

1 [REDACTED] It doesn't seem to fit this
2 particular case.

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

4 [REDACTED] That's right.

b6 -2
b7C -2

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Great.

6 [REDACTED] : So to do so one would have to either
7 think it's consistent with the policy for other reasons or
8 the deputy director is waiving the policy or amending it
9 and making this disclosure, assuming that's what happened.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I wanted to ask you the same
11 question just with one other document. This is referenced
12 in, on page 23 section five. As one of the policies that
13 still must be complied with --

14 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

b6 -2
b7C -2

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- when disclosures, and maybe you
16 may remember this from your DAG days.

17 [REDACTED] Yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That sounded like dog days.

19 [REDACTED] You sent this to me, yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. So, yes. Again, that's
21 going to come up more on Wednesday, which will be on the
22 department, FBI actions and advance the election year
23 stuff. What I wanted to ask you was, this would be on
24 page seven. This concerns disclosures regarding ongoing
25 investigations, 1-75.30.

1 [REDACTED] 1.75 what?

b6 -2
b7C -2

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Five --

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Three zero.

4 [REDACTED]: Three zero?

b6 -2
b7C -2

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Three zero. And it's heading,
6 disclosure of information concerning ongoing
7 investigations. And take a moment to read that. And
8 again, it's just the same question. Whether or not the
9 disclosure of the account of the August 12th call that you
10 see in the October 30th Wall Street Journal article would
11 be consistent with this section.

12 [REDACTED] Uh-huh. I'm sorry, what's your
13 question? I was reading it, sorry.

b6 -2
b7C -2

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, just again, same question as
15 we had with the FBI policy. Whether the disclosure of the
16 August 12th account --

17 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

b6 -2
b7C -2

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- conversation between McCabe and
19 the unnamed senior DOJ official, whether the discussion
20 there regarding the Clinton Foundation investigation would
21 be consistent with this section.

22 [REDACTED] Well, so this was a matter that had
23 already received substantial publicity, right? So that's
24 number one.

b6 -2
b7C -2

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Uh-huh.

1 [REDACTED] Even though we hadn't confirmed it.
2 I mean, I guess the, you know, the director had been asked
3 about it. People were talking about it, right? And then
4 the second part, or about which the community needs to be
5 reassured that the appropriate law enforcement agencies
6 investigating the incident. So, I guess, you know, or
7 released, blah, blah, blah. Comments or confirmation
8 about an ongoing investigation may need to be made. So,
9 you could argue that the first two parts of that apply to
10 this situation. That if you're trying to reassure the
11 public like hey, you know, we're not dropping the ball.
12 We're all over the Clinton Foundation. In fact, we're
13 pushing it back against DOJ and they're trying to shut us
14 down. Even though it seems weird in this context but in
15 any event, given the policy we're looking at, to be saying
16 that about DOJ. Nevertheless, you know, one might
17 construe this to be consistent with that for that purpose.
18 Also I guess I would point you to page, what is this page?

19 [REDACTED] Yeah, there's many pages --

20 [REDACTED] Page two, yeah.

21 [REDACTED] -- in here. Uh-huh.

22 [REDACTED] You know, these, sort of the
23 overarching principles, 1-7.110, interest must be
24 balanced.

25 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

1 [REDACTED] You know, these guidelines recognize
2 three principle interests that must be balanced. The
3 right of the public to know, an individual right to a fair
4 trial, and the Government's ability to effectively enforce
5 the administration of justice. I mean, you might argue
6 that both the first part, the right of the public to know,
7 and the Government's ability to effectively enforce the
8 administration of justice could be an issue here. Which
9 would then give I guess interpretive guidance to the
10 provision that you had cited before on page seven.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, seven.

12 [REDACTED]: So --

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well --

14 [REDACTED]: -- that's an off the cuff --

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

16 [REDACTED]: -- legal analysis of this, right.

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you were the decider on this,
18 if Comey delegated this to you to make the call because

19 you're [REDACTED] and with the caveat that it'd
20 be off the cuff, and someone presents that argument to you
21 would that be persuasive for you? To then go to DOJ and
22 say, well, I guess you'd have to consult with DOJ, right?
23 The last sentence B, on B, in these unusual
24 circumstances --

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- the involved investigative
2 agency will consult and obtain approval from the United
3 States attorney or the department division handling the
4 matter prior to disseminating any information to the
5 media. Which might be an awkward situation --

6 [REDACTED] I would seriously doubt that they
7 would ever approve it.

b6 -2
b7C -2

8 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It would be awkward.

9 [REDACTED] Put gently, yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It'd be a tough conversation to
11 have.

12 [REDACTED] Yeah. There's no way they would
13 approve that. I would be quite shocked.

b6 -2
b7C -2

14 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If that provision weren't there,
15 if that sentence weren't there --

16 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

b6 -2
b7C -2

17 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If there were no prior
18 consultation required of DOJ and you were the decider,
19 again, off the cuff, you haven't thought through all the
20 ramifications, would that be a persuasive argument for
21 you? The one you made.

22 [REDACTED] The problem with the argument that I
23 just made is that it, this disclosure is, to put it
24 bluntly, it throws DOJ under the bus.

b6 -2
b7C -2

25 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.

1 [REDACTED] And so the extent to which we're
2 trying to reassure the public that we are, what's the word
3 from this thing?

4 [REDACTED] Administration of justice?

5 [REDACTED] Yeah, right. It reassured, you
6 know, the Government's ability to effectively enforce the
7 administration of justice. So I'm just focused on that.
8 Then I'm not sure that that, that this accomplishes that
9 goal. Unless you say at the, you know, at the end it does
10 say, are you telling me just I need to shut down a validly
11 predicated investigation? And the person says, of course
12 not. So, indicating that DOJ had raised concerns and so
13 on. But I think it would be a challenging argument to
14 make for sure.

15 [REDACTED] Okay.

16 [REDACTED] That this disclosure would comply
17 with or be read to be consistent with that prong of the
18 policy.

19 [REDACTED] We're now at the point of the end.

20 [REDACTED] I'm good.

21 [REDACTED] Do you have anything else you want
22 to add that we didn't give you an opportunity? We
23 definitely heard your point earlier about the moment in
24 time when all this was happening.

25 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you wanted to add anything to
2 that or add anything different from that we definitely
3 welcome that if you have anything you'd like to add.

4 [REDACTED] Well, I mean, I guess just along
5 these lines with respect to the regulations and so on.
6 With dealing with the press, right, I mean, it's, you have
7 very little time because they're rushing to deadlines.
8 They're rushing because they have deadlines. They want to
9 publish right away. They have their competitors who may
10 have some aspect of the same story. And so they're
11 pushing, pushing, pushing and they want answers right
12 away. And so decision makers are regularly forced to
13 decide something with very little time, very little
14 opportunity to consult, even within the Bureau, with the
15 right people to get different perspectives, let alone to
16 do like actual legal analysis and pull out the regs and
17 look at them. It's just, there almost always is, there's
18 almost never enough time to do all that. And so it is a,
19 I think, as you guys think about your assessment of
20 people's conduct and so on, I just, again, would urge
21 that. That it's, we could sit here now and pull out these
22 things and look at it and debate it and you just don't
23 have time because there's a, you know, five o'clock
24 deadline and they're pushing and they want to talk to you
25 right now. That kind of thing.

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [REDACTED] Uh-huh. Okay. Well, we
2 appreciate that. And I definitely want to put on the
3 record thank you for all your time and cooperation. I
4 know we're asking you to spend a good deal of time with us
5 this week so we definitely appreciate that.

6 [REDACTED] It's my pleasure so, thank you.

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 [REDACTED] Thank you.

8 [REDACTED] Thank you very much.

9 [REDACTED] Off the record at around 6:40.

10 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC. hereby certifies that
the foregoing pages represent an accurate transcript of
the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before
the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General in
the matter of:

Interview of



b6 -2
b7C -2

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Transcriber

January 2, 2018

Date

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[Redacted]

Interview

b6 -2
b7C -2

12/14/2017

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-12-2018 BY [Redacted] NSICG

b6 -1
b7C -1

263D-HQ- [Redacted] -20

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
2 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
3

4 -----X
5 IN RE: :
6 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] : b6 -2
7 : b7C -2
8 -----X

8 December 14, 2017
9 Washington, D.C.

10 Interview of
11 [REDACTED] b6 -2
12 b7C -2

13 By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
14 General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
15 at 1:00 p.m. before:

16
17 FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

18 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Oversight and Review Division

19 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Oversight and Review Division

20 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Oversight & Review Division

21 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight & Review Division
22

23 FOR THE WITNESS:

24 NONE
25

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC.
12321 Middlebrook Road, Suite 210
Germantown, Maryland 20874
Phone: (301) 881-3344

FBI 18-cv-01766-1015

Page 2

I N D E X

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT NUMBER	EXHIBITS	PAGE NUMBER
None.		

Page 4

1 we request that you not discuss the contents of this
 2 interview with others. Is that okay?
 3 [redacted] Absolutely.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And our standard practice is to
 5 record all interviews, which we're doing, and have them
 6 taken under oath. And you understand that. We've talked
 7 about that before, right?
 8 [redacted] I do.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So if you don't have any questions
 10 and you're ready, we'll have you raise your right hand and
 11 get sworn in and get started.
 12 [redacted] Let's do it.
 13 Whereupon,
 14 [redacted]
 15 was called upon by the United States Department of
 16 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a
 17 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, great. So as I mentioned,
 19 we're going to start with the allegations regarding
 20 disclosures of nonpublic information to the media in
 21 advance of the 2016 election.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And subsequent statements related
 24 thereto. But before jumping into that, can you just give
 25 us a brief overview of your FBI career, your start date to

b6 -2
b7C -2

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b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I am Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm an
 3 Investigative Counsel with the Oversight & Review Division
 4 in the Office of the Inspector General. I'm here with
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who is also an Investigative Counsel, as
 6 well as Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who is an Investigative Counsel too,
 7 and Special Agent Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The date is December 14th,
 8 2017 at approximately 1:00 p.m. This is an interview with
 9 [redacted] Is that correct?
 10 [redacted] Correct.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And what is your current title?
 12 [redacted] to the Director.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The FBI Director?
 14 [redacted] Correct. Yes.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And we are in the Oversight
 16 & Review Division conference room, 1425 New York Avenue,
 17 Washington, D.C. This is a voluntary interview, and you
 18 are a fact witness. We are here to discuss three matters
 19 with you today. One is actions by the Department,
 20 Department of Justice, and the FBI in advance of the 2016
 21 election, recusal issues related to some of those actions,
 22 and allegations regarding disclosures of nonpublic
 23 information to the media before the 2016 election and
 24 subsequent statements related thereto.
 25 To protect the integrity of our investigation,

Page 5

1 the present?
 2 [redacted] Sure.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Just a brief sketch.
 4 [redacted] Yes. It's not that colorful. I
 5 came in on [redacted]
 6 [redacted]
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted]
 9 [redacted]
 10 [redacted]
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted]
 13 [redacted]
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted]
 16 [redacted]
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 18 [redacted]
 19 [redacted]
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 22 [redacted]
 23 [redacted]
 24 [redacted]
 25 [redacted]

b6 -2
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b6 -2
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b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [Redacted]
 2 [Redacted]
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b7C -2

1 staff title, but my role as [Redacted] really
 2 ran the staff. She was a close advisor to Mark. And so I
 3 said I didn't want that to happen again to my, to my
 4 successor, so I wanted to put that stamp on it so the next
 5 person that came along had the chief of staff title. So
 6 that's, that's how it was. It was [Redacted]
 7 [Redacted]
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And so, if you could give
 9 us sort of, and all of the questions from here on out will
 10 focus on your, your time frame as chief of staff for
 11 Deputy Director McCabe.
 12 [Redacted] Yep.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If, there is a couple questions
 14 where I'll make it a little broader-ended, but if you have
 15 any confusion, just let me know. But for purposes of
 16 right now, focusing on the period where you were Chief of
 17 Staff for Deputy Director McCabe, can you tell us what
 18 your primary duties and functions were in that capacity?
 19 [Redacted] Sure. So I was, as his [Redacted]
 20 [Redacted] I was primarily responsible for, you know,
 21 making sure that the schedule was, you know, was crafted,
 22 worked with the executive assistant to make sure that the
 23 meetings were, were set and that the, the Deputy Director
 24 had advanced knowledge of what the meetings were, so I was
 25 involved in some prep to the extent that he needed prep

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [Redacted]
 2 [Redacted]
 3 [Redacted]
 4 [Redacted]
 5 [Redacted]
 6 ever since. So, that pretty much brings us to date.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'd say that's pretty
 8 accomplished, at least from my perspective. So, I want to
 9 get an overview, if you could, of your focusing just on
 10 the time period that you were [Redacted] is it
 11 also Chief of Staff too?
 12 [Redacted]: It is. And so, it's a great
 13 question. So initially with [Redacted]
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 15 [Redacted] -- it was a bit of a power play on
 16 my part to assume the title of chief of staff. And I'll
 17 put it bluntly. We had Department of Justice folks that
 18 had been interested in that position before there was a
 19 chief of staff position formerly held by somebody who I
 20 really admired, Joanna Baltes. And I worked with her. I
 21 don't know if you know her or not, but she --
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I've heard the name.
 23 [Redacted] Yeah, very capable, really good.
 24 She was the chief of staff for Mark, even though she was
 25 not really the chief of staff. She held the chief of

1 for any meetings.
 2 I then also ran a staff of about eight or nine
 3 people depending on which day of the week you were looking
 4 at it, because there were folks who would come in and out
 5 periodically. That was several GS-15 MAPAS. One was a
 6 GS-15 Special Advisor and one was a GS-15 Supervisory
 7 Special Agent who was working on special projects. We
 8 also had various folks, we had executive assistants, and
 9 we had some other folks that kind of came in on special
 10 projects who was part of the deputy's staff.
 11 So I primarily kept him and kept his schedule,
 12 like any special assistant would, kept him, you know, kept
 13 his schedule, made sure that he was at the appointed place
 14 on time, and just kind of gave him -- I took some notes in
 15 those meetings that I did attend. And, and just kind of
 16 gave him counsel when and if he asked or when and if I
 17 thought it was necessary. And I would sort of open the
 18 day with him, and then I would try to close the day with
 19 him.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Alone?
 21 [Redacted]: It changed. So, when I was with Mr.
 22 Giuliano, I was the, you know, and after Joanna Baltes
 23 left, I was the sole counsel to him, both in the morning
 24 and the afternoon, in the evenings. When Deputy Director
 25 McCabe came on, he brought on a couple of individuals that

b6 -2
b7C -2

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b7C -1

1 he really had great, sort of great confidence in, [redacted]
 2 [redacted] and Lisa Page.
 3 [redacted] had always played a role in the
 4 staff and before was [redacted]
 5 [redacted]
 6 [redacted] So [redacted] was a fixture on the floor
 7 and a pseudo-member of the staff. And he really worked as
 8 sort of a freelancer. He was assigned to the staff, but
 9 he prepped the Director as well as the Deputy.
 10 When Deputy Director McCabe came on, he brought
 11 Lisa Page into staff as his special counsel. And so she
 12 came over from OGC. She had worked with him and, and you
 13 have to forgive me, I don't know all the particulars. But
 14 I believe she worked with him as his special counsel in
 15 both his roles as Assistant Director in Counterterrorism
 16 Division, and as a, as the Executive Assistant Director
 17 for National Security Branch. And so in those capacity,
 18 she worked for him as a primary special counsel and as a
 19 confidant.
 20 So she came onto the role, and so there were
 21 three of us in many instances. And so my role as [redacted]
 22 [redacted] Chief of Staff sometimes now became three,
 23 three people in the room with him, counseling.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So was it typical, though, at the
 25 end of a day during your time as chief of staff to Deputy

b6 -1
b7C -1

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 update.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 3 [redacted] Yeah, yeah.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that would be, is that, is
 5 that similar to the wrap at 5:00 p.m. with the same
 6 individuals?
 7 [redacted] Much smaller in the evening.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 9 [redacted] So in the evening, you typically
 10 have the Executive Assistant Director for National
 11 Security, for Criminal, for, or for CCRSB, which is our
 12 Criminal Cyber, you know, Support and Response Branch. I
 13 think that's the title of it.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 15 [redacted] But CCRSB, and then you have the EAD
 16 for the Intelligence Branch, and that's really about it
 17 for those EADs. The EAD for Human Resources Branch, for
 18 Information Technology Branch, and for Science and
 19 Technology Branch typically did not attend the wrap.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 21 [redacted] Typically because he was really more
 22 focused on operational matters at the, at the closeout.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 24 [redacted] And you would also typically have
 25 the Assistant Director for Counterterrorism there, and

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Director McCabe, that the three of you would, you being
 2 Page, [redacted] and yourself, and Mr. McCabe would meet in
 3 the morning alone, just, just you four, and then at the
 4 end of the day you four. Would that be a common
 5 occurrence?
 6 [redacted] In the morning, it was typically
 7 something that was not as formal. So I would say that in
 8 the morning I would come in and say, you know, here's your
 9 calendar, we're going to get going. Here's, here are the
 10 issues of the day and kind of brief him very quickly. A
 11 lot of times, Lisa and [redacted] were not there. Sometimes
 12 they were. It was not a formal meeting for them. This
 13 was something I kind of prepped him in before we went in.
 14 And the, the time I think was a 7:45 meeting with all of
 15 his Executive Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors,
 16 and some other special staff in his Deputy Director's
 17 conference room. So that was really the most formal
 18 meeting of the day. That was the opening.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm sorry to interrupt you. Was
 20 that the, is that led by the Deputy Director?
 21 [redacted] It's led by the Deputy.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And does that have any particular
 23 name?
 24 [redacted] We call that the, I think we just,
 25 various, various names. I think the morning operational

1 perhaps even the Assistant Director for
 2 Counterintelligence. You might also have the, Mike
 3 Kortan, who was our Assistant Director for Public Affairs.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At which one?
 5 [redacted] At the wrap.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At the wrap.
 7 [redacted] At the evening wrap.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was he more often there than not?
 9 [redacted] More often than not, as well as
 10 counsel, General Counsel Baker.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 12 [redacted] And you would also have Assistant
 13 Director for Congressional Affairs at the time, at that
 14 time I think it was Steve Kelly.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] So now it would be Greg Brower.
 17 He's in those meetings.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Were you a regular attendee of
 19 the, both the evening wrap and the morning meeting?
 20 [redacted] I was, the morning meeting and the
 21 evening wrap, yeah.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So the, the evening wrap,
 23 that was more operational focus, significant issues? Is
 24 that what's going on with that?
 25 [redacted] It was. It was really just to close

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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b7C -2

1 out, like what, what actions took place, you know, in the
2 theater today? What did we do out there? You know,
3 basically what investigations of note happened during the
4 day that may, that may need to be briefed to the Director
5 either at night by the Deputy or things that they need to
6 tackle for the morning. I actually found the evening wrap
7 to be more productive, just in terms of people were more
8 at ease. It was a more conversational tone, a little more
9 jocularity --

10 [redacted] Um-hmm.

11 [redacted] Simply because it was just a smaller
12 crowd and you didn't have the folks lining the room and,
13 you know, you didn't have the briefer there. I should
14 also mention that in the morning meeting, the FBI briefer
15 would be there briefing portions of the Presidential Daily
16 Brief.

17 [redacted] Okay. I keep going back and
18 forth. So --

19 [redacted] And I will, too, as I kind of
20 remember different parts.

21 [redacted] Yeah, no. That's fine. So, the
22 morning brief, I'll ask you a bunch of questions and then
23 circle back to the evening brief. The morning brief,
24 roughly, I mean, you gave us a flavor of who would attend,
25 But roughly how many people would be in that meeting?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the PDB that folks in the room were generally cleared to
2 hear. A lot of it was FBI, CIA, NSA, DIA information that
3 was collected overnight --

4 [redacted] Okay.

5 [redacted] -- and processed as, as intelligence
6 products for the, for the intelligence community.

7 [redacted] Would Mike Kortan attend the
8 morning briefings?

9 [redacted] He would. And he would as, I think
10 sometimes he would attend the morning meetings, and then
11 sometimes he would attend the Director's. He's always, he
12 always attended the Director's meeting, which was held
13 just after that.

14 [redacted] Okay.

15 [redacted] So, we'll get to that. I suspect in
16 a minute.

17 [redacted] Yes. Yeah.

18 [redacted] So I think he would typically attend
19 the morning brief. And so, you know, but sometimes if you
20 miss the, the one with the Deputy Director, he would
21 definitely attend the one with the Director. But I think
22 more often than not he would attend both.

23 [redacted] And the morning one you said was
24 at 7:45?

25 [redacted] I believe it was at 7:45. It

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b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] You could have anywhere from 25 to
2 35.

3 [redacted] Okay.

4 [redacted] That's just a rough number, but I
5 could come back to you with actually a much better number
6 than that.

7 [redacted] No, that, I was just more --

8 [redacted]: If, as I dust for prints.

9 [redacted] -- curious on a, a rough number at
10 least for, for my purposes. Where would that, where was
11 that meeting held?

12 [redacted] In the Deputy Director's conference
13 room.

14 [redacted] Okay.

15 [redacted] And that's on the seventh floor in
16 the, between the One Corridor and the Zero Corridor. So
17 that's the, it's enclosed. It's in a SCIF.

18 [redacted] Okay. And what you had mentioned
19 a moment ago, that the focus of the evening wrap was more
20 operational. What was the primary focus of the morning
21 meeting?

22 [redacted] The morning wrap was really to take
23 the, the brief. So the brief would come in and brief the
24 Deputy on, you know, the, the issues that were in the, the
25 PDB or some of the issues, some of the items that were in

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 varied. So I think at one point it was 7:30, and I think
2 we moved it to 7:45. And you'll have to forgive me. I
3 don't remember at what point --

4 [redacted] No, that's fine.

5 [redacted] -- in the chronology we changed the
6 time.

7 [redacted] Would anyone else from the Deputy
8 Director McCabe's staff be a regular attendee other than
9 yourself at the morning meeting?

10 [redacted] and I would say 50
11 percent of the time, Lisa Page would be there.

12 [redacted] Would Mike Kortan notify Deputy
13 Director McCabe of significant media issues at the morning
14 meetings?

15 [redacted] He would.

16 [redacted] Okay.

17 [redacted] Yeah. Because as a rule, we went
18 around the room every morning so if anybody had any
19 concerns or issues, they would raise them. You know, they
20 would raise them there.

21 [redacted] And similar questions for the
22 evening meeting. Would Kortan raise any significant
23 upcoming press media stories at the evening wrap?

24 [redacted] He would. And I believe that, you
25 know, those discussions were a little bit more

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 conversational. You know, it wasn't quite as, because in
2 the morning, you'd have a lot more folks there and it
3 seemed to be a little bit more formal and stodgy simply
4 because there's just more folks in the room and it seemed
5 to be a more formal meeting. The evening meeting, it
6 would be a much more conversational kind of thing. But
7 yeah, he would definitely be there.

8 [redacted] And would [redacted] and Page be
9 regular attendees at the evening wrap?

10 [redacted] Yes. Yeah. More so for sure for
11 Lisa in the evening than, than the morning. She was more
12 of the, arrived a little later and then, you know, worked
13 a little later was her kind of.

14 [redacted] Okay. And before going off into
15 some other meetings that I have questions about, just sort
16 of general work.

17 [redacted] Sure.

18 [redacted] You had mentioned about folks who
19 were in the office that you supervised, roughly 8 to 9.

20 [redacted] Um-hmm.

21 [redacted] Could identify what their names
22 were and what positions they held?

23 [redacted] Of course. [redacted] He was a
24 GS-15 Special Advisor.

25 [redacted] Do you know how to spell?

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b7C -1

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b7C -1,2

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b7C -2

b6 -2
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b7C -1,2

1 [redacted] I see.

2 [redacted] So as a result of that, that's a
3 heavy lift for a staff to process, you know, performance
4 plans and doing those sorts of things. So he was one of
5 the folks that did that. And he had a, he was very good
6 at it. We also had [redacted]

7 first name [redacted] She was a GS-15 Special Assistant
8 and had been there with the previous two Deputy Directors,
9 both Mark Giuliano and Sean Joyce. [redacted]

10 [redacted]

11 [redacted]
12 She had primary oversight of the Deputy's work
13 with the International Association of Chiefs of Police,
14 where as part of our annual Special Assistants, or, I'm
15 sorry, as part of our annual Special Agents in Charge
16 Conference, we always collocated those like once a year
17 with the International Association of Chiefs of Police
18 meeting. And so she did a lot of that interplay and
19 liaison with the IACP to make sure that the issues that
20 the folks are having in the field, we knew about it and
21 worked with our, our Office of Partner Engagement, OPE, to
22 talk about, hey, these are the things that are resonating
23 right now with the state and local police force. And so
24 she did a lot of that liaison with IACP. And she also
25 helped put together our two Special Agents in Charge

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b6 -1
b7C -1

1 [redacted]

2 [redacted] Um-hmm.

3 [redacted] First name [redacted]

4 [redacted]

5 [redacted]
6 [redacted] What function did he have in the
7 office?

8 [redacted] He was a special, he was essentially
9 another special assistant.

10 [redacted] I see.

11 [redacted] He didn't travel. He attended some
12 meetings. He wouldn't typically attend the morning
13 meeting or the evening meetings.

14 [redacted] Okay.

15 [redacted] He would help plan certain things.
16 He handled a lot of the performance evaluations and a lot
17 of the things that we did for the SACs. So as, as part of
18 the Deputy Director's roles and responsibilities, he had
19 oversight of, I think, as I understand it, he's got the
20 largest direct report number in the executive branch. I
21 think he's got at any one time over 80-some direct
22 reports. That includes the EADs, DADs, and then you've
23 got anywhere, 62 to 63 Special Agents in Charge. And
24 eight Assistant Directors in Charge in the field. They
25 were all directly reporting to McCabe.

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b7C -2

1 conference every year and lots of other special projects.

2 The third was [redacted]

3 first name [redacted] She was a GS-15 Special Assistant,
4 and she was also there for Mr. McCabe, Mr. Giuliano and
5 Mr. Joyce. The, both of, really both of these two very
6 competent professionals had a diminished role under the
7 Deputy McCabe's, just his idea of the staff. And he, he
8 put more emphasis on, or I shouldn't say emphasis. He
9 worked more closely with Lisa and [redacted] than he did
10 with the, with that part of staff.

11 So [redacted] was primarily responsible for
12 putting together those conferences, for working on
13 speeches. She did a lot of the speech writing for the
14 Deputy, and she put together a lot of the trip planning.
15 Her and [redacted] both put together a lot of the trip
16 planning. So whenever the Deputy's Office traveled
17 anywhere, they put together an itinerary and a good,
18 professional product to make sure that we knew what we
19 were doing with the field office or LEGAT.

20 The, another individual was [redacted]
21 [redacted] She was a GS-15 special advisor, and she
22 was a, she, her role was primarily responsible for liaison
23 with our Special Agents in Charge Advisory Committee, and
24 she and I were also putting together a, what we call the
25 new Strategic Review Office. Under Mark Giuliano, we were

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1 able to seek his approval to put together an office which
2 has now become our lessons learned shop for the
3 organization, where we're sort of going out and conducting
4 reviews of whether it was the Malheur Wildlife Refuge
5 Occupation, now we're out there doing the Las Vegas
6 shooting, and we're learning lessons from that, writing
7 reports, and reabsorbing that information back in the
8 organization. That was her primary responsibility. She
9 built that unit as a part of the Deputy Director's Office.

10 To go back to [redacted], she is now
11 working as a [redacted]

12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]
14 [redacted]
15 [redacted]

16 [redacted] So, of those folks, none of them are now in the
17 Deputy's staff.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

19 [redacted] is gone, [redacted] is gone,
20 [redacted] is gone, [redacted] is, is with me now in the
21 Director's Office.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So those were four people.
23 Were there any other, other than let's say Admin support,
24 were those primary the eight to nine?

25 [redacted] Yeah, yeah. It was.

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b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 as we say in the military, over to the Deputy's office as
2 his primary special counsel. And so, I did not have
3 direct oversight or any sort of responsibility for writing
4 her performance eval.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So did she report directly to Mr.
6 McCabe?

7 [redacted] Yes.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

9 [redacted] I mean, I think that's fair to say.

10 And, and I think the way that, you know, the Deputy and I
11 had several discussions about this. And, and so it was,
12 it was something where I said I would be happy to manage
13 that for you, you know, as I was the SES and they were
14 15s. And I think [redacted] So
15 that would have been something I could have easily done.

16 But he wanted to have sort of unfettered access I think is
17 what he referred to it as by those two to him.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, if most -- well, let me see,
19 how would I say this? If anyone on the staff, Deputy
20 Director's staff wanted to meet with Mr. McCabe, did he
21 have an open-door policy, or did they have to clear it
22 with you?

23 [redacted] They would typically ask myself or
24 [redacted] And I did not give you that name. Her now

25 name is [redacted]

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1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than Page and [redacted]
2 [redacted] So [redacted] Page, and then
3 we had one more who was the Deputy Director's protective
4 detail body.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

6 [redacted] And that was [redacted]
7 [redacted] would, obviously, conduct and support all of the
8 Director's protection or the Deputy Director's protection
9 and his travel and would travel with the boss when, when
10 he's gone.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So did the five, did [redacted]
12 [redacted] did they report
13 to you?

14 [redacted] They did.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What about Page and [redacted]?

16 [redacted] On paper.

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

18 [redacted] Yes.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

20 [redacted] Actually, I should caveat that.

21 [redacted] did report. I did write his PAR. So I did write
22 his performance appraisal report or review. I did not
23 write Lisa Page's PAR. She was really assigned to the
24 Office of General Counsel, but sort of habitually assigned
25 to the Deputy's office or sliced over, as you would say,

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b7C -2

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1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

2 [redacted] She was his executive assistant.
3 She worked briefly under Mark Giuliano for several months
4 before his retirement, and then became his primary, I
5 wouldn't say gatekeeper. But she sat in a, in a room, you
6 know, in a foyer just outside of the Deputy's office. So,
7 if it were somebody trying to get a meeting with them,
8 with the, with the Deputy, they would go either [redacted]
9 or I. And, and as my office is sort of a, now it's Mr.
10 [redacted] office. But that is like, it's like, we
11 call it the fatal funnel in law enforcement.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

13 [redacted] And it is, literally, at any one
14 time you would have two to three, you know, EADs in there
15 or just, just because it's the, it's a very close, people
16 are always in there. And it was a great place to, to kind
17 of, to kind of wait and see if the Deputy is, is he out of
18 there? Can I strike? You know, can I get in there? You
19 know, when, when I can I get in. So there was a lot of
20 activity in that office.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But who had to, did the staff have
22 to check with you or [redacted] to get a meeting with the
23 Director?

24 [redacted] You mean --

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Deputy Director, I'm sorry.

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b6 -2
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b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] You mean the other portions of the
 2 staff?
 3 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 4 [redacted] Most of them would as a courtesy.
 5 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 6 [redacted] If there was something they were
 7 working on specifically for the Deputy and, you know, I
 8 was not a, I tried not to be a gatekeeper of anything, you
 9 know. So I would, I would say I know he's, I'd look at
 10 his calendar and say he's really busy right now. Or, he's
 11 got about 15 minutes of desk time; why don't you duck your
 12 head in there and say a couple, you know, just, if you
 13 could just take a couple minutes that would be great. So
 14 I would, I would say that to them. And so they would
 15 typically, the others, [redacted] they
 16 would typically walk by and say, hey, is the boss in? Do
 17 you mind if I jump in there for a second? So that is the
 18 way that worked. With Page and [redacted] no. They would
 19 just walk in.
 20 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And did McCabe want it that way?
 21 [redacted] Yes.
 22 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 23 [redacted] Yeah.
 24 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) All right.
 25 [redacted] It was, we'd have, and we had

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1 it was a part of that person's roles and responsibilities,
 2 I made sure that their Special Assistant and that
 3 Executive knew it. Without breaking confidences of
 4 course, but I just wanted to make sure that they could
 5 track and make sure that the Deputy had an issue on
 6 something, if he was tracking something that was
 7 important, that they knew before it became an issue that
 8 they couldn't correct. So that was just part of my task.
 9 I don't know if others had that view, but that
 10 is always something that I've, I've told my successor. I
 11 said you serve not only the deputy, but you really serve
 12 the floor.
 13 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That issue that you're thinking
 14 of, I'll, I'll characterize it, not you. But being,
 15 speaking out of turn or speaking in a way not reflective
 16 of the Deputy's office, roughly what month and year was
 17 that?
 18 [redacted] So --
 19 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) A best approximation.
 20 [redacted] I'm going to guess it was late-
 21 winter of 2016. So that could have been, it could have
 22 been as early as February. It could have been March. But
 23 it was around that time where she was new to the staff and
 24 kind of disrespectful in her questioning of the AD, you
 25 know, sitting at a table. My role as the Chief of Staff

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1 several conversations about that, one in particular where
 2 I had disagreed with some of the actions that Lisa had
 3 taken during a pre, you know, a pre, I'd say a
 4 nondescript, a meeting that she took an active role and
 5 didn't really understand the particulars of it, and was
 6 probably a little bit disrespectful to the Assistant
 7 Director that was briefing the Deputy.
 8 And so I had a discussion with her afterwards
 9 and said that's not the way we typically handle things on
 10 the staff. She was new to the staff, and I was trying to
 11 educate her to the way that, look, we are, we are not that
 12 way. We don't wear the Deputy's rank on our shoulder.
 13 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 14 [redacted] And that was something that the
 15 staff and I always, we were, and I believe that we serve
 16 the entire floor and not just the Deputy.
 17 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The seventh floor.
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Which is often known as the
 20 executive management floor?
 21 [redacted] That is correct. And the reason, I
 22 think it's just not good government. If, if an Executive
 23 Assistant Director or an AD doesn't know why there's an
 24 issue and they can't get in to see the Deputy, and. I
 25 made sure that if the Deputy knew somebody and was a part,

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1 [redacted] I was always, I parked myself in
 2 the back chair. I'm not responsible for anything. I
 3 don't have a portfolio other than the Deputy and the
 4 staff.
 5 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 6 [redacted] And so it's not my position to, to
 7 question other executives about their activities, and so.
 8 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you remember what the subject
 9 matter was?
 10 [redacted] Yeah, it was the Office of, it was a
 11 briefing by the Office of Private Sector, by the Assistant
 12 Director, Brad Brekke.
 13 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So nothing related to
 14 Midyear?
 15 [redacted] Negative. No, no.
 16 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Or recusal issues?
 17 [redacted] No, no.
 18 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 19 [redacted] This was just more of a personality
 20 issue.
 21 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 22 [redacted] And I just --
 23 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 24 [redacted] I, for background, I provide it.
 25 [redacted] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Did anyone in the Deputy

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1 Director's office have responsibility for press or media
2 issues?

3 [redacted] No. I would think that there was a
4 movement under Mr. Giuliani that lived briefly under,
5 under Deputy Director McCabe where they were trying to
6 come up with a, sort of a comprehensive communication
7 strategy. That was an outgrowth of our Office of National
8 Policy, which was run by Sasha O'Connell. And she was an
9 enormously talented executive that worked, she was a
10 Section Chief working as the lead for the Office of
11 National Policy, dealt with policy across the, the
12 intelligence community and, and the FBI's role in that and
13 would fight for, you know, the FBI's position and their
14 policy at the White House.

15 She, I think as part of Mr. Giuliani's vision
16 was to sort of come up with a more comprehensive way, how
17 do we get out good messaging across the organization, not
18 piecemeal. And so she was working on some of that. But
19 at the time, she was never given authority to speak
20 directly, you know, she was, it was not her role. It was
21 still Mr. Kortan's role to work with the press.

22 So, to answer your question directly, there was
23 nobody on the staff that had responsibility to address the
24 media in any consistent way.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) During your time when you were

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1 typically my standard process was to reach out to Rich
2 Quinn or Mike Kortan to say, hey, I was just called by [redacted]
3 [redacted] or I was called by, I think that really was the
4 only one that I was ever called by. And I would say, hey,
5 what do you, will you handle it? And so Rich would
6 typically call them back.

7 And in one instance, I told the Deputy, if she
8 wants to talk to me about getting, talking to you about
9 having some sort of a, maybe a, a sit-down with the Deputy
10 to have some sort of a, not a 60 Minutes interview but
11 some sort of an interview I think that she was trying to
12 go for. And I, I met with her to, to briefly discuss
13 that. I asked them, I said do you, would you want me to
14 pursue that? And he said that's fine. Make sure you, you
15 know, work with Kortan and Quinn. So that was, I did, and
16 he had no interest in pursuing that.

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it's a verbal authority --

18 [redacted] It's just a verbal.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.

20 [redacted] Yeah.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When other individuals on the
22 staff were authorized to talk to the press, would they
23 notify you --

24 [redacted] No.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- before they did that?

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1 Chief of Staff to Mr. McCabe, were individuals on the
2 staff ever authorized to speak to the media?

3 [redacted] There were probably occasions, but I
4 can't recall specifics. I know I've spoken to the media
5 on a couple of occasions with the permission of Mr.
6 McCabe. The, one of it was just, one of the individuals
7 was trying to get a meeting with Mr. McCabe. I think they
8 both had some, some, I don't remember what the, what the
9 commonality was, whether it was basketball or something.
10 But she felt that she had some, something that she wanted
11 to, clearly she was trying to get, you know, get on the
12 inside with the deputy. And I spoke with her about it,
13 but never in, never in reference to Midyear or any other,
14 any of the other sensitive matters that were discussed.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) These are the times that you
16 engage with the press?

17 [redacted] Yes, yes.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So, when that happened, can
19 you just, was the process, can you just describe how that
20 worked? Was it, was it simply just a matter of Mr. McCabe
21 telling you [redacted] want you to talk to --

22 [redacted] No, no, no. It was really, it was,
23 you know, they would reach out independently because they
24 knew the position. It was pretty easy to piece together
25 my position. And so I would get calls occasionally, and

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b7C -2

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b7C -2

1 [redacted] No. Not as a matter of course. I
2 mean, and I don't know of any instance where, I suspect
3 there was a time when, you know, [redacted] or
4 [redacted] were able to talk to the press about an IACP
5 matter, you know, something, something that was relevant
6 to our work with the state and local partners. But even
7 then, I could not identify a specific instance. My guess
8 is that they have done and they have worked with our press
9 office to produce releases I think for, for the press.
10 But I can't identify an instance in my mind where they
11 would have had a direct phone call with the press.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I just want to make sure I
13 understand this. So, is it correct that there were
14 instances when you were Chief of Staff to Deputy Director
15 McCabe where individuals on the staff were authorized to
16 speak to the media, but they didn't have an obligation to
17 notify you in advance? Is that right?

18 [redacted] I believe there was, there was some
19 instances where Lisa Page and, and I think at the time
20 Peter Strzok were doing interviews with the press. And I
21 think those were formal interviews set up by OPA. I was
22 not aware. I mean, I was aware of it only vaguely or
23 obliquely that they were doing them, and I could not tell
24 you when that happened. I don't know if I remember if I
25 was still on the Deputy's staff or I was now with Director

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 Comey at the time. But I knew that the interviews were
2 happening.

3 [redacted] I see. I see.

4 [redacted] But as a matter of course, I was not
5 involved or counseled or asked.

6 [redacted] Okay. So, there was no, I just
7 want to, I just want to understand, was there any
8 requirement, though, to notify you that McCabe said hey --

9 [redacted] No requirement.

10 [redacted] Okay.

11 [redacted] And in fact, I'm not sure we even
12 had the discussion.

13 [redacted] Okay.

14 [redacted] But I think as a staff, you know, as
15 the chief of staff or, you know, and I have to put aside
16 [redacted] and Page.

17 [redacted] Okay.

18 [redacted] When I, when I refer to staff, I'm
19 primarily referring to those four or five other
20 individuals that worked with me and worked, and then that
21 I wrote their performance reviews. Those other two had
22 direct access to Deputy McCabe.

23 [redacted] Um-hmm.

24 [redacted] And they took marching orders from
25 him separate and apart from, from me. I would

1 conversation happening. I just, I told him, hey, this is
2 exactly how the conversation went. And I just, I just
3 didn't think it was our place to be sitting at the table
4 and, and you know, sharp-shooting other executives unless
5 the Deputy specifically asked us to do that.

6 [redacted] Is it fair to say that after that
7 incident, you two separately just went about your business
8 and didn't really --

9 [redacted] We did. And it was unfortunate. It
10 was not good government. I say I work for the whole
11 floor. But it just did not seem to be a very productive
12 relationship. And so there were kind of two staffs, and
13 we would sort of, and the Deputy knew about it. He knew
14 my feelings, and he knew I was sensitive to the issue of
15 time management because they were very aggressive with
16 keeping the Deputy and taking a lot of his time. And so
17 it was, it was disruptive in a way that a lot of the other
18 staff didn't have time with the Deputy that they used to
19 under previous deputies where they had better access.

20 And, and then also, too, I think the executives
21 in the hallway, they felt that the, they were kind of on
22 the outside looking in from time to time because of the
23 fact that [redacted] he kept such close counsel with those
24 two that they didn't have --

25 [redacted] and Page?

1 occasionally work with them, but after our initial dustup
2 in February or whenever that was, in 2016, it became a
3 pretty, it was unfortunate, but it was, it was not a
4 productive relationship between Lisa and I. So, as a
5 matter of course, they had access to him and would follow
6 his direction or would support him in ways that I was not
7 aware.

8 [redacted] So is it fair to say that after
9 that dustup in February 2016, you're referring to the
10 instance where you spoke to Lisa about --

11 [redacted] Um-hmm.

12 [redacted] -- this is not the way you should
13 be talking to other executive managers?

14 [redacted] Correct. Correct.

15 [redacted] Did she --

16 [redacted] And I made that, and I made that
17 known to the Deputy.

18 [redacted] I see.

19 [redacted] I made that known to the Deputy. As
20 I recall, I went into the Deputy to talk to him about it,
21 again, one morning or one evening. And [redacted]
22 was in talking to the Deputy sort of pleading Lisa's case,
23 you know, that, you know, I kind of came down on her
24 pretty hard. And that's just not the way I like to do
25 business. And so I, and so I came in. I saw the

1 [redacted] and Page, yeah. And look,
2 they are incredibly bright people, so I don't want to say
3 that, and I think he was pragmatic in the view that they
4 brought more to the table. [redacted] was not a
5 distraction. He was a very hard worker. But I think he
6 was pragmatic in the view that they brought so much to the
7 table that any other I'd say collateral damage is probably
8 too strong a word, or maybe it's not. But any other
9 problems that resulted in it was worth the work that they
10 provided him. And I think he, he trusted them implicitly.

11 [redacted] I just want to go over a couple of
12 other meetings to make sure I understand whether you are a
13 regular attendee of those. The, you had mentioned the
14 Director's morning meeting. Were you a regular attendee
15 of that meeting?

16 [redacted] I was. Um-hmm.

17 [redacted] Was anyone else from the Deputy
18 Director's staff a regular attendee of those?

19 [redacted] What about Lisa Page?

20 [redacted] She was not a typical attendee at
21 that meeting.

22 [redacted] Okay. Did the Director during the
23 time, again, that you were chief of staff to Deputy
24 McCabe, did he hold any other regularly-held meetings

b6 -2
b7c -2

1 other than the morning meeting?
2 [redacted] Yeah, we held the weekly executive,
3 the weekly EAD meeting, and we typically held that on
4 Tuesday I think at 9:30. And that was a meeting that we,
5 we kind of talked about longer-range issues, not more
6 daily operational issues that we did during the, during
7 the other meetings. But this was more of a longer-term
8 event where we talk about more strategy within, and maybe
9 even some succession planning discussions.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
11 [redacted] Where I would typically remove
12 myself from those discussions because I was, I guess I
13 could have been part of that succession planning
14 discussion. And I didn't want to, I didn't want to cool
15 the discussion, so I would, I would, many people would say
16 that I removed myself from more meetings than, than most
17 people in my position simply because I was [redacted]
18 I've held a TS clearance since [redacted] And I understand
19 compartmentalization very well. And, and I, the last
20 thing I want to do is infringe on somebody else's freedom
21 to talk openly about an issue. So I typically would step
22 out.

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Maybe to be, to be a little more
24 efficient, at least the way I'm going about things right
25 now, what other meetings, regularly-held meetings by

1 would walk around, hey, are there any issues of concern on
2 this end. And he would end with Kortan, just hey, what
3 other issues can we worry about? He would give him a
4 brief synopsis, hey, there's a story on whatever, and so
5 they would have a quick conversation. He was the last one
6 typically at every meeting to speak other than the
7 Director.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So other than the, the
9 Deputy's morning and evening meeting, and the Director's
10 morning meeting, were there any other regularly-held
11 meetings --

12 [redacted] The evening wrap?
13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Evening wrap.
14 [redacted] As I said before, AD Kortan was
15 typically present. Not always, but typically present, and
16 there would be discussions of media there at the evening
17 wrap.

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
19 [redacted] And then there is the weekly SVTC,
20 which I think you're probably aware of. It happens at 3
21 o'clock on Wednesday.

b6 -2
b7c -2

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
23 [redacted] And that was something that was
24 started by Director Comey. And it was where primarily,
25 primarily geared towards working with the specialists,

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

1 either the Director or Deputy did you attend at which
2 press issues came up during the week? So, we've
3 identified --

4 [redacted] Yeah. So the morning, yeah, those
5 two morning meetings for sure and the evening meeting.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And just so we're clear on the
7 record, you're talking about the Deputy and the Director's
8 morning meetings?

b6 -2
b7c -2

9 [redacted] The Deputy Director's meeting at
10 7:45, which would go to 8:15.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
12 [redacted] And, and then we would go down, and
13 we would sit with the Director from 8:15 to, you know,
14 8:45 or whatever. And in those meetings, AD Kortan was
15 present, so there was always, you know, in the primary
16 table, you would have, you know, the Director and the
17 Deputy and, you know, the EAD for National Security and
18 all of the EADs around the table, the Associate Deputy
19 Director, Rybicki as the Chief of Staff, and I was back in
20 the corner. And then all of the other chairs would be
21 lined with other Assistant Directors, General Counsel, the
22 AD for Congressional Affairs, AD for Public Affairs, so
23 all of those folks would be present.

b6 -2
b7c -2

24 So once the, once the conversation went around
25 the table, they would go to the back row, and the Director

1 making sure that they were communicating because there's
2 always been a headquarters-field disconnect.

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
4 [redacted] And so it was Director Comey's
5 desire to make sure that the field was working, that it
6 understood what was happening within the beltway. So I
7 largely wrote that agenda during my tenure.

b6 -2
b7c -2

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What day was, was that?
9 [redacted] Those were Wednesdays.

b6 -2
b7c -2

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Wednesdays, okay. And media
11 issues could come up in those because it was --
12 [redacted] Only as a, only as, you know, if the
13 Director brought them up to, to talk about different
14 stories that came up or anything like that where he may
15 counsel the field about, hey, this is something that we're
16 going to have to work through. It's, you know, it's a
17 challenge for us. They've got the story wrong. Or that,
18 you know, he didn't typically dwell on media during that
19 event. And it was not something where media was primarily
20 discussed. It was more operational in nature.

b6 -2
b7c -2

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you attend the, the regularly-
22 scheduled SIOC meetings with FBI and DOJ in the morning?

23 [redacted] I started under Mr. Giuliani but
24 stopped under Deputy McCabe.

b6 -2
b7c -2

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. All right. We're going to

1 get into some documents. We don't have many. This is a
2 thin folder. So, I'm not going to get into this too much,
3 but I want to show you that just for reference.

4 [redacted] Okay.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): That was an article that came out
6 on October 23rd, 2016 in the Wall Street Journal.

7 [redacted] Okay.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): And it preceded this article,
9 which is, came out a week later on October 30th, 2016.
10 And that, the second one is the one I'm primarily going to
11 focus on. But I wanted you to have this if you want to
12 take a moment to skim maybe this one, the October 23rd
13 article, just so that's sort of fresh in your mind.

14 [redacted] Okay.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): So mainly I just wanted you to see
16 that for context. That's not the heart of what I wanted
17 to ask, but I will ask a couple quick questions before we
18 get into --

19 [redacted] Sure.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- the October 30th article. Do
21 you remember that article at all?

22 [redacted] I don't.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): Okay.

24 [redacted] No.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, I guess it would be fair to

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) One is an email that came out on
2 October 24th, and there's an email chain. The subject
3 matter is updated McCabe guidance note for SACs. The top
4 of the email chain has an email from you to Lisa Page,
5 [redacted] (phonetic sp.), Mike Kortan, with a copy to
6 [redacted] (phonetic sp.), [redacted] (phonetic sp.),
7 stating the DD just approved and Mike has the final. And
8 the other document that I gave you there was --

9 [redacted] Was this the attachment?

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): That would be the attachment,
11 right. I don't know that your email included the
12 attachment, but

13 [redacted] I think, yeah, I do, I do remember
14 this.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

16 [redacted] I do remember this. And I, I think
17 I, I vaguely remember this email.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So --

19 [redacted] This was something I would go in and
20 would show the Deputy. Kortan would send me an email
21 saying, hey, this is our guidance to the field, as my role
22 as the chief of staff, I would go in and say, dutifully
23 say, hey, just take a look at this. Does this look good
24 to you. And he'd say yes. And so we'd have Kortan say it
25 was good.

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 say that you didn't have any involvement in work before
2 the article was published?

3 [redacted] No, no.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

5 [redacted] I'm not even aware of the author.

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, okay.

7 [redacted] I should say I, I didn't even know
8 that his wife had run for office until sort of later in
9 his tenure as Deputy.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

11 [redacted] I didn't, I just didn't know. I
12 think it was just an offhanded conversation where he said
13 that his wife had ran. I go, I didn't know that. So I
14 didn't even know she ran. So, but yeah. I mean I, I've
15 since read several articles, but I've never read this one.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

17 [redacted] Not to my knowledge.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'll ask you one other question
19 just to the extent -- well, let me show you a document.
20 I'm going to show you one other document with the purpose
21 of, of perhaps jogging some memory. So let me show you
22 this document. So this is an email, and it's labeled on
23 the bottom, actually, let me show you this with it too.
24 So, I'm showing you two documents right now.

25 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): And so the reason I put that in
2 front of you was to see if that jogged any memory. Do you
3 have any recollection of this guidance to the SACs being
4 issued in connection with the October 23rd article?

5 [redacted]: I, I guess I wasn't savvy enough to
6 realize -- I mean, I knew that, obviously I knew this
7 would become an issue. But I had probably never read the
8 article.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

10 [redacted] I just didn't. I mean, I know, I
11 know that guidance went out to the field, and I was his
12 primary voice to the field, and I, I could send emails out
13 to the field as approved by him. But in many instances,
14 I, you know, I was, I didn't need to read the, read the
15 actual news article that this discussed, so.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall having any
17 substantive involvement in the SAC guidance?

18 [redacted] No.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

20 [redacted]: No. I mean, I was, I wouldn't have
21 written any of this. I mean, I probably would have read
22 through it, but I wouldn't have read it in --

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) All right. Well, keep that handy
24 just in case it, you need it for any reference.

25 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I want to focus primarily now on
 2 the October 30th, 2016 article.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, that's actually by the same
 5 reporter. It comes out a week later.
 6 [redacted] As this reporter?
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Correct.
 8 [redacted] Okay.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And the first article was, as you,
 10 when you read it you saw was focusing on the fact that Mr.
 11 McCabe's wife had received some campaign donations from
 12 political action committees associated with Governor
 13 McCabe.
 14 [redacted] Right.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And it raises some issues about
 16 conflict of interest with the Clinton Midyear review.
 17 This story, the October 30th, this sort of expands into
 18 the Clinton Foundation investigation and raises issues
 19 there as well. Feel free to read it. The part I want to
 20 focus on I've highlighted on Pages 8 to 9. That's sort of
 21 the heart of what we want to talk to you about today,
 22 those highlighted areas. But if you need it, I, you know,
 23 you're welcome if you want to, you can absolutely read the
 24 entire article.
 25 [redacted] No, this is -- oh, I do remember. I .

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Correct.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So --
 3 [redacted] Nor did I have any discussions with
 4 the Deputy about the call.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 6 [redacted] And, and wouldn't even, and I don't
 7 know the person with whom he was speaking with at
 8 Department of Justice. I believe it was --
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's referenced in the article?
 10 [redacted] That's correct.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You believe?
 12 [redacted] I could, it may have been the AAG.
 13 It may have been, certainly I don't believe it was the
 14 DAG. But I think that, you know, at any given time, Andy
 15 was called by the DAG or the AAG, and so there was a lot
 16 of phone calls going back and forth. I'm not even sure I
 17 knew when the call was happening. I just, I knew of the
 18 call, but I was certainly not in the room for the call.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What else were you talking about
 20 with [redacted] with respect to these highlighted
 21 paragraphs? Did you speculate who --
 22 [redacted] I speculated.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- who it could be and --
 24 [redacted] Yeah.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- can you --

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 do remember this. Okay. I remember reading this for
 2 sure.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At the time?
 4 [redacted] Contemporaneous, yeah. I mean
 5 probably days or a week after or something.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So can you tell us when you were
 7 reading it now and you just said I remember this with
 8 respect to the highlighted paragraphs, can you just tell
 9 us, you know, what, what you remember, and?
 10 [redacted] I remember more about the discussion
 11 of the event after. So in recent months, there has been
 12 some discussion about this, about this paragraph. [redacted]
 13 [redacted] who has my job now, and I have discussed it. And
 14 I know at the time, I believe Ms. McNamara was looking
 15 into possible leaks of information. And so we talked
 16 about it, and we wondered who could have done it. And I
 17 am not here to tell you I know who did it because I
 18 certainly don't. But I know, you know, who wasn't in the
 19 room. That we me.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You were not in the room?
 21 [redacted] No. When this phone call happened,
 22 I was not.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, and you're talking about you
 24 were not in the room for the August 12th phone call that's
 25 mentioned, reported in this October 30th article?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Just speculated.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) With the caveat that it is
 3 speculation?
 4 [redacted] Total speculation. And given my
 5 previous discussions about the person that we've already
 6 talked about, I would feel like I'm kind of piling on.
 7 But I think Ms. Page was in the room. I don't know. I'm
 8 almost positive, but I believe that was the case, and
 9 that's the case in hindsight. But I don't know, having
 10 sat here, I think she would have been the only one else
 11 that would have been in the room.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, in reading this, as --
 13 [redacted] It could have been [redacted]
 14 It could have been the three of them. It may have just
 15 been her.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you, when you read this
 17 contemporaneously, that was before you had conversations
 18 with [redacted] about it?
 19 [redacted] Yeah, months before.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you read it at the time, were
 21 you concerned about a private conversation from the Deputy
 22 being reported?
 23 [redacted] Incredibly, yeah.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so what, what did you do?
 25 What was your reaction?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Well, I mean, I just, you know, I
 2 think, I don't know if the Deputy and I ever had any
 3 conversations about it. You know, but it was just, by
 4 then I had been so, for reasons that I think we already
 5 discussed, I had sort of withdrawn from that portion of
 6 the, of, of the portfolio. I think you and I talked on
 7 the phone that I was not in any of the Midyear meetings.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] I knew of the meetings. I knew when
 10 they were happening. But I didn't have any working
 11 knowledge. In fact I, I knew Ms. Page, I knew Pete
 12 Strzok, I knew of course AD Priestap and, and at the time
 13 EAD Steinbach, who was the National Security Branch EAD,
 14 were always involved with the Deputy as was the General
 15 Counsel Baker. But they were very compartmentalized
 16 meetings. And so when there was a Midyear meeting, I
 17 never attended.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Would they be noted on Mr.
 19 McCabe's calendar?
 20 [redacted] They would. They would.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And they would go into his
 22 conference room?
 23 [redacted] They would go in his conference room
 24 and the Deputy's conference room. I'm sorry, either his
 25 office, because they were typically smaller group

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 EAD Coleman, he may have been AD of Counterintelligence at
 2 the time, but then he became EAD of CCRSB, came in with
 3 Lisa Page, Jim Baker, and the Deputy. And there may have
 4 been one other person there in the room, but I don't know.
 5 [redacted]
 6 [redacted] And I could only piece, I
 7 didn't know the specifics of it, but it sounded like a
 8 [redacted]
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 10 [redacted] And that there was, Ms. Page was
 11 trying to brief things to the Deputy that were squarely in
 12 the roles and responsibilities of Mr. Coleman, who was the
 13 executive. And they had a, kind of a combative, they had
 14 sort of a, an open argument there in front of the Deputy
 15 and, and General Counsel Baker where he said something to
 16 him like, hey, I, I'm going to brief this. You know, it's
 17 his, it's his Counterintelligence Division. But yet she
 18 was briefing it, and he had mentioned, she said don't you
 19 want to know my opinion. And he said, no, I don't.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That was Coleman?
 21 [redacted] That was Coleman, yeah. So, they
 22 had that brief discussion. And I, and having not been and
 23 present at any of the other meetings, I couldn't really
 24 understand what the, the nuances of what they were all,
 25 you know, what the, who was providing the information,

b7E -1

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 meetings, so they would happen in his office. And I
 2 should caveat my involvement in Midyear by saying that I
 3 was present, that I can remember, at three meetings.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] Of substance. The first one was the
 6 summer, I believe it was the summer. And I, so I brought
 7 my books, just to refer to it, when John Giacalone, who
 8 was the EAD for National Security Branch before Mike
 9 Steinbach, brought in news during a wrap with Mr. Giuliani
 10 that we have the server, or we, there is evidence of a
 11 server. And so I remember Mr. Giuliani saying something
 12 like, all right, lock the doors. And at the time, we had
 13 no knowledge of the content. Obviously this is was brand
 14 new information. And he made, he gave me pretty good
 15 advice. He said, you don't need, you know, want to be a
 16 part of this. You know, essentially, this is not
 17 something you need to worry about.
 18 I felt a little hurt at the time. You know, you
 19 know, like, not hurt, but just, I felt, you know, hey, I'm
 20 not, you know, but, it was just, I think it was not, it
 21 was going to be worked by special, again, a special group.
 22 So when Deputy McCabe came in, he brought in Lisa Page and
 23 [redacted] and I was, I was not part of those
 24 Midyear groups, the one, with one exception. I was in
 25 here briefing the Deputy on another matter. And I think

1 [redacted]
 2 [redacted] But I, I do remember
 3 that meeting, being in there. But really, I was not at,
 4 it just happened to be a group of folks discussing Midyear
 5 while I was there already talking about another issue.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I think that's actually [redacted]
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted] I think that's right. Yeah, I think
 9 that's right. But I, I don't believe that the, I don't
 10 believe that [redacted]
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (*Indiscernible 57:58).
 12 [redacted]: Right. There was a third party, I
 13 believe, [redacted]
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 15 [redacted]: And I don't know [redacted]
 16 [redacted]
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Are you okay if we wait to hit
 19 these topics?
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So, and he will get to
 22 those later. Understanding that Midyear wasn't
 23 substantively what you were involved with as the Chief of
 24 Staff, would that include the Clinton Foundation
 25 investigation too?

b7E -1

b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2
b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] That was the third meeting.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. Sorry.
 3 [redacted] That, that I, I will tell you
 4 that -- no, no, I didn't quite get there and lost my train
 5 of thought. The third meeting was more Clinton
 6 Foundation-based. And that was a meeting we held with
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted]
 9 I think.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Roughly when is this?
 11 [redacted] I want to say summer of --
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 13 [redacted] -- summer of 2016. I couldn't give
 14 you a, I could probably go in here and find a, find a date
 15 for you, if I can read my chicken scratch. But that's why
 16 I brought the books. But, I was present --
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We might do that after.
 18 [redacted]: Okay. It will take some time, so
 19 you don't want to waste a lot of tape.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Right, yeah.
 21 [redacted]: But I was present at that meeting,
 22 and there were discussions about should we proceed with
 23 the investigation of the Clinton Foundation.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) sec. ✓
 25 [redacted]: And I offered my one piece of

1 investigation. That's just my perspective as a, as an
 2 agent from the field. And I think he, you know, nodded
 3 his head and talked about it. A lot of people were
 4 weighing their opinions, but, and that was my, that was
 5 mine.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can I jump in with just one
 7 question?
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, yeah. Go ahead.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Who chaired that meeting?
 10 [redacted]: It was the Deputy.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, so it was McCabe?
 12 [redacted]: Yeah.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Thank you.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And at that meeting, were, was
 15 there already an open, predicated investigation on the
 16 Clinton Foundation?
 17 [redacted]: Yes. And that was opened by, as I
 18 understand it, and this is a conversation I just had with
 19 Assistant Director Dave Resch from Training Division last
 20 night. I just happened to be talking to him, and we
 21 talked a little bit about the Clinton Foundation case.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]
 23 [redacted]
 24 [redacted]
 25 [redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2
b7E -1

1 advice, which may be relevant. The only time that I
 2 probably would weigh in on something like this, I think
 3 the discussion was should we continue to pursue the
 4 Clinton Foundation investigation in the run-up to the
 5 election. And, you know, I think there was just people
 6 were voicing their opinions. And, you know, as a, you
 7 know, as a case agent in the field, as whatever, I could
 8 not imagine not pursuing an investigation for any reason.
 9 I know that there are political issues at stake, and I
 10 think my advice to, or my, my discussions with the Deputy
 11 Director were we have kind of two choices. And I'm
 12 paraphrasing here.
 13 We either stop the investigation, we continue
 14 the investigation, and that might, you know, if people
 15 knew that there was an investigation of the Clinton
 16 Foundation, that may impact voters' opinions one way or
 17 another. I mean, that might be a small number of people
 18 that are affected. If you stop the investigation, and you
 19 reopen the investigation after the election, and we find
 20 things in the investigation that lead, that lead us down
 21 the path that we should have known this before the
 22 election and we're forced to impeach, you know, or that
 23 there's potential for impeachment of a sitting president,
 24 I go, what is more damaging? Where are we? I mean, it's
 25 a tough, tough, and I said you've got to continue the

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So --
 2 [redacted] Which was why he was in that
 3 meeting, essentially.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. [redacted]
 5 [redacted] that
 6 happened before the meeting you're just talking about?
 7 [redacted] Oh, for sure. And I couldn't tell
 8 you [redacted]
 9 [redacted]
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, at that meeting, is there any
 11 discussion about no overt investigative steps?
 12 [redacted] You're asking me to remember. I
 13 think there, I think there were. I think that there were
 14 things that we are not going to proceed. I think there
 15 was some discussion that we are not going to do anything
 16 else until. And I think that until was discussion with
 17 DOJ.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 19 [redacted]: That's, that's my recollection.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 21 [redacted]: But I could, I could even be wrong
 22 there.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, would, did you have, while I
 24 understand Midyear you state you were not involved in,
 25 just by virtue of how it was compartmentalized. Were you

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 aware of and in meetings with the Deputy on Clinton
2 Foundation?

3 [redacted] No.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

5 [redacted] Nor was I, in fact, and I can't
6 remember if we had a name for that one too, I think. Is
7 that --

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I did not see -- oh, you mean.

9 other than Midyear --

10 [redacted] I think there was.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Midyear was the Clinton -- Midyear
12 was the Clinton email.

13 [redacted] I think that was Crossfire.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, Crossfire.

15 [redacted] Crossfire Hurricane, I believe.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Okay.

17 [redacted] But I'm not positive.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Irrespective of the absence
19 of substantive involvement, were you still, though,
20 meaning, when you read this article at the time, the
21 highlighted portions, concerned that your boss's private
22 conversations are, are appearing in the paper?

23 [redacted] Yeah, and I, and I seem to remember
24 at the time I go, who, who could benefit? You know, and I
25 think, I remember thinking to myself as I read the, the

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 piece, I'm like what, to what end, and who benefits from,
2 you know, from pushing it. Is it, nobody, nobody seemed
3 to benefit from it, to be honest with you. And so I
4 thought was, was there somebody on the other side. And so
5 my initial suspicions led to, well certainly it's nobody
6 in our staff. You know, that was my initial reaction.
7 Like, why would anybody do this?

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The Deputy's staff?

9 [redacted] Correct.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

11 [redacted] Or whoever was in the room with the
12 Deputy.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

14 [redacted] And I thought, there's no reason we
15 would ever, and it just didn't seem to serve any purpose.
16 Not only is it not right to talk to the media about
17 specifics of private conversations and about cases like
18 this, but it just didn't seem to make any sense. So, I
19 thought was there somebody on the other side with the
20 caller from DOJ, whether that was the AAG or somebody else
21 over there that, that leaked it? That was my initial
22 suspicion. And I, I couldn't tell you who was on the
23 other side or who was in the room with the person who was
24 on the other side.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But given your concern that you

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 just articulated, did you not, did you talk to the Deputy
2 about that, that, look, boss, your private conversations
3 are appearing in the paper; what's going on with that?

4 [redacted] I don't, I don't know if I did. And
5 it probably was a failure on my part. I mean it was, I
6 don't think at the time it was one of those things where,
7 you know, he knows this business. He knows, he trusts in
8 the people that he's working with in this thing. And I,
9 and I, I don't think I had a specific conversation with
10 him about it. In retrospect, I should have. I mean, I, I
11 absolutely should have. I wasn't, in fact, so, I didn't
12 probably take care of him as good as I should have in
13 that, in that, in that way.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me --

15 [redacted] And I, and I do fault myself. Just
16 so, I fault myself, too, for not being more forceful with,
17 you know, sort of the, the Lisa Page piece. I should have
18 been more aggressive with that.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In what respect?

20 [redacted] I just think it frustrated the rest
21 of the hallway. And I, I told him, I said that was kind
22 of my big failing in my eyes as his chief of staff that I
23 was not able to, to get the EADs in to see him more often.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So --

25 [redacted] And I think that was part of, yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So when you said the rest of the
2 hallway, you're talking about other executive managers who
3 are waiting to see the Deputy?

4 [redacted] Correct.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

6 [redacted] Correct. So as much as I talk about
7 good government, you know, trying to make sure that I was
8 serving the whole floor, I didn't do what I should have
9 done to make them, to get them in there as often as I
10 should.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So is it fair to say you were
12 chief of staff to two deputies?

13 [redacted] Two deputies.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) For approximately a year-and-a-
15 half?

16 [redacted] Correct.

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) As you sit here today, are you
18 aware of other instances where Deputy Directors of the
19 FBI, where their private conversations with DOJ officials
20 were disclosed to the media?

21 [redacted] Never.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than this October 30th
23 article?

24 [redacted] Never. Yeah.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So that's not something obviously

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 then that Deputy Directors were doing during your time?
 2 [redacted] No.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when you were mentioning a few
 4 minutes ago that you suspected someone could have leaked
 5 the account. I'm assuming you were saying without
 6 authorization. Is that what you were thinking?
 7 [redacted] I would, I would almost assume that,
 8 yeah. I mean I just can't imagine that the Deputy would
 9 have authorized the leak. It just doesn't seem to serve.
 10 I mean, I guess it serves, it serves the purpose of the
 11 Deputy by saying, hey look, do you want us to shut this
 12 thing down? I guess it serves Andy in that way, but it
 13 really, it really highlights a dysfunction between the FBI
 14 and the, and DOJ. And to that end, it doesn't really
 15 serve the greater good.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] Those are things that we need to
 18 take, take care of in-house, and why we would push this
 19 out to show that kind of, it just makes no sense to me.
 20 Maybe I'm naïve in that way. I just don't think, maybe I
 21 don't think the long game. But, but to me, I can't
 22 imagine. I can't imagine Deputy Director McCabe
 23 authorizing that. It just seems anachronistic to me.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And why is that?
 25 [redacted] It's knowing him as a, as a person.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 certainly probably. But I don't, I can't be, I can't be
 2 for sure.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Were there any other individuals
 4 at the FBI, I won't restrict it just to the Deputy
 5 Director's staff, at the time who you had suspicions that
 6 they could have leaked this information to the media?
 7 [redacted]: No, no. And I, I think I, you know,
 8 I just don't follow it. I think I did at the time as not
 9 part of the Midyear team, notwithstanding the fact this
 10 was the Deputy's, the information that was put out. I
 11 just, it was not something that I followed closely.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And here, just to you I'll
 13 correct. This, this portion concerns Clinton Foundation.
 14 [redacted]: Right, right.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) As opposed to the media part.
 16 [redacted] I guess I blur the two sometimes.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 18 [redacted] Yeah.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Before the article was published,
 20 had anyone ever recounted the details of that, of the
 21 August 12th call that McCabe had with someone at DOJ to
 22 you?
 23 [redacted]: No.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So the article was the first time
 25 you'd had --

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 2 [redacted]: I can't imagine that he would, he
 3 would authorize somebody to release that. I really can't.
 4 I just can't. As I sit here, it just doesn't make sense
 5 to me. He is a, he is, he is a very good investigator.
 6 He's a very smart guy. And I, I don't think that serves
 7 any purpose. I mean, it serves some, maybe some initial,
 8 immediate. It's just, you know, maybe some immediate,
 9 pushing the ball maybe five yards down the field. But
 10 really, in the end of the day, it's more of a, it's more
 11 of a sack in my view.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you suspected a moment ago, I
 13 think you identified Lisa Page. What was the reason that
 14 you had those suspicions?
 15 [redacted] Mainly because if there was any
 16 interaction with DOJ, that because she was a former DOJ
 17 attorney, those sorts of interactions with folks on that
 18 side of the street, I had no connections over there. I
 19 talked occasionally with, with a couple of folks on that
 20 side of the street, but I had no, no, I didn't know the, I
 21 don't know them over there. And so if there was something
 22 that was involving Main Justice, that was something that
 23 she would typically be involved in.
 24 And could I, can I tell you right now that she
 25 was definitely in that room? I would say with 80 percent

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted]: First time I'd ever seen it, yeah.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Gained information about the
 3 August 12th call?
 4 [redacted]: Yeah, yeah.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you ever have any
 6 conversation --
 7 [redacted] I knew, I think I knew that there
 8 was a call.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 10 [redacted]: But I, I don't know, I didn't know
 11 the substance of the call.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 13 [redacted] Just because I was, you know, I was
 14 just not in the room.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you ever ask, did you ever
 16 have any conversations with Mr. McCabe about this article,
 17 whether it's the highlighted portions or any part of it?
 18 [redacted] I don't believe so. And again, I
 19 mean, potentially another lackluster effort on my part for
 20 not protecting the Deputy in ways that I should have, but
 21 I don't think I, I don't remember having a specific
 22 conversation about that.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, I'm going to ask you some
 24 questions just for completeness, just so I've checked it
 25 off. But, so is it fair to say before the article was

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 published, you didn't know that any of the information in
2 the highlighted paragraphs would be part of the story?

3 [redacted] No.

4 [redacted] And before the article was
5 published, you weren't aware that anyone in the Deputy's
6 office was tasked to work on the story?

7 [redacted] No.

8 [redacted] Or speak to the media?

9 [redacted] No.

10 [redacted] And I think we talked about
11 earlier, well we definitely talked about earlier, if
12 someone had been tasked in the Deputy's office to talk to
13 the media for this October 30th article, you, that's not
14 something that you would have been notified in advance
15 about?

16 [redacted] I would say that if it was one of
17 the other staff members that I talked to you about, they
18 would have told me. They would not have any, they were so
19 removed from both of those things, did not attend any of
20 the meetings, and would not have had any individual
21 information about this whatsoever.

22 [redacted] And you were referring to --

23 [redacted]

24 [redacted]
25 [redacted] They would have notified you as a

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 [redacted] Okay.

2 [redacted] And we were talking about this. And
3 he goes, and he goes, I would tell, he goes when Nancy,
4 because Nancy asked him, she goes, who would have had
5 access to this information? He said, well, I would have
6 told you I would have, but I wasn't there because I hadn't
7 yet come from [redacted] would have
8 had access, but he wasn't in the meeting.

9 [redacted] How did he know that?

10 [redacted] I think only through our discussions
11 and probably through, I don't know if he had independent
12 information about me not being in the meeting but may have
13 been from [redacted] how. She may have known.

14 But, yeah, and I just, I was not involved in any of those
15 Midyear discussions, you know, except for that, those
16 three that I mentioned to you earlier, and the Clinton
17 Foundation discussion. So, he said, so that leaves us
18 with one person.

19 [redacted] I see.

20 [redacted] And that was where we kind of made
21 this.

22 [redacted] Did you have any subsequent
23 conversations with [redacted] about this issue?

24 [redacted] We have, we've all speculated. I
25 mean we, we, you know, we're agents. You know, so we

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 courtesy?

2 [redacted] They would notify me as a courtesy,
3 but the fact, the odds of them being involved in any of
4 this are so remote, they're not even worth mentioning.

5 [redacted] Do you recall any general reaction
6 anywhere on the seventh floor when, around the time of
7 October 30th, 2016 when, with respect to Mr. McCabe's
8 private conversations being out there in the media?

9 [redacted] I think there was a general concern.
10 I don't even remember him briefing it, you know, or
11 discussing it during a morning meeting. I do know that, I
12 believe, you know, that Nancy McNamara was looking into
13 it, and had been given taskings by the Deputy or others, I
14 assume it was the Deputy, to look into where this could
15 have come from.

16 [redacted] And when did you learn that?

17 [redacted] It just, just, in sort of the,
18 probably that week. You know, I just, you just hear
19 rumblings that, hey, she's looking to see where this, you
20 know, where this thing could have come from. And I
21 remember [redacted] and I had a conversation some months ago,
22 probably in April, probably, I say April, probably in this
23 early to late-spring. Early-spring, mid-spring --

24 [redacted] This year?

25 [redacted] -- of 2017.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 talk. You know, so we, he had his own disagreements with,
2 with Ms. Page. And, and so I think he and I would sort of
3 commiserate from time to time, probably unfairly on her
4 behalf. You know, about things that maybe, you know, we
5 weren't involved in that seemed to be continuing leading
6 to problems. And I think we just speculated that it was
7 her. Of course, at the time I was thinking was it
8 somebody across the street that was doing it on our
9 behalf, or.

10 [redacted] At DOJ?

11 [redacted] Yeah, yeah. But, that doesn't make
12 sense because that, that suggests, that doesn't make sense
13 that it would be a DOJ person because it's really helpful
14 to Mr. McCabe, at least in the short term.

15 [redacted] Um-hmm. Did either you or [redacted]
16 [redacted] ever ask Lisa Page about this conversation of Mr.
17 McCabe's appearing in the article?

18 [redacted] I never did. He may have.

19 [redacted] Did he tell you about that?

20 [redacted] If he did, it was very obliquely,
21 and I just, I don't remember the, the conversation. He
22 may have said something to, to him about, I know he, he
23 cautioned her on several occasions, and this is now after
24 I'm down with Director Comey. But I know he cautioned her
25 that she was providing him, she was communicating with him

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 too much.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) McCabe?
 3 [redacted] Yeah. And it was putting him in a
 4 bad position.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sort of where you were before?
 6 [redacted] I'm sorry?
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Where you were before where, well,
 8 strike that. What did you mean by that, put him in a bad
 9 position?
 10 [redacted] Well, I think because she was
 11 constantly updating him on things and information that may
 12 have not been fully vetted or fully investigated, because
 13 she, you know, I think she prided herself on being one to
 14 really want to, you know, discuss the issues with him
 15 personally. And I think she was very involved in it. So
 16 I think she felt obligated to provide him updates on
 17 things all the time. And I think [redacted] was like, hey, look,
 18 this is not helpful. You know, you're not, we don't know
 19 the things that you're telling to be fact. You know, let
 20 the investigators investigate it, and then let's brief
 21 him, you know, with the entire team, as opposed to just
 22 running in there, you know, every 15 minutes with
 23 information that may or may not be, you know, accurate. I
 24 think that was his cautionary tale.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 lots of formal media. We had lots of media policies, but
 2 they were all over the place. They were in electronic
 3 communications. They were in, you know, standard
 4 operating procedures from field offices about who is
 5 authorized to speak to the media. So one of the things
 6 that I did at Andy's request was to bring back Jackie
 7 McGuire. She was a brand new ASAC in Birmingham, very
 8 skilled, very polished young executive. She was down in
 9 Birmingham and had worked in the media I think previously.
 10 And we brought her back. I remember making the phone call
 11 to her saying, hey, we just need you back here for two
 12 weeks. And that was, that was about a month later than
 13 this. This is October.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) End of October, beginning of --
 15 [redacted] End of October. So it would have
 16 been, it would have been the 1st of December I think I
 17 would have called her and said, hey, we need, the Deputy
 18 would like to have you come back for two weeks on a TDY to
 19 kind of look at our media policy and come up with a way to
 20 really formulate the new, you know, what our media policy
 21 should look like moving forward. And that two weeks
 22 turned into almost a year. So she's been back here the
 23 entire time.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) As I understand, was that due to,
 25 to leaks in general, or any specific leaks, or?

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] And I don't know if she took, took
 2 his advice on that or not.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, no discussions that you can
 4 recall with Mr. McCabe about the highlighted portions
 5 appearing in the article?
 6 [redacted] No.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) One of the reasons I asked, I was
 8 trying to get a sense of the meetings that you regularly
 9 attend as, I think you anticipated this a couple minutes
 10 ago. Did this issue ever come up at any of the executive
 11 management meetings, the fact that the Deputy's private
 12 conversations on a sensitive investigation are appearing
 13 in a, in the Wall Street Journal?
 14 [redacted] Yeah. I think, I think, I don't
 15 know if they mentioned the article, you know, specifically
 16 in meetings. But I think what this instigated was our new
 17 media policy. So, I know there was some chum, you know,
 18 about, you know, obviously about this, this story and
 19 maybe others. I don't know if this one, but, there were
 20 discussions out there that, hey, we need to get a handle
 21 on the information that's getting out to the press because
 22 it's, it's not helpful. And so I think what he did was
 23 they were deciding how are they going to attack this?
 24 And so I think they looked at the media policy
 25 and realized we didn't really have a formal, or we had

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] I think it was leaks in general.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 3 [redacted] I think this probably maybe was the
 4 straw that broke the camel's back.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) This being?
 6 [redacted] I think this, this issue here.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The highlighted paragraph?
 8 [redacted] The highlighted paragraph. Yeah.
 9 But I think, too, I think after looking at that, they
 10 realized we don't have a good media policy, and so they
 11 brought, we brought her back to kind of do it. And she
 12 just unveiled the media policy. It just came out. I
 13 think it was just approved. It's pretty substantive.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, as I take it, your
 15 understanding -- well, let me ask something different. If
 16 Mr. McCabe had told you that he authorized the disclosure
 17 of the details of the August 12th call that appears in
 18 this Wall Street Journal article on October 30th, 2016,
 19 that's something you'd remember, right?
 20 [redacted] I would remember, and I would be
 21 shocked.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And that would be something
 23 that you would be able to testify confidently of, right?
 24 [redacted] Certainly.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And so similar question

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 about the, all these executive meetings that happened that
2 you regularly attended.

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 [redacted] Um-hmm.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If someone who at the FBI who
5 had -- actually, let me, let me skip this. I'm going to
6 ask that question but a little bit differently.

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 [redacted] Okay.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You don't recall at any of these
9 executive management meetings someone standing up and
10 saying I authorized the disclosure of the August 12th call
11 and the details?

b6 -2
b7C -2

12 [redacted] I don't remember, but I, I would
13 think I'd remember that. I, I don't remember that at all.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

15 [redacted] And I would tell you too. [redacted]

16 [redacted]
17 [redacted]
18 [redacted]
19 [redacted]
20 [redacted]
21 [redacted]

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]

23 [redacted] It's, it's pretty horrible. I think

24 at the end of the week [redacted]

25 [redacted]

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

1 [redacted]
2 [redacted]
3 [redacted]
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted]
6 [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted]
11 [redacted]

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

12 [redacted] So there are days that I am not, and if you want
13 to go through there, and you'll see days where I'm not
14 quoting.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.

16 [redacted] Or I'm not jotting anything down
17 because I'm just not in the office.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, let me ask you this. You
19 know, understanding that you're not present at every
20 meeting. You are, though, on the seventh floor, executive
21 management.

b6 -2
b7C -2

22 [redacted] On the same floor.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If someone at the FBI had
24 authorized the disclosure of the account of Mr. McCabe's
25 August 12th call to the Wall Street Journal, would you

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 expect that you would have learned about that fact in your
2 role as Chief of Staff?

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 [redacted] Absolutely. I would think that
4 there, we would have known that. And quite frankly, we
5 would not have had substantive discussions to the
6 contrary. You know, I would not have had that
7 conversation I told you that I had with [redacted] about
8 who did this. Because it would have, it would have, that
9 conversation would have, would not have happened because
10 we would have known that Andy or somebody else said I
11 authorized the release of it, and then we wouldn't have
12 questioned it. So I, you know what I mean? I don't think
13 that conversation would have taken place had we known that
14 there was some, some authority granted to release this
15 information.

b6 -1
b7C -1

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, and that conversation with [redacted]
17 [redacted] you said happened in April 2017?

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

18 [redacted] I think, well yeah. Late, late, and
19 I, and I, that could be within months.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Approximate.

21 [redacted] You know, that could be March. It
22 could be May. But I remember driving back. Again, on one
23 of my probably Monday trips back to D.C. having this
24 conversation.

b6 -2
b7C -2

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You know Bill Sweeney, right, the

1 ADIC in New York?

2 [redacted] I do.

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He had a prior, he had your
4 predecessor, he was your predecessor a couple of deputies
5 ago.

6 [redacted] Two, two deputies ago.

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

8 [redacted] With Sean Joyce, yeah. I spoke with
9 him this morning.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sean Joyce or Bill Sweeney?

11 [redacted] Bill Sweeney, yeah. Bill Sweeney,
12 yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So he's familiar with the seventh
14 floor, the way that works and all that?

15 [redacted] He is.

b6 -2
b7C -2

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you all ever talk about the
17 account of the August 12th phone call that McCabe had
18 appearing in the Wall Street Journal article?

19 [redacted] We, we talk a lot. We talk, he

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

20 knows [redacted] so he keeps me awake. You
21 know, [redacted]

22 [redacted] And so we kind of keep each other on, between the
23 white and the yellow. And so, we talk about a number of
24 issues. And a lot of it, you know, Bill has such a
25 cheerful disposition, he keeps me, he humors me when I

1 drive home. So, but we talk a lot about, you know, this
 2 kind of stuff. Whether we had a specific discussion about
 3 this I, I can't recall. It would, we probably did, but I
 4 don't remember the substance of it.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Would you have any reason to doubt
 6 discussions where Mr. Sweeney may have said to you
 7 something to the effect of [redacted] this has to be someone
 8 close to McCabe, someone on the seventh floor?
 9 [redacted]: Probably we would have had something
 10 similar. I mean we, we knew. We've always suspected, you
 11 know, and I, I think he was, I think he had a more
 12 positive view of Lisa Page -- that's who we're referring
 13 to -- than I did. And, you know, I would, you know, I
 14 told him, I said this is, you know, it's very disruptive.
 15 You know, this, this thing is really causing a lot of, of
 16 my, a lot of my time. I really think a lot about this.
 17 And, and I just, I worry that, that we're not serving the
 18 greater good, not serving the floor by having this one
 19 person in there, you know, usurping a lot of the Deputy's
 20 time.
 21 So we talk a lot about that. And we, we make,
 22 you know, much like [redacted] and I do or others talk about who
 23 could it have been. And not just this, but just in
 24 general, you know. And I say, and I pointed to this, I'm
 25 pointing at the leak.

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -1
b7c -1

1 [redacted] No, no. I mean, I knew AD McNamara
 2 had, you know, was doing something internally, and so, you
 3 know, if it's an OPR and Inspection issue, I'm not, I
 4 don't try to intercede in that in any way. I'm not going
 5 to conduct my own, private investigation or start asking
 6 around. Obviously there are discussions in the hallway,
 7 water cooler discussions about what's going on.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] And we talk about things like that.
 10 We, we want, you know, we, but we don't know. But I
 11 wasn't interviewing people or shaking people down or, you
 12 know.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 14 [redacted] Give them the third degree.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than [redacted] and Bill
 16 Sweeney, do you recall having any other discussions with
 17 anyone else at the FBI regarding the account of Mr.
 18 McCabe's August 12th phone conversation appearing in the
 19 Wall Street Journal?
 20 [redacted] No. No.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can I ask a question?
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go head, yeah.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, when did you go to work for
 24 Director Comey? Was it after this?
 25 [redacted] I think [redacted]

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -1,2
b7c -1,2

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The, the October 30th article?
 2 [redacted]: The highlighted portions. Correct.
 3 Yeah. We, we probably had a discussion about it, but I
 4 can't remember the specifics.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did he ever have any follow-up
 6 conversations, he being Mr. Sweeney, follow-up
 7 conversations with you where he said I've done some
 8 digging on my own, and here is my conclusion?
 9 [redacted]: I think he was concerned that people
 10 were looking at New York. I remember him voicing that to
 11 me, as like, hey, I think people are looking at me, or not
 12 me, but they're looking at my crew up here as being folks
 13 who could have leaked some information. And I think his
 14 discussion was people need to start looking at the floor.
 15 You know, looking in-house before they point fingers at,
 16 you know, like New York. And I think, I mean, as any good
 17 leader does, they, this is like I told you earlier, I
 18 would be shocked if somebody on the Deputy's staff would,
 19 would have done that. And I think he probably felt the
 20 same up in New York with his team. You know, I think it's
 21 always natural to point the finger in another direction.
 22 But I know we had that discussion. I remember him talking
 23 to me about that on the drive home.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And after you had that
 25 conversation, did you do any follow-up?

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Are you aware either during
 2 the time that you were working for Deputy Director McCabe,
 3 or after you left and went to work for Director Comey,
 4 about Director Comey knowing about this or having a
 5 discussion with Andrew McCabe about his words appearing in
 6 the Wall Street Journal?
 7 [redacted] No, no. I never had a discussion
 8 with Director Comey about this and did not know he had a
 9 prior conversation with Mr. McCabe.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. You never scheduled a meeting
 11 for the two of them to go ahead and talk about this?
 12 [redacted] No. In the Deputy's, in the
 13 Director's office, it's slightly different. So as the
 14 [redacted] for the Director, I don't typically
 15 manage the calendar. I have access to the calendar. I
 16 don't, I can see the meetings, but I don't, as a matter of
 17 course, schedule the meetings unless it's something that
 18 I've talked specifically to the Director about or the
 19 chief of staff.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] That's usually the chief of staff's
 22 responsibility.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And do you ever remember any
 24 conversations between Deputy Director McCabe and Mike
 25 Koitan about his words appearing in the Wall Street

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2