUESTIONS BY MR. SPRAGUE:

9 Q Doctor, my name is Wes Sprague. I have a
10 few questions for you. Can you hear me okay?

11 A Just fine.

12 Q Good deal. Based upon your review of
13 information in relation to asbestos cases, are you
14 familiar with general uses for gaskets and packing?

15 A In general.

16 Q Are you aware that John Crane gaskets and
17 packing can be used in conjunction with pumps and
18 valves?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Would your opinion that John Crane gaskets
21 and packing did not cause Mr. Johnston's mesothelioma
22 remain the same regardless of what type of pump or
23 valve that John Crane gaskets and packing were used
24 in?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Would your opinion remain the same
2 regardless of who manufactured the pumps or valves
3 that the John Crane gaskets and packing were used in?

4 A Same opinion.

5 MR. SPRAGUE: Thank you, Doctor. That's
6 all I have.

7 MR. PANATIER: Anybody else on the
8 phone?

9 MR. TIVIN: Hearing nothing, I'm going
10 to continue.

11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

12 QUESTIONS BY MR. TIVIN:

13 Q Dr. Graham, you were asked some questions
14 about your being an expert in the courtroom versus
15 outside the courtroom with regard to asbestos. Do you
16 remember that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q In the cases that you see from the hospital,
19 is there any difference in the presentation of
20 mesothelioma that you see in a hospital or whether you
21 see it in a medical/legal sense?

22 A No. The diagnostic principals are the same.

23 Q In your ability to determine the causation
24 of mesothelioma in a hospital setting versus a
25 medical/legal setting, is that the same?

1 A I mean the process is the same, but rarely
2 in the hospital is the cause an issue. Mesothelioma
3 whether it's caused by asbestos or not behaves the
4 same. So it's really not an issue in the hospital.
5 The ones I see in the hospital are being diagnosed for
6 a basis for therapy.

7 Q I guess my question is, do you have a set of
8 causation standards that you use in the hospital sense
9 and a different set of causation standards that you
10 use in the medical/legal sense?

11 A No.

12 Q You were asked about fiber release. Are you
13 aware of studies that show fiber release from the use
14 of thermal insulation that can be hundred's of fibers
15 per CC?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Would you consider that type of exposure to
18 be a high exposure?

19 A That would be heavy exposure I think by
20 anybody's criteria.

21 Q And you were asking about -- you were asked
22 about the number of different companies that you have
23 testified for. The products those companies
24 manufactured, do they all have to do with chrysotile?

25 A I think I was asked to testify or consult.

1 Q Or consult?

2 A Some had amphibole products, and some have
3 chrysotile.

4 Q Does it matter what company retains you, do
5 your opinions change based on the company?

6 A My opinion doesn't. Obviously, the question
7 changes depending upon what the product at issue is.
8 But, no, somebody asks me -- I mean a lot of people
9 don't even tell me who they represent. They just ask
10 me a question about something, and I answer it. If it
11 helps them, fine. If it doesn't, that's fine too.

12 Q You were asked questions about Mr. Bolter's
13 study. Is his the only study that you relied upon to
14 determine whether the use of gaskets and packing
15 resulted in a low dose of low fiber release?

16 A No. As I mentioned, the others are at least
17 a half a dozen.

18 Q You were asked some questions about
19 crocidolite. People -- am I correct in saying that
20 normally crocidolite is known as blue asbestos?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Amosite is known as brown asbestos?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And chrysotile is white asbestos?

25 A Yes.

1 MR. TIVIN: Could I have the plaintiff's
2 transcript?

3 Q (By Mr. Tivin) You were asked some questions
4 about Mr. Johnston's exposure?

5 MR. PANATIER: Here's Volume I. Here's
6 Volume II.

7 Q (By Mr. Tivin) I just want you to assume on
8 page 570 that Mr. Johnston testified that -- the
9 last area I want to go over is a blue asbestos
10 gaskets, and for you to understand blue asbestos
11 gaskets would be seen as crocidolite asbestos?

12 A Okay.

13 Q Do you remember he testified? Do you
14 remember that testimony? Do you recall what they look
15 like? Answer, they were a dark blue with some white
16 flakes or specs on them. Did they have any writing on
17 them? Just the Garloch logo or name. Did you see any
18 other name other than the Garloch name on those
19 gaskets? I don't remember seeing one. There may have
20 been one. It may have been one. May have had one.

21 I want you to assume that is his testimony.
22 Using that assumption, does that give you any
23 indication that Mr. Johnston was ever exposed to a
24 John Crane crocidolite product?

25 A No. I mean the only one he identifies is

1 Garloch.

2 Q Also I want you to assume he testifies that
3 on page 571, how many times or occasions did you see a
4 blue gasket? He said at least a half a dozen times.
5 Okay.

6 A Okay.

7 Q And he testifies further on 572 if I add
8 this up over eight years, it was a half dozen times
9 that you saw a gasket being installed or removed? He
10 said half a dozen times. Then he says three or four
11 times being cut; is that correct? I want you to
12 assume that is his testimony.

13 A Okay.

14 Q Would that lead you to believe there was any
15 large dose of, that Mr. Johnston received a large dose
16 of crocidolite from the use of gaskets?

17 A No.

18 Q If you were to further assume that this --
19 that he was a bystander and not a direct user of those
20 gaskets at times, what would that tell you further
21 about his dose if anything?

22 A It would be even more minimal.

23 Q Finally you were asked some questions about
24 a tremolite in John Crane products. Have you seen any
25 indication that a does that Mr. Johnston may have

1 received from the use of any gasket and packing
2 product or any John Crane product would give a high
3 dose of tremolite asbestos to the extent it could
4 cause mesothelioma?

5 A Would not.

6 Q And all the questions that you've -- strike
7 that. You were asked questions about your expertise.
8 Have you ever been, testified as an expert in
9 different states?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Approximately how many different states have
12 you been, approximately different states have you been
13 qualified as an expert in to speak about asbestos and
14 the causation of asbestos-related disease?

15 A I don't know. Probably a dozen.

16 Q Have you ever not been qualified as an
17 expert to talk about the causation of asbestos
18 disease?

19 A No.

20 Q Any of the questions plaintiff's counsel
21 asked you regarding John Crane or regarding fiber
22 release change any of your opinions as to whether any
23 exposure to John Crane gaskets or packing contributed
24 to Mr. Johnston's mesothelioma?

25 A No.

1 Q Your opinion is still that any exposure he
2 had to a John Crane gasket or packing product did not
3 cause Mr. Johnston mesothelioma?

4 MR. PANATIER: Leading.

5 THE WITNESS: Correct.

6 Q (By Mr. Tivin) Let me rephrase. Based upon
7 everything you heard on cross-examination, do you
8 have an opinion as to whether the exposure to any
9 John Crane gasket or packing product was a cause or
10 a contributed cause or a substantial contributing
11 factor to Mr. Johnston's mesothelioma?

12 A Yeah. I have an opinion.

13 Q What is that opinion?

14 A John Crane gaskets and packing had nothing
15 to do with his disease.

16 MR. TIVIN: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. PANATIER: I'll have some follow up
18 in a minute. I'll grab -- sir, I just need to
19 find something, then it will be quick. Ready?

20 THE WITNESS: Yep.

21 RE CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 QUESTIONS BY MR. PANATIER:

23 Q Sir, it is your opinion that contaminated
24 chrysotile containing tremolite can cause mesothelioma
25 true?

1 A If the amounts of contamination is
2 sufficient and the dose is enough, yes.

3 Q I'm going to go back to this testimony in
4 the Pelly case in 2007 and read the question and
5 answer to you, and ask to see it if you need to.
6 Question, first of all, it's your opinion that
7 contaminated chrysotile containing tremolite can cause
8 mesothelioma. True? Your answer was pleural
9 mesothelioma in humans, yes. Was that your answer
10 then?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Sir, with regard to your work at the
13 hospital and contrasting it with your work for
14 asbestos defendants, in a hospital, when you issue a
15 report as a forensic pathologist -- well, I guess the
16 question is, do you have to issue a report?

17 A In the hospital the report is a surgical
18 pathology report.

19 Q So you do have to issue reports in the area
20 of your expertise in the hospital; right?

21 A If I'm the primary pathologist responsible
22 for the case, it is. If someone shows me, one of my
23 associates brings it to me and asks me for my opinion,
24 then I don't.

25 Q Okay. So if you're the primary guy on it,

1 you have to issue a report; right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you have to issue reports as the medical
4 examiner?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Have you ever stated in a report that you've
7 written either for the Medical Examiner, as the
8 Medical Examiner or as a forensic pathologist, have
9 you ever included in any report that it is generally
10 accepted that amphibole asbestos is a potent human
11 pleural carcinogen capable of leading to the
12 development of pleural mesothelioma after limited
13 exposure?

14 A Sure.

15 Q In what scenario have you done that?

16 A In the medical/legal consultations.

17 Q Okay. I'm not talking about that. And
18 maybe my question was bad. In your non-medical/legal
19 work, right, not for defendants and asbestos
20 litigation, okay, so the work that you do as the
21 Medical Examiner and in your official position for the
22 hospital, have you authored reports with that sentence
23 in it?

24 A I don't address discussions in those
25 reports. I just put a diagnosis down.

1 Q So it would also be fair that you haven't
2 said in either of those capacities in contrast to
3 amphibole asbestos, chrysotile dust including any
4 contaminating amphibole is a weak human carcinogen.
5 True?

6 A I don't discuss causation issues in the
7 hospital reports. I would just put a final line for
8 the Medical Examiner reports. I don't put discussions
9 in my reports like that.

10 Q So for your non-legal work, you don't opine
11 on causation or the relative potencies of asbestos.
12 True?

13 A I may give a causation opinion, but I don't
14 go through a discussion leading up to it.

15 Q You don't compare amphiboles with serpentine
16 or anything like that. You may say it's from
17 asbestos?

18 A In the hospital, I wouldn't even do that. I
19 would just say what's there -- because the issue in
20 the hospital case is not causation. It's diagnosis.
21 Unless it would happen to be an autopsy case, then I
22 would.

23 Q Have you ever in an autopsy case that was
24 not medical/legal consulting gone through an analysis
25 of chrysotile versus amosite or amphibole asbestos?

1 A You know, I probably haven't because usually
2 the resident writes those reports, and so --

3 Q Has any resident under you done that?

4 A No.

5 Q And lastly, are you aware of any scientific
6 or regulatory body in the world, solar system, or
7 galaxy, or universe that has opined that chrysotile
8 asbestos is safe?

9 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

10 THE WITNESS: It's always qualified.
11 They have opined that chrysotile can be safe in
12 certain circumstances, and there are bodies that
13 talked about as I recall very low release wouldn't
14 be expected to cause disease. But just as a
15 general statements, no.

16 Q (By Mr. Panatier) No one has come out and
17 said it's safe; right?

18 A Just the bottom line, no qualification.

19 Q Right?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Are you aware of -- same question, any
22 scientific or regulatory body, we'll leave it with
23 planet earth, that said chrysotile is incapable of
24 causing mesothelioma?

25 THE DEFENDANTS: Objection. Form.

1 THE WITNESS: As just a general
2 statement, no.

3 Q (By Mr. Panatier) Correct. Are you aware of
4 any scientific or regulatory body on this planet
5 that has said that there is a known safe level of
6 exposure for chrysotile asbestos?

7 A No.

8 MR. PANATIER: That's all the questions
9 I have. Thank you, sir.

10 THE DEFENDANTS: I want to put an
11 objection to form on the last question.

12 FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 QUESTIONS BY MR. TIVIN:

14 Q One last question, when you were talking
15 about the contaminated chrysotile and the dose it
16 would require, that is you were talking about the 75
17 to 100 fibers per CC year; correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q So if someone used Canadian chrysotile that
20 was contaminated with tremolite, you would need to see
21 a fiber CC year of 75 to 100 before you could relate
22 it to the development of mesothelioma; correct?

23 A And that assumes that it's got sufficient
24 contamination that would be capable of causing it at
25 all, yes.

1 Q If someone had an exposure of less than two
2 fiber per CC years of Canadian contaminated
3 chrysotile, you don't believe that that would in any
4 way cause any asbestos-related disease; correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 MR. PANATIER: Leading.

7 Q (By Mr. Tivin) I'll rephrase. If someone
8 had exposure of less than two fiber per CC years, do
9 you believe within a reasonable degree of medical
10 and scientific certainty as to whether that could
11 cause any asbestos-related disease from asbestosis
12 to pleural plaques to lung cancer to mesothelioma?

13 A Not chrysotile wouldn't. Chrysotile would
14 not.

15 MR. TIVIN: Thank you. No further
16 questions.

17 MR. PANATIER: One follow up.

18 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 QUESTIONS BY MR. PANATIER:

20 Q For any of the opinions that you've given
21 today having to do with asbestos causation, chrysotile
22 versus amosite or crocidolite or serpentine versus
23 amphibole or the level of exposure that would be
24 necessary to get disease from any type of asbestos,
25 have you ever published on those subjects?

1 A Indirectly in that article we talked about
2 earlier. There's a discussion about why contaminated
3 chrysotile may cause mesothelioma, and again this is
4 back from '98, so it doesn't include the populations
5 that were exposed or have been reported that have been
6 exposed to uncontaminated. So there is a general
7 discussion about some of that, but not with numbers
8 and things.

9 Q If we wanted to find out what your, what
10 you've put out there as your published opinion, we
11 have part of one publication to go to?

12 A Well, plus obviously all the depositions
13 where I've been asked that. As far as scientific
14 literature, yeah, the one part of that one article.

15 Q There's only one thing in the scientific
16 community that you've put out there?

17 A Right.

18 MR. PANATIER: Thank you.

19 MR. TIVIN: Nothing further.

20 THE WITNESS: Waive.

21 (The witness waives signature.)

22 (The deposition concluded at 12:12 p.m.)

23

24

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1
2
3 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

4 STATE OF MISSOURI) ss:

5 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)
6

7 I, JULIE HUNDELT, Certified Court Reporter,
8 the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was
9 taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose
10 testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly
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12 taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter
13 reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am
14 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
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