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[redacted]

Transcript

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12/20/2017

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] :
-----X

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December 20, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of

[REDACTED]

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By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 2:30 p.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

[REDACTED] Oversight and Review Division

[REDACTED] Oversight and Review Division

DANIEL BECKHARD, Assistant Inspector General

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FOR THE WITNESS:

None.

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| 1 | I N D E X | |
|----|----------------|-------------|
| 2 | EXHIBITS | |
| 3 | EXHIBIT NUMBER | PAGE NUMBER |
| 4 | None. | |
| 5 | | b6 Per OIG |
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1 To protect the integrity of our investigation we
 2 request that you not discuss the contents with others. Is
 3 that okay?
 4 [redacted] Yes.
 5 [redacted] And we've informed you that our
 6 standard practice is to record all interviews. We're
 7 doing that now. And our interviews are taken under oath.
 8 If you don't have any questions we'll have you raise your
 9 right hand and get going.
 10 Whereupon
 11 [redacted]
 12 was called upon by the United States Department of
 13 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a
 14 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.
 15 [redacted] If you could just give us a brief
 16 overview of your career with the FBI, from when you
 17 started to the present, please?
 18 [redacted] Sure. I started with the Bureau
 19 [redacted]
 20 [redacted]
 21 [redacted]
 22 [redacted]
 23 [redacted]
 24 [redacted]
 25 [redacted]

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1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 [redacted] Okay. On the record. I am [redacted]
 3 [redacted] I'm an Investigative Counsel with the Oversight
 4 and Review Division. And I'm here with Assistant
 5 Inspector General Dan Beckhard and Investigative Counsel
 6 [redacted] And we are -- the date is December 20th,
 7 2017, approximately 2:30 Eastern Time, 11:30 Pacific Time.
 8 This is a VTC with [redacted] Is that right?
 9 [redacted] Yes. My official name for the
 10 Bureau is [redacted]
 11 [redacted] And you are [redacted]
 12 [redacted] Is that right?
 13 [redacted] That is correct.
 14 [redacted] And we are in an OIG Conference
 15 Room on 13th Floor in Washington, D.C., 1425 New York
 16 Avenue. And [redacted] you are [redacted] U.S.
 17 Attorney's Office. Is that right?
 18 [redacted] Yes. The U.S. Attorney's Office
 19 located at [redacted]
 20 [redacted]
 21 [redacted] Okay. So the matters that we're
 22 reviewing today are allegations of misconduct in
 23 connection with disclosures of non-public information to
 24 the media, and subsequent statements related thereto.
 25 This is a voluntary interview, and you are a fact witness.

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1 [redacted]
 2 [redacted]
 3 [redacted]
 4 [redacted]
 5 [redacted]
 6 [redacted]
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted]
 9 [redacted]
 10 [redacted]
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted]
 13 [redacted]
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted]
 16 [redacted] And then I was promoted to Section Chief
 17 of Internal Investigations. And I did that for about a
 18 year-and-a-half. And I was recently promoted [redacted]
 19 [redacted]
 20 [redacted] That's a
 21 quick overview.
 22 [redacted] I think I need to up my game to
 23 catch up with you. All right. So, I want to get into the
 24 heart of the matter about why we wanted to talk to you
 25 today. If you could, I want to focus for a couple of

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1 minutes on the background, what was going on before you
2 first interview Mr. McCabe on May 9th, and get into the
3 Wall Street Journal article.

4 It's my understanding, so I want to set some
5 background facts and then, sort of, elicit your
6 recollection. It's my understanding that earlier this
7 year, in 2017, that INSD investigated a leak referral from
8 Mr. McCabe, in which [redacted]
9 [redacted] alleged that Mr. McCabe had made derogatory comments
10 about former National Security Advisor General Michael
11 Flynn and President Trump, during his private executive
12 FBI meetings.

13 And then, as we understand, you and [redacted]
14 scheduled a meeting with Mr. McCabe on May 9th, 2017, to
15 go over some changes in his pending draft statement
16 regarding that leak investigation [redacted]
17 [redacted] Is that right so far?

18 [redacted] Without knowing all of the dates
19 off the top of my head, I believe so. But let me just
20 back up and explain the process.

21 [redacted] Sure.
22 [redacted] Just so we're all on the same page.
23 As I said, I was the Section Chief for Internal
24 Investigations. And typically, I only get involved in
25 the -- I should say hands-on involved, or actively

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1 record.

2 So, you were telling us sort of the standard
3 process that when INSD meets with a witness they want the
4 statement to become the witness's statement. It's their
5 signed statement that, after the interview is done, the
6 notes are written up into a formal document, and sent to
7 the witness for review, to make any corrections, because
8 that statement becomes the witness's own signed statement.

9 So we got that part, and then we sort of lost
10 you. I was just trying to get some background preceding
11 the interview with Mr. McCabe, when the Wall Street
12 Journal first is raised. And so, I don't know what else
13 you were saying before we lost you.

14 [redacted] No, I think you captured it well,
15 as reiterating what I said. And so, I think we were going
16 onto, we went back to him and talked a little bit about
17 his statement, and then also spoke about the Wall Street
18 Journal article.

19 [redacted] Yeah.
20 [redacted] Is that where we are?
21 [redacted] Okay. Yeah. Before you get to
22 that, so with that sort of context in mind. So, it's my
23 understanding that before you actually talked to Mr.
24 McCabe about the Wall Street Journal article, that
25 everything that had been going on had been related to this

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1 involved, in investigations when it does go with our
2 senior executives. So, I was involved in the interview of
3 our Deputy Director. If you say the date was the date you
4 referred to, I will go with that.

5 The date we interviewed him, we interviewed him.
6 And then, as typical, after we do an interview of any
7 individual in Internal Investigations, my folks will write
8 it up as far as putting pen to paper. And they will put
9 together a draft statement. And then the person that we
10 interviewed has an opportunity to go through that draft
11 statement and make any corrections that they deem
12 appropriate, because it is, if you will, their signed,
13 sworn statement.

14 So, there is a lot of back and forth, which is
15 usual and standard fare, when we are putting together a
16 signed, sworn statement of anyone we have interviewed.
17 So, we interviewed Deputy Director McCabe on the date you
18 stipulated. And then [redacted] typed up a statement and --
19 [redacted] Uh-oh. Off the record, for a
20 moment.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off
22 the record and back on the record.)

23 [redacted] Okay, back on the record, after a
24 technical glitch. We lost our connection with [redacted]
25 [redacted] but we have recaptured it. So, back on the

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1 other leak investigation with [redacted] and Flynn, and
2 Trump. What was it --

3 [redacted] Mm-hmm?
4 [redacted] - before you actually meet with
5 Mr. McCabe on May 9th, that prompted you to actually
6 raise, or intend to show him the Wall Street Journal
7 article? How did that come up?

8 [redacted] You know what? I can't say
9 specifically how it came up. You have to understand the
10 climate we were dealing in. We were dealing in multiple
11 media leaks that were unfolding. And it was a little bit
12 of a blur, where there were numerous articles that were
13 coming out. And I can't pretend to give you any type of
14 timeline of that. It's just that this Wall Street Journal
15 article came to my attention.

16 I can't tell you how it came to my attention. I
17 don't know if someone referred it to me. I've got to --
18 actually, I do know. Someone had to have referred it to
19 me. And I read through it. And because it involved the
20 Deputy, and we felt it was another media leak, we thought
21 we should address it. Because at that time, I'm certain
22 that my thought process was I didn't know if it was
23 interrelated or what have you. And we asked him questions
24 about it.

25 But I can't say specifically who brought it to

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1 my attention. I don't know if it was my Assistant
 2 Director. I don't know if it was someone else that we had
 3 interviewed prior. But somehow, it did come to my
 4 attention. And it appeared to be another media leak
 5 involving the Deputy. So, we considered it wise to ask
 6 questions about it.
 7 [redacted] And when you say another media
 8 leak, are you looking at it from the perspective of
 9 private conversations that the Deputy is having are being
 10 disclosed without his authorization?
 11 [redacted] Yes.
 12 [redacted] Okay.
 13 [redacted] Yes. We were looking at it, yes,
 14 as private conversations. Conversations that were
 15 internal to our organization. Yes, all of the above.
 16 [redacted] Okay. So now, if you could, kind
 17 of, put us in the setting, as much as you remember, when
 18 the -- so, for the record, the interview takes place on
 19 May 9th, 2017. And I should say, you know, as best you
 20 recall in terms of dates, when we talk about more dates,
 21 for the rest of this interview, we're only looking for
 22 your best approximation as you can recall.
 23 But on May 9th, when you first talked to Mr.
 24 McCabe about the Wall Street Journal article, give us as
 25 best as you can recall, put us in the setting in terms of,

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b6 Per OIG
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1 some of those substantive questions, let me tick off a
 2 couple of questions about the setting. So, as I
 3 understood, you said, in the room, the Deputy Director's
 4 conference room, are you [redacted] and the Deputy. Is
 5 anyone else present?
 6 [redacted] On this one, as I stated, we had
 7 multiple meetings with him. I believe it was myself and
 8 [redacted] I throw out the name of [redacted]
 9 because she was, participated in an interview or two. So,
 10 my recollection, I believe it was myself and [redacted]
 11 But [redacted] may have been there. But I think on
 12 this first one, it might've just been the two of us. I
 13 can't recall.
 14 [redacted] And no one from the Deputy's staff
 15 present?
 16 [redacted] No. We only will conduct
 17 interviews with the person, the witness subject that is
 18 involving -- involved in the matter.
 19 [redacted] How long had the interview been
 20 going on, when the subject of the Wall Street Journal gets
 21 raised, approximately?
 22 [redacted] Oh, I have no recollection of that,
 23 time frame wise.
 24 [redacted] Do you recall whether the Wall
 25 Street Journal article gets raised in the beginning, the

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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

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b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 who was present? Where are you? How does it come up, et
 2 cetera?
 3 [redacted] Okay. I'm going to do the best
 4 that I can. Because, there were a couple of meetings.
 5 And sometimes I meet with the Deputy where it's not
 6 pertaining to this matter. But I think with this matter,
 7 what was involved was, it was, I think, solely just [redacted]
 8 [redacted] and myself that were present.
 9 And I tell you, if there's write-ups that
 10 contradict that, because -- and I only say that because
 11 [redacted] was present for an interview or two, also,
 12 with the Deputy. But on this particular one, I think on
 13 the first time we discussed it, when I think it was just
 14 [redacted] and myself, in his office. All the interviews
 15 took place in the Deputy Director's Office, there at FBI
 16 Headquarters, on the 7th Floor.
 17 And that is when we presented him with the
 18 article and gave him a chance to review it. And
 19 basically, again, I'm sure there was, you know, some
 20 conversation. But the basic question was to ask him if he
 21 felt this was a media leak, or if he had authorized the
 22 disclosure of this information, or had given anyone
 23 permission to have this type of information exchange with
 24 the media.
 25 [redacted] Let me ask you, before we get to

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1 middle, or the end portion of the interview?
 2 [redacted] No, I wouldn't be comfortable
 3 stipulating that. Again, I'm not the lead on this. [redacted]
 4 [redacted] was the lead investigator. And so I'm not the lead
 5 interviewer. I'm kind of there as a secondary. And
 6 again, since this involved our Deputy Director, as I
 7 stated earlier, with someone in senior executive service,
 8 senior positions, I typically am present for those
 9 interviews.
 10 MR. BECKHARD: If I can --
 11 [redacted] But I'm not the lead interviewer.
 12 MR. BECKHARD: [redacted] is there any other
 13 reason particular to this situation that caused you to
 14 participate with [redacted] besides just the fact that it
 15 was the Deputy Director?
 16 [redacted] No. As other interviews took place
 17 of our senior executives prior to us interviewing the
 18 Deputy, I was there. That's just my own practice. We
 19 interviewed EADs, Executive Assistant Directors, Assistant
 20 Directors. I was present for those.
 21 [redacted] So why don't you then tell us what
 22 happened next, once -- I assume you -- I think you said
 23 you presented him with the Wall Street Journal article and
 24 you gave him a chance to review it?
 25 [redacted] That's correct.

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b6 -1
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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] And then, if you can just, as best
 2 you remember, tell us what happened. Does he read it? Is
 3 he sitting when he's reading it? Are you in your
 4 conference room -- his -- the Deputy's conference room,
 5 when he's reading it?
 6 [redacted] Again, it's his office. The Deputy
 7 Director's office in, on the 7th Floor. He has a table
 8 there, a little bit of a small conference table. But it's
 9 considered his office. But it contains a table. So yes,
 10 [redacted] - we're sitting. We're conducting an interview. So
 11 we're sitting at the table and asking him questions,
 12 providing him with whatever supporting documentation that
 13 was required. Since we're talking about the Wall Street
 14 Journal article, we provided that to him.
 15 He read through it. And then, again, big
 16 picture, I can't tell you verbatim what was said. But the
 17 overarching issue, or y take-away from it was that he did
 18 not grant anyone permission to divulge the information to
 19 the media. That he personally hadn't shared the
 20 information. And he hadn't granted anyone else permission
 21 to. And that he did consider it a media leak, if you
 22 will. And --
 23 [redacted] And just so we make sure we're
 24 talking about what it is, why don't we go -- can you pull
 25 up the document that would be labeled WSJ article WSJ

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1 Deputy Director McCabe?
 2 [redacted] It's my understanding that it was.
 3 MR. BECKHARD: Well, when --
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 MR. BECKHARD: -- you were first meeting --
 6 [redacted] Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Right.
 7 The very first meeting you're talking about did not
 8 involve Wall Street Journal, correct?
 9 [redacted] (No audible response.)
 10 MR. BECKHARD: So there had been --
 11 [redacted] Yeah.
 12 MR. BECKHARD: -- an opening meeting, [redacted]
 13 about, about the [redacted] leak. Okay?
 14 [redacted] Yes.
 15 MR. BECKHARD: And so yours was not the first
 16 interview with Director McCabe, is my understanding.
 17 [redacted] When you say mine was not the, give
 18 me, I'm, I'm not clear on that.
 19 MR. BECKHARD: Okay. So, the investigation
 20 started off being about the [redacted] leak regarding the
 21 Flynn comments. Do you recall that?
 22 [redacted] I do.
 23 MR. BECKHARD: And as, as we understand it, this
 24 was a, this, the occasion of this May 2017 interview was --
 25 [redacted] To go over some changes that Mr.

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b6 -3
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1 October 30th. And let me know when you have that handy.
 2 [redacted] I have it.
 3 [redacted] So do you see, on the first page,
 4 in the upper right-hand corner, there appears to be some
 5 initials there of A-M, in cursive writing. Do you see
 6 that?
 7 [redacted] Yes.
 8 [redacted] So, did you or [redacted] have
 9 Mr. McCabe initial the document when you presented it to
 10 him?
 11 [redacted] would've presented this
 12 to him.
 13 [redacted] And does that --
 14 [redacted] And I'm -- go ahead.
 15 [redacted] I was going to say, do you recall,
 16 do those appear to be Mr. McCabe's initials in the upper
 17 right-hand corner?
 18 [redacted] They appear to be, yes.
 19 [redacted] So, I presume, when you were
 20 showing him this article, were you specifically directing
 21 him to the last page, the first three paragraphs, where
 22 there's an account of an August 12th call?
 23 [redacted] Yes. Okay. So, it may, again, I
 24 don't have all of the different drafts in front of me.
 25 This article, was this presented in our first meeting with

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b6 -1,2
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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
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1 McCabe had about his pending draft statement on the
 2 [redacted] Flynn leak.
 3 MR. BECKHARD: Is that, is that --
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 MR. BECKHARD: -- consistent with your
 6 recollection? Or if you don't recall, you don't recall.
 7 That's fine. But --
 8 [redacted] I believe that's consistent, but I
 9 just got confused, Dan, when you said I wasn't involved.
 10 Because I was involved, I think, in that first interview.
 11 MR. BECKHARD: Oh, okay.
 12 [redacted] With Deputy Director McCabe.
 13 MR. BECKHARD: All right. Very good. Good.
 14 [redacted] So that's why I just wanted to
 15 clarify. And that's why, again, when you asked me, too,
 16 who was in the room, because at the first interview of
 17 him, and like I said, if I had the drafts or had the exact
 18 dates, the first interview, I know for, I'm relatively
 19 certain, it was [redacted]
 20 [redacted] and myself.
 21 MR. BECKHARD: Okay.
 22 [redacted] At the first interview.
 23 MR. BECKHARD: That makes sense to us.
 24 [redacted] And then, okay, and then there was,
 25 well, there were, I think, a couple of follow-ups. But

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1 in, I think, the first follow-up, where I believe the Wall
 2 Street Journal article was introduced, it might've just
 3 been [redacted] and I. But that's where I get a little murky.
 4 MR. BECKHARD: Okay. That's not a problem.
 5 [redacted] Right. And so when this Wall
 6 Street Journal article first comes out and you're asking
 7 Mr. McCabe to look at it, you were giving us your take-
 8 away, that he had not been granted permission to divulge
 9 the information; he didn't authorize it; he considered it
 10 a leak. And then I just wanted to make sure that we were
 11 speaking on the same page, in terms of what the
 12 information was.

13 And so, I was showing you a copy of the Wall
 14 Street Journal article that I've been told was the copy
 15 you gave to Mr. McCabe. He initialed it, at the time.
 16 And it's my understanding that the standard practice that
 17 you were doing with respect to this article was directing
 18 witnesses to the last page, the first three paragraphs,
 19 and then starting your questions from there.

20 And so --
 21 [redacted] I believe that's accurate.
 22 [redacted] So yeah, why don't you take a
 23 moment, if you haven't already, to read those first three
 24 paragraphs on the last page, beginning with, according to.
 25 Do you see that?

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1 investigation. But he walked us through that
 2 conversation.
 3 [redacted] Was he incensed about the August
 4 12th conversation, what had transpired then? Or was he
 5 incensed about seeing it appear in the paper?
 6 [redacted] Well, he had -- he was very
 7 passionate about the actual conversation, itself. And
 8 then, you know, disappointed that it was appearing in the
 9 publication.

10 [redacted] So, he said the account, as
 11 recorded, the account of the August 12th call, as reported
 12 in this October 30th Wall Street Journal article, is
 13 accurate? Is that right?

14 [redacted] I'm not going to say that he said
 15 it was accurate. Like I said, he walked us through it.
 16 And of course he confirmed the call happened and that
 17 there was an exchange. But like I said, he walked us
 18 through it. So I'm not going to say it's verbatim
 19 accuracy, the way it's presented. But he walked us
 20 through the conversation.

21 MR. BECKHARD: [redacted] did -- and we're not
 22 trying to play games with you here on this, because there
 23 doesn't seem to be a lot of dispute about it. But did he
 24 say anything to you, to the effect of, hey, this is wrong;
 25 this didn't happen this way?

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1 [redacted] I do.
 2 MR. BECKHARD: Who's waiting for whom?
 3 [redacted] I'm waiting for [redacted]
 4 [redacted] Okay. We're fine.
 5 MR. BECKHARD: All right.
 6 [redacted] So when --
 7 [redacted] I read those paragraphs.
 8 [redacted] So when you were saying a moment
 9 ago that Deputy Director McCabe hadn't granted anyone
 10 permission to divulge information, were you referring to
 11 the account of a call that he had on August 12th, with an
 12 unnamed senior DOJ official, as reported on the last page,
 13 first three paragraphs?

14 [redacted] Yes, I -- I believe that is the
 15 case.
 16 [redacted] Do you remember what his reaction
 17 was, when he saw, when he read this? Was -- well, I'll
 18 stop there.

19 [redacted] What his reaction was?
 20 [redacted] Right.
 21 [redacted] Well, obviously, he didn't recall
 22 the conversation. And he was still a bit, you know,
 23 incensed. And he was pretty emphatic that, one, it, for
 24 the most part, it was accurate. And he did question the
 25 fact of stopping, you know, being requested to stop an

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b7C Per OIG

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1 [redacted] You know what, I don't recall,
 2 because he was very emphatic of, hey let me -- this is
 3 what happened.

4 MR. BECKHARD: Okay.
 5 [redacted] And he walked us through what
 6 happened.

7 MR. BECKHARD: Do you recall --
 8 [redacted] Uh --

9 MR. BECKHARD: Okay. Do you recall thinking
 10 that --
 11 [redacted] Go ahead --

12 MR. BECKHARD: -- gee, the article is different
 13 from what Deputy Director McCabe is telling us?
 14 [redacted] No. Well, I will say, again,
 15 because what's captured in our -- in the draft statement,
 16 and I'd have to read through it, because what's captured
 17 there is accurate to what was told to us.

18 MR. BECKHARD: Okay. We'll, and we'll get to
 19 that. We don't have to spend more time on this. Go
 20 ahead.

21 [redacted] No, that's fine. So, it sounds
 22 like, from your earlier take-away, that he was asked
 23 whether or not he authorized the account of the August
 24 12th call to be disclosed to the Wall Street Journal. And
 25 as I understand it, his response to you was, no, he had

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1 not authorized that?
2 [redacted] To my recollection, yeah, that's
3 correct. And I hate to say it, a little bit gentlemen,
4 there's another article that's at play here. And I'm, I
5 just, I'd -- yeah, I just want to make sure I'm not
6 confusing the two, because, just with the volume of what I
7 have on my plate, that's why these statements are written
8 very shortly after we do the interview. And I have to
9 rely on those.

10 [redacted] And we are going to get to that.
11 [redacted] Right. No, it's fine.

12 [redacted] I'm sorry. I proved that I'm
13 talking over. I was just mentioning, we are going to get
14 to that statement soon. We just wanted to, sort of, flesh
15 out what your best recollection is, before we turn to
16 that.

17 And so, again, I understand -- let me ask you
18 this. So when you're going over, with Mr. McCabe, the
19 August 12th call that's described in the last, excuse me,
20 last page, first three paragraphs, Mr. McCabe said that he
21 did not know who the source of the information was?

22 [redacted] No. When you say the source of the
23 information, that who told the press about it? Or who the
24 DOJ official is that's highlighted in the article?

25 [redacted] Yeah. More the former, that he

1 didn't know who disclosed this to the Wall Street Journal?
2 [redacted] I don't believe he could be, yeah,
3 he couldn't be certain of that. But he knew that it was a
4 small group of people. Obviously it was the person he was
5 talking to on the phone. And then he relayed to us that
6 as he was having that conversation that he might've had
7 one or two staffers, from my recollection, I'd have to
8 defer to the statement, but they might've been present in
9 the room, when he was having the call.

10 [redacted] So those are people who may have
11 known about it. But he didn't authorize it, and he didn't
12 know who presented it, or disclosed it, to the Wall Street
13 Journal?

14 [redacted] That is my recollection.

15 [redacted] Was he -- when he was reading this
16 article, and in particular the last page, first three
17 paragraphs, was it your impression that this was the first
18 time that he became aware that the account of his August
19 12th call was appearing, and in paper? Or did he know
20 about that before the interview?

21 [redacted] I believe he knew about it before.
22 I don't think this was the first time he had seen this
23 article. I don't believe so.

24 [redacted] Did he tell you anything about
25 that; his prior recollection or reaction to the article?

1 [redacted] I would imagine he did. And again,
2 I'm sure it would be in the signed, sworn statement.

3 [redacted] Okay. A moment ago you were
4 talking about the fact that the August 12th call, who may
5 have known about it. As I read the article, the way it's
6 described, the call, that is, it sounds like it's a
7 private conversation. And so my question is, was any
8 effort made, during your interview, to have Mr. McCabe
9 identify who was present during the August 12th call with
10 DOJ; or who he recounted the August 12th call to, to try
11 and find out who might be the source who disclosed it to
12 the Wall Street Journal?

13 [redacted] I would assume we did ask that
14 question.

15 [redacted] Okay. But nothing jumps out to
16 you, right now?

17 [redacted] As far as?

18 [redacted] Questions about, Mr. McCabe, we
19 want to try and find out who's leaking information without
20 your permission on sensitive information to the paper.

21 [redacted] No, I'm certain we did ask him that
22 question. Keep in mind, folks, the volume of case work
23 that we had in my office, along with the fact, and this is
24 where I have, I'm struggling a little bit, we interviewed
25 a large number of folks on this matter. And so we get

1 differing comments/perspectives. And that's why I want to
2 make sure I'm holding the right people accountable for
3 their statements.

4 [redacted] Sure.

5 [redacted] And that's why I'm so sensitive to
6 referring to those signed, sworn statements. Because we
7 talked about this issue with varying people. And they all
8 had their own perspective on it.

9 [redacted] No, no, I understand. We're going
10 to move quickly towards that. I just have a couple of
11 quick questions before we get to that. At any point
12 during the conversation or interview that you had with
13 Mr. McCabe on May 9th regarding the Wall Street Journal
14 article, does he question you about why you're asking him
15 about Wall Street Journal when everything prior to that
16 point had been about the [redacted] Flynn leak investigation?

17 [redacted] I don't recall. And again, I'm
18 sure we let him know that we were looking at a lot of
19 media leaks. You know, there had been a lot of media
20 leaks occurring within the FBI. And so I'm sure we let
21 him know this is, you know, we were wondering if this was
22 another one. And we're questioning him and wanting to get
23 his input on this one.

24 [redacted] So again, some of these questions,
25 I just want to make sure I tick them off, for the record.

1 Did he express any confusion about the relevance of the
 2 Wall Street Journal article, to his -- it's my
 3 understanding that he actually referred the [redacted]
 4 [redacted] leak. And so did he express any confusion about the
 5 relevance of this article to the existing investigation?
 6 [redacted] It is accurate. He did refer the
 7 [redacted] matter to us. And I can't recall if he
 8 specifically asked us that question or expressed that
 9 concern.
 10 [redacted] Do you have any sense about how
 11 long the, approximately, how long the discussion lasted on
 12 the Wall Street Journal? Are these just kind of quick
 13 questions that you've got the answers to; he didn't
 14 authorize it; he didn't know who did it; bang-bang done?
 15 [redacted] No. The interview is always
 16 conversational. It's conversational. It's an exchange.
 17 So, it takes a little bit of time. It was a
 18 conversational interview. During the meeting, excuse me,
 19 during the interview on the Wall Street Journal, are you,
 20 [redacted] and Mr. McCabe present in his conference room
 21 the entire time?
 22 [redacted] Again, I'm just going to stipulate,
 23 it's not a conference room, it's his office.
 24 [redacted] Office, I'm sorry.
 25 [redacted] We're in his office, and there is a

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1 he'd be able to, again, put in his appropriate commentary
 2 and make sure it was true and accurate. And we would go
 3 from there.
 4 But I don't recall anything when you say abrupt.
 5 No, I wouldn't say any of our meetings were abrupt-ending
 6 in nature. But again, if you call something what I just
 7 described abrupt, I guess that's left to interpretation.
 8 MR. BECKHARD: [redacted] did you feel that the
 9 discussion regarding the Wall Street Journal article was
 10 full and complete with Deputy Director McCabe? Was there
 11 any sense in which it was rushed?
 12 [redacted] I, I don't recall thinking that
 13 don't recall it being rushed. I -- no, I don't.
 14 [redacted] Was anyone taking notes during
 15 this interview?
 16 [redacted] During all of our interviews the
 17 inter -- our, during all of our interviews notes are
 18 taken. I did not take any notes. But [redacted] and
 19 [redacted] they would've taken notes.
 20 [redacted] Did Mr. McCabe take notes during
 21 the interview?
 22 [redacted] Did he take notes? I know he had a
 23 pad and pen in front of him. I'm not sure if he utilized
 24 it or not. But I believe he did have a pad and pen in
 25 front of him. But I'm not certain it was utilized. And

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1 table in his office that is, you know, a conference table,
 2 if you will. But yes, we are in his office the whole
 3 time, sitting at this table, having the interview.
 4 [redacted] And that, presumably, is where he
 5 initialed the Wall Street Journal article?
 6 [redacted] Everything transpired at that
 7 table, in his office.
 8 [redacted] How does the meeting end? Does it
 9 end in you're going to send him a revised statement with
 10 the Wall Street Journal added? Is -- or does it end in an
 11 abrupt way; he's got to rush off to another meeting? Can
 12 you give us a sense about that?
 13 [redacted] We had multiple meetings with him.
 14 No, it, I don't recall any of our interviews ending in any
 15 type of abrupt manner. I, I'm certain we were wrapping
 16 up. I mean, he is always on a tight schedule.
 17 I know I think it, and this is why I don't know
 18 if it was this interview. But at one interview, I
 19 believe, you know, his secretary came in and alerted him
 20 that, you know, he did have another scheduled meeting.
 21 And he let her know, thank you, and we continued on, and
 22 in order to finish our interview.
 23 And then, of course, letting him know that, yes,
 24 the draft statement, we would write up the results of this
 25 and get him a draft signed, sworn statement. And then

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1 well, I know at one point, in one of the interviews, if
 2 you will, we gave him a tasking where he needed to follow
 3 up and potentially look through his calendar for a couple
 4 of things. And I think he did jot that down. But as far
 5 as during the interview, I don't recall. I think only he
 6 jotted down notes when we were asking him to follow up on
 7 matters.
 8 [redacted] On the questions about, did he
 9 authorize the disclosure of the August 12th call that
 10 appeared in the paper. And you'll see the last, the 3rd
 11 paragraph from the top, there is a quote, are you telling
 12 me that I need to shut down a validly predicated
 13 investigation, Mr. McCabe asked, according to people
 14 familiar with the conversation. Do you see that part?
 15 [redacted] I do.
 16 [redacted] When you're asking him -- well,
 17 first of all, did he, do you recall, did he say, did he
 18 say that he -- those words actually came from his mouth at
 19 one point in time?
 20 [redacted] I can't recall if he said exactly
 21 verbatim in those words that are listed on the page, but
 22 something very similar to it; something very close. The
 23 sentiment was there, absolutely.
 24 [redacted] And so when you're asking him
 25 questions about the account of the call and the quotes

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1 that are put in the paper, is he, at any point, expressing
 2 hesitation or lack of recollection on whether or not he
 3 authorized it or knew who the source was?
 4 [redacted]: I don't recall. I don't believe
 5 so. It's kind of like me. As you're asking me these
 6 questions, you know, your memory, you start to pause a
 7 little bit, and you recollect what exactly did happen.
 8 But I, during the interview, I got the impression he was
 9 forthcoming. And he was answering our questions. But I
 10 think the only pause or hesitation was for memory and
 11 recall and trying to put it all together.

12 MR. BECKHARD: (*Indiscernible 43:10) want to go
 13 through this later.

14 [redacted]: Well, why don't we turn now to the
 15 next document, which would be the draft statement that was
 16 sent to Mr. McCabe shortly after the May 9th interview.
 17 And it should be labeled INSD McCabe Draft Statement, May
 18 12th, 2017. And just, sort of, raise your hand when you
 19 have that up and ready.

20 [redacted]: I'm sorry. What is it titled,
 21 again?

22 [redacted]: It's entitled INSD McCabe Draft,
 23 S-T-M-T, for Statement, May 12th, 2017.

24 [redacted]: Okay. I believe I have that pulled
 25 up.

1 10 to the top of 11, to yourself. Take a moment to read
 2 that. And then let me know when you're done. The
 3 question is going to be, is that paragraph an accurate
 4 reflection of statements that Mr. McCabe made to you and
 5 [redacted] under oath, on May 9th, 2017.
 6 [redacted]: Okay, yes. I've read both. And
 7 that seems accurate to me. And I think it speaks to what
 8 I shared with you earlier.

9 MR. BECKHARD: Did -- would it have been your
 10 practice, [redacted] to review something like this before
 11 it went to the Deputy Director?

12 [redacted]: No.

13 MR. BECKHARD: So it would've gone directly --

14 [redacted]: No.

15 MR. BECKHARD: Okay. So it wouldn't have gone
 16 directly from you?

17 [redacted]: No. It would've gone -- I'm sorry,
 18 go ahead, Dan?

19 MR. BECKHARD: That's okay. It would've gone
 20 directly from [redacted] to the Deputy Director?

21 [redacted]: Yes. That is correct.

22 MR. BECKHARD: I'm taking from your response to
 23 reading it that there's nothing in it that strikes you as
 24 being inconsistent with your recollection of the
 25 conversation with the Deputy Director on May 9th?

1 [redacted]: Okay. And so the first page is an
 2 e-mail sent from [redacted] on May 12th, to Mr. Andrew G.
 3 McCabe, with a copy to [redacted] and yourself. And
 4 the subject is revised statement.

5 And the first three lines of the e-mail state,
 6 Acting Director McCabe, thank you, very much for your time
 7 on Tuesday. Please see the attached revised version of
 8 your statement. You will note, your requested changes
 9 have been made. And we added a short paragraph in
 10 parenthesis, beginning on page 10, relative to your
 11 recollection of circumstances pertaining to the Wall
 12 Street Journal article we reviewed with you.

13 Do you see that?

14 [redacted]: I do.

15 [redacted]: Do you remember receiving this
 16 e-mail?

17 [redacted]: Yes. I mean, sure. I receive
 18 thousands of e-mails. But yes, vaguely, I do.

19 [redacted]: So if you turn to page 10, at the
 20 bottom, let me know when you're there. It begins, on May
 21 9th, 2017.

22 [redacted]: Mm-hmm?

23 [redacted]: So --

24 [redacted]: Yes, I'm there.

25 [redacted]: -- can you read from the bottom of

1 [redacted]: That is true.

2 MR. BECKHARD: All right.

3 [redacted]: Yes. And just so you know, just to
 4 further elicit, again, keep in mind I wasn't the lead
 5 investigator on this matter. [redacted] and -- [redacted] and
 6 [redacted] were.

7 And again, just because of my responsibilities
 8 as Section Chief, I told them, and I specifically
 9 remember, with the draft statement of the interviews I was
 10 a part of, get those out because we want to get them
 11 finalized. So I didn't want to impede progress in the
 12 time frame where, obviously, again, it's Deputy Director
 13 McCabe's statement, along with all of the senior
 14 executives.

15 And I only told them, if there were issues or
 16 concerns where we all needed to, kind of, reconvene, if
 17 you will, where something of substance needed to be
 18 figured out or was being questioned, then let me know.
 19 But write it up, push it out.

20 MR. BECKHARD: Are you familiar with, in the
 21 course of your, of your position as Section Chief, did you
 22 become familiar with the overall work product of [redacted]

23 [redacted]:

24 [redacted]: Absolutely.

25 MR. BECKHARD: And did you find him to be,

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1 generally speaking, accurate in the way he was able to
2 characterize information that had been provided by
3 witnesses in advance of the -- in the course of drafting
4 their signed, sworn statements?

5 [redacted] Yes. [redacted]
6 [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted]
11 [redacted]
12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]

14 as an investigator in Internal Investigations.

15 MR. BECKHARD: So, if [redacted] drafted a
16 summary of what he heard in the interview, you would
17 consider that to be a reliable and accurate statement of
18 what that witness told him?

19 [redacted] Yes, I would.

20 [redacted] So, if you can then speak to what
21 happened next after this draft statement is sent to Mr.
22 McCabe, do you know what efforts were taken or steps to
23 get him to sign the document? Does your boss, Nancy
24 McNamara, reach out to him? Do you try and schedule
25 something at his executive calendar? How does that

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1 that, again, is something [redacted] would have to say.

2 But again, that's normal course of action is to
3 either send emails or to have a telephone call to the
4 person saying don't forget about that signed sworn
5 statement.

6 [redacted] And actually, I do want to ask One
7 other question, sort of when the interview ends and before
8 the draft is sent to Mr. McCabe. Do you and [redacted]
9 talk about what happened, or did you talk about what
10 happened, and were the responses that Mr. McCabe gave you
11 about the Wall Street Journal article what you expected to
12 hear, or were they different than what you expected? Can
13 you just talk about that for a minute, if you recall
14 anything?

15 [redacted] Sure. [redacted] and I, along with all
16 the other investigators assigned, I always talked to them
17 about interviews, results of interviews. Absolutely we
18 talked about it. And again, as far as, when you say was
19 it expected, was it not expected? We're investigators.
20 We always strategize on if it goes right, if it goes left,
21 if it goes up, if it goes down.

22 I'm sure we had varying discussions. I know we
23 did. I, so, when you say after this interview, we had
24 numerous discussions about this. And, yes, we talked
25 strategy. We talked before interviews, if we got certain

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1 process work?

2 [redacted] Again, since that's left to the
3 investigators to handle, and primarily, like you see this
4 email that [redacted] had sent to Deputy Director McCabe, I'm
5 sure [redacted] was coordinating. I know on a couple of
6 occasions [redacted] did come to me as his Section Chief and
7 said we still haven't gotten the signed statement from
8 Deputy Director McCabe. And again, keep in mind, everyone
9 has a hectic schedule, whenever. That's normal when it
10 comes to our senior executives in this process. So
11 sometimes, you know, if I saw one of them, I would make an
12 overture and reference, don't forget to look at the
13 statement. You know, we'd like to get that signed off by
14 you.

15 I don't believe, you specifically asked about
16 Nancy McNamara, our Assistant Director of Inspection
17 Division. I'm certain I briefed her on the status of
18 things. I don't recall her ever getting engaged, but not
19 to say that she didn't. She was briefed on the matter. I
20 don't know if Nancy took any overt action as far as asking
21 the Deputy to do, you know, to review it and sign it. I'd
22 have to defer to her, but of course I kept her briefed on
23 the state of the union of the investigation. But, yeah, I
24 would assume [redacted] might have sent multiple emails. I
25 would assume. I don't have any proof of that. I mean,

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b7C -1

1 responses how we would react. Absolutely we had those
2 conversations.

3 [redacted] So it's fair to say that after the
4 interview ended on May 9th, you and [redacted] talked, and
5 you had a, a common understanding about what [redacted]
6 excuse me, what Mr. McCabe said with respect to the Wall
7 Street Journal article before [redacted] prepared the
8 draft statement and sent it off to Mr. McCabe?

9 [redacted] I would, I would say that there
10 was, that [redacted] and I definitely talked about the interview
11 afterwards as, like I said, as normal course of business.
12 And then he prepared the drafts for his statement. It was
13 just that methodical. That's the process.

14 [redacted] Okay.
15 [redacted] Can I ask a question, [redacted]?
16 [redacted] do you remember having given, having been given
17 this information from the Deputy Director about his view
18 that the information about the August 12th conversation
19 was a leak? Did you and [redacted] talk about what steps
20 to take next in reliance on that information?

21 [redacted] What investigative steps to take?
22 [redacted] Yes, that's my question. Is, what
23 did you guys talk about doing now that you had that
24 information?

25 [redacted] Who else we needed to interview.

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1 We talked, again, strategy and let's, let's see who else
 2 we need to get, we need to interview. Because, of course,
 3 the goal of this type of investigation is to figure out
 4 who the leak is. So we either need to corroborate what
 5 the person is saying. We need to find out who else, you
 6 know, who else we needed to interview. But yes, we had
 7 those, those kind of conversations.
 8 [redacted] Was there priority given to that
 9 because it was a leak of private information affecting a
 10 Deputy Director?
 11 [redacted] Priority given to who to interview
 12 or priority given to this investigation overall?
 13 [redacted] Well, both. I'm wondering if, if
 14 the information he provided you caused a ramp-up in the
 15 activity of trying to figure out who was responsible for
 16 the Wall Street Journal article.
 17 [redacted] Oh, sure. It, it created, yeah,
 18 more investigative, if you will a little bit of zeal.
 19 Yeah. Like any, once you find out new information, you
 20 move forward. But, yeah, sure, we started to think about
 21 other people that we needed to interview, and we started
 22 to prioritize and put a list together and move forward.
 23 Sure.
 24 But all, again, the time frame of all of this,
 25 keep in mind we have a lot of media leak investigations.

1 Mr. McCabe told you that he did not authorize the
 2 disclosure in the Wall Street Journal about his
 3 conversation with the Department of Justice official?
 4 [redacted] No. There is no doubt.
 5 MR. BECKHARD: And is there any doubt in your
 6 mind that he told you he didn't know who authorized or
 7 who, who disclosed that information to the Wall Street
 8 Journal?
 9 [redacted] At this, at this time, no. There,
 10 not to my recollection. No, he, I stand by what is
 11 contained in the signed sworn statement, the draft.
 12 MR. BECKHARD: Thank you.
 13 [redacted] And then, so, moving the, the
 14 matter forward in time, it's our understanding that
 15 ultimately a follow-up interview was scheduled with Mr.
 16 McCabe on August 18th, 2017. But before turning to that
 17 interview, I want to ask you a couple of questions about
 18 the time frame from when the draft statement is sent out
 19 on May 12th, the one that I just asked you to pull up to
 20 August 17th, or right before the interview begins on
 21 August 18th.
 22 Between May 9th and August 17th, do you know,
 23 had Mr. McCabe contacted INSD to express that he wanted to
 24 change his statements that he made to you in the May 9th
 25 interview regarding the October 30th Wall Street Journal

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1 We were, we were juggling, or I should say I was juggling
 2 live balls. And all the media leak investigations had a
 3 high priority for me. And working with your office and
 4 different parts of your office, so the media leak
 5 investigations were a very high priority overall.
 6 [redacted] And I know you had a lot going on in
 7 terms of media leaks in general, but do you remember
 8 specifically with respect to this investigation the
 9 details of what you and [redacted] decided had to happen
 10 next to follow-up?
 11 [redacted] No. I don't recall specifically.
 12 I don't recall. But I'm, I'm sure there was interviews of
 13 people we wanted to do. But I, I can't specifically
 14 recall. Keep in mind, these are, these are my people that
 15 I interact with all the time. I, I, I've got hundreds of
 16 cases going all the time. But this, we talked about
 17 strategy, and we keep moving. But, of course we had a
 18 plan that we put in place.
 19 MR. BECKHARD: Before we move on, last, and I
 20 apologize, this is coming at the same question from just
 21 one last angle, [redacted] Now you've had a chance to
 22 review the signed sworn statement, and we've been talking
 23 about the interview with Mr. McCabe that happened,
 24 according to our information, on or about May 9th, 2017.
 25 Sitting here today, is there any doubt in your mind that

1 article?
 2 [redacted] I will say he did not contact me.
 3 That's all I can say specifically. I don't know if he
 4 contacted someone else in Inspection Division, my AD, my
 5 DAD. But I can speak to the fact with complete surety, he
 6 did not contact me.
 7 [redacted] Did you ever hear from, from [redacted]
 8 [redacted]
 9 MR. BECKHARD: [redacted]
 10 [redacted] What did I say?
 11 MR. BECKHARD: Mister.
 12 [redacted] Sorry. Did you ever hear from [redacted]
 13 [redacted] or anyone else in INSD that Mr. McCabe
 14 had reached out to INSD to revise his draft statement
 15 between May 12th and August 17th?
 16 [redacted] Again, I've got to clarify, INSD,
 17 Inspection Division is very large.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] I have, I had a section within
 20 Inspection Division, Internal Investigations, of which
 21 [redacted] and [redacted] are supervisory special
 22 agents in, and I'm the Section Chief. So again, when you
 23 say INSD, I think of the larger umbrella. And so, I can't
 24 speak to that. That's why I say, I don't know if there is
 25 contact with my AD, my DAD. I can't speak to that.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1, Per OIG
b7C -1, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 Did he contact myself or did he contact the two
2 agents? I can speak with complete surety, he did not
3 contact me. I can, I, I have on pretty high authority and
4 comfort level that if he would have contacted one of the
5 two agents, they would have informed me of it. But, as
6 far as my superiors, I would think they would have told
7 me. I just can't speak to it when you talk about the
8 entire Inspection Division.

9 MR. BECKHARD: If he were to reach out to
10 correct his, to correct his statement, the logical person
11 to reach out to would have been [redacted] or yourself or
12 perhaps [redacted] isn't that right?

13 [redacted] Absolutely.

14 MR. BECKHARD: All right.

15 [redacted] We would have had to have been
16 notified because we would have done the follow-up
17 interview.

18 [redacted] And sort of some similar
19 questions. Between May 9th to August, well, I should say
20 between May 12th to August 17th, did Mr. McCabe raise to
21 either yourself or [redacted] or [redacted] that he didn't
22 intend to sign his statement pending due to inaccuracies
23 before the follow-up interview?

24 [redacted] That was, during that time, again,
25 my time frames are off because at some point, I was

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 except for one.
2 [redacted] Okay. So it's my understanding
3 that Mr. McCabe is reinterviewed on August 18, 2017. And
4 [redacted] and [redacted] are the ones who are there for
5 the interview. And they --

6 [redacted] Okay.

7 [redacted] And they've done subsequent
8 investigation and interviews between May 9th, when Mr.

9 McCabe was first interviewed and his reinterview on August
10 18th. And they have follow-up questions for Mr. McCabe
11 about the Wall Street Journal article based upon what they
12 learned in these other interviews. Do you recall after
13 this interview is done, does [redacted] and/or [redacted]

14 brief you about developments that they learned from the
15 August 18th interview?

16 [redacted] Yes. They did debrief me after
17 that interview. Yes.

18 [redacted] Can you tell us about that, what,
19 what they told you?

20 [redacted] Well, at that time, and I know it's
21 not in front of, well, it's not right in front of me. We
22 spoke about it telephonically where there were now some,
23 and there were, there was a different, Deputy Director
24 McCabe had, if you will, made some statements in that
25 interview that were different than statements made prior.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 informed that, and I'm trying to play it through my head
2 right now. But at some point, I was informed that he,
3 that the Deputy was not going to sign his signed sworn
4 statement because there were other matters that were
5 happening with the IG's Office and other things that were
6 unfolding where he was not going to sign his signed sworn
7 statement.

8 I, I don't recall that being in relation to
9 pending inaccuracies. There was just a lot more at play
10 where there was concern with him signing his signed sworn
11 statement.

12 [redacted] Okay. Well, why don't we turn to
13 the follow-up interview on August 18th? Unless, do you
14 have anything?

15 MR. BECKHARD: Nope, go ahead.

16 [redacted] You didn't, you didn't attend that
17 interview, did you?

18 [redacted] Again --

19 [redacted] It's my understanding you didn't.

20 [redacted] The, well, yeah, because I, I'm
21 sorry, the dates just aren't going to ring a bell. I will
22 say this. There is one interview that [redacted] and [redacted]
23 did with the Deputy in my absence. And if that is the
24 date of it, then that is the date of it. But I was
25 present for all interviews of Deputy Director McCabe

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 And [redacted] and [redacted] briefed me on that.
2 And then [redacted] sent me a very extensive email after our
3 telephonic conversation.

4 And that telephonic conversation, it was
5 actually a conference call. I was traveling, and [redacted] and
6 [redacted] were in a room. And the three of us spoke about
7 the interview telephonically. And then [redacted] sent me, I
8 don't know if it was either that day, the next day, two
9 days later. He sent me a very extensive email with his
10 concerns.

11 [redacted] And, and we'll get to that in a
12 moment. I just want to see, just before we jump into
13 that, do you recall what was [redacted] or [redacted] were
14 there significant developments from the August 18th
15 interview that they had concerns about, or was it
16 consistent with what they had been told before? You had
17 mentioned some different statements. If you could
18 elaborate about that.

19 [redacted] I, there, there were different
20 statements. They were, both of them were very concerned
21 about the different statements. But I would have to refer
22 to that email. It was, there were significant
23 differences --

24 [redacted] Well, let's do that. So --

25 [redacted] That gave them pause.

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Why don't we do this? I'm sorry,
 2 I cut you off.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] I think you were saying, did I
 5 hear you say there were different statements that gave
 6 them pause?
 7 [redacted] Yes.
 8 [redacted] Okay. So if you could go to the
 9 document that is labeled, it should be labeled [redacted]
 10 email to [redacted] August 20, 2017. Let me know when you
 11 have that.
 12 [redacted] I have it up.
 13 [redacted] So if you could turn to the top of
 14 Page 2 where it begins with what we know. And read to
 15 yourself from that portion to the top of Page 3. It
 16 contains [redacted] summary of what INSD was told by Mr.
 17 McCabe under oath on May 9th and August 18th, 2017 with
 18 respect to the October 30th Wall Street Journal article.
 19 And let me know when you're done.
 20 [redacted] Okay. You wanted me to go to Page
 21 3, the top?
 22 [redacted] Right. Just the top --
 23 [redacted] Or all the way through?
 24 [redacted] No, no. Just to where, you can
 25 stop when you get to what GA Lisa Page told.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 this over to an independent authority to review and to
 2 investigate.
 3 And that was my recommendation to Nancy after
 4 the guys briefed me. And that was all telephonic. This
 5 email had not been sent to me by the time, when I talked
 6 to Nancy. It was shortly after the guys called me. I
 7 probably, after hanging up from them, I probably called
 8 Nancy immediately thereafter and gave her a brief of the
 9 situation and provided her my recommendation.
 10 [redacted] And what was Ms. McNamara's
 11 reaction to your briefing?
 12 [redacted] I think similar to mine, that she
 13 agreed with my recommendation, and I think we both agreed
 14 that we would reach out to the IG's Office that Monday.
 15 Because, I am almost certain this is a weekend where they
 16 interviewed him I think Friday. Well, you know what? I
 17 think they interviewed him late-Friday. I was traveling.
 18 Well, no. They -- I got it all Friday. Yeah. It was all
 19 Friday evening late. I'm almost certain, yeah. Because,
 20 they had to be in the office for the two of them to be on
 21 the phone. And then I, I am certain I probably called
 22 Nancy thereafter. But, yeah, just it had gotten a little
 23 late. But I was on travel.
 24 [redacted] And, and I think --
 25 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Okay. I've, I've read it.
 2 [redacted] So, is that summary consistent
 3 with your contemporaneous understanding of what happened?
 4 [redacted] Yes. It, that appears to be
 5 accurate as far as what my recollection.
 6 [redacted] And so, can you kind of give us a
 7 sense, when you're hearing from [redacted] what happened
 8 after the August 18th, 2017 interview, and you're, I think
 9 you said you were having a telephonic conference call,
 10 what was your reaction? Do you remember?
 11 [redacted] I do. I was, I was concerned.
 12 And, I, I recall shortly after speaking with them, I
 13 recall calling my Assistant Director and briefing her on
 14 the matter and recommending to her that we turn this
 15 matter over to the IG's Office.
 16 [redacted] And why was that?
 17 [redacted] Well, we had come into an area of
 18 concern for me, as a Section Chief for IIS, where now we
 19 have potential, you know, statements by our Deputy
 20 Director, one of our, our second-in-command, where I no
 21 longer felt it appropriate for GS-14s in the Internal
 22 Investigations Section to continue on and to try to
 23 continue the investigation involving their Deputy
 24 Director. That I felt it appropriate, just for appearance
 25 sake and for the good of the order that we needed to turn

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] If you turn to the, the top of
 2 Page 1 of the email. Are you there?
 3 [redacted] Yes. Page 1 of the email? Yes.
 4 [redacted] Yes, where you respond to [redacted] on
 5 Sunday afternoon around 3:53, and you let him know, you
 6 know, thank you for the thoughtful review. You let him
 7 know that you're going to be out of the office tomorrow,
 8 but that you have briefed Nancy on a lot of this
 9 information, but that you thought an update by [redacted]
 10 and [redacted] tomorrow would be beneficial. Do
 11 you know, are you filled in about what they say, and then
 12 what the follow-up steps are after that?
 13 [redacted] I know I was briefed on it. I
 14 can't tell you specifically. I know they did brief Nancy.
 15 And I have to defer to them on exactly what was said
 16 because I wasn't in the room. But they did let me know
 17 they briefed Nancy. And the biggest issue for me was
 18 everyone was in agreement, it needed to go to the IG's
 19 Office.
 20 [redacted] Okay. After the August 18th, 2017
 21 interview with Mr. McCabe, does anyone from your office,
 22 that being yourself [redacted] or Ms.
 23 McNamara, do they have further meetings with Mr. McCabe
 24 about the statements he made under oath regarding the
 25 October 30th Wall Street Journal article? Or is the last

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 discussion on this with Mr. McCabe on, on August 18th,
 2 2017?
 3 [redacted] I would, I would assume there would
 4 have been no further interaction by the investigators on
 5 this matter. I, I would assume. I don't believe so. If
 6 there was, it would be documented. So, if there's
 7 documentation, then it occurred. If there is no
 8 documentation, there was no interaction.
 9 [redacted] So I have one or two more questions,
 10 [redacted] about the meeting that you personally attended
 11 with Deputy Director McCabe on May 9th. Okay?
 12 [redacted] Sure, yes.
 13 [redacted] When you attended that meeting, do
 14 you remember at the beginning of the discussion that you
 15 and [redacted] were having with the Deputy Director, did
 16 you place him under oath?
 17 [redacted]: Absolutely. For every signed sworn
 18 statement, the individual is placed under oath. Standard.
 19 Just like you placed me under oath at the beginning of
 20 this interview, yes.
 21 [redacted] And the statements that he made
 22 about the Wall Street Journal article, were those made
 23 while you were still sitting at the table discussing the,
 24 the interview with him?
 25 [redacted] Yes. I mean, everything we did was

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 him regarding this topic out of privacy, respect, issues
 2 along those lines.
 3 I don't recall it. Like I said, again, I see
 4 him. So it might have, there could have been some
 5 passing, but it couldn't, I would think it wasn't anything
 6 of substance.
 7 MR. BECKHARD: Nothing stands out.
 8 [redacted] It would have been -- nothing
 9 stands out to my recollection. But again, do I see him in
 10 the hallway? Do we speak? Absolutely. But, regarding
 11 this matter, I think if anything it would have been, hey,
 12 we sent you an email or we might have to do a follow-up
 13 interview. Something like that, and, but nothing really
 14 of a substantive nature. I, I don't believe, I cannot
 15 recall it right now as I think. But like I said, I speak
 16 to him when I see him, of course.
 17 MR. BECKHARD: Of course.
 18 [redacted] So if you could pull up the
 19 document that's labeled INSD McCabe draft STMT August
 20 18th, 2017. And then let me know when you have that
 21 handy.
 22 [redacted] Is that the same one we were just
 23 looking at where, the email exchange between [redacted] and I?
 24 Wait, no. That's not. Wait. I take that back. Wrong
 25 document. I'm sorry. What was the date on it again?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 at the table from beginning to end.
 2 [redacted] There's no chance that that
 3 conversation occurred later in a hallway or a passing
 4 conversation or anything of that nature?
 5 [redacted]: Well, we don't do interviews that
 6 way. When you say in a hallway or passing, I, I'm a
 7 little confused. No. I mean, there's privacy. I mean,
 8 we were, all of our interviews with the Deputy, I mean, of
 9 course I see him in hallways, but this interview and all
 10 the interviews we had were with him in his office at this
 11 table from beginning to end.
 12 [redacted] Okay. That answers my question.
 13 Thanks.
 14 MR. BECKHARD: Do you ever recall having --
 15 [redacted] Sure.
 16 MR. BECKHARD: Do you ever recall having a, a
 17 casual conversation about the Wall Street Journal matter
 18 with Deputy Director McCabe other than the formal
 19 interview that took place in his office?
 20 [redacted]: I, I don't recall. I mean, if we
 21 would, out of an abundance of privacy, it would have been,
 22 if I had said anything, it might have been if you would,
 23 sign, don't forget to sign your signed sworn statement or,
 24 you know, we sent you an email. But I would never engage
 25 in an extensive or a real substantive conversation with

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] August 18, 2017.
 2 [redacted] Got it. Okay.
 3 [redacted] You've got it handy?
 4 [redacted]: I have it in front of me.
 5 [redacted] So I will identify --
 6 [redacted] Yes.
 7 [redacted] -- for the record, it's an email
 8 from [redacted] sent Friday, August 18th, 2017 at 5:04
 9 p.m. to Andrew G. McCabe with a copy to [redacted]
 10 subject: draft statement. And the email states, DD
 11 McCabe, thank you for your time this afternoon. Attached
 12 is a current draft version of your statement. As
 13 discussed and appreciated, please review your statement
 14 and make modifications and corrections as appropriate to
 15 ensure its accuracy and completeness based on the
 16 circumstances you presented and we discussed.
 17 So, if you could turn to Page 10 of this
 18 document, on the bottom again, to the top of 11. But let
 19 me know when you're at the bottom of 10, beginning with on
 20 May 9th, 2017.
 21 [redacted] I'm there.
 22 [redacted] So if you could read that from the
 23 bottom of 10 to the top of 11?
 24 [redacted] You want me to read it?
 25 [redacted] Yes. Not out loud.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Out loud, or?
 2 [redacted] No. Just to yourself.
 3 [redacted] Oh. Yes, I've read it.
 4 [redacted] So does this version sent to Mr.
 5 McCabe on August 18th, 2017 appear to be the same in
 6 substance as the version that was sent to him on May 12th,
 7 2017?
 8 [redacted] Wait, I'm sorry. Say, ask that
 9 question again?
 10 [redacted] Does it appear that there have
 11 been no changes to the, the draft statement regarding the
 12 Wall Street Journal from the one that was sent out on May
 13 12th, 2017? It's essentially the same.
 14 [redacted] So, are we comparing draft
 15 statements? Is that what you're asking me?
 16 [redacted] Well --
 17 [redacted] To compare the two drafts?
 18 [redacted] Yeah. I mean, I can't, because
 19 you're doing it electronically, I can't put both of them
 20 in front of you. But basically, I was just trying to get
 21 your sense as, I was asking you earlier about whether or
 22 not Mr. McCabe had contacted INSD and made any changes or
 23 whether there were any revisions --
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] -- May 12th when you first sent it

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] That is correct.
 2 [redacted] And it's my understanding that at
 3 that first interview, when he was asked about the Wall
 4 Street Journal article, specifically when his attention
 5 was directed to the last page, the first three paragraphs,
 6 the account of the August 12th call that Mr. McCabe had
 7 with a senior DOJ official, that he characterized that as
 8 a leak and he had no idea where it came from. Is that
 9 consistent with your recollection?
 10 [redacted] It is consistent with my
 11 recollection.
 12 [redacted] And then he was reinterviewed on
 13 August 17th, 2017, and I believe you were present for that
 14 interview with [redacted] Does that sound right?
 15 [redacted] It does.
 16 [redacted] And I'm just wondering if there is
 17 anything that you can tell us of significance during that
 18 interview about what the focus was, were you asking him
 19 about his recollection of events, and was he still
 20 maintaining at that time that the disclosure, the account
 21 of the August 12th call was still a leak?
 22 [redacted] Again, time frame is a little bit
 23 challenging for me. But I believe -- let me see one thing
 24 here. I don't recall the exact time frame, if we -- well,
 25 I'm trying to think interviews.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1, 2, Per OIG
b7C -1, 2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 out to him and May 18th.
 2 MR. BECKHARD: August 18th.
 3 [redacted] Excuse me. August 18th. Thank
 4 you. When there's the follow-up. I can tell you on my
 5 read, because I can look at them simultaneously, there
 6 doesn't appear to be any difference, but --
 7 [redacted] There is, yeah, there's no change.
 8 I just pulled them both up here.
 9 [redacted] Okay. I didn't realize you could
 10 do that. You're more technically savvy than I am. So,
 11 I'll ask you the question, then, so it's clear on the
 12 record. Does the, does the version, August 18, 2017, do
 13 the statements on the Wall Street Journal to Mr. McCabe
 14 and Mr. McCabe's draft statement appear to be the same as
 15 what appeared in his version on May 12, 2017?
 16 [redacted] Yes, it does appear to be the same.
 17 [redacted] Well, I was going to switch, then,
 18 to -- hold on one second. We're going to switch to -- so
 19 now I wanted to switch to interviews that INSD did of Mr.
 20 Kortan with respect to the Wall Street Journal article.
 21 [redacted] Okay.
 22 [redacted] It's my understanding that he was
 23 first interviewed about the Wall Street Journal article on
 24 August 16th, 2017, but that you weren't present for that.
 25 Does that sound right?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 Here is the thing. When we interviewed Lisa
 2 Page, and I was present for that, I don't recall the date
 3 exactly, but I'm sure you have that. When we interviewed
 4 Lisa Page, she was the person that told us, as soon as we
 5 showed her the Wall Street Journal article, that she was
 6 the source of that information. She was clear on that.
 7 And that was the first time we heard that. And she said
 8 she and Mike Kortan were the source of that information,
 9 and that it was approved and authorized for them to go on
 10 what was termed on background with the reporters.
 11 So, I believe, if my time frame or my memory is
 12 correct, the signed sworn statement was stipulated, so,
 13 I'm always going to defer to those signed sworn
 14 statements. They are, if you will, the bible as far as
 15 dates are concerned. But I believe, as result of the
 16 Lisa Page interview and learning that information, that
 17 triggered another interview with Mike Kortan. And I, and
 18 I was, I, I believe I was a part of that. If my dates are
 19 here correctly.
 20 [redacted] Is there anything that sticks out
 21 in your mind from that interview with Kortan that you were
 22 present for?
 23 [redacted] You know what? I'm going to be
 24 candid. Mike Kortan was interviewed multiple times. And,
 25 I have to say, different interviews elicited different

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 information. And, I would have to defer again to the
 2 draft statements and what was said during each interview
 3 because to a certain degree I can't quite keep it
 4 straight.
 5 [redacted] Um-hmm. Well, let me ask you, I'm
 6 curious about one, the, the revisions that Mr. Kortan was
 7 doing as, after the interview process had taken place. So
 8 this would be the document that is labeled INSD Kortan
 9 draft statement 2. Let me know --
 10 [redacted] I've got it in front of me.
 11 [redacted] Okay. So, you're faster than I am
 12 at the moment. So, if you turn to Page 5 of that
 13 document, the first full paragraph, lines 3 through 5, Mr.
 14 Kortan is the leading media leak, and he's changing it to
 15 unusual. Do you see that?
 16 [redacted] I'm sorry, what page are you on?
 17 [redacted] Page 5 of Draft 2.
 18 [redacted] Page 5 of Draft 2, and which
 19 paragraph are you on?
 20 [redacted] So it would be the first full
 21 paragraph, beginning with --
 22 [redacted] Starting with when I look at the
 23 highlighted paragraphs?
 24 [redacted] Yes. And lines, if you count in
 25 that paragraph, lines 3 through 5, you'll see that Mr.,

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 that someone unilaterally took it upon themselves to
 2 provide information to Mr. Barrett.
 3 [redacted] Yes.
 4 [redacted] Do you see that? I mean, as I
 5 read that --
 6 [redacted] I do.
 7 [redacted] As I read that, it seems like he's
 8 saying that that's a leak, still. It seems to me just
 9 semantics that, and I'm wondering if there was any
 10 conversation about that before his statement became final,
 11 if you recall.
 12 [redacted] Let me take a moment to read this.
 13 [redacted] Sure. And we'll go to the final
 14 in a minute, but that's how it appears in the final.
 15 [redacted] Okay, going back to your question,
 16 [redacted] what what is your question now?
 17 [redacted] Yeah. I mean, to me it seems a
 18 little bit semantics. It seems like that that's calling
 19 it a leak with different words. But maybe it's just my
 20 read on that, and I'm just wondering if there was any
 21 internal discussion. But holding that question in mind, I
 22 just want you to go to what was the final signed version,
 23 just so you see that, how it actually reads without the
 24 cross-outs. It's the document that's labeled 1B AD Kortan
 25 (2SSS). Do you see that?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 Kortan is striking out media leak, and he's changing it to
 2 unusual.
 3 MR. BECKHARD: Well, it speaks for itself.
 4 It's, it's a little more complicated than that.
 5 [redacted] Yeah.
 6 MR. BECKHARD: It's just, it's changing very
 7 unusual to unusual.
 8 [redacted] Well, he's striking out -- do you
 9 see where media leak is, is stricken?
 10 [redacted] Yeah. I'll be -- yeah. I'll be
 11 honest, like I stated earlier, I did not look at these
 12 different drafts as they were going back and forth.
 13 [redacted] Okay. Well --
 14 [redacted] So.
 15 [redacted] Bear with me for one second, just
 16 so you have this information. Do you see where media leak
 17 is, is the is, though, stricken, correct?
 18 [redacted] Well, I see where there's a whole
 19 line that is stricken.
 20 [redacted] Right.
 21 [redacted] Contains the word media leak.
 22 [redacted] Yes. And then if you turn to the
 23 next page. Let me know when you're there. This would be
 24 the fourth line from the top of the page, fourth to fifth
 25 line from the top of the page. Sentence, it appears to me

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Not yet. One --
 2 [redacted] I think it's the last document,
 3 last attachment.
 4 [redacted] Yes, I have it.
 5 [redacted] So, open that up and go to Page 4
 6 to 5. Page 4, the last paragraph to the top of Page 5,
 7 first full paragraph, and you'll see that language there.
 8 [redacted] Okay, I have read it.
 9 [redacted] And you know, it's more, I was
 10 curious as to whether there was, if you recall any
 11 internal discussion in INSD. To me it seems a change of,
 12 of, whether there was any discussion about the nature, the
 13 substance of the change, and what it meant.
 14 [redacted]: No. There is no conversation that
 15 I was a part of with respect to that. Obviously I was a
 16 part of the interview, and of course the biggest take-away
 17 from us, as I alluded to earlier, was that Lisa Page had
 18 shared with us in her interview that she and Mike were
 19 given authorization to have this discussion on background
 20 with Devlin Barrett. And then this statement and Mike's
 21 recollection, he, he did not recall that.
 22 [redacted] And --
 23 [redacted] During that interview.
 24 [redacted] And so when you, would you, what
 25 did you do when you -- well, strike that. What was your

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 reaction when you, the team, being you [redacted] and [redacted]
 2 [redacted] have these, this, these conflicting pieces of
 3 information, so to speak?
 4 [redacted] Again, like any other
 5 investigation, we're trying to figure it out, and we're
 6 trying to make a determination whenever you have
 7 conflicting information, who is telling the truth, who
 8 isn't. Or, potentially whose recollection is poor, whose
 9 is good. What does this mean? We're trying to make sense
 10 of it all as we're digesting the information that we're
 11 being told.
 12 [redacted] What was your sense as between Mr.
 13 Kortan and Ms. Page as to who had a better recollection of
 14 events regarding the Wall Street Journal article?
 15 [redacted] Well, I'm going to tell you, just
 16 because [redacted]
 17 [redacted] Mike has a lot on his plate. And Mike has a
 18 zillion things and fires from the media front that he puts
 19 out on a daily, on an hourly basis. So Mike deals with
 20 the media all the time on different issues. And like I
 21 said, I can speak from experience because I've been there.
 22 So in one hour, you can deal with the same reporter on
 23 three different things. That could be the case.
 24 So Mike's recollection, and like I said, maybe
 25 I'm reading some of my own into it -- I'll give you an

1 matter expert or the person who had the information to
 2 disclose to the reporter, and he just kind of went off and
 3 did other things in the presence of, of the FBI employee?
 4 Essentially, was he focused on other tasks after he set up
 5 the call with the reporter, if someone else was
 6 responsible for the substantive information? b6 -2, Per OIG
 7 [redacted] I don't recall that. b7C -2, Per OIG
 8 [redacted]
 9 [redacted]
 10 [redacted]
 11 [redacted] -- media is very sensitive.
 12 Again, Mike does it for a living every day. [redacted] b6 -2
 13 [redacted] b7C -2
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted] I have a couple of b6 -2, Per OIG
 16 [redacted] b7C -2, Per OIG
 17 questions about your interview with Mike Kortan. Do you
 18 remember whether in the course of the interview that you
 19 attended he was confronted with Lisa Page's statement, and
 20 was there a time where you said, look, Lisa Page said you
 21 guys did this and it was authorized?
 22 [redacted] I believe that did finally, I think
 23 that did happen. I know during the first interview, it
 24 did not happen because we wanted to get a sense of what
 25 he -- I don't, I don't, did we bring it up? You know

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 example. When we're interviewing Mike, he is going to his
 2 computer trying to look up emails. Because sometimes he
 3 emails the reporters, sometimes he logs it, he, he was
 4 trying to remember. And, because that's what he does
 5 every day. That's what Mike has done for the last 20
 6 years every day. So, I think, when you ask me a question
 7 like that, I'm a little, I'm a little concerned or I get a
 8 little uncomfortable.
 9 But I would say Lisa Page doesn't interact with
 10 the media at the same volume and level of engagement that
 11 Mike Kortan does. So, you know, whether it's my own
 12 rational, in my head I was thinking if Lisa Page had this
 13 on background, it is a very high probability that it
 14 probably might have happened because I would think, she
 15 doesn't interact with the media as often, and Mike could
 16 maybe not recall it as quickly just because of his job as
 17 our chief and senior executive who is responsible for the
 18 FBI's national strategy for media.
 19 [redacted]
 20 [redacted] So there is a lot going through my
 21 mind on that.
 22 [redacted] did Mr. Kortan ever talk
 23 about the interview that you sat at, or did you ever learn
 24 from interviews that you weren't present at with Mr.
 25 Kortan, where he would set up on background the subject

1 what? I would think -- well, here's the thing. If we,
 2 well, we wouldn't show him her signed sworn statement.
 3 But if we stipulated or brought it up, it would be in the
 4 signed sworn statement. I'm going to refer to that. But
 5 I, I know that conversation did take place with Mike I
 6 believe at some point. b6 Per OIG
 7 [redacted] Okay. So that effort to sort of b7C Per OIG
 8 refresh his recollection or get his take on Lisa Page's
 9 statement was a part of your discussions with him?
 10 [redacted] I, I believe so. I believe so. I b6 -2, Per OIG
 11 believe at some point it was. b7C -2, Per OIG
 12 [redacted] Okay. And would that be reflected
 13 in [redacted] notes or in [redacted] notes of
 14 that conversation?
 15 [redacted] I would think so. But again, I
 16 can't say for sure because everyone takes notes
 17 differently. And I never reviewed their notes. So I, I
 18 can't stipulate that because you can't, the notes aren't b6 Per OIG
 19 verbatim. But, it's possible. b7C Per OIG
 20 [redacted] Okay. What, could you just tell us
 21 what you observed in terms of Mike Kortan's demeanor when
 22 he was responding to these questions about the private
 23 conversation of Andrew McCabe appearing in the Wall Street
 24 Journal?
 25 [redacted] Give me more to that question.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 When you say his demeanor, what --
 2 [redacted] Well, oftentimes --
 3 [redacted] Be a little more specific.
 4 [redacted] Okay. Oftentimes when we're
 5 interviewing somebody, they, they will have personal ticks
 6 or, you know, exhibit nervousness or seem very relaxed.
 7 You know, we've met people that are so casual that they
 8 linger after the conversation because they just, you know.
 9 People are different types of individuals. And I'm
 10 wondering if there was anything specific about his, his, I
 11 don't even know the other word other than demeanor. I
 12 mean how, how was he when he was responding to these
 13 questions?
 14 [redacted] Well, with Mike, I think Mike was,
 15 he was probably a little uncomfortable. You know, it's
 16 never fully comfortable when you're being interviewed by
 17 Internal Investigations, and you're a senior executive
 18 within the FBI. That's, that's never, it's never
 19 comfortable. Unless you're the complainant. So, yes, I
 20 think, I think Mike, there, Mike was a little, he was
 21 probably a little nervous. You know, but I -- Mike was
 22 probably a little nervous. I would say that. I'll leave
 23 it at that. Yeah, Mike was probably a little nervous.
 24 [redacted] Right. You told us that he was
 25 searching his emails and trying to remember. Is there

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Sure.
 2 [redacted] It starts there, and it goes to
 3 the very top of Page 4. So you can stop when you get to
 4 overall problematic issues noted. If you could just read
 5 that and let me know when you're done.
 6 [redacted] Okay. Okay.
 7 [redacted] So there's some --
 8 [redacted] Finished.
 9 [redacted] There's some typos on some dates.
 10 But aside from, aside from typos, is [redacted] summary
 11 of what INSD was told by Mr. Kortan under oath from August
 12 16th through the 18th, 2017 regarding the Wall Street
 13 Journal article consistent with your contemporaneous
 14 understanding of what happened?
 15 [redacted] I believe it to be pretty accurate.
 16 Again, I wasn't a part of, in person, some of the
 17 interviews with Mike. But I definitely was debriefed and
 18 was a part of the conversation and strategy from an
 19 investigative standpoint. But that, that appears to be
 20 pretty accurate from my recollection.
 21 MR. BECKHARD: So this describes two different
 22 interviews. And which, which of these two, if either,
 23 were you present at?
 24 [redacted] Again, it's hard for me to say
 25 because only dates are given. And I, I just don't know

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 anything else that sticks out in your mind as things that
 2 transpired during the interview that, you know, departed
 3 from just question-answer?
 4 [redacted] I think he checked phone logs. He
 5 was going through his phone. I think he checked his
 6 email. Yeah. I, I think he was trying to assist us in
 7 whichever way he could. I think he checked text messages.
 8 I think he checked a little of everything, if, if I'm
 9 recalling properly. But, yeah, there was a lot of motion
 10 between him getting up and going to his computer and his
 11 desk.
 12 [redacted] could you go back to the
 13 email summary from [redacted] that document, the one
 14 that's labeled email to [redacted] August -- [redacted] email to
 15 [redacted] August 20th, 2017?
 16 [redacted] Yes. I am there.
 17 [redacted] And can you read the, starting on,
 18 it's Page 3. After the paragraph on Lisa Page [redacted]
 19 presents a summary on what INSD had learned in interviews
 20 with Mr. Kortan. Do you see that, where that begins?
 21 It's --
 22 [redacted] What SSAs [redacted] --
 23 [redacted] Yes.
 24 [redacted] -- were told by AD Kortan?
 25 [redacted] Yes, it starts --

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

1 the dates off the top of my head, Dan. So I'd have to
 2 defer to the signed sworn statement of the date I was
 3 there that --
 4 [redacted] Yeah. And actually [redacted] for
 5 your, for your information, if you pull up the final sworn
 6 statement, this is the document I V AD Kortan 2.
 7 [redacted] Yep.
 8 [redacted] You'll see --
 9 [redacted] Date is it?
 10 [redacted] You'll see, I'm going to get you
 11 to the page in one second, because it identifies when you
 12 were present. It's on Page 7, second full paragraph,
 13 starting with on August 17th. Do you see that?
 14 [redacted] I do. Then that's the one I was
 15 present for, August 17th.
 16 [redacted] 2017?
 17 [redacted] That is correct.
 18 [redacted] And, and just so you know, when I
 19 was saying that [redacted] email contains some typos on
 20 dates, you know, for the record, he was saying in the
 21 email that he's pulling this together on a weekend. He
 22 doesn't have all of the documents in front of him. But
 23 the beginning of the final sworn statement states on
 24 Page -- let me see, the first interview. Well, the date
 25 of it has it. That the heading of it is August 16th,

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 2017. And again, it's my understanding that that was the
2 first time that he was interviewed about the Wall Street
3 Journal article, that being August 16, 2017. I'm pretty
4 sure it's in this document, but I'm not placing my finger
5 on this second.

6 MR. BECKHARD: Yeah.
7 [redacted] Anyways, that was just a point of
8 information. One other document I was --

9 [redacted] Okay.
10 [redacted] One other document I want to ask
11 you about. This is the one labeled Kortan email, October
12 30th, 2016. Let me know when you pull that one up.

13 [redacted] I've got it.
14 [redacted] So it's, it's my understanding
15 that this was one of the documents that Mr. Kortan pulled
16 from his computer during the interviews when he was trying
17 to refresh his recollection about his potential
18 involvement with the Wall Street Journal article on
19 October 30th, 2016, and disclosures related thereto. And
20 you'll see, so first of all, for the record, this is an
21 email, it's an email chain, but it begins on Sunday,
22 October 30th, 2016. There's an email at 1:45 p.m. from
23 Devlin Barrett to Michael Kortan, and the subject is story
24 as filed to my New York editors. Do you see where I'm
25 focusing right now?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 it was a document that Kortan produced during the INSD
2 interviews. And the reason I'm asking you about this is,
3 if you are able to flip to the, the final sworn statement,
4 Page 10.

5 [redacted]: Yes.
6 [redacted] The first full paragraph on that
7 page, starting with [redacted] as pointed out. Do you see that?

8 [redacted] Yes.
9 [redacted] I'll read it. It says, as pointed

10 out to me by the interviewing agents, none of the email
11 communications between October 24th, 2016 and October
12 30th, 2016 reference DD McCabe's August 12th, 2016
13 telephone call with the senior DOJ official. And so this,
14 that sentence does not appear to be consistent with the
15 email I was just asking you to look at, that Mr. Kortan
16 received from the Wall Street Journal reporter. And so,
17 again, I was wondering if that issue came up at all
18 internally in INSD or whether you recall that being
19 discussed with Mr. Kortan.

20 [redacted] I don't recall it being discussed.
21 And like I said, there was a lot of moving around. And
22 when he was handing us some of the documents, I don't, we
23 did not -- I know this. We didn't talk through those
24 documents as we were sitting there. And we, I've got to
25 assume the investigators read through it a little later

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Yes.
2 [redacted] And if you go to the very bottom
3 where Mr. Barrett signed the email Dev (phonetic sp.) and
4 count up about seven to eight lines from the bottom, there
5 is a, the, the sentence beginning the story. Do you see
6 that?

7 [redacted] I do.
8 [redacted] And I'll just read it for the
9 record. It says the story will then go into a long
10 discussion of the internal conversations that have been
11 going on around, have more color from the August, well
12 AUG, abbreviation for August. 12th McCabe-Axelrod call,
13 though at present I'm disinclined to name Axelrod. Do you
14 see that?

15 [redacted] I do.
16 [redacted] Do you recall, was there
17 discussion with Mr. Kortan about that reference to the
18 McCabe-Axelrod August 12th call in this email?
19 [redacted] This is the first time I've seen
20 this email, when you sent it to me. I, I'd have to defer.
21 if we showed it to Mike, it would be stipulated in the
22 signed sworn statement. And it would be initialed off
23 like the other documents you're seeing.

24 [redacted] Yeah. So, this was not initialed
25 that included as an exhibit to the signed statement. But

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 and saw through, and probably saw that. But it was, I
2 mean, the interview, as I stated, with my conversation,
3 there was a lot of bouncing up and down. He was handing
4 us documents he had printed out. There were a few of
5 them. But we did not go through each of them line by line
6 while we were sitting there conducting the interview. He
7 was just giving us whatever he found that he thought might
8 be of substance to us.

9 [redacted] Well, I'm about near the end. I'm
10 going to check with the colleagues to see if they have
11 anything else they want to add.

12 [redacted] I do not.
13 [redacted] So now -- do you?

14 MR. BECKHARD: Actually, all I would do is
15 invite you [redacted] on the, particularly on the issue of
16 whether, the very serious issue of whether Deputy Director
17 McCabe lacked candor in his statements to the
18 investigators from IIS in May of 2016, whether there are
19 facts pertaining to that question --
20 [redacted] May 27th.

21 MR. BECKHARD: May 27th, and partly, facts
22 pertaining to that question that you believe we need to be
23 aware of that you have a reason to think we might not be
24 aware of.

25 [redacted] Dan, repeat that? If there are

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 facts with respect to --
 2 MR. BECKHARD: The question of whether --
 3 [redacted] -- lack of --
 4 MR. BECKHARD: As to whether Deputy Director
 5 McCabe lacked candor in his interview with, with Internal
 6 Inspections Section's interview of him in May 2017. We've
 7 talked about a lot of facts here, [redacted] and I don't
 8 expect you to know what everybody else knows. But if you
 9 have any, any particular fact that you think we should
 10 know that you're concerned we might not know, this is
 11 your, my invitation for you to tell us here. Or if it
 12 occurs to you another time and you want to call us up
 13 informally, you can tell us then as well.
 14 [redacted]: Okay. That's, that's good to know.
 15 I appreciate that. There's nothing that comes to mind
 16 right now because, again, as we've just sat here and gone
 17 through this, you know, there is just a lot of, you know,
 18 statements that don't all add up. And we did not complete
 19 our investigation. So I, I can't say on full authority to
 20 this day, I don't know, as I stipulated earlier, where the
 21 truth lies as far as who was, you know, who was saying
 22 certain things that are truthful and who was not. I, I
 23 don't have the answer to that.
 24 And the other challenging thing for me is as we
 25 were doing this, obviously we learned, too, that the

1 recommendation. It was the right thing to do. But it's
 2 unfortunate because it's not a complete and thorough
 3 investigation, and that's what I'm used to. And that's
 4 what we do. So that's where I say it's unfortunate. I
 5 just, I didn't have the opportunity to flesh out some of
 6 these inconsistencies that we're discussing.
 7 MR. BECKHARD: Well, hopefully we'll, we'll be
 8 able to complete the job. And we appreciate your
 9 cooperation.
 10 [redacted] Yeah, [redacted] we're at the end.
 11 [redacted] Absolutely.
 12 [redacted] I'm sorry. We're at the end now.
 13 And I was just going to say, as we do with all of our
 14 interviews, if there is anything you want to add at this
 15 point that we didn't give you an opportunity or there's
 16 something we didn't touch on that you want to say, feel
 17 free to add it now, or, as Dan said, if something comes
 18 into your mind later. But before we go off the record, I
 19 do want to give you that opportunity.
 20 [redacted] Nothing comes to mind now. But if
 21 it does, I definitely will relay it to you. And then,
 22 obviously I'm available if there is further questions that
 23 you have of me. I'll do my best to answer them, and
 24 hopefully you folks will be able to complete the
 25 investigation.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Deputy Director was being interviewed on other matters.
 2 So, you probably have a better, more full and complete
 3 understanding of all of the different wheels that are in
 4 motion that I, than I do. But this was an incomplete
 5 investigation from our standpoint. So I can't say
 6 definitively, really, where, where the truth lies. But we
 7 just got different stories of this situation from the
 8 different parties.
 9 And it became a little confusing and
 10 complicated, and unfortunately, I, as I told you earlier,
 11 made the recommendation to turn it over to the IG's Office
 12 in order to, if you will, make sense of it all.
 13 MR. BECKHARD: I don't know who that's
 14 unfortunate for.
 15 [redacted]: And to --
 16 MR. BECKHARD: I said I don't know --
 17 [redacted] Say again?
 18 MR. BECKHARD: I don't know who that's
 19 unfortunate for. You said unfortunately. I would have
 20 thought you would have said fortunately.
 21 [redacted]: Well, it's unfortunate for me
 22 simply because I'm an investigator. I like to complete
 23 investigations.
 24 MR. BECKHARD: Oh.
 25 [redacted] Obviously, I made the

1 [redacted] Well, on my behalf, and I'm sure
 2 Dan's too. He can speak for himself. We really
 3 appreciate you making time before the holidays over lunch
 4 time. We recognize the timing isn't great. But I want to
 5 personally thank you for all the time you gave us today.
 6 [redacted]: No problem. Like I said, if there
 7 is more to follow, I'm, I'm happy to answer anything that
 8 comes up. And if something comes to me that I think you
 9 should know, I'll definitely be in touch.
 10 MR. BECKHARD: All right. Thanks so much,
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted] Thanks so much.
 13 [redacted] I'm going to stand up --
 14 [redacted] Happy Holidays.
 15 [redacted] You too.
 16 [redacted] Yeah, Happy Holidays. I'm going
 17 to stand up and turn off the recorder. So, we're off the
 18 record now at around 4:35.
 19 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 CERTIFICATE

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

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Interview of [redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

[redacted] transcriber

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

December 28, 2017

Date

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| * | 17 added (2) 27:10;31:9 | Andrew (3) 31:2;53:9;65:23 | 3:4 10:1;13:19; 19:35;16;47:13 | 61:19;63:13,25 balls (1) 39:2 |
| *Indiscernible (1) 30:12 | address (1) 9:21 | [Redacted] | assume (7) 13:22;24:13;35:24; 25;50:3,5;72:25 | bang-bang (1) 26:14 |
| A | [Redacted] | angle (1) 39:21 | attached (2) 31:7;53:11 | Barrett (4) 60:2;61:20;70:23; 71:3 |
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b6 -2
b7C -2

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-10-2018 BY [redacted] NSICG

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b7C -1

[redacted] Transcript

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and Notes
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

-----X
IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF [redacted] :
-----X

b6 -2
b7C -2

October 5, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of
[redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 10:00 a.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

[redacted] Oversight and Review Division

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

[redacted] Oversight and Review Division

FOR THE WITNESS:

NONE

Page 2

I N D E X

EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER | PAGE NUMBER |
|----------------|-------------|
| None. | |

Page 4

1 subsequent statements thereto, related thereto. To
 2 protect the integrity of our investigation, we request
 3 that you not discuss the nature, the substantive nature of
 4 our questions and the substantive nature of your answers
 5 with others. Is that okay? b6 -2, Per OIG
 6 [redacted] That's okay. b7C -2, Per OIG
 7 [redacted] And we've informed you that our
 8 standard practice is to record all interviews. And we're
 9 doing that now. And all of our interviews are also taken
 10 under oath. Do you understand? b6 -2, Per OIG
 11 [redacted] Yes, I understand. b7C -2, Per OIG
 12 [redacted] If you're ready, we'll have you
 13 sworn in and get started. b6 -2, Per OIG
 14 [redacted] Okay, I'm ready. b7C -2, Per OIG
 15 [redacted] Can you raise your right hand,
 16 please?
 17 Whereupon.
 18 [redacted] b6 -2
 19 was called upon by the United States Department of b7C -2
 20 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a
 21 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.
 22 [redacted] Okay, thank you. Can you please
 23 just give us a brief overview of your background with the
 24 FBI, positions that you've held, and approximate dates,
 25 just roughly? b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 [redacted] Okay, on the record. I am [redacted]

3 [redacted] I'm an Investigative Counsel with the Oversight
 4 & Review Division in the Office of Inspector General. And
 5 I am here with [redacted]

6 [redacted] Yes.
 7 [redacted] Who is also an Investigative
 8 Counsel in the same office. Today is October 5th, 2017.
 9 It's approximately 10:00 a.m. And this is an interview
 10 with [redacted] is that correct?
 11 [redacted] Yes.
 12 [redacted] Can you spell your full name for
 13 the record, please?
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted]
 16 [redacted] And what is your current position?
 17 [redacted] I'm a Supervisory Special Agent with
 18 the Inspection Division of the FBI Internal Investigations
 19 Section.
 20 [redacted] Okay. We are in offices in the
 21 Oversight & Review Division at 1425 New York Avenue,
 22 Washington, D.C. And this is a voluntary interview, and
 23 you are a fact witness. We are reviewing allegations that
 24 FBI officials committed misconduct in connection with
 25 disclosures of nonpublic information to the media in

Page 5

1 [redacted] Sure. I entered on duty on [redacted]

2 [redacted]

3 [redacted]

4 [redacted]

5 [redacted] which is my current assignment with b6 -2
 6 Inspection Division at FBI headquarters. Do you want a b7C -2
 7 review of [redacted] b6 Per OIG
 8 [redacted] Not really. Maybe just an b7C Per OIG
 9 overview of, if you just want to tell us the division, the
 10 office you're currently in? Do you specialize in, let's
 11 say --
 12 [redacted] Yeah, so I -- b6 -2, Per OIG
 13 [redacted] -- [redacted] or? b7C -2, Per OIG
 14 [redacted] Right. Currently [redacted] b6 -2
 15 [redacted] b7C -2
 16 [redacted]
 17 [redacted] Okay. Do you have anything more
 18 on that? b6 Per OIG
 19 [redacted] Unh-uh. b7C Per OIG
 20 [redacted] Yeah. So, I want to segue to the
 21 signed, sworn statement process that INSD uses. Can you
 22 just give us an overview of the steps that occur from the
 23 initial interview to a complete, final sworn statement so
 24 we understand how that process works from beginning to
 25 end?

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Sure. And also, we have documents
2 that you might want to consult. We have books that
3 describe the process.

1 say that's the main difference. We conduct an interview.
2 Prior to the interview, the employee is given a form
3 called an FD-645. It basically explains a little bit of
4 the process of the signed sworn statement interview. It
5 discusses that as a part of the investigation, that it's
6 non-criminal, that as an employee it's a compulsory
7 interview, that it will be done under oath, subject to the
8 Privacy Act. Those are the main things. There are some
9 other disclosures in there, but at the moment, those are
10 the main things that are coming to mind.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

4 [redacted] Okay.
5 [redacted] As well as training online.
6 [redacted] Okay.

11 So, the investigators will explain that form to
12 the employee, as the employee to read it, and ask if they
13 have any questions. If they don't have any questions, we
14 put them under oath, very similar to what you just did to
15 me, and then they sign the form, and then it's witnessed
16 by the lead investigator, and then the witnessing
17 investigator, both SSAs or higher. And then we start the
18 interview.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

7 [redacted] So if you're really interested in
8 that process, we can make those things available to you.
9 [redacted] Um-hmm. You have a manual,
10 right?

19 We conduct the interview with whatever
20 substantive questions we want to ask. At the end of the
21 interview, we give the interviewee a chance to ask us
22 questions back about the process, and then we explain the
23 process of the signed sworn statement, which is
24 essentially that the investigators will write up the
25 interview in this document. It is a Microsoft Word

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

11 [redacted] That's right.
12 [redacted] It's over 200 pages or something?
13 [redacted] Right. And I would just simply say
14 that, that I would defer to the manual, to the extent that
15 something I say here might not abide by what that manual
16 says. But I will give you the best of my understanding.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

17 [redacted] Sure. Just, or just from your,
18 right, your experience.

b6 -2
b7C -2

19 [redacted] Sure. So, essentially we will open,
20 we don't open as investigators. There's another unit, the
21 Internal Processing Unit, that will decide if an incoming
22 complaint will be opened into an investigation. And this
23 would be an investigation into potential misconduct by an
24 FBI employee.

25 So, once that's decided by the Internal

1 Processing Unit, it is assigned to one of the SSAs in
2 Internal Investigations Section. We're also known as
3 Internal Investigations Unit within the section. So I am
4 one of those investigators. I would get a case. I would
5 look at the allegations of the case.

1 document. It does not have an FD form or anything like
2 that. But there is some boilerplate language that appears
3 in every, single one.

6 As you may or may not know, DOJ OIG always has
7 the first right of refusal. So assuming they didn't take
8 the case, and it's going to stay in-house, it could either
9 be a delegated investigation or a non-delegated
10 investigation. What that means is, if it's delegated, we
11 will assign it to someone in a field office or someone at
12 headquarters to do the substantive investigation, and we
13 will oversee it. If it is non-delegated, then I will
14 handle it personally myself, usually with the assistance
15 of another SSA. And I will determine how, what steps in
16 the investigation I would like to take.

4 If you happen not to be a supervisor, you can
5 ask for witness protection. So sometimes that language
6 differs if the employee indicates that they want their
7 identity to be concealed to the extent we're able to do so
8 under the Privacy Act, then that language will appear in
9 that boilerplate language. [redacted]

17 Those generally, I will say they always include
18 interviews. If we are interviewing employees as a part of
19 the process, which is always the case, then we use
20 something called the signed sworn statement to document
21 our interviews of an employee. So the process of the
22 signed sworn statement is, and it's different if you are a
23 witness or a subject, but not a lot different.

10 [redacted] That's a part of
11 the beginning of the interview we ask that. I can't
12 recall if that's in the FD-645 or not, but we always ask.
13 And we document whether they said yes or no. That's in
14 the boilerplate language. We ask for confidentiality,
15 similar to what you asked me at the beginning of this
16 interview, and that is also documented in the boilerplate
17 language of the signed sworn statement.

24 Let's start with witness. If you are a witness,
25 you do not have the right to have counsel present. I'd

18 Then the body of the signed sworn statement will
19 go over, it starts with the EOD of the employee, if they
20 are support or an agent. And if that's different, we'll
21 document both of those dates, and then what their current
22 position is. Then we write up in the first person what we
23 understood their answers to be to the questions we ask.
24 Both of the investigators have a chance to look at that
25 document before it's sent to the employee.

b7E -3

1 But the employee gets a version that has the
 2 track changes function in Microsoft Word turned on such
 3 that the employee is free then to make any adjustments
 4 they'd like to make to their signed sworn statement, so
 5 long as those changes are documented by the track change
 6 function in Microsoft Word. Then the employee will save
 7 that as a Draft 2 and send it back to the investigators.
 8 We will take a look at it. Almost always we are
 9 accepting the changes exactly as the employee intended
 10 them. Sometimes there are slight modifications or spacing
 11 issues. Sometimes the employee will insert a comment to
 12 explain why they made a change, and we will remove that.
 13 Or if the substance of the change they'd like to make is
 14 made in a comment, then we'll simply cut and paste that
 15 substantive change into the statement, such that it would
 16 have, that change that we believe the employee intended to
 17 make appears in the second draft.
 18 We save it as Draft 3. We send it back to the
 19 employee with track changes turned on again. And that
 20 process goes back and forth until the employee feels that
 21 he or she is comfortable signing that statement under
 22 oath. And when that happens, we meet with the employee
 23 again, either face-to-face or over, we have a video
 24 process called Lync, and we use that. And we'll get them
 25 on Lync to sign their document. We put them under oath.

1 We ask them if they've made all the changes they want to
 2 make. After they have taken the oath, they sign the
 3 document. And then they initial the top left corner of
 4 the text and the bottom right corner of the text. I think
 5 this goes back to days of old when we didn't necessarily
 6 use computers as much and an indication that there were no
 7 changes made to the text internally. Their initials were
 8 blocking it in.
 9 Sometimes you'll see in the field in a delegated
 10 case, they don't come back that way because probably the
 11 overseeing SSA forgot to tell the field that that's the
 12 way we do it, in which case they just come back signed by
 13 the employee and then witnessed by the investigator. And
 14 if the, the second investigator is not available to
 15 witness the signing, any other investigator with IIS can
 16 serve as the witness to the signed oath, even, so
 17 sometimes you'll see a name at the end that is not a
 18 person who was sitting in the interview but just simply
 19 signifies that that is the person who witnessed the oath
 20 that was taken, the second oath by the employee when they
 21 signed the document.

22 [Redacted]
 23 [Redacted]
 24 [Redacted]
 25 [Redacted]

1 [Redacted]
 2 [Redacted]
 3 [Redacted]
 4 [Redacted]
 5 [Redacted]
 6 [Redacted]
 7 [Redacted]
 8 [Redacted]
 9 [Redacted]
 10 [Redacted]
 11 [Redacted] And that's
 12 essentially the process. b6 Per OIG
 13 [Redacted] No, that's, that's very helpful. b7C Per OIG
 14 So I want to ask just a couple questions on changes. If
 15 in reviewing his or her statement a witness makes a change
 16 that's inconsistent with what you as the interviewee
 17 recall happen, or your notes, what, what occurs?
 18 [Redacted] Okay. So, I've never personally had b6 -2
 19 that happen. But my understanding of if that were to b7C -2
 20 happen [Redacted]
 21 [Redacted]
 22 [Redacted]
 23 [Redacted]
 24 [Redacted]
 25 [Redacted]

1 [Redacted]
 2 [Redacted]
 3 [Redacted]
 4 [Redacted]
 5 [Redacted]
 6 [Redacted]
 7 [Redacted]
 8 [Redacted]
 9 [Redacted]
 10 [Redacted]
 11 [Redacted]
 12 [Redacted]
 13 [Redacted]
 14 [Redacted] b6 Per OIG
 15 [Redacted] Okay. And we may have some b7C Per OIG
 16 questions later of that nature just to understand kind of
 17 what happened with some changes and to see if that fell
 18 into any additional conversation. But we'll, we'll get to
 19 that. Do you have anything before I move on? b6 Per OIG
 20 [Redacted] You mentioned that sometimes b7C Per OIG
 21 employees use comment bubbles when the track changes
 22 feature is on. Are those bubbles kept in the, in your
 23 file when you keep track of all the different drafts? I
 24 know you said that, that before you send Draft 3 back to
 25 the employee, you may, you would remove those bubbles.

b7E -3

b7E -3

b7E -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -3

b7E -3

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 But is there a record kept of that, of that information?
 2 [redacted] Yes. So that would be Draft 2. We,
 3 whatever the employee sends back to us gets printed out
 4 and saved.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] And then usually, at least, you
 7 know, different investigators have different styles. But
 8 my style would be to send it, when I send Draft 3 back to
 9 the employee, I would send probably an email that said,
 10 hey, I made this substantive change. You made this change
 11 in a comment. I, I understood your comment to mean that
 12 you wanted those words in the comment to be in the
 13 document, so I put them in there. And I will, you know, I
 14 just highlight the fact that it wasn't a tracked change
 15 that they typed. I physically cut-and-paste words from
 16 their comment into the document, and I just let them know
 17 I did that.
 18 But their original comments will always be like
 19 in the even-numbered drafts, Draft 2 and Draft 4, et
 20 cetera. We save everything.
 21 [redacted] Okay.
 22 [redacted] So, I want to segue into the, the
 23 interviews that occurred where there were some final,
 24 sworn statements, some not. So I want to start with the
 25 interview of Mr. McCabe, Andrew G. McCabe, who is

b6 -2
 b7C -2
 b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG
 b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

1 the file. You might have had a telephone call, say, to
 2 set up this interview today. And that might be documented
 3 in CMS, although it wouldn't be in the file.
 4 So what I'm looking at is a printout. It's 47
 5 pages in length. And, it's everything that was in CMS.
 6 So I'm going to look and see if I can find when the date
 7 of the original interview was. So just bear with me while
 8 I do that.
 9 [redacted] I think it may be around April --
 10 [redacted] Thank you.
 11 [redacted] - of 2017. Maybe April 11th.
 12 [redacted] And I said that [redacted] was
 13 there. In addition to [redacted] Section Chief Voviette
 14 Morgan (phonetic sp.) was also present during that
 15 interview.
 16 [redacted] Are we talking about the interview
 17 that I'm asking about or the very first one?
 18 [redacted] The very first one.
 19 [redacted] Oh, the very first one.
 20 [redacted] She's confirming whether she
 21 attended that one.
 22 [redacted] Oh. April 11th perhaps?
 23 [redacted] Yes. So, April 11th was the first
 24 interview of Mr. McCabe, and I attended that. And the
 25 second interview, which, are you --

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

1 currently the Deputy Director of the FBI. Did you attend
 2 the May 9th interview with then-Acting Director McCabe?
 3 [redacted]: I don't think so, without looking at
 4 the notes. There were two interviews. I attended the
 5 first. And at that first interview, I don't have the
 6 date, but I could look at my notes to, you know, I brought
 7 my notes from CMS which would refresh my recollection if
 8 you want me to do that.
 9 [redacted] Yeah. You're more than happy to
 10 look, I, just so we clear that up.
 11 [redacted] But at any rate, while I'm doing
 12 that, at that first interview, it was SSA --
 13 [redacted] And if you just want to identify
 14 for the record what you're looking at.
 15 [redacted] Yep.
 16 [redacted] And I think that's what [redacted]
 17 finally found that --
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 [redacted] -- identified.
 20 [redacted] So what I'm looking at is a document
 21 that's previously been produced to you. It's a printout
 22 of the notes that we made in our CMS, it's an Access,
 23 Microsoft Access software that's created for internal
 24 investigations where we make notes about what we've done
 25 in the case. You won't necessarily put everything into

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] That's the one I'm specifically
 2 wondering
 3 [redacted]: And that was in May?
 4 [redacted] May 9th, if you attended that one.
 5 Only because the notes that we have from INSD don't seem
 6 to indicate you were there, and so I wanted to know --
 7 [redacted] I wasn't there at the second
 8 interview.
 9 [redacted] Okay. So May 9th, 2017, you were
 10 not present for that interview with then-Acting Director
 11 McCabe?
 12 [redacted] Yes.
 13 [redacted] And was that just a scheduling
 14 issue, or was that a conscious decision, or, you know?
 15 [redacted] No, no. I believe I was out of town
 16 on another case.
 17 [redacted] Okay.
 18 [redacted] I would have been in that interview
 19 had I been in town. We, I was working very closely with
 20 [redacted] We tried almost always to have it just be me and
 21 him on everything in this case.
 22 [redacted] Were you told what the focus of
 23 that interview was going to be, even though you weren't in
 24 attendance?
 25 [redacted] I didn't have a discussion with

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 anybody. I, I did, I don't even know if I knew that, that
2 they were going to meet with him before I left on my out-
3 of-town trip, which I think is what happened that day,
4 that time frame. I know what happened when I came back.
5 I was briefed. But my understanding was, the intent was
6 to have Mr. McCabe sign his signed sworn statement. And
7 [redacted] would have a better recollection, having actually
8 been at that meeting.

9 I know that Mr. McCabe was not comfortable using
10 the track change function. And sometimes you get
11 employees that just don't feel comfortable with the
12 technology. And I think there may have been an offer made
13 to come up and work with him to, with the document so that
14 the changes could be made. Now, I don't know if that's
15 what happened at the May 9th meeting or they were just
16 going up to sign the final version. But it was one or the
17 other was my understanding.

18 [redacted] Were you informed before the
19 meeting or the interview occurred -- do you call them
20 interviews?

21 [redacted] Interviews, yeah.

22 [redacted] Before the interview occurred,
23 were you at all informed that [redacted] and others were
24 going to show or discuss the, a Wall Street Journal
25 article that appeared approximately October 30th, 2016?

b6 -1,
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 that's her first name. Voviette had shown Mr. McCabe the
2 document, and they asked him questions about the document.
3 Again, I wasn't at that meeting.

4 I know the focus of that article is a telephone
5 call between Mr. McCabe and an unidentified senior DOJ
6 official. And I believe that that was asked about in the
7 meeting, and that Mr. McCabe gave responses to questions
8 that would be best documented in his signed sworn
9 statement. Or, I know he hasn't signed it, but the most
10 recent version of his signed sworn statement. So,
11 ultimately, he didn't sign his, his statement that day
12 because this additional information would have had to have
13 been added to it, which I believe happened after, shortly,
14 in short course thereafter.

15 [redacted] Do you have anything before I move
16 on?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

17 [redacted] No.

18 [redacted] So let me show you, it's actually
19 the first document on top of that stack there.
20 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

21 [redacted] It's an email from May 12th, 2017.

22 And it's from [redacted] to, to Andrew G. McCabe.
23 And it attaches a 12-page revised draft sworn statement.

b6 -1
b7C -1

24 And you were copied on this email. Do you see that?
25 [redacted] Yes.

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] I didn't know that.
2 [redacted] Okay.
3 [redacted] And I don't believe [redacted] knew it
4 either. I think that that was something that happened
5 very close in time to the interview. But again, that's a
6 better question for [redacted]

7 [redacted] Okay.

8 [redacted] I didn't know ahead of time that
9 that document was going to be shown, no.

10 [redacted] Well, then, can you just fill us
11 in on what you were briefed about after the interview had
12 been completed? What were you told, as best you recall?

13 [redacted] Sure. So [redacted] and I would touch
14 base if somebody missed something on, that occurred on
15 this case and some other cases that we were working. He
16 would just tend to brief me. And I believe he told me
17 that they went up to have the document signed, and then at
18 the last moment, when they were just about to complete the
19 interview, that our Section Chief, Voviette Morgan, showed
20 him this Wall Street Journal article and asked him about
21 it.

22 Now, again [redacted] might have known slightly
23 before the interview that it was going to happen. I don't
24 think, you know, I think it would have been that day, but
25 I'm not sure. So he told me that Voviette had shown --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 [redacted] Do you recall receiving this?
2 [redacted] Yes. I [redacted] and I copy each other
3 on almost every communication that we do in this case.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

4 [redacted] And before getting into the
5 substance, is this email representative of an email that
6 INSD would send to a witness with each draft statement for
7 review?

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2
b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

8 [redacted] Yeah. This, this is, it's just as I
9 explained. So this isn't the first one he's received. It
10 says here's the revised version. And he talks about
11 exactly how it's been revised. And he says look at it
12 again, and the track changes are on. This is very
13 representative of a type of email we would send to an
14 employee sending them back.

b6 -2
b7C -2

15 [redacted] And, and yeah, and just so I'm a
16 little clearer. With each draft that you want an FBI
17 employee to review, is it always accompanied by, or in
18 most cases accompanied by an email that says, you know,
19 Jane Q. Employee, attached is your draft statement for
20 review?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

21 [redacted] Yes. It, again, every SSA has their
22 own style. I always tell them what draft number it is.

b6 -2
b7C -2

23 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

24 [redacted] I always ask them to look at it one
25 more time, I always remind them that if they want to make

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 changes, they are free to do so, as long as they use the
2 track changes function. That's in every single one of my
3 emails that I send out, every single one. But other
4 people have different styles. But, but if you're asking,
5 if your question is does the revised draft always get sent
6 via an email. I would say yes.

7 [redacted] Okay.
8 [redacted] That's all how it always happens.
9 [redacted]: More the latter, just so we have
10 an understanding, there are, there might be some drafts in
11 this matter that we might just want to see the emails that
12 went back and forth, even if they're boilerplate.

13 [redacted] Okay.
14 [redacted] So.
15 [redacted] I would have expected you had those.
16 But if you don't, I don't think we have any problem
17 sending those.

18 [redacted] Yeah, and maybe, I don't know if
19 this is a better question for [redacted] What we do have are,
20 and you'll see maybe with some of the witnesses, drafts
21 that are labeled Draft 2, 3, 4, but no cover email like
22 this.

23 [redacted] Oh, I see.
24 [redacted] There's very few that have this.
25 [redacted] Okay. So --

1 [redacted] Right. So this is, again, something
2 that's going to differ from investigator to investigator.
3 I would say generally, the lead investigator is the one
4 who administers the oath and has sort of the list of
5 questions. So in this scenario today, I would call [redacted]
6 the lead investigator and you the second.

7 [redacted] Um-hmm. Right.
8 [redacted] And --
9 [redacted] We're both, for the record,
10 [redacted] Yeah, yeah, yeah.
11 [redacted] -- we're both, we're both handling
12 this together.

13 [redacted] But, but in our process, that's what
14 I would consider. So if I'm administering the oath, I
15 would say I was lead interviewer. Now, as to who actually
16 drafts it up, that, there isn't a set rule as to who does
17 it? I will say that [redacted] in my opinion, he tends
18 to want to write everything up the first time and then
19 send it to me for review, which is fine for me, less work
20 for me.

21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
22 [redacted] That's not always the case. In some
23 instances, I would say most of the time both of the
24 interviewers will take some notes, especially if they want
25 to ask follow-up questions. But sometimes, I've been in

1 [redacted] But we can point out --
2 [redacted] There would be an email that, I
3 would expect we could locate an email --

4 [redacted] Okay.
5 [redacted] -- for every, single draft that way.
6 [redacted] Well, we might see if that's
7 something we want, and we'll talk after.

8 [redacted] Okay.
9 [redacted] And identify -- I don't know that
10 it's necessary to do all of those, but we can talk about
11 it after.

12 [redacted] And just say, if you decide you want
13 them, just send a formal email --

14 [redacted] Okay.
15 [redacted] -- setting forth what you want.
16 [redacted] Okay.
17 [redacted] have one other process
18 question.

19 [redacted] Yeah.
20 [redacted] Which is, who typically, which
21 investigator is typically the one that drafts the Draft
22 Number 1 of the sworn statement? Is it usually the lead?
23 Is it usually the second chair? Is that even the case
24 where you have a first and second chair? Can you kind of
25 explain that?

1 situations where I really needed to focus on the
2 questions, so I didn't take notes, and the second
3 interviewer only took the notes. In that instance, I
4 would expect that the second interviewer would type up the
5 interview first because of, you know, the necessity of
6 being able to read the handwriting, et cetera. But it's
7 always the case that both investigators will look at the
8 draft document before it's sent to the employee.

9 [redacted] Okay. Thank you.

10 [redacted] Yeah. And then, so you were just
11 a moment ago looking at the, the email. And so if I can
12 direct your attention to the email, this is the, the first
13 three lines. [redacted] is saying actor, stating Acting
14 Director McCabe, than you very much for your time on
15 Tuesday. Please see the attached revised version of your
16 statement. Note, your requested changes have been made,
17 and we added a short paragraph, in parenthesis beginning
18 on Page 10, relative to your recollection of circumstances
19 pertaining to the Wall Street Journal article we reviewed
20 with you. And then if you turn to Page 10 of the draft
21 document. It's Page 10 of 12 on the bottom.

22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
23 [redacted] This is the last paragraph,
24 beginning with on May 9th, 2017, and it carries onto 11.
25 If you take a moment to read that and just let us know

1 when you're done.
 2 [redacted] Okay. So I've read up to the
 3 boilerplate language, which starts with the first full
 4 paragraph on Page 11 with I am willing.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] So yep, I've read that.
 7 [redacted] So the paragraph that I asked you
 8 to read, is that paragraph, what's stated there, is that
 9 consistent with what you were told by folks in INSD that
 10 Mr. McCabe said at the time?
 11 [redacted] Yes, it is consistent with what -- I
 12 wasn't present for that, obviously.
 13 [redacted] Sure.
 14 [redacted] But that's what I was told.
 15 [redacted] And then, as we understand, there
 16 is a follow-up interview with Mr. McCabe on August 18th,
 17 2017.
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 [redacted] Can you describe for us what
 20 circumstances prompted that follow-up interview, if, as
 21 best you remember?
 22 [redacted] Yes. There is a lot. So, this,
 23 we've jumped, you know, this is, you're, this is the first
 24 interview you've asked about that obviously there were a
 25 number of other interviews that took place in this case.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Can I stop you for one second?
 2 [redacted] Yeah.
 3 [redacted] And when you say the article,
 4 we're specifically talking about the October 30th, 2016
 5 Wall Street Journal article?
 6 [redacted] That's right.
 7 [redacted] Okay.
 8 [redacted] The one, the same one that's
 9 referenced in Mr. McCabe's statement here, his draft
 10 statement.
 11 [redacted] And actually, just, you can have
 12 this handy if you want. So I understand Mr. McCabe never
 13 signed a statement, a final sworn statement, but I believe
 14 at some point, he initialed, I'll represent for the
 15 record, that as the file was turned over to the OIG from
 16 FBI INSD. There was reference made to a document that Mr.
 17 McCabe was presented in his May 9th interview, May 9th,
 18 2016, in which he apparently initialed the upper, upper
 19 right-hand corner, A.M. Although it doesn't have an
 20 Exhibit Number 5 labeled as stated in the draft document.
 21 [redacted] Okay. So your representation duly
 22 noted. That would be our practice, to have, if we were
 23 going to show a document to the interviewee, it would be
 24 our practice to have them initial and usually date it.
 25 And then, we usually write the exhibit number on the face

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 And there was a lot of effort on [redacted] and my parts to
 2 try to get Mr. McCabe to sign his statement. And because
 3 of his position and the fact that he was made the Acting
 4 Director during the course of this investigation, I would
 5 say we were probably pretty considerate of his time and,
 6 and tried not to bother him too much.
 7 But, for example, months had gone by. And I
 8 saw, I happened to be in Starbucks behind him in line.
 9 And I personally mentioned it to him in Starbucks in line
 10 because I thought I'm, I'm going to just remind him here.
 11 He's so busy. Here he is. I'm going to remind him. And
 12 even then, we still didn't get him to sign it. So, it got
 13 to a point where we had, by direction of our management,
 14 we had kind of ceased work on the case for a while. And
 15 then we picked it up.
 16 And, and specifically, I would say what made the
 17 turning point was our interview of General Attorney Lisa
 18 Page, which I conducted and [redacted] was not present for, as
 19 it turns out. After Mr. McCabe was shown the Wall Street
 20 Journal article, we began, [redacted] and I began to ask new
 21 interviewees about the article. But I will say, the
 22 interviews that had taken place and been completed before
 23 Mr. McCabe was shown the article, those interviews were
 24 not shown that article. Okay? So Lisa Page was shown the
 25 article, and very similar to what's --

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 of the document. It may just be that your copy, it got
 2 cut off. But, and I don't know what the original looks
 3 like, but that's the general practice. So, I'm looking at
 4 this article.
 5 And if you had the original, not a copy, and
 6 this last page of the article had these first three
 7 paragraphs highlighted, the paragraphs that start
 8 according to a person familiar with the probes, then the
 9 second paragraph begins the Justice Department official
 10 was very pissed off, and then the third paragraph says,
 11 quote, are you telling me that I need to shut down a
 12 validly predicated investigation. Those three paragraphs
 13 were highlighted, both in what Mr. McCabe was shown, and
 14 then definitely in what Lisa Page was shown. And I
 15 believe everybody who was interviewed in this case and
 16 shown this article also had those three paragraphs
 17 highlighted, because it's a very lengthy article that
 18 covers a lot of ground.
 19 [redacted] Can I stop you for one second? If
 20 you want, we haven't gotten to that yet, but for your
 21 reference, we will get to Lisa Page's interview.
 22 [redacted] Here is her final sworn statement.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 [redacted] This is Exhibit 4.
 25 [redacted] Yep.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1. [redacted] Which I believe, if you look at
 2 the last page, this is Exhibit 4 to Lisa Page's final
 3 signed sworn statement. Exhibit 4 is the same October
 4 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal article, and the last page
 5 is highlighted as you just described.
 6 [redacted] Yes.
 7 [redacted] Are the first three paragraphs on
 8 the last page.
 9 [redacted] Yes, exactly. So the original
 10 question was --
 11 [redacted] Sort of --
 12 [redacted] Why, what was the, why we were going
 13 to interview him again, Mr. McCabe, in August. So I was
 14 starting to explain that it. It's not an easy
 15 explanation. But the turning point for me, my opinion I
 16 believe supported by the facts, is that I asked Lisa Page
 17 about this October 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal article
 18 and these three paragraphs, and if she knew who the source
 19 of the information was. And she said in her interview,
 20 and again, she has completed her interview and signed a
 21 signed sworn statement. So that will be the best,
 22 accurate representation of what she said. But
 23 paraphrasing, she said, oh, I believe that's referring to
 24 me and AD Michael Kortan of the Office of Public Affairs.
 25 And I was very, I have to tell you, I was very surprised

1 which she had not finalized her signed sworn statement.
 2 So it's all contained in a single signed sworn statement,
 3 although her interview took place on two, two different
 4 dates. So the second interview where she indicated she
 5 was the source of the information in the Wall Street
 6 Journal article, Voviette Morgan was the second
 7 interviewee or the, the witness, or however you want to
 8 describe her in that, in that interview.
 9 So when we finished that interview with Lisa
 10 Page, I was very surprised, as I previously indicated. It
 11 was not, it was not an answer I was expecting to receive.
 12 So we, obviously I spoke with [redacted] who, he was not
 13 available that day for some reason, or he would have been
 14 in that interview with me. But whenever he was available,
 15 I discussed this fact with him, and we strategized as to
 16 what we were going to do to resolve now sort of an
 17 inaccuracy in our investigation.
 18 So, that was what prompted the August 18th
 19 interview of Mr. McCabe.
 20 [redacted] Can I just orient us for a
 21 second? So, Lisa Page was interviewed by Inspections
 22 twice.
 23 [redacted] Yes.
 24 [redacted] Based on the, the documents you
 25 provided to us, the first date was on or about June 29 of

1 to hear that. I was not, I was not expecting that at all
 2 because that had not been stated previously by anybody in,
 3 that had been interviewed. And generally, we have a
 4 number of leak investigations. This is one of them.
 5 Generally you're getting the answer that I have no idea,
 6 it wasn't me, et cetera, et cetera. And here was a very
 7 clear, confident statement that I am the source. I am the
 8 source, and it was authorized. And Mr. Kortan and I were
 9 the ones.
 10 So, there was no hesitation there. And for me,
 11 that was a turning point in the case. Like, okay. So,
 12 this isn't a leak, essentially. This was a predicated, or
 13 an authorized disclosure of information that was overseen
 14 by the Office of Public Affairs. So that was a turning
 15 point in the investigation because Mr. McCabe did not say
 16 that when he was presented with the article in the
 17 interview that I was not present for.
 18 Voviette was in the interview of Lisa Page. I'm
 19 sorry. Lisa Page was interviewed twice as well. So the
 20 first time, she was not asked about the article. She was
 21 --
 22 [redacted] The Wall Street Journal article?
 23 [redacted] Yes. She was asked about another
 24 aspect of this case which involved an email and some other
 25 articles. And the second time Lisa Page was interviewed,

1 2017. And then the second was on August 7 of 2017. Does
 2 that does that comport with your --
 3 [redacted] Yes. I'm just reviewing the actual
 4 final version of her signed sworn statement. And it does
 5 say that the original date was June 29th, and then on Page
 6 7 it says on August 7th, I was interviewed again. So
 7 yes.
 8 [redacted] And, and McCabe, Voviette Morgan
 9 asked McCabe the first time about the October 30 article
 10 during his second interview in May, right?
 11 [redacted] Yes. Um-hmm.
 12 [redacted] Of 2017. When, when you all
 13 interviewed Page for the first time in June, did, was she
 14 asked or not asked about the October 30 article?
 15 [redacted] She was not --
 16 [redacted] Okay.
 17 [redacted] -- asked about the article in the
 18 first interview.
 19 [redacted] And remind me, did you attend the
 20 first interview with her?
 21 [redacted] Yes.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] I was at both interviews.
 24 [redacted] Okay, all right. Was there a
 25 reason it didn't come up, or?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 [redacted]: So, that's not an easy answer
2 either. So this, I can't really answer it without giving
3 you some additional background information, which is that
4 when we started this case [redacted] and I, there were a number
5 of other leak investigations, as I have referenced, made
6 reference to. And there was, there were meetings with DOJ
7 OIG Investigations, as there was some interest in, they
8 had some interest in some of these leak investigations.
9 So there were coordination meetings to determine which
10 entity was going to investigate which article and alleged
11 leak, et cetera.

12 The Wall Street Journal article was known about
13 from day one. But my recollection from those early
14 coordination meetings was that this particular case did
15 not, was not going to include the Wall Street Journal
16 article. It was going to focus instead on an email that
17 was sent by [redacted] to Michael Kortan referencing
18 alleged comments that Mr. McCabe was supposed to have made
19 during a small, intimate meeting with FBI executives. And
20 then --

21 [redacted] in February of 2017.
22 [redacted] The email, yes. Uh-huh. So that
23 was the focus of this investigation. The Wall Street
24 Journal article was not, my understanding was that it was
25 not going to be a part of this investigation. And I

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Lisa Page and briefed my management on it that they
2 indicated that I should have asked her about the Wall
3 Street Journal article. So I had the second interview
4 specifically to ask about the Wall Street Journal article,
5 which turns out was a very good idea because it gave light
6 to basically why we're here today, which was an
7 inconsistency on how this article was understood between
8 two people who were interviewed about it.

9 [redacted] When you were saying a moment ago
10 that it was your understanding that the Wall Street
11 Journal article on October 30th, 2016 was not going to be
12 part of the investigation that was focused more on an
13 email from [redacted] did you have any understanding
14 whether someone else, some other office in FBI or OIG was
15 going to handle the Wall Street Journal article?

16 [redacted] I don't think that that was
17 necessarily clearly outlined either. There is a larger
18 case file that is being investigated by DOJ OIG, which has
19 to do, it has to do with a number of articles that, that
20 were pre-election. And this article would have been pre-
21 election. So I believe my understanding was that the Wall
22 Street, that the October 30th Wall Street Journal article
23 that we're talking about here today was going to be a part
24 of that larger pre-election leaks investigation being done
25 by DOJ OIG Investigations.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 believe, you know, that is why Mr. McCabe was not asked
2 about it originally to. And so when Voviette asked,
3 brought the article to the second interview and asked
4 about it, I think that that was a departure from what [redacted]
5 and I had understood that this investigation was going to
6 be about.

7 And, I think we hadn't really reconciled what we
8 were going to do going forward with the article. Was it
9 going to in fact become a part of this investigation such
10 that we should go back and, and talk to everybody about
11 it, or should we just stay focused on the [redacted]
12 email, which was the main thrust of this investigation.
13 So I believe when I sat down with Lisa Page, I was still
14 under the impression that we were focusing simply on [redacted]
15 [redacted] email and not the Wall Street Journal article.

16 And I will also say that there was a break. I
17 think I referenced this earlier. We had done a number of
18 interviews, and then we were told to, by our management to
19 not continue the interviews. And then we picked it up
20 again. And I want to say, I'm not positive, but I want to
21 say Lisa Page might have been the first in that series of
22 after the break interviews. And I was still under the
23 impression that our investigation was not going to include
24 the Wall Street Journal article.

25 But after I completed the first interview of

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 [redacted] And is that under the, is it a
2 case name of [redacted] b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG
b7E -1

3 [redacted] Right. So these are UNSUB cases.
4 [redacted] Okay. b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
5 [redacted] Because we didn't know who leaked
6 the information. [redacted] b7E -1

7 [redacted]
8 [redacted] This case being the [redacted]
9 email-focused -- b6 -2,3, Per OIG
b7C -2,3, Per OIG

10 [redacted] Yes. Um-hmm.
11 [redacted] Okay. And to your knowledge,
12 would Mr. McCabe have been the first witness in your
13 investigation who was shown the Wall Street Journal
14 article on October 30th? Not that he was shown it on
15 October 30th, but that he was the first witness shown that
16 Wall Street Journal article? b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

17 [redacted]: In the [redacted] investigation, yes,
18 he was the first one. b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

19 [redacted] Do you want to ask her about --
20 so, let's segue into the interview of Mr. McCabe, the
21 follow-up interview on August 18th, 2017. And I have for
22 you there a copy of what I believe are your notes, but
23 let's just go through a little, formal questions to
24 determine that.

25 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] So I'm showing you a three-page
 2 document of handwritten notes. In the upper right-hand
 3 corner it's dated 8-slash-18-slash-17, and contains the
 4 initials [redacted] do you
 5 recognize this document?
 6 [redacted] Yes. These, this is my handwriting.
 7 These are my notes from the August 18th interview of Mr.
 8 McCabe that I attended with [redacted]
 9 [redacted] Okay. We just want to ask, well,
 10 I, I have some questions about this, and [redacted] may
 11 have some additional ones as well, just to make sure we
 12 understand everything. The first notation that you have
 13 there, I think the first word is Baker?
 14 [redacted] Yes.
 15 [redacted] Could you read us what that
 16 notation says, and explain what it was supposed to be
 17 about?
 18 [redacted] Sure. So, this is the first time
 19 I'm looking at these for a moment, so I might stumble over
 20 my own handwriting.
 21 [redacted] That's fine, if you --
 22 [redacted] But it looks like Baker concerned
 23 that signed sworn statement was too detailed in light of
 24 OIG investigation. Therefore, might, or actually make,
 25 make event to make edits. That's what it looks like. But

1 it to the Office of General Counsel, General Counsel James
 2 Baker. And he revealed to us that there were another OIG
 3 investigation that was going on. And later in the
 4 interview, he told us a little bit more about it, and we
 5 stopped him at some point because we didn't feel like we
 6 should be hearing it. And so we stopped that. But
 7 essentially, through the course of the interview, it came
 8 to light that they were asking similar questions to what
 9 we were asking. But, I mean, we didn't -- b6 -2, Per OIG
 10 [redacted] And they being? What -- b7C -2, Per OIG
 11 [redacted] They being OIG. Whoever interviewed
 12 him in OIG, which he later told us. But sitting here at
 13 the very beginning of the page, I didn't know that. And I
 14 didn't know why he would be seeing James Baker with
 15 respect to his statement. In fact, there is protocol, if
 16 you're going to be represented by counsel that you have to
 17 have some forms filled out, and that had not happened in
 18 this case.
 19 But be that as it may, he told us at the very
 20 forefront of that interview that he had shown the
 21 statement to James Baker, and that James Baker had said
 22 it's too detailed. And in light of what OIG, what you're
 23 going through with an OIG investigation, you might want to
 24 make edits to this. At which point, [redacted] he said pare it
 25 down is what he said. You might want to pare down the

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 I think that what's meant there is -- I can tell you what
 2 he said and, and what my notes were that, that. We walked
 3 into the room, and Mr., Mr. McCabe, first of all, called
 4 us to his office earlier than we anticipated.
 5 We were in the middle of another interview. So,
 6 I don't think we were necessarily in the right frame of
 7 mind to start our interview with him. We sort of got
 8 rushed into it. It was a Friday afternoon. I was, I had
 9 to leave the other interview because my phone kept
 10 ringing, and it was my unit chief saying Deputy Director
 11 wants you to come to his office now. Okay. We're going
 12 to go to his office now. So, we had to stop the other
 13 interview and go upstairs.
 14 So when we got into his office, he kind of joked
 15 around about how long it had been since we had originally,
 16 you know, interviewed him, and that we were going to hound
 17 him to sign his signed sworn statement. And so he was
 18 kind of joking about it, but I think he probably knew that
 19 we, there was more to it than that because we don't
 20 generally make a meeting just to, you know, like a
 21 scheduled more than five-minute kind of thing to sign
 22 that.
 23 So, we asked him if he, you know, had he
 24 reviewed it since we'd sent it to him a number of times at
 25 that point. And he had made a statement that he had shown

1 statement. And I remember [redacted] made a statement to the
 2 effect of this is as pared down as I believe this
 3 statement can be. That's my basic recollection of what
 4 that means. Yeah. What, what that statement was
 5 [redacted] Can I ask a question about b6 Per OIG
 6 showing, about the Deputy Director showing the sworn b7C Per OIG
 7 statement to the General Counsel? Is it ever the case
 8 that FBI employees, whether they are executive management
 9 or not, that they are, that they get legal advice or are
 10 represented by an OGC attorney or the General Counsel
 11 himself?
 12 [redacted] Speaking solely about internal
 13 investigations here, our policy is that if you're a
 14 witness to the investigation, which Mr. McCabe would have
 15 been considered a witness here, that you're not entitled
 16 to have attorney representation. And that includes
 17 showing your statement to an attorney as well.
 18 And subjects can have an attorney represent
 19 them. However, they need to have two forms filled out,
 20 which is essentially the attorney filling out a form
 21 saying that they won't, it's a nondisclosure agreement for
 22 them and anyone in their office. And then there is a form
 23 where the employee fills out their intent to have that
 24 attorney represent them. But that's for subjects,
 25 witnesses.

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] And are subject witnesses ever
 2 represented on internal matters by a representative of
 3 OGC?
 4 [redacted] I have personally never seen it, but
 5 I don't know that it precludes it. I don't know the
 6 answer to that. Usually, employees, this is my only case
 7 involving executive management, in my experience. Most
 8 employees use legal counsel that they have access to
 9 through agents association or FLEOA or a similar-type
 10 organization, professional organization that they've
 11 joined. That's generally who they use. I have never even
 12 had an occasion in my experience where a personal, outside
 13 attorney was used. But I don't, I'm not aware of a rule
 14 that would preclude it. I don't know if the OGC has rules
 15 that preclude it. I would say I have no idea about that.
 16 I'm sure there's probably something written about that.
 17 But I don't, I don't personally know what it is.
 18 [redacted] Did Mr. McCabe at the time
 19 elaborate any more about what he meant by, I can't
 20 remember if his words were pare down, or [redacted]
 21 words were pare down, but whatever he was, however he was
 22 characterizing it, did he get into any specifics, or he
 23 just made this expression?
 24 [redacted] He just said that expression. He,
 25 and it was he, Mr. McCabe, who said pare it down.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 McCabe, or what was going on there?
 2 [redacted] Right. So, he, Mr. McCabe had
 3 already seen this article in the May 9th interview that I
 4 was not present at.
 5 [redacted] Right.
 6 [redacted]: So I believe, so [redacted] would have
 7 been leading this, and, you know, I would have been the,
 8 the secondary person if you will. So I was mostly taking
 9 notes, but, although I would jump in if I had a question.
 10 So [redacted] said something to the effect of, hey, I want to
 11 show you this article, it might have been this one that he
 12 had already initialed that you've shown me here. To
 13 refresh your recollection, we showed you, you know, this
 14 at your May 9th interview. Remember it was a spin-off of
 15 what the case was originally about, which it says here
 16 refresh and [redacted] email, which is the main thrust of
 17 the.
 18 So that was my best recollection looking at
 19 these notes is [redacted] was saying I want you to look at this
 20 again.
 21 [redacted] I see.
 22 [redacted] This is, we've shown this to you
 23 before. Remember we came in first. We talked to you
 24 about [redacted] Then we came in on May 9th, and we
 25 showed you this article. And now I want you to look at

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 [redacted]: Okay.
 2 [redacted] And I remember that [redacted] said I
 3 don't think we can pare it down.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted]: And I would have agreed with that.
 6 I don't think there was anything we could have taken out.
 7 It was a very accurate, concise representation of what we
 8 asked him.
 9 [redacted] So then, does the conversation
 10 then just flow into, well, we'll discuss that later?
 11 Because then there are more notes about, it looks like you
 12 get into the, the October 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal
 13 article.
 14 [redacted] Right. So I don't know exactly how
 15 the, the interview transitions, but I think it might have
 16 been something along those lines, like we have something
 17 additional we need to talk to you about anyway. You're
 18 going to need to modify your statement because we're going
 19 to include what we talk to you about today, so let's get
 20 into that. And I think then we proceeded on from there.
 21 [redacted] Okay. Do you have any more?
 22 And so, if you look under the notation there at
 23 the top where it says October 30th, 2016, WSJ article
 24 refresh, spinoff of original case. Does that refresh your
 25 recollection of sort of maybe how it was presented to Mr.

b6 -1,2,Per OIG
b7C -1,2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 this article again.
 2 [redacted] And then, can you explain what the
 3 next notation is addressing where it begins with Draft 3-
 4 slash-4, and then the two lines below that?
 5 [redacted] Right. So, Draft 3 or 4, I think
 6 that is because I, I don't think we were sure exactly the
 7 correct draft number that we were on. I think, Mr. McCabe
 8 had said something to the effect of that he hadn't seen
 9 the version of the signed sworn statement that included
 10 the paragraph about the Wall Street Journal article.
 11 [redacted] Okay.
 12 [redacted] Which I would have to say, maybe he
 13 didn't remember it, but it was definitely sent to him.
 14 Yes. The May 12th email that you've shown me earlier here
 15 would be where [redacted] sent it to him. And then I also, when
 16 I met him at the Starbucks, and I reminded him about the
 17 statement, I also sent him, and, he asked me on that day
 18 if I could send him an email, which I did. I sent him his
 19 statement later that day. And so he had it on at least
 20 two occasions before August 18th.
 21 So he had said something, I think the way this
 22 worked was [redacted] said, hey, I have this paragraph that I
 23 added to your signed sworn statement about the Wall Street
 24 Journal article. Did you have a chance to look at that?
 25 And I think Mr. McCabe said something to the effect, oh

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 no, I don't recall getting my signed sworn statement with
 2 that added. That was what he said.
 3 At any rate, we did ask you about it. I sent it
 4 to you. This is what you said on that date. And then we
 5 asked him this question. Did you authorize someone to go
 6 on background with, and that's where it ends. But that
 7 means on background with Devlin Barrett, the Wall Street
 8 Journal report who is the author of the October 30th news
 9 article. And he said, yes, I recall that now. I did
 10 authorize someone to go on background. And then the next
 11 line, if you want me to just go on here?

12 [redacted] Yes, please.
 13 [redacted] Says OIG asked same question --
 14 [redacted] Oh, but what about --
 15 [redacted] -- about same article --
 16 [redacted] Can I stop you?
 17 [redacted] Yeah.
 18 [redacted] I'm sorry to interrupt. What is
 19 following from, after yes?
 20 [redacted] Recall that, and it looks like no,
 21 but it's now. Recall that now.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] Would be, like sometimes you're just
 24 writing fast, and.
 25 [redacted] Got it. Okay, sorry.

1 took a break from the case for a while. And then when we
 2 came back, I was instructed, okay, start asking everybody
 3 about this article. We didn't have another meeting with
 4 OIG. But I would have expected that my upper management
 5 might have had a meeting with OIG, because they constantly
 6 talk, and we are aware that we are doing some leak
 7 investigations, and they are doing some leak
 8 investigations, so my expectation was that OIG was aware
 9 that we were now asking about this Wall Street Journal
 10 article as a part of the [redacted] investigation.

11 So I will say, when we sat down with Mr. McCabe
 12 on August 18th, and he said that the OIG had interviewed
 13 him about the article, I was surprised to hear that
 14 because I, although I didn't personally had attend a
 15 meeting where it was deconflicted with OIG, I would have
 16 expected it to have been through my upper management
 17 because I was directed to ask people about the article.
 18 [redacted] Sure. And then if you could go to
 19 the portion of the first page of the notes where there is
 20 a, it looks like a squiggly line, and it says 10-slash-30-
 21 slash-16 article.
 22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 23 [redacted] And it looks like Mr., your note,
 24 you're noting Mr. McCabe's response about what was going
 25 on at the time. If you could just read that, looks like

b7E -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Yeah.
 2 [redacted] If you could continue.
 3 [redacted] Yeah. So it says OIG asked same
 4 question about same article.
 5 [redacted] Did --
 6 [redacted] So I think at that point, he was
 7 starting to tell us that he had been interviewed by OIG
 8 investigators, and they asked him the same question, did
 9 he go back and did he authorize, did he know the source of
 10 the information. Now, obviously I have no idea what OIG
 11 asked him, but that is what he said.
 12 [redacted] Did he say anything to the effect
 13 of OIG asked me these same questions, and that refreshed
 14 my recollection? Did he get into that at all?
 15 [redacted] No.
 16 [redacted] Okay.
 17 [redacted] I think [redacted] and I were surprised.
 18 I will tell you, I can't speak for [redacted] But I was
 19 surprised to hear him say that the OIG had asked him about
 20 this article because, again, I think there wasn't a clear
 21 consensus way back in the beginning when we started. But
 22 my understanding was that it was going to be a part of the
 23 [redacted] investigation.
 24 However, when Voviette showed Mr. McCabe the
 25 article on May 9th, and then, you know, proceeding, we

1 one, two, three, four --
 2 [redacted] Yeah, I see it.
 3 [redacted] -- five, six, seven lines?
 4 [redacted] Okay. So we're skipping over the
 5 October 23rd note.
 6 [redacted] Correct.
 7 [redacted] But it says, October 30th, 2016
 8 article. I was out of town. I was in [redacted] at
 9 [redacted] so MK, that would mean Michael Kortan, and
 10 LP, which would mean Lisa Page, were working, I'm going to
 11 guess working, working in the same way -- I'm sorry. I'm
 12 muddling through this -- in preparation for the article to
 13 come out. I understand this now.
 14 So, we talked about, there was a prior article
 15 on October 24th I think.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] And that's what's being discussed in
 18 the prior note that we skipped over.
 19 [redacted] Sure.
 20 [redacted] And he, he was talking about how
 21 they worked all weekend with the reporter Devlin Barrett,
 22 and then the article came out. And in the prior --
 23 [redacted] Which one?
 24 [redacted] So, so I'll explain. So, with
 25 respect to the 24th article, all of them were working

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 together over the course of the weekend, that being
2 Michael Kortan and Lisa Page and Mr. McCabe were working
3 together. I don't think they were physically together,
4 but they were communicating about the article. And then
5 the article came out on I think Monday. I think that's
6 right. And then they wanted to, the second article, they
7 wanted to clear up some, what they thought were factual
8 inaccuracies. And I think that was the reason they went,
9 my understanding is that is the reason that there was an
10 authorized background discussion with the reporter.

11 [redacted] Um-hmm.

12 [redacted] To clear up what the inaccuracies
13 were. Except for that Mr. McCabe at this point was in
14 [redacted] attending something at [redacted] So
15 it was more or less Michael Kortan and Lisa Page were
16 communicating over the course of the weekend with the
17 reporter. So in the same, working in the same way as the
18 prior weekend. That's what that means. In preparation
19 for the article to come out, for example Thursday, Friday,
20 Saturday

21 [redacted] The October 30th article to come
22 out?

23 [redacted] Yes. Same ongoing effort to get the
24 story straight.

25 [redacted] Okay. And then what does the next

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 the authorization, what was his demeanor, like, if you
2 recall if there is anything that stood out?
3 [redacted] No. Both of the interviews that I
4 sat in with Mr. McCabe, he was quite relaxed. We were
5 sitting around the table in his office. Nothing stood
6 out.

7 [redacted] And what about the last four lines
8 on the page?

9 [redacted] Okay. The copy is kind of bad, but

10 I'll try --

11 [redacted] I'm sorry. I mean, again

12 [redacted] That's okay.

13 [redacted] -- this is the best that you can.

14 [redacted] Yeah, sure.

15 [redacted] If I had to read my notes --

16 [redacted] Yeah, I know, I know.

17 [redacted] -- we'd be in big trouble.

18 [redacted] Right? Okay. OPA will find out

19 what, I think it's what reporter said, but I, I could go

20 back and look at my original notes. Inaccurate-slash-

21 inequity to, and I can't make out if that's case or what

22 that says there. MK comes to me and says, quote, news

23 going to say blank. Then I say, quote, no comment, end

24 quote. I think we're talking here --

25 [redacted] Yeah, if you could just put this

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 line say?

2 [redacted] Yep. I do not recall when I gave
3 authorization to go on background.

4 [redacted] Was there any discussion with him
5 about that point in, in the sense of, again, what prompted
6 him to recollect now that he did give authorization to go
7 on background?

8 [redacted] I don't think we were at that point.

9 I think we would have gotten to that point, but there was
10 a logical way [redacted] who was leading the interview,
11 wanted to proceed with the questions. So my guess here is
12 that he asked him do you recall when you gave
13 authorization for that on background, and Mr. McCabe said
14 I do not recall. And [redacted] is very methodical, in my
15 opinion. I think he probably, he almost always has a
16 reason he asks the questions he does in the order that he
17 does. He has a reason he wants to, the questions to
18 proceed in a certain fashion. So, my recollection is he
19 didn't ask him at that point. He had a way he wanted to
20 ask the questions, and, and he proceeds --

21 [redacted] Okay.

22 [redacted] -- according to how he's thought
23 about it ahead of time.

24 [redacted] Okay. When he was giving that
25 explanation there about that he didn't recall when he gave

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 in context.

2 [redacted] -- now that I've read that out loud.

3 I think that we're talking about what it means to be on

4 background.

5 [redacted] Okay.

6 [redacted] Okay? Yeah. So I think, I

7 certainly didn't know that there was some phrase called

8 being on background with a reporter before, I think Lisa

9 Page was the first one who, who introduced that concept to

10 me in her interview. But it might have been we

11 interviewed somebody else with, with OPA and they

12 mentioned it too. But I think it was Lisa Page because it

13 was the first time we learned that there was a background

14 conversation. So I think we were just discussing with him

15 what on background is, does he authorize on background,

16 that sort of, those nature, that line of questioning is my

17 recollection. So, he was explaining his understanding of

18 what on background means. So, as I read this and I

19 remember, I think it's essentially, most respected news

20 outlets want to get the story right.

21 [redacted] Um-hmm.

22 [redacted] So occasionally they will, they will

23 say in advance to Mr. Kortan or another member of OPA,

24 hey, this is what we're thinking about printing. And it

25 essentially doesn't allow the FBI to say yes you're right

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 or no you're wrong. But essentially, if there were
2 inaccuracies that the FBI for whatever reason wanted to
3 not be inaccuracies that were reported in the press,
4 essentially they have the change to, to clear them up I
5 guess.

6 [redacted] Right.
7 [redacted] And, I think there are different
8 levels of that. But these are all questions that are
9 better asked to OPA because this is a brand new concept to
10 me. I never worked in media. But I think if you say no
11 comment, then essentially you're not saying that what has
12 been presented to you is true or not true. Simply, you
13 are not going to respond to it at all.

14 But if there was something that were for
15 whatever reason so blatantly wrong that it, there would be
16 some reason the FBI wouldn't want the inaccuracy to be
17 reported to the public. And, I mean, like there's a lot
18 of hypothetical situations where that would be the case.
19 Like if they, you know, if there was something that was so
20 completely false and, and that everybody would jump on,
21 and it would just be a disaster if, if the whole world
22 thought this false thing were true because it was reported
23 and the FBI didn't comment on it, et cetera. So, there
24 are versions where, through the OPA, they will respond to
25 the reporter to try to clear up the inaccuracy. So that

1 out of town, but I knew Michael Kortan and Lisa Page were
2 talking with the Wall Street Journal reporter on this
3 topic. And about my family is in quotes, and I think it's
4 the, the article, like I said before, goes on about a lot
5 of different topics. But it talks about his wife running
6 for office, and then whether he, Mr. McCabe, held certain
7 positions that would, would have maybe been in conflict
8 with that. That was the thrust of what they were trying
9 to clear up, my understanding, from this on background
10 thing.

11 [redacted] Um-hmm. But in the earlier May
12 9th, 2017 interview, which again, I understand you weren't
13 at, Mr. McCabe did not recall giving, or stated he didn't
14 authorize anyone to talk about this topic. But now, in
15 the August 18th, 2017 interview he's saying I did
16 authorize. I don't recall. And he's also saying I know,
17 again, just interpreting your notes, I know MK and LP were
18 talking with Wall Street Journal. Did he get into details
19 about how he had this knowledge? What if anything
20 refreshed his knowledge?

21 [redacted] Like why his answers were different
22 in May versus August?
23 [redacted] Right, and how is he knowing now
24 that they were talking to the Wall Street Journal. Again,
25 assuming that this is the, a reference to the October

1 is what I get out of reading my notes here.

2 [redacted] Okay.
3 [redacted] That he was explaining his
4 understanding of how that all worked.

5 [redacted] And then, I just want to walk
6 through a couple of other notations, but jump in if, if
7 you want to add something as I move along.

8 [redacted] I have a couple of follow-ups,
9 but I think you can finish the notes --

10 [redacted] Okay.
11 [redacted] -- and then maybe, because we
12 may, you may answer it as you go along.

13 [redacted] Okay. Okay. So the next notation
14 there, I think what you said there, I believe it reads,
15 but correct me if I'm wrong, I know MK -- and I believe MK
16 is Michael Kortan, and LP for Lisa Page, I know MK and LP
17 were talking with WSJ -- I believe that's Wall Street
18 Journal --

19 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
20 [redacted] -- on this topic about my family.
21 Do you know, was that referring to the October 30th, 2016
22 article, and did he say how he knew?

23 [redacted] Yes. So I think he's talking about
24 the October 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal article. And
25 so he knew, again, that, I think he's going back to, I was

1 30th, 2016 article and not the October 23rd article.
2 [redacted] Well, I think you just asked the
3 million-dollar question to the investigation you're
4 looking into. Why did he say on May 9th that he didn't
5 know the source and he didn't authorize anybody, but then
6 on August 18th, he said I did authorize someone? I don't
7 know. He did not give us any words to explain that at
8 this point, or at any point. I don't think we ever got
9 there.

10 [redacted] Okay.
11 [redacted] Because he started to tell us about
12 the OIG investigation a little bit more in detail. And I
13 think we, we all felt like we should end the interview
14 because we [redacted] and I recognized that we were in conflict
15 with a DOJ investigation. Again, he mentioned a DOJ OIG
16 investigation at the beginning, but we didn't realize, you
17 know, exactly that it was the exact types of things that
18 we had planned to ask him about. So, at some point he was
19 telling us a lot, and we were just, I put my, I remember
20 putting my pen down thinking I shouldn't take notes on
21 this because it's about their investigation. And I think
22 shortly thereafter, [redacted] stopped the interview and we
23 said, look, it probably, I think he asked him did they
24 tell you not to discuss their investigation. He said
25 yeah. And then [redacted] said well then we should stop this

1 interview
 2 [redacted] Okay. A couple more things, just
 3 so I understand the notes as best you remember.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] The notation below where we just
 6 were.
 7 [redacted] Okay.
 8 [redacted] As I read it, I believe it says
 9 the call happened. I was in my kitchen going to airport,
 10 and then below that there is a reference, LP knew slash
 11 Comey knew.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] The LP knew slash Comey knew, do
 14 you know what that's about?
 15 [redacted]: That he was going to be traveling
 16 that day.
 17 [redacted] Oh, okay. Nothing more than that?
 18 [redacted] No.
 19 [redacted] Okay. And then the next line, the
 20 word before meeting with Axelrod?
 21 [redacted] Uncomfortable.
 22 [redacted] Uncomfortable. Who was that
 23 characterizing? Do you remember?
 24 [redacted] Okay. So this says -- yep.
 25 Uncomfortable meeting with Axelrod on Monday 10/31/2016,

1 page.
 2 [redacted]: Okay. Let me just look through
 3 really quick. Okay. I've read the rest of the page.
 4 [redacted] So, I guess my question was the
 5 notation that Mr. Axelrod was upset, and whether or not
 6 Mr. McCabe described what he, how he responded in response
 7 to Mr. Axelrod's reaction.
 8 [redacted] So reading the rest of these notes,
 9 what Mr. McCabe said, there were, there were certain
 10 questions asked by [redacted] But essentially the heart of it
 11 was Mr. McCabe didn't recall specifically telling Michael
 12 Kortan and Lisa Page to mention that that call occurred.
 13 He did not recall. This is what it says. I do not recall
 14 telling LP MK to mention the 8-12 call. But when I saw it
 15 in the article, I assumed this was the case, that they had
 16 mentioned it to the Wall Street Journal article.
 17 [redacted] And that's the last notation on
 18 the page, is that right?
 19 [redacted] Yes, and then Page 2 here.
 20 [redacted] Okay.
 21 [redacted] So --
 22 [redacted] So what was the case? I'm sorry,
 23 but.
 24 [redacted] Assumed that Lisa Page and Michael
 25 Kortan had mentioned the 8-12-16 call to Wall Street

1 which would have been the day after the article came out.
 2 And I believe, I believe McCabe is talking about himself.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] And that it says he was very upset,
 5 and that would refer to Axelrod was very upset.
 6 [redacted] Did he say what he was upset about
 7 or why?
 8 [redacted] I think that Mr. Axelrod is the
 9 senior DOJ investigator, or senior DOJ official that's
 10 referenced in the article. And my understanding of what
 11 Mr. McCabe was saying was that Axelrod was upset that
 12 something he said to McCabe came out in the, the
 13 newspaper.
 14 [redacted] And did Mr. McCabe talk about how
 15 he responded when Mr. Axelrod was upset?
 16 [redacted] If I could just read the rest of my
 17 notes?
 18 [redacted] Sure, absolutely. Because I, I do
 19 want --
 20 [redacted] I don't recall it, but I want to
 21 make sure.
 22 [redacted] No, I do want to ask you about the
 23 next five, six lines.
 24 [redacted] Yeah.
 25 [redacted] Actually, probably the rest of the

1 Journal.
 2 [redacted] Not that he authorized them to do
 3 so?
 4 [redacted] He didn't recall, he did not recall
 5 telling them, hey, make sure you mention that call. But
 6 he assumed when he read the article and it was in the
 7 article, that they were the ones who told the reporter
 8 about the call. But what he was saying is I didn't recall
 9 to them -- he did have recollections of that he wanted to
 10 sort out when he held certain positions with respect to
 11 certain FBI investigations and his wife's campaign. But
 12 he didn't recall specifically telling them, hey, make sure
 13 you mention this 8-12 telephone call in the article.
 14 [redacted] Well, and again, I'm unsure --
 15 well, I'll just ask the question. So when he makes the
 16 comment that you just read --
 17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 18 [redacted] -- did he say if he had any
 19 reaction about seeing a quote of his in the paper?
 20 [redacted]: So that's addressed in my notes
 21 above that.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] So, we asked him about that. So, so
 24 he said I was okay with the quote because it was true.
 25 This is true information. This call did happen. This is

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 what was said to me or asked of me and, and it happened.
2 So I think [redacted] asked him, you know, was there a
3 unilateral decision to put it out, and did you talk to
4 Comey about it? There was some questions about --
5 [redacted] Right.
6 [redacted] -- whether Comey knew.
7 [redacted] Yes. That's, I was going to ask
8 you.
9 [redacted] And McCabe said, no, I didn't talk
10 to Comey about specifically the call being a part of the
11 article, but that Director Comey knew that Michael Kortan
12 was talking to the Wall Street Journal about all of this.
13 So, Mr. McCabe did not think Mr. Comey was surprised. It
14 says he was not surprised.
15 [redacted] So just to back up a little bit.
16 The unilateral decision reference.
17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
18 [redacted] Is Mr. McCabe saying that that was
19 his unilateral decision, or?
20 [redacted] I think that [redacted] asked Mr. McCabe,
21 was it your unilateral decision to put it out, or did you
22 discuss it with Mr. Comey? Like I think [redacted]
23 [redacted] I see.
24 [redacted] -- had brought that up as an option.
25 [redacted] I see.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 the August 12th call was going to be a part of the October
2 30th article, and Mr. McCabe was saying Mr. Comey didn't
3 know. He didn't discuss it with Mr. Comey. And he also
4 said further that Mr. Comey never admonished him, one way
5 or the other about how to do his job.
6 [redacted] Well, it's my understanding that,
7 I've heard that Mr. Comey around this time of fall of 2016
8 had, I'm not sure how broadly this was disseminated
9 internally at the FBI, but was concerned about leaks, and
10 leaks hurting the FBI as an institution. Was there any
11 discussion about that with Mr. McCabe about whether Mr.
12 Comey would have been or was upset about seeing a quote
13 from him in the paper? Him being Mr. McCabe.
14 [redacted] I think this was the extent to which
15 that was asked and addressed.
16 [redacted] Okay. Just that --
17 [redacted] Did Mr. Comey know about the on-
18 background discussion.
19 [redacted] Yes.
20 [redacted] Did he know that was happening?
21 Yes, he knew it was happening. Did he know that this
22 August 12th call was going to be a part of the discussion?
23 No, he didn't know that.
24 [redacted] And then, and then again, I'm
25 sorry for repeating this. Was anyone internally, senior

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] But I don't think those are Mr.
2 McCabe's words. I think those are [redacted] words.
3 [redacted] I see. And do you recall, and Mr.
4 McCabe's response is in the parenthetical? Is that what
5 it is?
6 [redacted] I didn't talk to this. I didn't
7 talk to Comey about this. And I put in quotes Jim because
8 I personally thought that was funny because he referenced
9 him as Jim, and I would just never call Director Comey
10 Jim. But here he is talking about him as Jim.
11 [redacted] I see. Okay.
12 [redacted] So, yeah, so his, he used the word
13 Jim, but I understood him to be referring to former-
14 Director Comey.
15 [redacted] So it seems like, correct me if
16 I'm wrong, that there is no specific statement by Mr.
17 McCabe that you heard him say that Mr. Comey specifically
18 knew that the quote was going to be discussed, as opposed
19 to just that his staff might talk to the Wall Street
20 Journal. Is that fair?
21 [redacted] My understanding is that Mr. Comey
22 knew that the staff was talking to the Wall Street Journal
23 about the prior article that had come out the week before
24 and the Wall Street Journal article. But that Mr. Comey
25 didn't know, he wasn't, I don't think anybody knew that

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 managers -- I guess I'll say, was Mr. Comey, did he have
2 any reaction expressed to Mr. McCabe when he, when he saw
3 the quote, assuming he saw the quote, given that Mr. Comey
4 didn't specifically know that it was going to be
5 discussed?
6 [redacted] So I'm looking at my notes here. It
7 says, Comey knew that MK was talking to Wall Street
8 Journal about this, so he was not surprised. And my
9 understanding is that Comey was not surprised that the
10 article came out. I don't know that anybody, and I think
11 the follow-up was, hey, did he, did Mr. Comey say anything
12 about that call being in there?
13 [redacted] Yes.
14 [redacted] In the article. And then the answer
15 is, I, McCabe, was not admonished by Comey about this, or,
16 in fact, about anything else I've done while I've been
17 under him. That's what Mr. McCabe said.
18 [redacted] Okay. Was there any discussion or
19 response by Mr. McCabe about whether, aside from the FBI,
20 that the Department might be upset? I mean, obviously Mr.
21 Axelrod had expressed some reaction to it. Was he
22 concerned at all about that?
23 [redacted] Did we ask Mr. McCabe if he was
24 concerned about the DOJ?
25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted]: We did, I don't recall us asking him
2 that.

3 [redacted] Okay. So the, you see the
4 notation unilateral decision to put it out?

5 [redacted] Yes.

6 [redacted] Above that, I believe the notes
7 say, quote would provoke a reaction with OIG, and it did.
8 Can you explain, if I read that correctly, what that's
9 about?

10 [redacted]: I don't know if [redacted] asked this or
11 Mr. McCabe just said it. I honestly just don't remember
12 as I'm sitting here. And then we ultimately did not write
13 up the signed sworn statement after this interview, so my,
14 my recollection is even, it would have been better if I
15 had documented it in the signed sworn statement
16 immediately afterwards. But, I think my best guess and
17 recollection is that [redacted] asked him, hey, don't you think
18 that that quote coming out would have provoked a reaction
19 with OIG. And in fact, it did provoke a reaction with
20 OIG. I believe that that was [redacted] question to Mr.
21 McCabe, not Mr. McCabe's words.

22 [redacted] Um-hmm.

23 [redacted] And then he, he, I think it was sort
24 of a background statement by [redacted] so he could ask the next
25 question was, hey, was that a -- did you decide to put

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 [redacted] So, before I go to the third page,
2 if there is anything that you want to follow up on?

3 [redacted] Oh, maybe just to be clear on
4 this point. So, Mr. McCabe said that he did not recall
5 telling Lisa Page and Mike Kortan to mention the August
6 12th call. Did he say or indicate to you that it was
7 unauthorized for them to mention it?

8 [redacted] No, he didn't say that.

9 [redacted] Yeah. Based on your discussion
10 with him, was he saying that, that he did authorize them
11 to, that that was part of the authorization that he had
12 given them to go on background?

13 [redacted] I think that's a question for Mr.
14 McCabe. I think he generally knew that they were going to
15 have an on-background discussion where they were going to
16 clear up inaccuracies in the October 24th article. But I
17 don't think it got that specific. But you, that's
18 definitely not something I would have known. We didn't
19 ask him that. It didn't come up.

20 [redacted] Did it come up or did you ask
21 about whether or not it was his practice to memorialize in
22 any way what the scope of authorizations are to speak to
23 the media?

24 [redacted] We didn't ask him that.

25 [redacted] So -- I was going to move to the

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 that out there, Mr. McCabe? Did you, were you the one who
2 decided that you, you know, even though this might provoke
3 the OIG, they might react to it negatively. And in fact
4 they did. You told us they reacted to it negatively. Did
5 you decide on your own to put it out there?

6 [redacted] And again, his response was he
7 didn't recall that?

8 [redacted] He didn't recall telling them to
9 mention it.

10 [redacted] Okay.

11 [redacted] That was what his response was.

12 [redacted] And was there any discussion or
13 response by him about concerns just about a private
14 conversation about an ongoing investigation being quoted
15 in the, in the Wall Street Journal?

16 [redacted] I don't think we got there with Mr.
17 McCabe. I know that we talked with Mr. Kortan about that.

18 [redacted] Okay.

19 [redacted] I don't think, with Mr. McCabe, I, I
20 know it was a, like I mentioned, we weren't in the right
21 frame of mind. We were in a different interview, and then
22 we got thrown into this quick interview. And then we,
23 found out that he had been asked about it by OIG. So I
24 think at some point, a lot of the questions I think we
25 would have wanted to ask, we didn't get a chance to ask.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 next page. Do you have anything else, [redacted]
2 [redacted] No.

3 [redacted] So on the third page, it looks
4 like the interview is starting to wind down. And if you
5 can just interpret, or not interpret but tell us what the
6 first two notations at the top of Page 3 state?

7 [redacted] Yeah. It says show McCabe SSS,
8 signed sworn statement. And then the in-quote, I think it
9 says on my authorization, dot, dot, dot. But I think that
10 this is referring to maybe that [redacted] picked up the current
11 version of the signed sworn statement for Mr. McCabe,
12 where he said, you know, that he didn't know who the
13 source of the information in the article for October 30th
14 was and that he didn't authorize it. And I think Mr.
15 McCabe's response, which I have underlined and put in
16 quote here is, it needs to be changed. So he is telling
17 us that the way his statement reads now is not what he
18 wants. He wants it to be changed.

19 [redacted] And so what was the understanding
20 then about how, what next steps would be?

21 [redacted] Well, we're getting pretty close to
22 the time that I was feeling uncomfortable because we
23 started to talk about him being interviewed by the OIG,
24 because the next, there's a line, and it says, I'm just
25 going to read it out loud.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -1

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Sure.
2 [redacted] OIG asks McCabe about [redacted]
3 email. And I remember feeling very frustrated, me
4 personally feeling frustrated because I knew we had
5 deconflicted [redacted] and that was clearly going to be
6 an FBI investigation. So I remember thinking what is the
7 OIG doing. Maybe, you know, it wasn't clear on this Wall
8 Street Journal article, although in my mind I had an
9 expectation that we were now investigating it as a part of
10 [redacted] But clearly, OIG knew the [redacted] email was
11 an FBI investigation.

12 So when he mentioned being, being asked about it
13 by OIG, I remember feeling, I felt personally very
14 frustrated, like, okay, there needs to be some
15 deconfliction here. This clearly, [redacted] was always
16 an FBI investigation from day one, that [redacted] email.
17 So he, he mentioned that.

18 And then I think we said who, who interviewed
19 you? And he was muddling through who the name was. And I
20 wrote down Steve Burkhardt or Burkhead (phonetic sp.).
21 But ultimately we got to it was Dan Beckhard that
22 interviewed him, and that when Dan Beckhard was
23 interviewing him, there were two other attorneys, a woman
24 and another man, that were all with, all with OIG. And
25 then he mentioned also being interviewed by special

1 counsel, but not the Robert Mueller special counsel but a
2 different special counsel, at which point I was like, I'm
3 done taking notes. We're talking about way too many other
4 investigations, and I don't want to conflict.

5 So I think at that point we were at the, we were
6 at a point where we weren't going to ask him further
7 questions. I remember, I remember thinking in my head
8 like I can't believe this is so muddied with OIG. But I
9 remember the last thing that I said to Mr. McCabe, feeling
10 very gutsy after the fact that I said to him, 'we need you
11 to sign your statement in this. We need you to, you know,
12 you're not, this investigation is not going to end without
13 you signing your signed sworn statement.

14 I remember saying that to him. And, and almost
15 surprising myself because it's a very gutsy thing to say
16 to such a high-level manager. But, I remember saying it.
17 I said, you need to sign your statement.

18 [redacted] And what --
19 [redacted] And there was some agreement that we
20 were going to put together a statement and that he would
21 sign it. Although, you know, at this point, it had been
22 months since the first time. But I remember, you know, I
23 remember saying that to him, like, this, this
24 investigation isn't over. You have to sign your
25 statement. It's not, you know, I basically wanted to

1 communicate to him that, you know, yeah, there's an issue
2 here, but you're not, you have to sign this statement. At
3 the end of the day, this is our investigation, and we're
4 going to close our investigation. And you will sign some
5 form of a statement. And however bold that was to say,
6 that's what I said.

7 [redacted] And he gave indication verbally or
8 not verbally?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

9 [redacted] I think it was like a nod of the
10 head, like yeah, we'll get there. But it was very clear
11 that that wasn't going to happen today, that there was
12 going to have to be some serious deconfliction with OIG.
13 [redacted] Was the expectation, though, that
14 Mr. McCabe would do whatever revisions would be
15 forthcoming, or would you take that, you being INSD do
16 that?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

17 [redacted] Well, it would be the practice that
18 INSD would do it. We would have taken the notes. So just
19 like I mentioned at the beginning, we take the first crack
20 of drafting it. So it would have been on us to draft it
21 and send it to him. But at that point, I think it was
22 very close to 5 o'clock or maybe after 5 o'clock on a
23 Friday, and we knew that we needed to brief it up our
24 chain because so much had just developed in the last hour
25 of the day.

1 So, ultimately, we were, my understanding was
2 that we were told not to work on [redacted] anymore, even
3 the [redacted] parts of it. Just stop work on it. It
4 would be deconflicted --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

5 [redacted] When did that happen?
6 [redacted] So like I said, this was a Friday.
7 It would have been the following week.

8 [redacted] Before you get to the document,
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

11 [redacted] Just a couple more questions or
12 more details about your efforts prior to this meeting that
13 we just discussed with McCabe, your efforts to have the
14 Deputy Director sign his sworn statement. You said there
15 was a lot of effort, to the point where when you saw him
16 at a Starbucks, you reminded him then. Can you flesh out
17 for us just with a little bit more detail, to the extent
18 you recall or have any documents that might help, how many
19 times or approximately how many times you reached out to
20 him or his office? And what, how, was it email, phone
21 calls?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

22 [redacted] Right, yeah.
23 [redacted] If you can kind of just give us
24 more details about that undertaking of, of trying to get
25 him to sign his statement?

1 [redacted] Well, certainly there were emails.
 2 [redacted] And I just, for the record, I need
 3 to interject that. We do have from INSD another draft
 4 statement after the May one, in June, where it was sent to
 5 him.
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm. Um-hmm. Yeah. So, there
 7 were several emails that were sent to him, and I have
 8 alluded, we have alluded to this May one that [redacted] sent,
 9 and that after I met Mr. McCabe at Starbucks, which I know
 10 there is a note about that in CMS, that I emailed it to
 11 him, whenever that was. But it wasn't just emails. I
 12 believe, you know, you're, you're dealing with executive
 13 management. And they get a lot of email, so you don't
 14 want to pepper them every week with another thing on their
 15 list.
 16 So I, I know that there was sort of a little bit
 17 of talking to the secretary, talking to the special
 18 assistants, could you get him to sign this? Could we
 19 remind him? And, and our boss, our section chief, when
 20 she, you know, hey, if you're in a meeting, could you see
 21 if you can get him to sign? I mean, it was, there was a
 22 lot going on at the FBI at the time because, like I said,
 23 at that point, he was then the Acting Director, so he had
 24 a lot on his plate.
 25 And I remember feeling so gutsy coming to him in

1 But I think he may have used that connection to try to get
 2 him to sign it. The personal, the special assistant, I
 3 didn't ask him, but it would have been something that at a
 4 higher level, you know, we would have reminded Voviette to
 5 try to get him to sign it.
 6 [redacted] And what name, who is, what, any
 7 special assistant in particular?
 8 [redacted] So, I think we were trying to get
 9 [redacted] (phonetic sp.) to get him to sign it, is my
 10 recollection. I know that [redacted] was the one who was
 11 responsible for getting us on his calendar on that Friday
 12 the 18th. So that's why I'm thinking [redacted] But
 13 that was not me who did it. I mean, it was kind of a
 14 little bit of a joke between [redacted] and I because it had
 15 been, it had gone so long, and he hadn't signed it. And,
 16 you know, that I was so gutsy to ask him at Starbucks to
 17 sign this document, but I did it anyway. And he still
 18 didn't sign it. And it was like, is this document ever
 19 going to get signed? And then, of course, I had my
 20 interview with Lisa Page that sort of turned the whole
 21 investigation.
 22 So, you know, we don't normally let statements
 23 go this long. But he was a very high-level executive in
 24 the middle of, you know, something really unprecedented in
 25 FBI history, and, you know, I'm sure we were all giving

1 Starbucks when he's the Acting Director and reminding him
 2 to sign his statement. But I still did it anyway.
 3 [redacted] What were, what was his response?
 4 [redacted] Well, I had to be careful because he
 5 was with someone else. But when, when I went up to him, I
 6 said, I, you know, I hope you remember meeting with me.
 7 I'm from Inspection Division. But I didn't reference that
 8 it was an internal investigation. I said I think you have
 9 a document that we need to have you sign. And he, the way
 10 he looked at me, he nodded. He knew what I was talking
 11 about. And he mentioned sending it to him in an email.
 12 And I, I thanked him. I said I would send him an email.
 13 And that was literally it. It was very, there was no
 14 reaction beyond an acknowledgement that he understood what
 15 I was talking about. And that, yes, if I would send him
 16 an email, he would look at it.
 17 [redacted] Um-hmm. So, and then the, in
 18 addition to emails and that meeting at Starbucks, there
 19 were also opportunities that, that were taken to talk to
 20 his assistant, special assistants. Was that you
 21 personally, [redacted] Voviette?
 22 [redacted] I think it was kind of a combination
 23 of all of us. I, you can ask [redacted] this but as I recall,
 24 [redacted] knows Mr. McCabe's secretary from a prior assignment.
 25 So he knows her personally. So I think, again, ask [redacted]

1 consideration to that.
 2 [redacted] Did he ever, to your
 3 recollection, respond to any of the emails that your
 4 office sent to him about signing the sworn statement?
 5 [redacted] I don't recall him responding to
 6 [redacted] The day that I met him in Starbucks and I sent
 7 him the follow-up email, [redacted]
 8 the FBI [redacted] and I accidentally sent it
 9 to [redacted] And I remember that the
 10 [redacted] -- I realized the error because I
 11 was saving the sent message. And then of course I called
 12 [redacted] who told me he had already talked to
 13 the Deputy about it, which I was really dismayed. I would
 14 have liked to have been the one to do that.
 15 But be that as it may, he had sent him an email,
 16 and then Deputy Director McCabe responded saying that, you
 17 know, I should be more careful about that I'm sending it
 18 to [redacted] Which obviously I was, I was
 19 devastated that I had made that mistake. I, it was an
 20 honest mistake, but I still felt horrible about it. So
 21 that's the only one that I remember him responding to.
 22 [redacted] But did he respond about timing
 23 when --
 24 [redacted] No.
 25 [redacted] When, when did he respond? No?

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -2
 b7C -2

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -3
 b7C -3

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 -1
 b7C -1

 b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] No, it was just that, hey, this is
 2 [redacted] and make sure you send it to me, at
 3 which point I did send it to him, and I outlined my
 4 efforts to make sure that [redacted] had not
 5 read it, and I talked with him on the phone, et cetera.
 6 So he responded in that way, but he didn't respond that he
 7 was going to assign it or that he had looked at it or
 8 anything like that. But he did respond to, to the
 9 mistake. That, that was bad.
 10 [redacted] What of the, the log that, that
 11 you keep, and the entries that you make in CMS about --
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] -- investigation steps and
 14 events? Do you think any of the efforts to get him to
 15 sign his statement, would they be recorded in there?
 16 [redacted] I don't think so. I mean, we record
 17 things that, you know, of a substantive nature in there.
 18 But at this point, it had, I think that these were more
 19 like, hey, Voviette, if you're going to be in an
 20 executive-level meeting and you happen to see, could you
 21 remind. And it was, it's just the sort of thing that you
 22 wouldn't document because it happened so often. It just
 23 didn't need to be. It was very clear, he still needed to
 24 sign his statement, and that we would send it to him, and
 25 he'd been asked about it. It had been sent again. You

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Comey knew too.
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] But there wasn't anything further
 4 about that.
 5 [redacted] I'm a little confused on that last
 6 point you just said. I thought the unilateral decision
 7 was about putting out the quote, not Comey, and I thought
 8 the Comey knew was more about background.
 9 [redacted] Right. Look, if there is any --
 10 [redacted] asked Mr. McCabe --
 11 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 12 [redacted] Mr. McCabe, was it your unilateral
 13 decision to put this quote about the article out? That
 14 was [redacted] question.
 15 [redacted] Okay.
 16 [redacted] And his answer was, you know,
 17 essentially no. It wasn't my unilateral decision to put
 18 that, to have the, you know, it wasn't just a unilateral
 19 decision to even have the on-background conversation.
 20 Comey knew it was going to happen too. So there were more
 21 than just him involved. You know, obviously, Mr. Kortan,
 22 Ms. Page, they obviously knew. And he was offering up to
 23 us that Mr. Comey knew. Now, I don't remember if [redacted]
 24 asked him particularly if Comey knew or if he offered
 25 that. I just don't recall at this time.

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 know, and so I don't know that at, at any given time that
 2 we were trying to get him to sign it. But we would have
 3 documented every single time. It would be like
 4 documenting every moment of your day, you know, which
 5 could be tedious.
 6 [redacted] Just in looking back over my notes
 7 again, of your notes.
 8 [redacted] Yes.
 9 [redacted] On Page 2, the notation that, this
 10 is near the bottom.
 11 [redacted] Okay.
 12 [redacted] This is the third entry from the
 13 bottom, right below unilateral decision.
 14 [redacted] Okay.
 15 [redacted] Comey knew --
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] -- that M.K. was talking to Wall
 18 Street Journal. Did he elaborate how Comey knew? Was
 19 this a conversation McCabe had with Comey?
 20 [redacted] He did not elaborate to my
 21 recollection.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] I think [redacted] asked him was it a
 24 unilateral decision, and his answer was no.
 25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] And what about the notation below,
 2 was not admonished. Was controlled delivery? b6 Per OIG
 3 [redacted] Oh, no. This is -- okay, so, was b7C Per OIG
 4 not admonished, that was [redacted] question to Mr. McCabe. b6 -1,2
 5 Did Comey come back and say anything to you about this b7C -1,2
 6 quote.
 7 [redacted] Um-hmm. b6 -2, Per OIG
 8 [redacted] Were you admonished by Mr. Comey b7C -2, Per OIG
 9 when he saw it? b6 -2, Per OIG
 10 [redacted] Right. b7C -2, Per OIG
 11 [redacted] NO, I wasn't admonished by Mr. Comey.
 12 about this or, in fact, anything else. b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 13 [redacted] Right. b7C -1,2, Per OIG
 14 [redacted] Controlled delivery, question mark.
 15 That would indicate, again, this is [redacted] question
 16 to him. So was it controlled delivery of information to
 17 the Wall Street Journal? And this, we get back to the
 18 nature of what an on-background is.
 19 [redacted] I see. b6 -2, Per OIG
 20 [redacted] Yes, that's correct. It's a b7C -2, Per OIG
 21 controlled delivery. We tell them what we want to tell
 22 them. They can ask questions, but we, you know, we don't
 23 just answer questions. We decide what information they're
 24 going to get, controlled delivery of information.
 25 [redacted] Okay. Did you have any other

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 questions on the notes? Okay.
 2 So if you could go to the next document in the
 3 stack there. It should be, it's the email --
 4 [redacted] August --
 5 [redacted] August 18th, 2017.
 6 [redacted] Okay. Yep.
 7 [redacted] And it's from [redacted] to
 8 Andrew G. McCabe, and you're copied on it.
 9 [redacted] Okay.
 10 [redacted] And it appears that this, well I'm
 11 not sure, but I'm assuming it's, this is after the
 12 interview is completed because the email says thank you
 13 for your time this afternoon. Is that -- take a moment to
 14 look at this.
 15 [redacted] Yes. Yep. Um-hmm. So, we were in
 16 another interview. We were supposed to meet with Mr.
 17 McCabe at 4:30. He called, and we went up there about
 18 4:00. And then we were with him for a period of time. I
 19 thought we were there until after 5:00. But if [redacted] sent
 20 this email at five of 4:00, then we were probably there
 21 just maybe right before 5 o'clock. I remember Mr. McCabe
 22 saying something to the effect of, oh, I had you come
 23 early so we could all get out, done early on a Friday
 24 afternoon.
 25 [redacted] Okay. So it looks like from this

1 adding it. But, in fact, we never did that. You know,
 2 it's a little hard to recall because it was Friday. We
 3 talked about it, and then we ceased to work on it.
 4 So I don't know, as I sit here, I will just
 5 revise that to say I don't know if we were going to write
 6 more or if we were going to let Mr. McCabe write more. We
 7 were definitely sending it to Mr. McCabe to make that
 8 change for sure about what he said on May 9th versus what
 9 he said on August 18th. If [redacted] and I were going to add
 10 additional items to that statement, which would have been
 11 my expectation because I took notes, and there was new
 12 content. Right? All the stuff about did you talk with
 13 Mr. Comey, et cetera. And he told us that the call took
 14 place in his kitchen, which was new to us too. Previously
 15 we had thought the call took place in his office, for
 16 example.
 17 So I would have expected that new content, if it
 18 was going to be added to the statement, the new content
 19 would have been drafted by [redacted] and I. But we were
 20 sending it to Mr. McCabe to make that change he wanted to
 21 make with respect to his May 9th interview where he said
 22 he didn't know the source of the information of the
 23 October 30th Wall Street Journal article.
 24 [redacted] And just so it's clear on the
 25 record what you were describing.

b6 -1,2,Per OIG
b7C -1,2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 email, as you read it [redacted] is expecting that Mr.
 2 McCabe is going to make whatever changes need to be done
 3 as a result of his most recent interview.
 4 [redacted]: Oh, I see what you're saying here.
 5 So, I think, I, so I don't think [redacted] is expecting that
 6 Mr. McCabe is going to add in a bunch of the stuff about
 7 what we just discussed about the on-background and all of
 8 that. I, as I recall, Mr. McCabe said once again, on
 9 August 18th, that he didn't have the most recent version
 10 of his statement and could we please send it to him again.
 11 So [redacted] is sending it to him again because,
 12 because he had definitely said he wanted to make a change
 13 to the portion that was there with respect to I did not
 14 give authorization. Remember, I wrote that in my notes,
 15 this needs to be changed. So I think [redacted] was sending him
 16 that version to change. Like, the version that had been,
 17 it's, we didn't make further changes. We were sending him
 18 that version to be changed because he said specifically I
 19 want to change that last paragraph where I said I didn't
 20 authorize, I don't know who the source is, and I didn't
 21 authorize anybody to talk, et cetera.
 22 So I think [redacted] sent it to him again so he could
 23 make that change, whatever change he wanted to make. I
 24 think there was some expectation if there was going to be
 25 more added to the statement that [redacted] and I would be

1 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 2 [redacted] In the document I'm showing you
 3 now, I just want to point that you and see if that's
 4 correct. So, with the email of August 18th, 2017 at 5:04
 5 p.m., attaching the current draft version of Mr. McCabe's
 6 statement on pages 10 of 12, last paragraph on the bottom
 7 beginning on May 9th, 2017.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] Continuing to the top of Page 11,
 10 that paragraph contains the portion that you are saying
 11 Mr. McCabe could revise how he wanted to?
 12 [redacted] Right. So, I'll just be real
 13 specific here.
 14 [redacted] Okay.
 15 [redacted] On Page 11, if you go down to like
 16 the third line, it says this was the version of his
 17 statement that was sent to him after the May 9th
 18 interview
 19 [redacted] Right.
 20 [redacted] And did not change.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] In fact, still sitting here in this
 23 same form today. I do not know the identity of the source
 24 of the information contained in the article: I gave no
 25 one authority to share any information relative to my

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

1 interaction with the DOJ executive or with any member of
2 the media. Okay, those statements in our August 18th,
3 2017 interview, Mr. McCabe said he needed to change those
4 statements. So when [redacted] sent him the email at the end of
5 the day on August 18th and he said make modifications, my
6 understanding was that he was going to change those two
7 statements, which he said in his interview that needs to
8 be changed. Does that clear it up?

9 [redacted] Yes.
10 [redacted] Okay.
11 [redacted] It was clear to me the first time.
12 I just wanted to --
13 [redacted] Yeah.
14 [redacted] -- make sure the record was clear
15 with respect to the document. Can we stop for one second?
16 [redacted] Sure.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off
18 the record and back on the record.)
19 [redacted] Okay, back on the record after a
20 short break. It's approximately noon right now. And I
21 want to segue now into the interview that was conducted of
22 Lisa Page on August 7th, 2017. And so now I am showing
23 you, or you've taken, but --

24 [redacted] Um-hmm, yes.
25 [redacted] -- feel free to refer to any of

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 down versus shut down and how we got to the October 24th
2 story. That's what those notes refer to.
3 [redacted] And what was confusing to me, I
4 don't know if you actually showed her the October 24th or
5 23rd, it came out online on the 23rd, and I think maybe
6 print the 24th, or maybe both online 23rd, 24th. I didn't
7 see any reference to, to stand down or shut down in that,
8 in that earlier article, and I wasn't sure if you got into
9 that with her at all.

10 [redacted] did not have the earlier article
11 when I talked to her. I think I didn't even know there
12 was an earlier article until I talked to her. And then
13 later I obtained the earlier article. But she might have
14 also had it in her notes. But, but that was her, what she
15 said anyway, that there was a first story where stand down
16 was used versus shut down.

17 [redacted] Okay.
18 [redacted] Because she was able to point, I
19 recall at some point, she pointed to where it said stand
20 down either in the article or in her notes or somewhere
21 she --

22 [redacted] Okay.
23 [redacted] She was able to articulate it.
24 [redacted] Yeah, I think her, her notes, and
25 we'll get to those shortly, her notes. But moving on, the

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 those documents there in that stack. But I wanted to
2 direct your attention to what looks like seven pages of
3 your handwritten notes. It's dated in the right corner 8-
4 slash-7-slash-2017. And it appears, your initials and
5 Voviette Morgan. Is that right? Are these your notes?
6 [redacted] Yes. These are my notes.
7 [redacted] Okay. Just a couple quick
8 questions. So again, you're then Section Chief Voviette
9 Morgan attended this interview of Lisa Page?

10 [redacted] Yes.
11 [redacted] And I just have a couple of
12 questions, if you remember. On Page 2, it looks like in
13 the margin that there is a reference to first story stand
14 down versus shut down. And I'm wondering if you recall if
15 there is any discussion on this point with Lisa Page?
16 [redacted] Yes. Because in the October 30th
17 article, the quote is on the last page, third paragraph,
18 are you telling me that I need to shut down a validly
19 predicated investigation? And I, I think that's what I
20 was asking her about, although I haven't reviewed my notes
21 here, but she said, oh, was it shut down or stand down?
22 And I said I'm pretty sure it's shut down.

23 And she said, oh, well in the first story,
24 referring to the October 24th, 2016 article, there was
25 something about standing down. And so that was the stand

1 last notation on Page 3, so the next page. Can you read
2 where it says first paragraph, what that's a reference,
3 what that says and what that, what that's addressing?
4 [redacted] The first paragraph is our attempt
5 to demonstrate that there is no, quote, stand down, end
6 quote, on the investigation. Therefore, and it's cut off,
7 but it looks like cannot be -- I can't read the next word
8 because it's cut off, quote, stand down and DOJ pushing
9 back.

10 [redacted] Okay.
11 [redacted] So, you know, you ask me to read
12 this, but it's kind of out of context. I'm going to look
13 at my notes a little bit --
14 [redacted] Sure.
15 [redacted] -- to see what we were talking
16 about.

17 [redacted] And, if you wanted to refer,
18 Exhibit 4 should be there, which does have Exhibit 4 to
19 Lisa Page's sworn statement. Here it is. It does have
20 those highlighted paragraphs.
21 [redacted] So I'm going to look through the
22 article, because now I feel like it was this October 30th
23 article that has the stand down in it. Even though on the
24 prior page she said first article. This October 30th
25 article is very thorough and detailed and covers a lot of

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b7C -2

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 political views. I can't find the stand down reference,
2 so. But you asked what does, what does my, what do my
3 notes mean here. So she says first paragraph is our
4 attempt to demonstrate that there is no stand down in the
5 investigation.

6 So that first paragraph says, according to a
7 person familiar with the probes, on August 12th, a senior
8 Justice Department called Mr. McCabe to voice his
9 displeasure at finding that the New York FBI agents were
10 still openly pursuing the Clinton Foundation probe during
11 the election season. Mr. McCabe said agents still had the
12 authority to pursue the issue, as long as they didn't use
13 overt methods requiring Justice Department approvals.

14 So she said that she was the person familiar
15 with the probes that's being referenced in that first
16 paragraph.

17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
18 [redacted] And that that was an attempt to
19 demonstrate that, in fact, the FBI was not standing down
20 on the investigation.

21 [redacted] Um-hmm. It almost seems, I mean
22 the earlier references, and again I'm not pulling them out
23 now, as I recall to stand down I think were almost, I
24 don't know that they were identified but they may have
25 been attributed to unnamed FBI agents. It almost seems

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b7C Per OIG
b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
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1 concluded, and she said that I had two calls with Mr.
2 Barrett, who was in New York, they weren't, I remember I,
3 I had some, envisioned them all sitting in a room
4 together.

5 [redacted] I see.
6 [redacted] And she said, no, it was over the
7 phone. There were two calls, and she looked at her
8 calendar. It looked like one of the calls was on October
9 27th, and then on October 28th, follow up, review the
10 story with them. That's what my notes say.

11 [redacted] Did she elaborate what that meant?
12 That almost sounds like a prepublication review or
13 something?

14 [redacted] That's, I agree with your
15 assessment, that's what it sounds like. But she
16 ultimately provided her notes.

17 [redacted] Okay.
18 [redacted] So I didn't ask her anything
19 further. I didn't have her notes in front of me to ask
20 her about it.

21 [redacted] Um-hmm. And what about the last
22 entry on your notes, the 8-12.

23 [redacted] Yeah.
24 [redacted] And then what that's about.
25 [redacted] So at this point in the

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 like it's more directed to the FBI field, but it's
2 probably getting too far afield.

3 [redacted] Yeah. I know she, I recall this
4 discussion we had on stand-down versus shut down because I
5 was so sure about shut down, but she was able to like
6 point to the article where it said stand down, at some
7 point. And as I look through it now, I'm having trouble
8 finding that. But she --

9 [redacted] Okay. That's not critical.
10 [redacted] That's what I recall.

11 [redacted] And then in the last page of your
12 notes, I just want to make sure I understand what was
13 said. The reference to two, noting two calls at the top.

14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
15 [redacted] Beneath the date of 10-28-16, does
16 that say follow up and then something below that? Follow
17 up, review the story with them?

18 [redacted] Yeah. So, she had said during her
19 interview that she was going to provide me with her notes.

20 [redacted] Um-hmm.

21 [redacted] Because she said, I think she
22 offered up her notes, and I said yes, I would like your
23 notes. And then this last page of notes is on August
24 17th, but it's a phone call with Lisa Page. So she called
25 me at my desk at some point when the interview had

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b7C -2

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b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 investigation, I was not aware that Mr. McCabe had had
2 this telephone call alone in his kitchen.

3 [redacted] I see.
4 [redacted] I was, I think the working theory of

5 the investigation was that people were present in Mr.
6 McCabe's office when he had this call, and therefore we
7 were trying to figure out who leaked this information. So
8 just as a little bit of background, the things that tie
9 the two articles that involve [redacted] were that the leaks
10 or the alleged leaks were things that happened, were
11 thought to have happened out of a small group of people
12 that were close to McCabe. So the thought was we'd
13 interview everybody who was close to him that attended
14 either his wrap-up meeting or would have been in his
15 office for example when he had this telephone call.

16 So I remember asking her if she was in the room
17 when he made the call. So she was going to look at her
18 calendar because she wasn't sure herself whether she was
19 in the room or Mr. McCabe had told her about the telephone
20 call. But she was going to look back at her notes, at her
21 calendar. And so she looked back at her calendar on
22 August 12th to see if she was in the room when the call
23 came. She says, I don't have any notes on it that I was
24 in his room, that there was a telephone call that day.
25 Do you need to get that?

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b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG
b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] No, you can keep going.
2 [redacted] But, on the same page, in
3 parenthesis, on my page of notes from 10/27/2016, my notes
4 with the call with Devlin Barrett -- I know what she's
5 referring to here. She wrote 8-12 Axelrod on her notes.
6 And then when I wrote down -- I'm trying to read it. Oh,
7 different ink. Different ink, Friday, August 12th with
8 Axelrod.
9 So what she was telling me was, she still didn't
10 know if she was in the room when the call came, but on her
11 notes that she took when she had the telephone call on the
12 27th with Devlin Barrett, on that page of notes in a
13 different color ink, she wrote 8-slash-12 Axelrod. So she
14 was telling me that, she still didn't know if she was in
15 the room, but she had written that down, so she knew the
16 August 12th call was with Axelrod. That's what she was
17 telling me in this telephone call that, that was after the
18 interview.
19 [redacted] So if you go to this document
20 here, which is Exhibit 6 to Lisa Page's --
21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
22 [redacted] -- final signed sworn statement,
23 and you'll see Exhibit 6 is identified as her notes, Page
24 9. She identifies that she engaged in two calls with Mr.
25 Barrett to the best of her recollection. I'll wait for

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG
b6 -2
b7C -2
b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Um-hmm.
2 [redacted] -- in her telephone call.
3 [redacted] Was that for your benefit, that
4 she wrote that?
5 [redacted] She didn't write that. No, no, no.
6 [redacted] Oh.
7 [redacted] She said she went back at her, after
8 our interview, she went back to her, her calendar. I
9 think this is her calendar even though it looks like
10 notes. I think it's notes she takes in her calendar,
11 something like that.
12 [redacted] see.
13 [redacted] And she was looking back at the
14 date, August 12th, to see if she was in the room or had
15 noted a call about Axelrod. And she said, I didn't have
16 anything like that on August 12th. However, in my notes
17 from October 27th, I noted that that was written there.
18 She didn't write this later. It was written, my
19 understanding that she told me, this was written on
20 October 27th, she wrote these words on the page.
21 [redacted] see.
22 [redacted] And she was telling me that
23 therefore that is how she knew it was with Axelrod. Well,
24 she knew it was with Axelrod anyway. But she was telling
25 me,, it didn't refresh her recollection as to whether she

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 you to get there.
2 [redacted] Yeah, sorry.
3 [redacted] No, that's okay. It's my, I'm
4 jumping ahead.
5 [redacted] Okay.
6 [redacted] So this is the last full paragraph
7 on Page 9 where it says to the best of my recollection and
8 according to my notes, AD Kortan and I engaged in two
9 telephone calls with Mr. Barrett on October 27th and
10 October 28th, 2016. And the last line says she produced a
11 copy of her notes for INSD, which are attached as Exhibit
12 6, which I just put before you.
13 [redacted] Right.
14 [redacted] So I believe this is the document
15 you were talking about. And I just wasn't sure if you
16 needed it at that moment as you were going through your
17 response.
18 [redacted] Oh, this is it. So Exhibit 6 is
19 double-sided here. But on sort of like what would be Page
20 3 if they were single-sided --
21 [redacted] Okay.
22 [redacted] You can see at the top, she's got
23 like sort of red ink on most of this page, but at the very
24 top in blue ink is written the words Fri Aug 12 with
25 Axelrod. So that's what she was telling me --

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b7C -2, Per OIG
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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 was in the room with Mr. McCabe when he had the call. But
2 somehow she knew the call was with Axelrod. And she was
3 just saying that the only place it appeared in her notes
4 was on the page of notes from October 27th with, in
5 connection with her telephone call with Devlin Barrett,
6 the Wall Street Journal reporter.
7 [redacted] Did she explain why it's in
8 different ink?
9 [redacted] No, she didn't. But there is a lot
10 of different ink going on. There's blue ink at the bottom
11 of the page too. That would be a question for her. Maybe
12 she has some habit of changing ink for some reason I
13 don't know. I didn't ask her.
14 [redacted] And do you know, while we're on
15 this document of her notes, did she explain on Page 1, is
16 this beginning part, do you know, did she say, is this,
17 are her notes here reflecting Mr. Barrett's understanding?
18 [redacted] These are all questions you're going
19 to have to ask her.
20 [redacted] Okay.
21 [redacted] She provided her note, and I did not
22 interview her with respect to her notes.
23 [redacted] Got it.
24 [redacted] You didn't have them until after.
25 [redacted] Right. She at some point came to my

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b7C Per OIG
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b7C Per OIG
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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 office and gave them to me.
 2 [redacted] All right. Let's turn to her
 3 sworn statement, 12-page, the 12-page document of her
 4 final signed sworn statement. Turn to the last page, Page
 5 12, I believe. Is that your signature on the last page?
 6 [redacted]: Yes.
 7 [redacted] So does this appear to be a true
 8 copy of that document?
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 [redacted] Best you can tell?
 11 [redacted] Yes.
 12 [redacted] On Page 5 on the bottom, the last
 13 two lines, there's a reference to a new FBI corporate
 14 policy that covers engagement with the press. Did you
 15 ever see a copy of that? Do you know what that is?
 16 [redacted] I don't think it's finalized yet, to
 17 be honest. But yes, I am familiar that there is a new
 18 corporate policy coming out about a media policy,
 19 engagement with the media.
 20 [redacted] Okay. So let me just show you,
 21 not to look at this document.
 22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 23 [redacted] But just for the record, we have a
 24 document that is titled, entitled Media Relations at FBI
 25 HQ, and then Field Offices Policy Guide, Federal Bureau of

1 referring to though.
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] The new one that's coming out.
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 [redacted] Or it has recently come out.
 6 [redacted] Okay. Do you have any other
 7 questions on that?
 8 So, turning now to Page 9. Actually, before I
 9 do that, Page 7. There is, this is the first full
 10 paragraph on Page 7. It's a discussion about that she was
 11 aware of steps that Mr. McCabe took to address media
 12 leaks. Did you get into that with her in the sense of we
 13 know that Mr. McCabe referred one matter to INSD and may
 14 have done some preliminary investigatory work regarding
 15 that. But, were there other steps that you're aware of
 16 that the Deputy Director took about addressing media
 17 leaks?
 18 [redacted] I am not aware of other steps that
 19 he took.
 20 [redacted] Okay. Or others, other FBI
 21 managers? If you know. I'm just trying to clarify if
 22 there is anything there that's just not expressed.
 23 [redacted] I don't -- let me just think for a
 24 minute. So when this case opened, I think I referenced
 25 this earlier, it wasn't the only leak investigation.

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b6 Per OIG
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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Investigations Office of Public Affairs, dated October
 2 13th, 2015. I'm just wondering, one, if you've ever seen
 3 this, and two, if it's your understanding that this is the
 4 current policy on media relations between FBI and the
 5 press if you, if you know.
 6 [redacted] I have seen it, yes. Whether the,
 7 it is the current policy or whether the new policy has
 8 since been finalized, I don't know.
 9 [redacted] Okay.
 10 [redacted] I know that, I believe that the new
 11 policy went further than that existing policy to cover
 12 situations that weren't necessarily anticipated when the
 13 prior policy was, was put in place. Like, things like
 14 responding on a blog and things like that, which aren't
 15 maybe traditional media, things that you would think of as
 16 media engagement but have since in this current age become
 17 thing we might be concerned about.
 18 And that being said, I haven't read the new
 19 policy. I am just aware that there is one in the works or
 20 possibly even finalized.
 21 [redacted] So that, that might be something
 22 that we might put in our proper, an email request.
 23 [redacted] To get it?
 24 [redacted] Or what you want us to do.
 25 [redacted] Yeah. I think that's what she's

1 There were a number of them.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] And there was coordination with OIG
 4 that, who was going to do what. And one of the first
 5 things that [redacted] and I had to do was sort out a request
 6 that had been made by various entities, whether they were
 7 made by Inspection Division, OIG, Mr. McCabe, who made
 8 them and, and what they referred to. So I'm just trying
 9 to think if I was aware if any of those came from McCabe
 10 at that point.
 11 And I think early in the investigation, I didn't
 12 even realize that he was behind the first one. So I think
 13 the answer to that is no. I was aware that in general
 14 leaks were a concern, and that there a number of them.
 15 And it had gotten to the point where there needed to be
 16 coordination because too many people were possibly looking
 17 at the same thing, and we didn't want to duplicate
 18 efforts.
 19 So I was aware, she is referencing a search of
 20 Bureau telephone and email records. So I was aware that
 21 that was done. I don't think I was aware that Mr. McCabe
 22 was behind it, because it was not presented to me in that
 23 way.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] So if the question is am I aware of

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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

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b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 any, if Mr. McCabe or any other executive management took
 2 measures to look into the leaks, I think the answer is no.
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 4 [redacted] I mean, I think there were entities
 5 within the FBI that were looking at it, and I think we
 6 knew DOJ was looking at it.
 7 [redacted] And, and then sort of related to
 8 that, beyond the look, beyond what's referenced here about
 9 looking at the phones and emails for patterns, were you
 10 aware of any other steps that were taken?
 11 [redacted] By Mr. McCabe?
 12 [redacted] Or, or other, not INSD. Yeah, by
 13 Mr. McCabe or other managers. And only if anything jumps
 14 out.
 15 [redacted] No. I mean, like I said, at the
 16 beginning, I was aware that OIG had made some requests,
 17 that Inspection Division had made some requests, and
 18 another section, like Counterintelligence Division had
 19 made some requests, which I think ultimately were the ones
 20 that were --
 21 [redacted] I see. Okay.
 22 [redacted] -- requested at a higher level.
 23 But, there was a lot of requests coming in at the same
 24 time. I don't know who made what requests. We had to
 25 sort out what they related to.

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 accurately reflected that time line.
 2 [redacted] What about the notion of a
 3 framework to help shape? Was there any understanding
 4 about what that meant or any discussion about that?
 5 [redacted] There wasn't any discussion about
 6 that. I think that is literally what she said, so those
 7 are the words I put into her statement.
 8 [redacted] Okay. Do you have anything? Un
 9 the bottom of Page 9, the last two lines. Essentially,
 10 and it carries over to Page 10, Ms. Page is presuming that
 11 she and Mr. Kortan are the identified sources in the
 12 highlighted paragraph shown in Exhibit 4, the last three
 13 paragraphs on the, the first three paragraphs on the last
 14 page regarding the August 20th call. Did she explain why
 15 she presumed that?
 16 [redacted] Well, she said because I knew I was
 17 on background.
 18 [redacted] Okay.
 19 [redacted] Did she say whether she or Kortan
 20 were the source of anything else in the October 30
 21 article? Was the discussion --
 22 [redacted] Well, she was very clear that the
 23 article, and I said it too, the article goes on and on
 24 about many things. So she talks about just those, being
 25 the, the source on the last three, the first three

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Okay. Thanks. Then on Page 9,
 2 this would be the second paragraph, the first sentence
 3 where she's, where -- I'll just read it. Due to the
 4 inaccuracies in the October 24, 2016 story, DD McCabe, for
 5 Deputy Director, asked AD for, Assistant Director, Kortan
 6 and me to work with Mr. Barrett on background, in quotes,
 7 basis, and provide a framework to help shape his next
 8 article. Did you talk with her about what specific
 9 directives, if any, were given to her, or whether it was
 10 written about going on background?
 11 [redacted] We talked about what on background
 12 meant, because that's the very next thing that's in her
 13 statement. And as I mentioned before, that was kind of a
 14 new thing to me. Whether she had direction, she
 15 referenced a time line that Mr. McCabe had created. And
 16 she wasn't sure, and this is all in her statement --
 17 [redacted] Right.
 18 [redacted] -- which again would be the best
 19 source of this.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] My, I'm sort of secondhand on this.
 22 She said that he had created a time line. She couldn't
 23 recall if the time line was created for the first article
 24 or a response to the second article. But if there was
 25 directive, I think it was to make sure that the article

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1 paragraphs on the last page.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] So she says for sure I'm not the
 4 source on, for example, things about Anthony Weiner, and I
 5 think there's, like, something with Hillary Clinton in
 6 there that she's not the source on.
 7 [redacted] Does she, in the next paragraph,
 8 does, let's see. So this is, this is on Page 10, this
 9 would be the first full paragraph.
 10 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 11 [redacted] I speculate that.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] But in the last line, she says,
 14 last two lines. I am confident that NYO, I'm assuming
 15 that's New York Field Division, FBI employees were the
 16 source of media leaks with respect to that investigation,
 17 meaning the Clinton Foundation investigation.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] Did she give any basis for that
 20 belief?
 21 [redacted] No. And I asked her to because we
 22 were clearly looking into media leaks, so if she knew
 23 something about somebody in New York who was talking, I
 24 was definitely interested in hearing about that. And I
 25 think it was just more of a feeling -- this is something

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b6 -2
b7C -2

1 you need to ask her. This is my opinion that, that she
 2 had a sense that the information must be coming from the
 3 New York Office because that's the only people who would
 4 have it.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] And you should ask her.
 7 [redacted] Okay.
 8 [redacted] She was not able to point to any
 9 people or say anything with why she was confident. But
 10 that was literally her word, confident, so I put it in
 11 there.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm. And then on Page 10 to 11
 13 of the statement, she talks on the bottom of 10 to the top
 14 of 11 where she talks about she's been involved in similar
 15 on background conversations. And that was always with Mr.
 16 Kortan or an OPA rep. Does she talk about whether any of
 17 those on background conversations ever included giving
 18 quotes or an active investigation?
 19 [redacted] No. At one point, I had asked her
 20 when she offered her notes, I, I asked her to provide
 21 notes for any on background conversation she had had
 22 because I was thinking perhaps they, if we were looking at
 23 other leak cases, that might be helpful to know that she
 24 had been the on background source for something. But we
 25 didn't get into, like, whether her on background

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 asked her and Kortan to work with the reporter to shape
 2 the next article.
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm, that's right.
 4 [redacted] Did she indicate to you whether,
 5 whether it was the reporter who prompted her interaction,
 6 or whether it was McCabe? In other words, McCabe asking
 7 her to reach out to that, you know, to Devlin Barrett was,
 8 was the FBI reaching out to the reporter for the first
 9 time on this, or was it that they had gotten a call from
 10 the reporter and, and Mr. McCabe says, you know, yes, go
 11 ahead and talk to him. Do you know who prompted the
 12 conversations on the 27th and 28th, FBI or reporter?
 13 [redacted] Okay. So, the answer is as I sit
 14 here I don't know. And I certainly didn't know when I
 15 interviewed Lisa Page. But I will tell you that we went
 16 back and reinterviewed Michael Kortan. And when we
 17 interviewed him, it was over the course of several days.
 18 And each day, he continued to provide us email messages
 19 that he was able to locate. So I still don't recall.
 20 Those emails might be a source of information with respect
 21 to how it started, whether Devlin reached out to the FBI
 22 or whether it was the other way around. My sense of it is
 23 that Devlin Barrett reached out, but I would hesitate to,
 24 to say that that's a fact. I would want to look at those
 25 emails.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 discussions involved an ongoing case. And she ultimately
 2 did not produce those notes. She told me she though it
 3 was beyond the scope of our investigation, so she didn't
 4 provide them.
 5 [redacted] Did she say whether these similar
 6 on background conversations that she had, whether those
 7 were also for McCabe?
 8 [redacted] She did not say it, no. I mean, she
 9 didn't say anything. But I had the feeling that she might
 10 have been referring to something that maybe I didn't have
 11 a need to know. And that was part of why she didn't want
 12 to produce her notes. That's completely a speculation on
 13 my part. But it, I had asked her for them, and then she
 14 came back and said that they were beyond the scope, which
 15 I wasn't expecting her to say since she had been so open
 16 about this one. So I thought maybe there is something
 17 classified or something in her notes that she simply
 18 cannot provide for me because I don't have the need to
 19 know. That was my feeling.
 20 [redacted] I was going to move on to another
 21 witness, unless you have any follow-up on these?
 22 [redacted] One last one.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 [redacted] There's a statement where, in her
 25 statement where she said that the Deputy Director had

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b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 And I definitely recall that one of the emails
 2 that Mr. Kortan produced was from Devlin Barrett after the
 3 first article came out that said something to the effect
 4 of did I get it right, please give me feedback. There was
 5 something like that where he, Devlin Barrett, the
 6 reporter, reached out specifically and asked that question
 7 to the FBI.
 8 [redacted] Okay. So, so Page didn't
 9 indicate to you one way or another, but you think through
 10 your interviews with Kortan that, that you saw
 11 documentation to that effect?
 12 [redacted] Yes. That's my recollection. And,
 13 and these are documents we can look at.
 14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 15 [redacted] Do you have anything else on that?
 16 So, actually turning now to Mr. Kortan and his
 17 interview on August 16th -- go ahead.
 18 [redacted] I'm so sorry.
 19 [redacted] It's fine.
 20 [redacted] Okay. One other thing about Page
 21 before we move off. Just a couple of basic questions.
 22 The sworn statement, did you draft, do the Draft 1 of her
 23 sworn statement?
 24 [redacted] Yes.
 25 [redacted] Okay. And so obviously you're

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b7C Per OIG

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b7C -2

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b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 very familiar with the document?
 2 [redacted]: I drafted it.
 3 [redacted] And the copy that she signed, do
 4 you believe that that is an accurate memorialization of
 5 your two interviews with her?
 6 [redacted]: Yes. So, if she made, and I believe
 7 she did make some changes, we have all of her prior
 8 drafts. I will say, I did not write a 302 to some extent
 9 that I thought she changed her mind significantly. As I
 10 recall it, her changes were mostly stylistic choices.
 11 That's my recollection, but we can certainly look back at
 12 the drafts. If I thought that there was something
 13 inaccurate about her final signed sworn statement, I would
 14 have done a 302.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] Which I did not do.
 17 [redacted] Okay. So, so, any changes that
 18 she made to the document, as it appears now signed by her
 19 and signed by you, you believe it to be accurate?
 20 [redacted] Yes.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] Okay, so Mr. Kortan. If you could
 23 turn to, there should be -- that document there. Correct.
 24 [redacted] Okay.
 25 [redacted] Six pages of handwritten notes,

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] It was fine. We showed him the
 2 article. He answered the questions. There was nothing
 3 unusual about his demeanor.
 4 [redacted] Was he, it's my understanding that
 5 reading his sworn statement, final sworn statement, that
 6 his office that he's head of is responsible for these on
 7 background conversations with, subject to senior FBI
 8 executives who might also have the ability to talk to the
 9 media. Did he describe any action that he took at the
 10 time to find out who did this, if his view was it was a
 11 leak?
 12 [redacted] So, with Mr. Kortan, we talked to
 13 him, I believe it was three times in three days, or it was
 14 really close to that.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] So this would have been the first
 17 time, and I recall when we sat with him and we showed him
 18 the article, obviously [redacted] and I knew what Lisa Page had
 19 said.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] So we were coming to see what he
 22 would say about it. And he, when he saw the article,
 23 said, oh, I would call this a leak. So then we obviously
 24 were like, okay, we're having a conflict here in this
 25 investigation. So I think as we continued to ask him

b6 -2
b7C -2
b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 and just to identify for the record, in the right-hand
 2 corner it says a date of 8-slash-16-slash-17, with
 3 initials [redacted] Do these appear to be your
 4 written, handwritten notes from August 16, 2017 of an
 5 interview with Mr. Kortan?
 6 [redacted] Yes.
 7 [redacted] Okay. If you could look at the
 8 first two pages. And what I'll specifically want to draw
 9 your attention to is, there's a notation towards the
 10 bottom of Page 2 that says I call this a leak.
 11 [redacted] Yeah.
 12 [redacted] So if you just want to refresh
 13 your recollection on sort of the prior notes, but I wanted
 14 to ask you about that.
 15 [redacted] Okay.
 16 [redacted] So, as I gather from your notes
 17 here, you're showing him, again, this same Wall Street
 18 Journal article that we've been talking about on October
 19 20th, 2016 and the highlighted first three paragraphs on
 20 the last page. And that Mr. Kortan is characterizing what
 21 you're focusing him on as, as a leak. Is that fair?
 22 [redacted] Yes.
 23 [redacted] And then during this discussion,
 24 what is his reaction? Is he -- well, I'll just leave it
 25 open. Does he have any, what was his demeanor?

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 questions, I think he thought, well, I should remember
 2 this. Clearly they're asking me questions, so whatever,
 3 I'm not giving them what they want. That was my
 4 impression.
 5 And over the, I don't believe the first day, but
 6 over the next -- it might have been the first day, I asked
 7 him to look. I think I personally asked him to look and
 8 see if he had any emails that would refresh his
 9 recollection. And then he started to do that. And then
 10 as he printed out emails, like, we can go back to the
 11 notes to find out what days he printed the emails. But he
 12 found documents that showed that in fact there was this on
 13 background authorization and discussion with him and Lisa
 14 Page and Devlin Barrett. And I recall, he made a joke
 15 about being old and not being able to remember it, and
 16 being embarrassed that he wasn't able to remember it. I
 17 do recall that.
 18 But this first day, when he looked at it fresh
 19 with no recollection of the emails, his first impression,
 20 which was calm and clear and confident, was that it was a
 21 leak. That's what he said. And then he went back to his
 22 emails at my prompting, located these emails, and then I
 23 remember him feeling like, wow, how could I not remember
 24 this. Clearly here it's here in the emails, that we did
 25 do this on background.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] So, and I'm happy for you to go
 2 to, I mean, what's following here is some of the emails,
 3 which I'll get into separately.
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 [redacted] But, that stack there has the
 6 final, his final sworn statement. And then your, your
 7 notes from the follow-up interviews on the 17th and the
 8 18th, so yeah, there's the final sworn statement.
 9 [redacted] Okay.
 10 [redacted] The one thing that I was curious
 11 about, one thing you just said was I didn't actually see
 12 in the final sworn statement him ever saying it was
 13 authorized to go on background, as opposed to, that, that
 14 he recalled specifically was authorized. It seemed that
 15 his statement --
 16 [redacted] Hmm.
 17 [redacted] -- focused on saying I don't
 18 recall this. I don't know how it happened.
 19 [redacted] I'd have to look at the statement.
 20 But the term authorization might not have been used in his
 21 statement because at the point where he found all these
 22 emails, I think maybe it might have been obvious to all of
 23 us that, that these emails included Mr. McCabe. So, I
 24 don't know that there was a specific question about
 25 authorization. But if there is something you want to ask

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Okay.
 2 [redacted] The second full paragraph says, I,
 3 and this is from his statement. I do not recall, quote,
 4 on background, end-quote, conversations with Mr. Barrett
 5 between --
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 7 [redacted] -- the October 24th, 2016 and the
 8 October 30th, 2016 articles. Although, email traffic
 9 suggests Mr. Barrett contacted me during that time,
 10 possibly regarding this or other issues. And he says
 11 that, later in the paragraph, although I now make a
 12 practice of keeping daily notes --
 13 [redacted] Right.
 14 [redacted] -- about all substantive interaction
 15 with reporters, I did not maintain notes of everything at
 16 that time.
 17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 18 [redacted] So I'm not sure if there is a
 19 pending question about the authorization.
 20 [redacted] Well, the question, well the
 21 question was, at least I understood you to say that while
 22 in having Mr. Kortan go through his emails, it was clear
 23 to INSD, or you and [redacted] that he had authorization
 24 from McCabe to do on background.
 25 [redacted] Well I don't think your use of the

1 me specifically and point to it --
 2 [redacted] Well, yeah, I mean --
 3 [redacted] -- that would be helpful.
 4 [redacted] Yeah, no. Actually, the emails
 5 that we have that you asked him -- so the emails that you
 6 asked him to find, which he gave to you, INSD, which then
 7 INSD gave to us, I never saw Mr. McCabe on any of those
 8 emails. Definitely there were emails back and forth
 9 between Kortan and Barrett, and some included Page.
 10 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 11 [redacted] But none that I saw with Mr,
 12 McCabe. And, I don't know if there is a good example
 13 here, but, I mean, Page 4. If you read the bottom there,
 14 the last paragraph starting when I look at the highlighted
 15 paragraph.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] He talks about how, or he states I
 18 don't recall any on background conversation that included
 19 a direct quote, especially regarding what at the time was
 20 an ongoing investigation. So that's the, it looks like
 21 the second.
 22 [redacted] Yep.
 23 [redacted] So that's where I'm sort of trying
 24 to understand.
 25 [redacted] So then look at Page 6.

1 phrase it was clear to you and [redacted] I mean, it
 2 wasn't clear. We were --
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 4 [redacted] That's why we're doing an
 5 investigation.
 6 [redacted] Yeah.
 7 [redacted] So, I don't think that's fair.
 8 [redacted] Well, no, no. I wasn't, I wasn't
 9 trying to portray it like that. I guess, I don't, I
 10 didn't see any evidence or any documentation of Mr. McCabe
 11 being party to these emails with Mr. Kortan. And the, and
 12 the reporter. So, or that he says in his statement any,
 13 that he in fact recalls being authorized to talk to Mr.
 14 Barrett with respect to the October 30th, 2016 article.
 15 So I'm just trying to clarify. If there is something I'm
 16 missing in his sworn statement or other documents where
 17 you know or what your basis is that he was authorized by
 18 Mr. McCabe.
 19 [redacted] So again, I don't think that I am
 20 the determiner of who was authorized by who.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] I think that's a part of the
 23 questions of this investigation.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] : Lisa Page said they were authorized.

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Um-hmm. Right.
 2 [redacted] Mr. McCabe later said he gave that
 3 authorization.
 4 [redacted] Yes.
 5 [redacted] And to be fair, we were in the
 6 middle of interviewing Mr. Kortan and getting to the
 7 question about authorization when we were called by Mr.
 8 McCabe to go to his office.
 9 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 10 [redacted] So I'm not sure if this is what
 11 you're asking, but I know that we intended to ask further
 12 questions of Mr. Kortan that we did not have a chance to.
 13 [redacted] Okay. Okay.
 14 [redacted] Yeah, so the, so the sequence of
 15 events are such that the second interview you had with
 16 Kortan was on 8-16. And then --
 17 [redacted] So this would have been a, the, the
 18 first day of a second interview, right?
 19 [redacted] Correct.
 20 [redacted] Because Mr., Kortan had a previously
 21 signed sworn statement --
 22 [redacted] Yes.
 23 [redacted] -- from a prior interview.
 24 [redacted] Right.
 25 [redacted] So this would, the point of this

1 [redacted] Oh, so I wanted to say one other
 2 thing.
 3 [redacted] Go ahead. Go ahead. No, no. Go
 4 ahead.
 5 [redacted] So then we went back on the 17th and
 6 the 18th, and I feel like it was because Mr. Kortan said
 7 he had additional documents for us, more emails, and then
 8 he ultimately wanted to go through his changes of his
 9 signed sworn statement with us. I remember that was part
 10 of it.
 11 [redacted] Okay.
 12 [redacted] He wanted, he wanted to sit down and
 13 go through his changes with us. And that, that's what was
 14 happening on Friday right before we talked to Mr. McCabe.
 15 He was going through these changes. And it was a little
 16 bit frustrating because I, I remember saying to him you
 17 don't have to explain the changes. Just make the changes.
 18 You know, make the changes you want to make. And he had a
 19 strong, he really wanted to talk through his changes with
 20 us. He was pretty adamant about that. So we kind of sat
 21 there and listened to him talk about his changes for a
 22 while.
 23 [redacted] Okay. I was actually going to go
 24 back to the notes and kind of walk it through more. I was
 25 trying to expedite, but I'm seeing that I need to just go

1 interview that started on August 16th was to ask him about
 2 the Wall Street Journal article of October 30th, and the
 3 24th, both of them.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] And then the other two were to, to
 6 the follow-up with respect to the emails that he produced?
 7 [redacted] So, I asked him for, to look at his
 8 emails I believe on August 16th, because we were sitting
 9 in his office, and I said do you have any emails you could
 10 look at? And I recall he got up and went to his computer
 11 to look. And so he started looking and printing them.
 12 Now, what happened --
 13 [redacted] In front of you, in other words?
 14 [redacted] Yes. Literally in front of me.
 15 [redacted] I see. I see.
 16 [redacted] So, so he started printing. And
 17 that's when he kind of was a little, I guess that he made
 18 the joke about not remembering, but, but then finding
 19 these emails that showed that it happened anyway. Setting
 20 aside the question of authorization, okay?
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] He had emails that showed he in fact
 23 had had conversations with Lisa Page and Devlin Barrett.
 24 [redacted] Okay. And let me, I'm going to
 25 actually --

1 back and do quickly this stuff. So going back to the
 2 notes on August 16th, 2017, the first, I guess the first
 3 page. Let's see. This would be the second page. In the
 4 middle there, it looks like there is a reference to the
 5 [redacted] email. Do you see that?
 6 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.
 7 [redacted] Can you explain what's going on
 8 with the notation you're making there?
 9 [redacted] So, I believe that this is, I'm
 10 writing down what [redacted] is asking him.
 11 [redacted] Okay.
 12 [redacted] He's asking Michael Kortan to
 13 contrast the article, the October 30th Wall Street Journal
 14 article with [redacted] email. Which, [redacted]
 15 email on its face appears to have an intent to be harmful
 16 to Mr. McCabe.
 17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 18 [redacted] It has some colorful language that's
 19 attributed to Mr. McCabe, for example. So contrast that
 20 with the Devlin Barrett article, more at McCabe going to
 21 bat to not shut down the Clinton Foundation investigation.
 22 So, so I think [redacted] was asking him, Michael Kortan, to
 23 compare the two. One of these --
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] -- is sort of negative towards Mr.

1 McCabe, and one of them is more positive to Mr. McCabe.
 2 [redacted] And did he have any reaction to
 3 that, do you remember?
 4 [redacted] Well, I think he observed, he agreed
 5 that that was the case. And, and then we proceeded to get
 6 onto whether he knew about this telephone call with the
 7 validly predicated investigation, and did he recall that
 8 there was, that he knew the source of these paragraphs
 9 that were on the last page of the article. And then he
 10 gets to, well, I call this a leak. I don't recall it.
 11 And as an ongoing investigation I don't, you know, I, this
 12 isn't something we would do. This is what he was telling
 13 us.
 14 [redacted] Right. And then in the third page
 15 of the email -- excuse me, notes.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] This is near the top. Did anyone
 18 from the seventh floor -- I'm assuming that's FBI
 19 executive management. Is that what's referred to?
 20 [redacted] Right. Yes, um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] Do you know who's, or who
 22 specifically that would, is that commonly understood to
 23 encompass certain managers?
 24 [redacted] So, it would be the Director, the
 25 Deputy Director, and the Associate Deputy Director I think

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b6 -2
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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 same --
 2 [redacted] Seventh floor, right? So, I just
 3 thought of something else. So on the seventh floor of the
 4 J. Edgar Hoover Building, there is a section of the
 5 seventh floor that's behind glass doors. And you need a
 6 badge and a code to get in there. So that's the, the
 7 offices contained within that glass, those two glass
 8 doors, that would be who he is talking to, when [redacted] says
 9 the seventh floor, he's talking about the people that have
 10 the offices there, and that's where the Director's office
 11 is, the Deputy Director's office is, the Associate Deputy
 12 Director's office is. So that's what he's referring to.
 13 And that would be the same senior leadership.
 14 [redacted] Okay. Can you read what the next
 15 entry says?
 16 [redacted] You do not see a direct quote very
 17 often. Quote, over the top. Those were the words of
 18 Michael Kortan. He said this seems really over the top.
 19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] Not necessary to get the point
 21 across. More to prove person was actually there. So this
 22 was Michael Kortan expressing his opinion about the last
 23 three paragraphs on the last page of the October 30th Wall
 24 Street Journal article. He said in the beginning of,
 25 earlier, he said I would call this a leak. And, and even

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1 is --
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] -- Mr. Bowdich's title. And then,
 4 there are a few other people that sit up there too. All
 5 executive level, very, the top of the FBI, essentially.
 6 [redacted] Okay. So on your notes, on Page
 7 5, there, this is sort of middle towards the end, I think
 8 it says someone from OPA is always involved with an on
 9 background conversation.
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 [redacted] Is that what that says?
 12 [redacted] That's what that says.
 13 [redacted] Can you read what the, I'm getting
 14 expert at reading your writing.
 15 [redacted] Yeah, look at that.
 16 [redacted] Can you read what the next
 17 notation says?
 18 [redacted] I would not have authorized an on
 19 background for an investigation, semicolon. Senior
 20 leadership, underlined, are authorized to talk to the
 21 media. So what he was saying was he himself wouldn't have
 22 felt authorized to go to the media and make a comment
 23 about an ongoing investigation. But senior leadership
 24 could do that.
 25 [redacted] And is senior leadership that

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b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 more so, I think it's over the top because you don't even
 2 need it to make the point. The person is like, it's like
 3 they want to prove they were there so badly that they're
 4 able to tell you this is what he said. I was sitting
 5 there listening to the telephone call. That was Michael
 6 Kortan's, what he was getting across.
 7 [redacted] Okay. Do you have anything on
 8 that? So then we get to the next day, August 17, 2017.
 9 And there is two pages of handwritten notes, which I
 10 believe in the right-hand corner is your initials. Do
 11 these reflect your notes?
 12 [redacted] Yes.
 13 [redacted] And it looks like the purpose of
 14 this interview was to in part go over emails that Mr.
 15 Kortan had given to you from October 23rd and 24th.
 16 [redacted] Actually, I would say the point is
 17 he wanted to give us emails.
 18 [redacted] Okay.
 19 [redacted] He gave us emails.
 20 [redacted] Okay.
 21 [redacted] That's what the first thing says.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] Gives us emails from 10-23.
 24 [redacted] Was that when he printed them
 25 off? Was that --

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b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
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1 [redacted] No, no, no. So, so he -- my
 2 recollection is, on the 16th, I asked him to go refresh
 3 his recollection. He literally got up, went to his
 4 computer, searched through his emails and printed some.
 5 Now, this is the next day. I think he continued to look
 6 after our interview ended, and he had more. And I would
 7 note that on the 17th, it's actually Voviette Morgan who
 8 is with me and not [redacted]. So Voviette and I went up
 9 together to, to -- and as I recall, Michael Kortan called
 10 me and told me that he had additional emails, and we went
 11 up --

12 [redacted] Okay.
 13 [redacted] -- Voviette and I went up to go see
 14 him and get the emails.

15 [redacted] So you go up there, and you're
 16 looking over some of those. And there's one I wanted to
 17 ask you about. It's an email -- it's the one dated
 18 October 24th, 2016?

19 [redacted] Yep.
 20 [redacted] Just let me know when you get
 21 there
 22 [redacted] 12:30, right, p.m.?
 23 [redacted] Correct, 12:30 p.m.
 24 [redacted] Okay, yeah.
 25 [redacted] And it's from [redacted] who,

1 them in body. I looked at them, and Voviette looked at
 2 them, and then I asked him some questions, and I took
 3 notes as to what, what I wanted to ask him about. So, I'm
 4 looking at my notes, and I see in the, the corner here,
 5 there's one from the 24th, and I don't know if it's
 6 referring, it doesn't look like it's this one. It looks
 7 like it's maybe a different one. But I, I do recall that
 8 Mr. Kortan told me that day that they, they, OPA, sent out
 9 several emails on the 24th. This would have been
 10 following the first article the Wall Street Journal put
 11 out. Okay?

12 So they put something out to all of the SACs and
 13 ADICs in the field, in case they got questioned. There
 14 was a like a statement, a formal statement they had put
 15 together. So they put it out to the leadership, senior
 16 leadership in the field. And then, and I think this is
 17 getting back to this email, they also sent it to people
 18 that they knew who spoke to the media I guess as like,
 19 hey, I'm a former FBI employee and a consultant kind of
 20 thing. So, I mean, essentially they wanted to put this
 21 formal statement of talking points out there so that if
 22 people who are commonly contacted by the media were
 23 contacted by the media, they would have this statement.
 24 And I think that's what's going on here.
 25 [redacted] And was there any discussion about

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2,3, Per OIG
b7C -2,3, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 do you know [redacted]? Not personally, but --
 2 [redacted] I don't know him. I think, I just
 3 don't even want to speculate.

4 [redacted] Okay. So, it's an email from [redacted]
 5 [redacted] who looks like he works for [redacted] on this --
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.

7 [redacted] -- by the email. That may not,
 8 that may not be correct.
 9 [redacted] Okay.

10 [redacted] And it's to Michael Kortan. And
 11 the subject is FBI response to DD McCabe matter.
 12 [redacted] Uh-huh.

13 [redacted] And below that, Mr. Kortan had
 14 sent an email on October 24th, about 10 minutes, five
 15 minutes earlier to, it looks like a bunch of, I'm
 16 presuming that's former FBI senior executives of an FBI
 17 statement that apparently was published in an article.
 18 And I'm just wondering if you had any discussion with Mr.
 19 Kortan about this email.

20 [redacted] So --
 21 [redacted] And it --
 22 [redacted] I'm looking at my notes, and I'm
 23 looking, so I'm looking at everything. So I didn't have
 24 questions for Mr. Kortan on this day. But I remember he
 25 handed me the emails that he had found. And I looked at

1 whether this was a common practice by OPA to sort of
 2 enlist former senior FBI managers with media strategy?

3 [redacted]: Well, I don't know that it was media
 4 strategy. I mean, that's kind of putting a judgment on
 5 it. But I didn't have that discussion with him.
 6 [redacted] Okay.

7 [redacted] I guess that he kind of gave me this
 8 stack of documents, and I was quickly trying to see if
 9 there was something I wanted to ask him about that relate
 10 to this investigation.

11 [redacted] All right. And then we're going
 12 to jump to the, the second follow-up day on August 18th.
 13 I believe the three-page document of handwritten notes
 14 dated 8-18 with your initials.

15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] Appears to be your handwritten
 17 notes, is that correct?
 18 [redacted] That's correct.

19 [redacted] Bear with me one second. So I
 20 want to ask you a couple of questions about what looks
 21 like some of the emails that were discussed in this
 22 follow-up interview. In your stack, there should be one
 23 dated October 28th, 2016 from Lisa Page to Michael Kortan.
 24 [redacted] Okay.
 25 [redacted] Subject, for Devlin. And I'm just

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2,3, Per OIG
b7C -2,3, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 wondering if there was any discussion with Mr. Kortan
 2 about why this was sent.
 3 [redacted]: I'm just looking at my notes.
 4 [redacted] Sure.
 5 [redacted] It doesn't look like I have any
 6 notes about asking him any questions about this. And
 7 looking at the document, I don't recall asking him any
 8 questions about this document.
 9 [redacted] Okay.
 10 [redacted] Independently.
 11 [redacted] And then, two other emails I want
 12 to ask you about from October 30th, 2016. The first one
 13 is at 1:54.
 14 [redacted] Okay.
 15 [redacted] And it's also circled in your
 16 notes, if you look down on the bottom of Page 1.
 17 [redacted] Okay.
 18 [redacted] Do you know what the, I think your
 19 notes say 8-12 call identified, but I'm not sure what's in
 20 parenthesis.
 21 [redacted] Highlighted. That's what that says.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] Okay, so yeah. And then if you were
 24 to go back to the actual email that you have provided
 25 here, you can kind of--

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] I don't. When I look at these notes
 2 that I took, I recall sitting down with Michael Kortan,
 3 and he wanted to go through his notes. And he made a
 4 point of telling us, again because he wanted, he felt, my
 5 sense of it is that he felt embarrassed that he couldn't
 6 remember this, that all this had happened. So he was
 7 starting to tell us about everything else that was
 8 happening in the political spectrum at that time. So he
 9 was telling us about all of this, and then he was giving
 10 us more emails. And he was talking about the changes of
 11 his statement. And then looking at my notes, and he, he
 12 is kind of going through, Kortan is going through on a
 13 daily basis what happened that day. And he, the reference
 14 to the times to the best of my recollection, each one of
 15 these is a separate email, as I recall.
 16 [redacted] Right.
 17 [redacted]: That he handed us. And he, Michael
 18 Kortan, highlighted this one that the call is identified
 19 in. And I think the point of it, it was, it was the first
 20 time that Kortan could find something where the call that
 21 he had was referenced in an email that he personally had.
 22 Now I'm going to look at my notes to see if we asked him
 23 any follow-up questions. And it looks like on Page 2 of
 24 my notes --
 25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Oh, I see.
 2 [redacted] -- see a little bit here that it was
 3 highlighted. And I think, my best recollection is that
 4 Mr. Kortan highlighted that.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] When he gave us this email. So I
 7 wrote down that the call was, I think the point of it was
 8 that the call was identified here in the email. And that
 9 was, as I sit here, again, this was in the context of
 10 Michael Kortan wanting to explain every change he made in
 11 his document to us.
 12 [redacted] I see. And that's what I was
 13 going to ask you. Did you have any discussion with him
 14 about, there's a reference to the call.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] In more color, and was there any
 17 discussion with him about that, or what, if he understood
 18 what that meant?
 19 [redacted] Let me just read through it. So
 20 your question is, did we discuss with Michael Kortan --
 21 what was your question?
 22 [redacted] The call that, hey, here is an
 23 email. Does this refresh your recollection? The August
 24 12th McCabe Axelrod call is mentioned. Does this refresh
 25 your recollection? Do you know what more color means?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] -- that there were some follow-up
 2 questions.
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 4 [redacted]: It says, back to the 10-30-16
 5 article, lacking attribution. Quote, looks like
 6 defenders, others further down the chain of command. And
 7 then this would have been Michael Kortan, what he said. I
 8 still do not know any more about the quote. I do, I do
 9 not even know if it's correct.
 10 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 11 [redacted] So to the extent we had more
 12 discussion, I think that reflects what the discussion was.
 13 [redacted] Okay. And then there is one more
 14 email. There is a reply on October 30th, 2016 at 3:16
 15 p.m. from Lisa Page to Michael Kortan, which states, and
 16 hell, comma, he might as well name Axelrod. He's been
 17 completely screwing us lately. Did you have any
 18 discussion with him about what that meant?
 19 [redacted] I feel like we did talk to him about
 20 that. I don't see any reflection in my notes. But I
 21 remember, and this might have been [redacted] and I after the
 22 fact. There was some discussion about who the he was
 23 every time he is mentioned in this statement.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted]: He might as well name Axelrod, seems

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 to be like that is Devlin Barrett, the first he. He has
 2 been completely screwing us lately, is that Devlin Barrett
 3 is screwing us lately, or is it Axelrod is screwing us
 4 lately, or is it somebody else? So I want to say, as I
 5 sit here, did we ask Michael Kortan about it? I don't
 6 think we did. I think my recollection is coming from a
 7 discussion I had with [redacted] after the fact when we were
 8 reading this and we, I, it was not clear to me who the
 9 second he refers to.
 10 [redacted] Um-hmm. Okay.
 11 [redacted] And I remember discussing it with
 12 [redacted] but I don't recall discussing it with Mike. Sorry,
 13 I had to kind of talk that through out loud for myself.
 14 [redacted] Do you have any other? So, I'm
 15 trying to go quickly here.
 16 [redacted] Anything about what those notes
 17 from that day or Kortan in general?
 18 [redacted] I don't follow.
 19 [redacted] You just said, you just asked me
 20 if I had any questions. Are you moving off Kortan?
 21 [redacted] I am not moving off Kortan.
 22 [redacted] Okay.
 23 [redacted] I'm moving off these emails.
 24 [redacted] Okay. Move away. Move away.
 25 [redacted] I'm trying to go as quickly as

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 those following pages, but just wanted to note that, that
 2 will be something we'll follow up on too. b6 -2, Per OIG
 3 [redacted] Yep. b7C -2, Per OIG
 4 [redacted] So this draft, Draft 1, again, as
 5 I understood it from your earlier description, would
 6 reflect INSD's initial effort to compile what they
 7 understood from notes that the witness said and then give
 8 back the statement for review. b6 -2, Per OIG
 9 [redacted] Yes. b7C -2, Per OIG
 10 [redacted] Okay. And then on Page 4, in the
 11 second paragraph, the first sentence, Mr., your, your, in
 12 the draft writing when I look at the highlighted
 13 paragraphs in Exhibit 1, I would consider this information
 14 to be a media leak. And that was based on what you heard
 15 him say in the first interview on August 16th, 2017. b6 -2
 16 [redacted] Right. And Draft 1 would have been b7C -2
 17 drafted that day so. b6 Per OIG
 18 [redacted] Right, okay. And then the middle b7C Per OIG
 19 of this paragraph, there is that reference to however, it
 20 looks like it's the second-to-last sentence from the end.
 21 However, the direct quote strikes me as over the top and
 22 unnecessary to make the point.
 23 [redacted] That's straight from my notes. We b6 -2
 24 just talked about that. b7C -2
 25 [redacted] Okay. So then if we get into b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

1 possible, in the interest of time. So, I am going to
 2 segue to some drafts.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] So, and this, I don't know if I
 5 need to ask [redacted] about this, but, document labeled Draft
 6 Number 1.
 7 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 8 [redacted] Which appears to be a draft of Mr.
 9 Kortan's statement before it was finalized. It says Page
 10 1 of 11. But we only had 7 of 11, so --
 11 [redacted] Oh.
 12 [redacted] I'm not sure what happened there.
 13 [redacted] Hmm.
 14 [redacted] I'm sure it was probably just some
 15 administrative copying but maybe not. I don't know, but.
 16 [redacted] You're clearly missing something
 17 here. Because the last page always has the signature
 18 lines.
 19 [redacted] Okay.
 20 [redacted] And you don't have --
 21 [redacted] So I can always ask [redacted] about
 22 that.
 23 [redacted] Yeah. So clearly, there is more to
 24 this statement you didn't get.
 25 [redacted] And I didn't have anything on

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 Draft 2, this, I believe, is going to reflect track
 2 changes that Mr. Kortan was making or made b6 -2, Per OIG
 3 [redacted] Yes. b7C -2, Per OIG
 4 [redacted] And again, you can tell us. I
 5 don't know if he was, these are some, I don't know if
 6 these changes in track, in Draft 2 were ones that he was
 7 actually making while he's talking to you or not. But on
 8 number, on Page -- let's see, it would be Page 5. And the
 9 paragraph we were just looking at in Draft 1, he is now
 10 striking out media leak and changing it to basically, it
 11 seems unusual. Do you see that? b6 -2, Per OIG
 12 [redacted] Yes. Um-hmm. b7C -2, Per OIG
 13 [redacted] Was there any discussion with him
 14 about that?
 15 [redacted] No. And again, I would say that us
 16 coming back to his office is very unusual. Usually, we
 17 let, we let Draft 1 stand on its own. It's, it's our best
 18 recollection and reflection of what that person said. And
 19 you can tell, like, word for word some of that is exactly
 20 what's written in my notes. So then Mr. Kortan would make
 21 these changes.
 22 Now, we wouldn't normally pick up the phone and
 23 have a discussion or go in person and have a discussion
 24 with him about why he changed these. It's just not
 25 something we do. We let them make their changes. We,

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 generally speaking, unless it is a substantive, 180
2 position change on something they said, we're not going to
3 discuss with them how they characterize it. But that's
4 the point of keeping the drafts. It lets you see, this is
5 what we think he said. This is what he's saying after the
6 fact, that he's had some time to think about it and he's
7 more comfortable with this phrasing.

8 But, in fact, we know that he later kept finding
9 things, and then, you know, he did say it was a media leak
10 the first day, and then later he found these emails that
11 show that there were conversations. So it doesn't
12 surprise me that he changed it.

13 [redacted] He knew about those emails. He
14 had found those emails at the time he struck that
15 language.

16 [redacted] That would be a question for him,
17 but I would think so. I don't know, I mean like, there
18 should be an email when Mr. Kortan sent Draft 2 back to us
19 and we could look at the time and the date that he sent
20 that back to us. Yeah. It's a question you need to ask
21 him. He made these changes.

22 [redacted] But that, these changes, you
23 didn't have any follow-up conversation with him about?
24 [redacted] No. And that would not be our
25 practice. We wouldn't.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG
b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Draft 1 says. Hmm. You know, it might have been on 8-17
2 then that I -- no, because here we talk about email
3 messages on Page 6 and 7. I just want to be accurate.

4 Actually, okay, okay, look. On Page 6 --
5 [redacted] Of which draft, 2?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

6 [redacted] Well, I'm looking at Draft 1, okay?
7 [redacted] Okay.

8 [redacted] And realize that this is not, you
9 don't have the whole thing. But at the bottom of Page 6.

10 [redacted] Um-hmm.
11 [redacted] It starts out, last paragraph, on
12 August 17, 2017. I was interviewed again under oath.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

13 [redacted] Um-hmm.
14 [redacted] With [redacted] and [redacted]
15 [redacted] Um-hmm, um-hmm.

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

16 [redacted] And then we started talking about
17 email communications.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] And he discusses them. So now, as I
20 sit here, I feel like I asked him to look for emails when
21 we were there on 8-16. But I will say having looked at
22 this, it might have been that he looked for emails and
23 then found them, and then we talked about them on the
24 17th. I just, as I sit here, without taking time to look
25 back at everything in context, I don't recall. But, I get

1 [redacted] Okay.
2 [redacted] Unless, like I said in the
3 beginning. If it was a 180 change and, and it was
4 something like I told her it was blue. No, now I told her
5 it was yellow. You know what I mean? If it was like
6 substantively different, we might go back and be like,
7 okay, let's talk about why you're changing your position.
8 But we didn't here.

9 [redacted] Um-hmm. And this --
10 [redacted] But the, the, given that it was
11 at that first of the three meetings with him, the one on
12 8-16 where he went to his computer and started printing
13 things off.

14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
15 [redacted] So I guess he would have at least
16 known about, he would have reviewed at least some of the
17 emails that he showed you --

18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] -- by the time he would have
20 struck this language.

21 [redacted] You know what? You're right. I
22 think that's true. Because I think my recollection is I
23 asked him on 8/16 to go look through his emails. So, my
24 recollection sitting here is that, yeah, he would have
25 seen some of those. But now I'm looking back at what

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 your point, that, that I thought he had looked at his
2 emails on 8-16, and then therefore did we draft up -- I'm
3 trying to think, when did we get him the draft? This is
4 what I'm getting to. It looks to me like Draft 1, we
5 didn't send it to him until at least the 17th. At which
6 point he had, he had newspaper, or he had emails printed
7 out, right?

8 So regardless of whether I asked him to look at
9 the emails on the 16th or the 17th, he didn't even see
10 Draft 1 until at least the 17th because Draft 1 references
11 the 17th interview

12 [redacted] And you would have email copies of
13 when these are sent?

14 [redacted] Yes, yes, yes.
15 [redacted] Okay.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

16 [redacted] Clearly, we need to look at the
17 emails to see when he got that.

18 [redacted] So whether it was 8-16 or 8-17,
19 sitting here you, you do remember being present when he
20 printed off some emails?

21 [redacted] For sure.
22 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

23 [redacted] For sure, because I asked him, one
24 of the things I asked him for on 8-16 was whether he had
25 the 8-24 Wall Street Journal article. It was one of the

1 first things I asked him when we sat down.
 2 [redacted] 10-24?
 3 [redacted] I'm sorry, yeah, 10-24, because I
 4 tried to print that article after Lisa Page's interview,
 5 and I couldn't because I don't have a Wall Street Journal
 6 account, et cetera. So I asked him, hey, can you print
 7 out this article for me? And he did. And I remember him
 8 getting that off the printer, and I remember asking him to
 9 go look for his emails. And I remember him getting up and
 10 going to his computer and printing off emails. I'm pretty
 11 sure that happened on the 16th, but, and I feel like [redacted]
 12 was there. I mean, maybe you can ask [redacted] these
 13 questions. Obviously, but at any rate, we didn't get him
 14 Draft 1 until the 17th for sure because the 17th is
 15 referenced in there.

16 I know that when we sat down with him, we didn't
 17 know what he would say because we had Mr. McCabe saying I
 18 don't know the source of this information.

19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] And we had Lisa Page saying I am the
 21 source, I and Kortan are the source of this information.

22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 23 [redacted] So I know we were looking at Kortan
 24 to kind of break the tie.
 25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

1 [redacted] And when he looked at the article,
 2 and his first words were, this is a leak --
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.

4 [redacted] -- we were like, okay. Should we be
 5 concerned? And I believe that that is why I pushed him to
 6 go look for his emails to refresh his recollection,
 7 because Lisa Page was very confident that this was an
 8 authorized thing. And, and when we sat down and showed
 9 him the article, he said, the very first things he said
 10 was, oh, it's a leak. And I was like, well, could you
 11 have had an on background? Could you look at your emails
 12 and see? And he started to look at his emails.

13 So, his first impression was that it was a media
 14 leak. And then he started looking at his emails. Whether
 15 that was on the 16th or the 17th -- my gut feeling is that
 16 it was still on the 16th.

17 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 18 [redacted] I feel like my memory is that [redacted]
 19 and I were sitting in his office, and he printed them off.
 20 And then, as I mentioned before, he, I remember him being
 21 slightly embarrassed about not recalling it and mentioning
 22 I'm old and maybe I should start taking notes now, that
 23 sort of thing, like every single day. And that's my best
 24 recollection. Now, he did print some emails while we were
 25 sitting there, and then overnight, he printed more. He

1 called me and then Voviette and I went on the 17th to get
 2 more emails, and we talked about it then.
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 4 [redacted] So yeah, he would have, my
 5 recollection is he would have printed some of these out on
 6 the 16th.

7 [redacted] And again, what I'm a little bit
 8 confused about is how, whether he had any conversation
 9 with you about how he reconciled changing from it's a
 10 media leak to it's unusual when at most as I see in his
 11 final statements, he just says I recognize there is
 12 communication between me and the reporter. But I don't
 13 recall authorizing any on background conversation. No one
 14 in senior executive management told me about anything
 15 after the fact.

16 [redacted] Yeah. I would say his final
 17 statement is the best.

18 [redacted] Right.
 19 [redacted] The best recollection of him.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.

21 [redacted] You know? I mean, you're asking me
 22 whether I asked, whether we asked him --

23 [redacted] Well, because it's a change
 24 [redacted] Yep, it's a change.

25 [redacted] And it seems to me, you know, my,

1 my opinion, substantive, I guess there's degrees of it.
 2 But there was no conversation that you had with him about,
 3 about that change?

4 [redacted] So, this is something you'll talk,
 5 you'll want to talk to [redacted] about.
 6 [redacted] Okay.

7 [redacted] So when we were there on the 18th, I
 8 think we were getting to the point you're making here.
 9 Like, okay, this is kind of a big jump here. Why, why is
 10 this such a big, was it authorized, was it not authorized?

11 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 12 [redacted] What's going on? And we were

13 literally sitting on his couch talking to him, and he was
 14 showing us all this stuff. And he had his changes he
 15 wanted to describe. And my phone was blowing up. I had
 16 to go. I'm like, clearly something, and is it an
 17 emergency? Somebody wants to get a hold of me. So I left
 18 the room to find out that I was getting, we were getting
 19 called away to Mr. McCabe. But I didn't know that.

20 So, [redacted] -- I was not in the room when this
 21 happened. But [redacted] was, and you can ask him. But he told
 22 me after the fact that he asked Mr. Kortan directly, are
 23 you covering for Lisa Page or Mr. McCabe? Are you --
 24 something to that nature. He asked Kortan that. And I
 25 think just as Kortan was going to answer is when I opened

1 the door and said we have to go see Mr. McCabe. And so we
 2 left, and he never got the answer to that question. And
 3 then we, we had the interview with Mr. McCabe, and I think
 4 the feeling was that we weren't going to do anything
 5 further on the investigation.
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 7 [redacted] So we were just going to have Mr.
 8 Kortan finalize his statement. And so I think that the
 9 answer you're looking for is we never, we asked him. We
 10 never got the answer because the interview was
 11 interrupted.
 12 [redacted] Okay.
 13 [redacted] But [redacted] you'll definitely want to
 14 talk to [redacted] about that.
 15 [redacted] Okay. Let's stop for one second.
 16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off
 17 the record and back on the record.)
 18 [redacted] Okay. Back on the record after a
 19 one-minute break around 1:15. I'm moving on from the
 20 drafts. Do you have any other question?
 21 [redacted] No.
 22 [redacted] Okay. So, actually, I'll just
 23 note for the record that, just quickly. On Page 5 of
 24 Draft 2, Mr. Kortan also deleted, however, the direct
 25 quote strikes me as over the top and unnecessary to make

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] There was something that I just
 2 want to make sure if I'm understanding correctly. On Page
 3 2, the first full paragraph there, there is a discussion
 4 about the August 12th call, August 12th, 2016 call. Do
 5 you see that?
 6 [redacted] Yes.
 7 [redacted] And the second sentence, Mr.
 8 Kortan stated, I do not recall being involved in a
 9 discussion regarding such a telephone call or even being
 10 told that such a telephone call occurred. And if you look
 11 back at that October 30th, 2016 email --
 12 [redacted] Right, yeah. I got you.
 13 [redacted] I just wasn't sure -- yeah, that
 14 one right there. The one at 154 where it mentions the
 15 call. I just wasn't sure if he's saying he doesn't recall
 16 being told contemporaneously, but then he has this email
 17 here that, so I just wasn't sure what exactly, how that
 18 statement squares up with this email.
 19 [redacted] Well, I'll tell you that we didn't
 20 ask him about it.
 21 [redacted] Okay.
 22 [redacted] But, yeah, I mean clearly it's
 23 mentioned in this email that Devlin Barrett has sent to
 24 Michael Kortan. And Michael Kortan's statement that he
 25 has signed under oath says he doesn't know about it. So I

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 the point.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] Was there any conversation with
 4 him about that?
 5 [redacted] No, there wasn't. I think he just
 6 took it out, I mean, sometimes people say things in
 7 interviews because they're comfortable. And later, when
 8 they see it in print they think, I don't know that I
 9 necessarily want that to be a part of my statement, and so
 10 they took it out.
 11 [redacted] Sure.
 12 [redacted] And I wouldn't normally ask about
 13 that.
 14 [redacted] Okay. And then turning now to Mr.
 15 Kortan's final sworn statement. It should be there
 16 somewhere. Let me know if you have that.
 17 [redacted] Yeah, hold on.
 18 [redacted] I think -- there you go. So,
 19 again, this is an 11-page document. The last page, Page
 20 12 is signed by [redacted] and Mr. Kortan. I recognize
 21 you are not a witness there, but does this appear to be a
 22 true copy of that statement?
 23 [redacted] Yes.
 24 [redacted] Best you can tell?
 25 [redacted] Yes.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 would say that you'd need to talk to Mr. Kortan to find
 2 out what his intent was there.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] But I didn't ask him about it.
 5 [redacted] And then, just so I understand
 6 what was going on, it's sort of the same line if inquiry.
 7 But if you jump to Page, is it 10? Yeah, Page 10. This
 8 is the first full paragraph on that page beginning with as
 9 pointed out to me. Do you see that?
 10 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 11 [redacted] It says, as pointed out to me by
 12 the interviewing agents, none of the email communications
 13 between October 24th, 2016 and October 30th, 2016
 14 reference DD McCabe's August 12th, 2016 telephone call
 15 with the senior DOJ official. And I was just wondering
 16 how that statement is reconciled with that email --
 17 [redacted] Well I think --
 18 [redacted] -- on October 30th.
 19 [redacted] -- what is meant here --
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] -- is that the content of the
 22 telephone call, there is nothing about the content of the
 23 telephone call.
 24 [redacted] Okay.
 25 [redacted] There is clearly, you know, when you

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 look here, there is an email that references that a call
 2 occurred. But the content isn't discussed.
 3 [redacted] Okay. Do you have anything else
 4 on that?
 5 And this final, just for the record, the final
 6 sworn statement of Mr. Kortan on Page 4 has the, has the
 7 characterization of the quote as we saw in Draft 2 that
 8 it's unusual. This is on Page 4, the last paragraph,
 9 first sentence. Seems unusual. Do you see that?
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 [redacted] I didn't have any questions. I'm
 12 just reflecting for the record that, that, that was
 13 carried over. Did you have any questions on that?
 14 [redacted] I would just say, you know, that Mr.
 15 Kortan provided us a lot of messages, like a lot of email
 16 messages. We have only talked about a few here, but there
 17 were a lot more that he provided us. And, and that the
 18 final statement of any of these witnesses would be the
 19 best characterization of what their intent was. You've
 20 asked me a lot of questions, did you ask them, what do you
 21 think his feeling was? And so I would just say for the
 22 record that what their feeling was is, is reflected best
 23 by their statements. And then, you know, you could look
 24 at the draft statements to see how they differed from what
 25 we wrote --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 this. And so, I think even on one of the, the copies we
 2 looked at today, you saw my little sticky note at the top
 3 of that pile.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] Everything he gave us in those
 6 meetings was in the 1-As. And so, you know, apart from
 7 human error in the copying process, you would have
 8 received everything that Mr. Kortan gave to us. Now, is
 9 that actually every email that exists out there? I
 10 couldn't say that. But that's everything that Mr. Kortan
 11 gave us.
 12 [redacted] Right. It was more of the latter,
 13 and I was just trying to --
 14 [redacted] Yeah.
 15 [redacted] So, going back on the same page,
 16 Page 4, the bottom of Page 4 of the final signed sworn
 17 statement of Mr. Kortan, he references that providing a
 18 direct quote is not something that OPA would have provided
 19 officially, as it is not our practice or protocol. Is
 20 there a written protocol that he's referring to, do you
 21 know?
 22 [redacted] I don't know.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 [redacted] Were you the drafter of this
 25 sworn statement?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 2 [redacted] -- based on our impressions from our
 3 notes, and then how those drafts changed, and then
 4 ultimately what was signed, so.
 5 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 6 [redacted] But Draft 1 would be, Draft 1 of
 7 Kortan's statement would be the best and accurate
 8 memorialization of your recollection and your notes about
 9 what he told you during his interviews?
 10 [redacted] At the time I wrote it, yes.
 11 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 12 [redacted] Uh-huh.
 13 [redacted] But I would just say, he went on to
 14 pull more emails, so some of his changes might have
 15 reflected that.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] Is it your understanding that we,
 18 OIG, have all the emails that Mr. Kortan gave INSD? We
 19 have much, we have several more than I have shown you
 20 today.
 21 [redacted] Yeah, so, he, he printed stuff off
 22 that first day, is my best recollection. And then the
 23 second day, he gave us another pile. I kept everything he
 24 gave us, and I clipped it, and I put sticky notes, because
 25 he would tell us, this is the pile that has to do with

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] So [redacted] would have been the first
 2 drafter, and I would have looked at it.
 3 [redacted] On Page 8. Actually, Page 6. The
 4 bottom of Page 6, the last three lines where he, Mr.
 5 Kortan references that certain high-level executive
 6 employees are authorized to speak to the media directly.
 7 [redacted] Yes, I see that.
 8 [redacted] Is that, do you know, does that
 9 encompass the same folks on the seventh floor, or you're
 10 not sure based on this description?
 11 [redacted] It would be my understanding that
 12 would include the executives who sit on the 7th floor
 13 between those glass doors, as I described earlier, yeah.
 14 [redacted] Okay.
 15 [redacted] But you could ask Mr. Kortan what he
 16 means by certain high-level, but that's my understanding
 17 of it.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm. Um-hmm. And on Page 8,
 19 there is a discussion about, on the -- I'll wait until you
 20 get there, actually. Page 8, the third paragraph, the
 21 second sentence. It's talking about the retired employee.
 22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 23 [redacted] Retired executives. And he's
 24 talking about, we provided retired executive employees who
 25 requested it the same official statement that we provided

b6 -1, 2
b7C -1, 2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 to Mr. Barrett. Did he give INSD any documentation of
2 retired executives requesting the statement?
3 [redacted] So I think the email you showed me
4 earlier would be an example of that. But my understanding
5 was that the retired executive employees were also retired
6 employees that have a media relationship. That was my
7 recollection from his interview. And I think that that
8 email that you showed me is an exemplar of that. Now, he
9 might have meant that there were additional people outside
10 of the media world, but that was my impression.

1 recollection of his, looking at his hands and seeing his
2 hands shaking. Now, obviously he must have demonstrated
3 something with [redacted] because [redacted] wasn't there
4 that day. So he was there the third day, the 18th, that
5 Friday.

b6 -1
b7C -1

6 My specific recollection about the nervousness
7 was that specific one I mentioned. I remember I was
8 sitting with Voviette. And I remember sort of making eye
9 contact with her to see if she was noticing it too.
10 That's what I recall. The third day, as I mentioned
11 previously, Mr. Kortan was very adamant about going over
12 his changes with us and describing them. I don't have a
13 specific recollection of hands shaking on that day, but I
14 would say that it's very unusual for somebody to feel like
15 they needed to sit down with us and to describe to us
16 every single change they were making. So I would just
17 point out that my observation in that regard would be that
18 it was a very unusual thing to have happened in the
19 internal investigation process.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

20 [redacted] What about during the first
21 interview before he saw his emails, when he was purporting
22 that it was a media leak? How did he appear to you at
23 that time?

24 [redacted] I would say that he was, he was
25 relaxed. He was fine. There wasn't handshaking. But I

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 understand you're not -- I, not I understand, I see you're
2 not copied on this, but have you seen this document
3 before?

1 would point out that, and I think I said this before too,
2 a couple times, that he made a note about being
3 embarrassed that he couldn't remember. So I wouldn't say
4 he was, I don't remember observing nervousness. It was
5 more like an embarrassment, like oh, well clearly there
6 is, there is something here.

4 [redacted]: Yes, I have seen it.
5 [redacted] Okay. On the top of Page 4, there
6 is an asterisk reference noting, well, it's about Mr.
7 Kortan on the prior page. But it says his overall
8 nervousness and inability to recall specifics re this
9 issue while having clear recollection of other matters is
10 noteworthy. Did you have, observe similar behavior that
11 you recall?

7 And he, like I said before, I think I observed
8 like he, he seemed a little frustrated that we kept asking
9 him questions, and he clearly didn't have a recollection,
10 but he was speculating in his mind that he must be missing
11 something because these investigators are not going away.
12 They keep asking me questions. And so finally I think we
13 got to the point where it's like go look at your emails.
14 Go see if you can refresh your recollection. And I recall
15 that there was that embarrassment. But I don't remember
16 nervousness.

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

12 [redacted] Well, I would just point out that
13 this is [redacted] email.
14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
15 [redacted]: His characterization. If there is a
16 specific question about did I observe Mr. Kortan to be
17 nervous?

17 I remember nervousness the second day with
18 Voviette, very specifically shaking hands. And then the
19 third day with [redacted] I don't remember that his
20 hands were shaking, but it was more like a big eagerness
21 to explain the changes. And I think that everybody
22 recognized that he was changing some of his answers about
23 being very specific the first day that it was a leak to
24 now that I've looked at my emails, I realized that there
25 were some communications about this. And him wanting to

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

18 [redacted] Yes, that's the question.
19 [redacted]: I can answer that my observation was
20 that, yes, I believe Mr. Kortan was nervous. And my
21 observation that leads me to have this belief was that at
22 certain points, I noticed his hands were shaking. I
23 recall specifically when we were sitting with Voviette the
24 second day, and he was handing us the emails, and I was
25 asking him questions, I, I have a very specific

1 tell us what those changes were.
 2 And I remember, I mean, like I must have said it
 3 10 times, just make the changes and send us your changes.
 4 Just make the changes and send. No, no, no. I want to
 5 tell you why. And it was just this, okay. We were just
 6 resolved at that point we were going to be sitting there
 7 and, and listening to him tell us about his changes. I
 8 don't remember that same nervousness that I saw with
 9 Voviette, but more of like he really wanted to explain.
 10 It was an eagerness to explain and that would, that was
 11 unusual.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] I guess I would say that is a fair
 14 characteristic of my observations those three days.
 15 [redacted] And then the, this would be on Page
 16 4 still, right below where we were overall, problematic
 17 issues noted. I'm sorry, this is now [redacted]
 18 [redacted] Oh, the email. Sorry.
 19 [redacted] email, yeah. There is, I
 20 guess it's the fourth hyphen down. One, two, three, four.
 21 There is a description about some folks at FBI perhaps
 22 having a perception that [redacted]
 23 [redacted] And my question to
 24 you is, was that expressed to you at all during any
 25 interviews that you conducted?

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -1, Per OIG
 b7C -1, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 b7C -1,2, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

1 work.
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] I think, I think almost everybody I
 4 talked to about Lisa Page thinks that she's very sharp,
 5 very smart.
 6 [redacted] The reference to [redacted]
 7 [redacted] was it ever expressed to you in the context
 8 of whether Page or Mr. McCabe would be forthcoming and
 9 forthright with, with your investigation or the OIG
 10 investigation? Anything like that?
 11 [redacted] Say that one more time?
 12 [redacted] Yeah. So, so the references to
 13 the fact that, that there was [redacted]
 14 [redacted] Mr.
 15 McCabe, was it ever expressed to you in the context of,
 16 of, you know, whether or not they were going to be
 17 forthcoming and candid with your investigation, or our --
 18 [redacted] Oh, oh, oh. Did anybody ever say
 19 that they thought they might not be candid because of it?
 20 [redacted] Or that -- yeah.
 21 [redacted] No. Nobody said that.
 22 [redacted] Um-hmm. That there was any kind
 23 of collusion between them?
 24 [redacted] Nobody said that. And in fact, Lisa
 25 Page said something in direct contradiction to what Mr.

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 b7C -1,2, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 b7C -1,2, Per OIG

 b6 -2
 b7C -2

 b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 [redacted] Can you point to where you're --
 2 [redacted] Oh, sure. I'm sorry.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] So it starts there.
 5 [redacted] Yes. There was an interview, which
 6 you should have this too, with [redacted]
 7 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 8 [redacted] And [redacted] talked about the
 9 perception that there, that there was [redacted]
 10 [redacted] But it was more
 11 with respect to [redacted] impression was that [redacted] was,
 12 [redacted] but that it
 13 didn't flow both ways. It was pretty much a [redacted] is
 14 [redacted] So [redacted] talked about that.
 15 [redacted] And did [redacted] talk about, or did
 16 others talk about, whether that was at all affecting FBI
 17 work in any way?
 18 [redacted] So, I remember [redacted] saying that [redacted]
 19 had heard it from somebody else, possibly the prior
 20 [redacted] to Mr. McCabe or, or to a special
 21 assistant that was for some, some other. And I think it
 22 was just noted on that it, that that person had, [redacted]
 23 [redacted] impression was that that person had the same
 24 feeling, [redacted] But
 25 there wasn't a discussion about whether it affected the

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 -1,2, Per OIG
 b7C -1,2, Per OIG

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

 b6 -1,2
 b7C -1,2

1 McCabe said. So, that was our true facts. He said one
 2 thing, she said something completely different.
 3 [redacted] Did you observe or anything, did
 4 you observe anything that we haven't discussed that you
 5 think is relevant or we should know about, or is there
 6 anything else you want to add that you haven't had an
 7 opportunity to say?
 8 [redacted] I would just say this is a, this was
 9 a really unusual investigation that we didn't get to
 10 finish. I mean, it was unusual because it, I was brand
 11 new to the unit. I started in February, end of February.
 12 And this started in March. And, I mean like, you know,
 13 you're interviewing some very high-level executives. My
 14 section chief would sit in on the interviews with us. So
 15 everything about it, there was nothing normal about this
 16 investigation.
 17 So I would just say to the extent that I can't
 18 recall things, or, or if, there are things that are
 19 unclear, it's because it wasn't, it wasn't a normal
 20 investigation where normally I'm driving the bus, or
 21 is driving the bus, and we get to do everything we want to
 22 do. And while you, you're always engaging with your chain
 23 of command, you're not really being told, hey, stop the
 24 investigation right now. And you're not usually, you
 25 know, like let's sit down with OIG and clarify who is

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

 b6 -2
 b7C -2

 b6 -1
 b7C -1

1 doing what part of these leak investigations. So, I would
 2 simply say that this, this is a very different
 3 investigation. It was complex. It was high-profile.
 4 There was overlap with the OIG, which I think, it made me
 5 uncomfortable because I don't want to have that. And also
 6 I would say it was very hard because at some point we
 7 realized we had opposing statements, which I don't usually
 8 run into in the FBI. So I would just say, for all of
 9 those reasons, there's a lot going on in this. And if
 10 there is something that I didn't recall that, you know,
 11 maybe I recall later, I'll call you and I'll tell you.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] But I would just say that this
 14 investigation, if you ask me about many of my other
 15 investigations, I'd be so much more confident about them
 16 because there wasn't a, there was a full flow that didn't
 17 get interrupted and didn't get like all of a sudden in the
 18 middle of it there's a new part of the investigation that
 19 gets put in, and now you have to go back and talk to other
 20 people about that. That's not normal. This is a very
 21 unusual investigation. So I would just say I've done my
 22 very best from my recollection, and looking at the
 23 documents you've provided me. But, you know, it was
 24 unusual. And if I recall something different, I hope you
 25 will accept that I might contact you and say, hey, I

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

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

7
 8 Interview of [redacted]

b6 -2
 b7C -2

9
 10
 11
 12
 13 [redacted] Transcriber

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

14
 15 October 23, 2017

16
 17 Date

1 remembered something else, or --
 2 [redacted] We would appreciate that.
 3 [redacted] Yeah.
 4 [redacted] Sure.
 5 [redacted] Absolutely, and as we, the record
 6 isn't closed, you know, we're going to be doing this,
 7 we're going to be doing more of this. And so if something
 8 comes to your mind --
 9 [redacted] Yeah.
 10 [redacted] -- feel free to reach out to
 11 either of us. We'll probably send an email asking for a
 12 couple of other documents to fill in some blanks, but we
 13 greatly appreciate all of your time today. I know we went
 14 past what I expected, so.
 15 [redacted] That's okay.
 16 [redacted] I just want to thank you.
 17 [redacted] You're welcome. I, I hope I've been
 18 helpful. And I think, I think looking at the emails that
 19 were sent, you know, we've highlighted some of those, like
 20 the timing of the emails being sent might help clarify
 21 some of the things that maybe I couldn't remember.
 22 [redacted] Sure. Thank you again. Off the
 23 record around 1:38.
 24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
 25

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
 b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

A

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112:8

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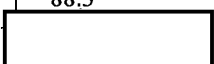
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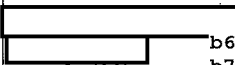
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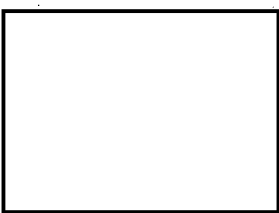
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b7E -1

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b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

b6 -2
b7c -2

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8/15/17

MC CABE

- BARER concerned that S.S.S. was
too detailed in light of OIG memo
so make went to make edits

b6 -1
b7C -1

- 10/30/16 WSJ article refresh
= spin off of original case (refresh [redacted])

b6 -3
b7C -3

* Draft 3/4 to be sent again
did you auth someone to go on backgr
yes, recall that no

OIG asked some questions, about some article
23

10/24/16 wife got called by DB, on way
Article come out next day ^{on way} _{Phone}
- MK on backgr to fix inaccur
MK + me on email all

10/30/16 article - I was out at fair
I was in [redacted]
so MK & LP were walk in
there some way. In prep for
article to come out (TH/F/SAT)
- some on-fair effect to get the story
straight.

b6 -1
b7C -1

- I don't recall when I gave auth. to
on backgr.
- OIG will find out what report we
circulate / request to case
MK comes to me e says, "news guy
to say". Then I say "no comment"

(2)

or if we can connect "on body" that we will.

I know MK + LP were talk w/WSJ on this topic - about my family"

The call happened. - I was in my kitchen going to airport. (travel)
→ LP knew / Conroy knew

Monday
Conroy (mtg) w/ Axelrod on 10/3/2016
→ he was very upset.

McC M-N-F meeting briefing
- was okay w/quote b/c it was true
- Quite would provoke a reaction w/OIG & it did.

- Unilateral decision to put it out (Conroy about "Jim")
d/a talked

- Conroy knew that MK was talk to WSJ about this so he w/n surprised
- W/n admonished by Conroy about this (or anything else)

Controlled delivery? yes, that's correct.

* I d/a/r Selfy LP/MK to monitor the 8/12 call, but when I saw it, I assumed this was the case

3

How McCabe SSS "on My qk..."

"It needs to be changed"

OIG asks McCabe about [redacted] email

b6 -3
b7C -3

STEVE
BURKHART / BURKHARD
OIG who asked.

not Robert Mueller

Also Special Counsel (Hatch Act)
might be interested.

3 ATTYS
DAN BURKHART - OIG
Q
+ another man

[Redacted] Transcript
and Notes
10/05/2017

b6 -2
b7C -2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 05-14-2018 BY [Redacted] NSICC

b6 -1
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

-----X
IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF [redacted] :
-----X

b6 -2
b7C -2

October 5, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of
[redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 2:30 p.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

[redacted] Oversight and Review Division

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

[redacted] Oversight and Review Division

FOR THE WITNESS:

NONE

Page 2

I N D E X

EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER | PAGE NUMBER |
|----------------|-------------|
| None. | |

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1 interview. To protect the integrity of our investigation,
 2 we request that you not discuss the substantive nature of
 3 our questions and the substantive nature of your answers
 4 with others. Is that okay? b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
 5 [redacted] I understand, yes.
 6 [redacted] And we have informed you that our
 7 standard practice is to record all interviews with all
 8 witnesses, and we are doing that now. And our standard
 9 practice is also to have all interviews taken under oath.
 10 Do you understand? b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
 11 [redacted] Yes.
 12 [redacted] Well, if you're ready, we'll have
 13 you sworn in and get started. And let the record reflect
 14 that [redacted] right hand is, is raised. b6 -2
b7C -2
 15 Whereupon,
 16 [redacted]
 17 was called upon by the United States Department of
 18 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a
 19 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.
 20 [redacted] Thank you. Can you please give us
 21 just a very brief overview of your background with the
 22 FBI, approximate positions, and dates? b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
 23 [redacted] Oh, okay.
 24 [redacted] It doesn't have to be exact, just
 25 rough sketch.

Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 [redacted] Okay, on the record. I am [redacted]

3 [redacted] I'm an Investigative Counsel with the Oversight
 4 & Review Division with the Office of the Inspector
 5 General. I am here with [redacted] who is also
 6 an Investigative Counsel in this office too. And it is
 7 October 5th, 2017. It is approximately 2:30 in the
 8 afternoon. We are in an OIG conference room on the 13th
 9 floor at 1425 New York Avenue. And this is an interview
 10 with [redacted] is that correct?
 11 [redacted] That's correct.
 12 [redacted] Can you please spell your name for
 13 the record?
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted] And can you please identify your
 16 current position?
 17 [redacted] Currently, I am assigned to FBI
 18 Headquarters Inspection Division, Internal Investigations
 19 Section, as a Supervisory Special Agent.
 20 [redacted] Thank you. And the matter that we
 21 are reviewing, we are reviewing allegations that FBI
 22 officials committed misconduct in connection with
 23 disclosures of non-public information to the media and
 24 subsequent statements related thereto.
 25 You are a fact witness. This is a voluntary

Page 5

1 [redacted] Yeah, well, I'll, I'll do the best b6 -2
b7C -2
 2 I can with, with the dates, and I'll just round them up b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG
 3 [redacted] Yeah.
 4 [redacted]
 5 [redacted]
 6 [redacted]
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted] b6 -2
b7C -2
 9 [redacted]
 10 [redacted]
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted]
 13 [redacted]
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted]
 16 I came to headquarters in [redacted]
 17 [redacted]
 18 [redacted]
 19 [redacted] b6 -2
b7C -2
 20 [redacted]
 21 [redacted]
 22 [redacted]
 23 [redacted]
 24 [redacted]
 25 There I stayed until approximately [redacted] b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 [redacted] to the Inspection Division
2 Internal Investigation Section as a Supervisory Special
3 Agent. And that's where I am now.
4 [redacted] Okay. Now I want to ask you a
5 question next about the, the signed sworn statement
6 process that the FBI uses.
7 [redacted] Yes, sir.
8 [redacted] At the INSD. I understand there
9 is manuals that go into great detail about, about this.
10 I'm not looking for, well --
11 [redacted] Manual-level specificity?
12 [redacted] Yes.
13 [redacted] Yeah, well, I'm not sure about
14 manuals. We have one Supervisor's Desk Reference that --
15 [redacted] Well --
16 [redacted] -- explains that.
17 [redacted] -- I've heard there could be
18 multiple pages about the process.
19 [redacted] Okay.
20 [redacted] More, what we're just trying to
21 get a flavor of is if I were scheduled for an interview
22 with INSD, if you could just briefly sketch out sort of
23 what the process major steps are from my initial interview
24 to me signing a final signed sworn statement.
25 [redacted] Okay. Well, once you're identified

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1 because it's an administrative form that tells the
2 employee exactly why they're there. Second paragraph,
3 first sentence that's underscored says there is an
4 allegation about so-and-so that they allegedly did this.
5 And we inform them, that's what we're talking to them
6 about. We're not, it's not a fishing expedition, not a
7 witch hunt. But we admonish them that if anything comes
8 out of that interview that they take us down a road where
9 there's other allegations of misconduct, we're obligated
10 to pursue it.
11 So we provide that to them, say it's a, it's a
12 Lync interview. We email that to them well in advance.
13 We instruct them to have that in front of them while we
14 connect on Lync. And we have them hold it up. We swear
15 them in at that point, pretty much like you did at the
16 preamble here, we give them the admonishments that the
17 Privacy Act is in force. They're not to discuss this with
18 anyone else other than the two investigators without prior
19 authority from us unless they feel the need to talk to EAP
20 or the Ombudsman, and that's their prerogative. They
21 don't even have to tell us they're doing that. If we
22 stressed them out during the interview, that's their
23 prerogative to talk to them to get some kind of relief.
24 And we explain to them that there will be
25 interview notes taken, and that we will put together their

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

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1 as being in a universe of someone with investigative or
2 relevant information for our investigation, whether you're
3 a suspect, a subject, witness, or a victim, or the
4 complainant, we all, when we reach out to the individual,
5 we tell them what role they play. If you're a subject,
6 they've already been noticed.
7 [redacted] Right.
8 [redacted] Paper copy, they've been given
9 notice by their division head. So that's not hard to
10 explain to the person who is the subject. They already
11 know that well in advance.
12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] If it's anyone else, we reach out
14 to them and tell them, we identify them as someone that
15 we'd like to talk to because we believe from our
16 investigation that they may have information that's
17 relevant to our investigation. And we set up an
18 appointment date, whether they come to us or we do it vis-
19 a-vis a SVTC, a Secured Video Teleconference, or a Lync
20 communication, like a Skype, secured Skype.
21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
22 [redacted] And we provide them with an FD-644
23 or an FD-645. That's the form that we use.
24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
25 [redacted] The 645 is what we use primarily

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1 statement for them in the first person. And once we're
2 done, we will provide it to them for review. And we
3 actually email it to them electronically with track
4 changes turned on.
5 And we tell them, this is what we remember you
6 telling us. This is what we had in our notes. This is
7 what we discussed from our point, viewpoint. We encourage
8 them to take ownership of their statement, to read it,
9 understand it. And if there is some modification or
10 correction for, to ensure accuracy or completeness, that
11 the onus is on them to make those corrections. And the
12 corrections will be obvious because track changes is
13 turned on.
14 And we tell them at that point, I even say to
15 them, I said, you know, if I use the word small dog and
16 you want to say puppy, that's your time. Own it. Own
17 your statement. And then they are instructed to send it
18 back to us. We send them Draft 1. They make the changes,
19 save it as Draft 2, send it back to us. We would look at
20 it, review the changes. If they are acceptable to us and
21 we have no questions about what they added, we'll accept
22 the changes, clean up any spacing anomalies that are
23 created because of track changes, email it back to them as
24 Draft Number 3. They'll look at it again. If they make
25 changes, they save it as Draft Number 4, back to us. We

1 accept it, send it back to them. And we keep going back
2 and forth until they're satisfied with the completeness
3 and accuracy.

4 At that point, we bring them back up on Lync.
5 We have the final version in front of us, the final
6 version in front of them. We read it. We ask them did
7 they review or did they read it, or have they been given
8 the opportunity to make changes? They answer in the
9 affirmative. We ask them if there are any more changes
10 they wish to make. They, if they say no, we say, okay, at
11 this point raise your right hand, swear them in. Much
12 like you did, we, do you swear or affirm the information
13 contained in this written statement is true, accurate, and
14 complete to the best of your knowledge?

15 They answer in the affirmative. They sign it.
16 They date it. We ask them to scan and fax, scan and email
17 us a copy and put the original into the Bureau mail. So
18 we get the original along with the originally signed FD-
19 645. And that way we get the originals. When they come
20 to us, we sign them, me and my case agent or co-case agent
21 sign them, [redacted]

22 [redacted] phonetic
23 sp.).

24 [redacted] If during the, the revision
25 process, if a witness makes a change that's inconsistent

b7E -3

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted]
2 Most people understand that. [redacted]

3 [redacted]
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted]
6 [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]

10 [redacted] That has not, that's not what
11 we're there to talk about.

12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] And where somebody will introduce

14 something that we didn't discuss, but it adds to the
15 statement because it gives the reader, the ultimate
16 reader, OPR adjudicator, who is not going to have the
17 benefit of sitting across the table from them, some
18 background. So if they prefaced it by a previous sentence
19 and say I, you know, I've done this, and this is how I
20 found myself to be there, we allow that as well.

21 And even at the end, if somebody wants to put in
22 a statement of remorse, a sentence or two or a paragraph,
23 we allow that. We encourage that. What we don't
24 encourage, and we tell these people, and I know I do,
25 that, that that's encouraged, again, we're not here

b7E -3

b7E -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 with your recollection or your notes, what happens?
2 [redacted] Um-hmm. Well, it depends on the
3 inconsistency. And we even give them that admonishment
4 during the pre-interview stages. And we, we tell them, if
5 we're talking about something and you, for example, make
6 an admission, a substantive admission, and all of this
7 talk about this is your statement. You own it. You can
8 put whatever you want in your statement. You know, you
9 can put pink elephants fly in your statement if you think
10 it will help you. I don't recommend it, but it is your
11 statement at the end of the day.

12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]
14 [redacted]
15 [redacted]
16 [redacted]
17 [redacted]
18 [redacted]
19 [redacted]
20 [redacted]
21 [redacted]
22 [redacted]
23 [redacted]
24 [redacted]
25 [redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7E -3

1 advocating for you, but we're not persecuting you. If
2 there's something that you think the adjudicators want to
3 know that's important to them, if you want to put
4 something, that's fine. We don't want to have a situation
5 where you have 30 pages of mitigating material and about
6 two paragraphs of what you actually did, and you're taking
7 responsibility for it. And most people take that up.

8 [redacted] Okay.
9 [redacted] Sometimes, sometimes we get 30-page

10 statements out of a seven-page draft.

11 [redacted] Yeah.
12 [redacted] And, and I'm convinced OPR, when
13 [redacted] they have the draft, that's why

14 it's so important for us to keep each draft.
15 [redacted] Um-hmm.

16 [redacted] Because if, I'm, I'm sure I've been
17 told this by the OPR adjudicators that when they read a
18 statement, if it looks like it's starting to go off the
19 rails with mitigating information that is just, just
20 awkward, [redacted] pull Draft I, and

21 they'll say, what did the agent say you said during the
22 interview? And then they'll compare it to the final draft
23 and say this is already contaminated by your writing and
24 you're, you're sliding things in there that you think will
25 be used to your benefit. And they understand that, and we

b7E -3

b7E -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 understand that as well.
 2 [redacted] Okay. No, that's helpful. Well,
 3 why don't we turn to the first document.
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 [redacted] In that stack there. And this
 6 actually, as I understand it, is our notes from an
 7 interview with Mr. McCabe.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] Andrew G. McCabe. And just for
 10 the record, it is a three-page document, handwritten notes
 11 dated in the upper-right corner 5-slash-9-slash-17, 2:30
 12 P, for p.m. I believe.
 13 [redacted] Yes.
 14 [redacted] W-slash-S-C-Morgan.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] Do you recognize this handwriting?
 17 [redacted] Yes, I do.
 18 [redacted] Are these your handwritten notes?
 19 [redacted] Yes, they are my handwritten notes.
 20 [redacted] And do these notes reflect that
 21 you had an interview at which then-section chief Voviette
 22 Morgan (phonetic sp.) was present?
 23 [redacted] That is correct.
 24 [redacted] Okay. So, was the focus, was one
 25 part of the focus of this interview the, to ask Mr. McCabe

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 wants to change in the statement.
 2 He's the Deputy Director of the FBI.
 3 Absolutely. I've never done that before. People haven't
 4 asked me to do that before, but I understand he's a busy
 5 man and he was doing us a favor. He is the victim in this
 6 case. We're investigating the original [redacted] email.
 7 So, yeah that's, that was the primary focus. We, we came
 8 back to him with the, to get his version of what his
 9 changes were, if there were any. My indication for my
 10 section chief, from Voviette Morgan, was he did make some
 11 changes, some corrections.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] And we sat down with them and
 14 talked about those. And he showed me that he had made
 15 some handwritten changes on it.
 16 [redacted] So then what prompted you or
 17 Voviette Morgan to discuss the October 30th, 2016 Wall
 18 Street Journal article at this interview?
 19 [redacted] It was Voviette that brought it up.
 20 It was right at the end of the interview, and we were all
 21 set. I already had my marching orders of what he wanted
 22 changed. As I recall, there was only a few changes on it.
 23 There was nothing substantive. It was just some things in
 24 there, and I remember my notes here, I still had something
 25 in there to check with his chief of staff about whether or

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 about the Wall Street Journal article that appeared on
 2 October 30th 2016?
 3 [redacted] That was the secondary focus of
 4 that particular interview.
 5 [redacted] What was the primary focus?
 6 [redacted] The primary focus was, this was the
 7 second meeting we were going to have with him that
 8 resulted after us already drafting his draft of his
 9 statement. And we had already provided to him his
 10 statement, and we were waiting for his corrections. And
 11 there's some time elapsed between there. And there's some
 12 conversations that I recall between me and my section
 13 chief that indicated even during the interview with him,
 14 as we were closing it, I gave him the whole monologue of
 15 track changes will be turned on. I'll email it to you.
 16 Save it.
 17 And I could tell, it didn't seem to me like he
 18 was really tracking with track changes, that he didn't, he
 19 wasn't comfortable with that, or he wasn't familiar with
 20 that to the, to the level that he may want it then. So
 21 some suggestion was made that maybe he can make some
 22 corrections, if need be, because he hasn't seen the
 23 statement yet, but make some in the margins or write or
 24 have me come into his office when he's ready and sit
 25 behind the keyboard and just have him tell me what he

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 not this National Sheriffs Association appearance the
 2 Director had along with the POTUS was on 2-7 or on another
 3 date because our calendars just weren't matching up.
 4 But after we were all done, we're set, Voviette
 5 said, oh, by the way, there's something else we want you
 6 to look at, we want to get your opinion on something. And
 7 she brought out the article from the Wall Street Journal
 8 and handed it to him.
 9 [redacted] Did you know that, did you know
 10 that was coming in advance? Did she talk to you about
 11 that?
 12 [redacted] Yeah, I, I did.
 13 [redacted] Did she tell you why?
 14 [redacted] There's some background with that,
 15 if do you want me to go into the background?
 16 [redacted] I mean, if there is a --
 17 [redacted] I mean --
 18 [redacted] Yeah.
 19 [redacted] If you're asking me when I first
 20 became aware of that, early on I was aware that there was
 21 a Wall Street Journal article.
 22 [redacted] Right.
 23 [redacted] I understand in our deconfliction
 24 meeting in March, I believe. And I have it somewhere in
 25 my notes. (*Indiscernible 16:07). But there was some

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 talk about who was going to do what. Because at the time,
 2 we were looking at --
 3 [redacted] Was this an issue between whether
 4 FBI or OIG would take the lead on that?
 5 [redacted] Yeah. Exactly. And I didn't bring
 6 that. That's a handwritten thing. I think it was like
 7 March 14th or something.
 8 [redacted] Right.
 9 [redacted] That the decision was made that
 10 there was this Wall Street Journal article. I wasn't
 11 really familiar what was going on in that Wall Street
 12 Journal article, because we were focused on [redacted] different
 13 leaks, one of which was the [redacted] part.
 14 [redacted] Sure.
 15 [redacted] And that was clearly assigned to
 16 me. And I had, I had oversight over all of them. I was
 17 like the point of contact for the section that whether it
 18 was assigned to me or not, I was the one providing the
 19 update briefings to the front office. So we, they brought
 20 it up. OIG brought it up and said we have this other one,
 21 and they said they would take it. They would do that one,
 22 so my focus was on the ones we were going to work.
 23 And then somewhere during that meeting, Aaron
 24 Johnson (phonetic sp.) from OIG, from OIG Criminal Branch
 25 said well, you know, as long as you're going to be talking

1 Plus, the one, one was very specific to one
 2 particular item. And the other thing was very specific.
 3 So I mentioned that. And, you know, I think I'm well-
 4 received in my section. I've been there a while, and I,
 5 they come, they've come to me for advice or, or my
 6 perception of certain things. And they, they accept my
 7 advice. And no different in this case. I said yep, I
 8 understand what you're saying. We'll see what happens.
 9 For now, we'll stand down on, on doing anything with that.
 10 But we may end up with that case as well, which
 11 I just have to say that this, even the [redacted] email
 12 wasn't that cut and dry, because we had it, had it back
 13 and forth three times where OIG wanted it, then they
 14 didn't want it, then they wanted it. That day they wanted
 15 it back, and then at the end they said, okay, well you
 16 guys work it. And so these, this is what we're up
 17 against.
 18 So when they said well, we're working this one,
 19 but go ahead and ask questions about it as well, I was --
 20 [redacted] Let the record reflect that had
 21 nothing to do with [redacted] or myself.
 22 [redacted] Yeah.
 23 [redacted] And this is, I'm not, it's not a
 24 complaint. It's just an observation that it was tenuous
 25 at first we're understanding what role we're going to be

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 to McCabe about this, you'll be talking to people about
 2 the [redacted] email, you're probably going to ask about
 3 this as well, so we'll let you just ask about that and let
 4 us know what you find out. And I, I said during the
 5 meeting, I'm like, wait. I mean, my Assistant Director or
 6 Deputy Assistant Director, the executive management from
 7 OIG [redacted] was there, a couple of people from our ESOC
 8 program were there.
 9 And I said, you know, with all due respect,
 10 we're not going to ask about that because, you know, the
 11 focus is completely different on these. And we had some
 12 conversation with Voviette even after that and with my
 13 unit chief saying, hey, my recommendation is, I've been
 14 doing this a little while. These leaks are incredibly
 15 difficult to work. They're exponentially more difficult
 16 if you start lumping them together because you could have
 17 different universes of potential players involved.
 18 And say we, and this has been my, my take the
 19 whole time, if we manage to solve one of these leaks, it
 20 had nothing to do, the players in this leak would have
 21 nothing to do with this other leak. How are we going to
 22 close that part of the case? The case will be handled in
 23 its entirety. If every, if everyone is looking at this,
 24 it's one person doing all these leaks, in a perfect world,
 25 that would be great. That's not been my experience.

1 playing and at what time and how long we're going to have
 2 these cases. But even during, when, when Voviette and I
 3 got notice, received notice from Mr. McCabe that he's
 4 available on that particular date for us to come in on the
 5 9th to get his corrections on his statement, Voviette told
 6 me in her office before going up, she goes, and I'm going
 7 to bring this article, and we're going to talk to him
 8 about that article. And I said, I recommend against it.
 9 And, you know, we have such a great working
 10 relationship, it wasn't like I'm drawing my, a line in the
 11 sand, and she wasn't pushing it. But I got the impression
 12 that this was something coming from our front office, that
 13 they wanted some visibility on this. Or maybe it came
 14 from OIG. I don't know. Voviette will probably be able
 15 to tell you better. Where that initiative came that we
 16 were going to actually do it, and do it during that
 17 particular time.
 18 [redacted] Okay.
 19 [redacted] So we went through the whole, or we
 20 went through the process with Mr. McCabe. He, he showed
 21 us his corrections, and I thought we were all done, and we
 22 were ready to leave, and Voviette says, oh, by the way,
 23 here it is. And I'm like, okay. Let's, let's throw that
 24 one out there.
 25 [redacted] So roughly how much time has

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 elapsed, if you recall approximately, before the Wall
2 Street Journal article topic is opened?

3 [redacted]: During that interview?

4 [redacted] Yes.

5 [redacted] Oh, that interview wasn't long at
6 all.

7 [redacted] Okay.

8 [redacted]: If it was 20 minutes, because there
9 really wasn't much more to discuss.

10 [redacted] I see. Right.

11 [redacted] It's just sort of by habit, I was
12 anticipating, and I think Voviette was too, that I was
13 going to get behind the keyboard and start typing.

14 [redacted] Um-hmm, um-hmm.

15 [redacted] And much to my surprise, he had his
16 changes written. And I said, great, I will take this
17 down, and I'll have it back to you shortly. I think I had
18 it back to him within an hour.

19 [redacted] Okay.

20 [redacted]: Maybe a little bit longer because I
21 gave it to Voviette to look at as well. don't quote me on
22 that, but he had it down and back probably before the end
23 of close of business that day.

24 [redacted] Do you recall, so, I'm not sure if
25 you put the copy of your notes that I gave you --

1 notes, it looks like when the discussion topic of the Wall
2 Street Journal comes up --

3 [redacted] Um-hmm.

4 [redacted] -- it looks like you're directing
5 his attention to the last page, the first three
6 paragraphs.

7 [redacted] Yes.

8 [redacted] And --

9 [redacted] And I believe that even that
10 article that we gave him had it highlighted,
11 electronically highlighted.

12 [redacted] And so, what I gave a copy for you
13 here, this is the best that I have from the file that you
14 gave me for Mr. McCabe.

15 [redacted] This is not highlighted.

16 [redacted] And there is other copies if you
17 want to see them, the sworn statements for other
18 individuals, where the, it is highlighted.

19 [redacted] Okay.

20 [redacted] But do you see how this one
21 document you're looking at --

22 [redacted]: This is not highlighted, yes.

23 [redacted] Not highlighted, but it does

24 appear to have his initials in the upper right.

25 [redacted] Yes. And I would venture a guess

1 [redacted] Oh, yes.

2 [redacted] -- in that stack by accident.

3 [redacted] I don't know.

4 [redacted] Or if you put it underneath one of
5 those. We could always look off mine (*indiscernible
6 21:28). There it is. Great. So I think you're
7 indicating in the upper right that the interview began at
8 2:30 p.m., is that right?

9 [redacted] Yes.

10 [redacted] Do you recall when former Director
11 Comey was fired when that news broke?

12 [redacted] I think it was on that day. It may
13 have been, I learned about Director Comey's firing when I
14 was at home on Fox News.

15 [redacted] Okay. So it would have been after
16 this interview?

17 [redacted] It was, it was after that.

18 [redacted] Okay.

19 [redacted] And I seem to remember even
20 thinking that there's a lot, there must have been a lot
21 going on that day when we were talking to Mr. McCabe,
22 whether he knew or not at that point, because this was,
23 you know, getting late in the day by the time we're
24 talking to him.

25 [redacted] Okay. So the first page in your

1 why. Because this is the one that was provided to him by
2 Voviette

3 [redacted] Ah.

4 [redacted] And she had it with her.

5 [redacted] I see.

6 [redacted] But once that, you know, once it
7 became something that we're going to be investigating, I
8 took it, and I brought it in in a PDF form and highlighted
9 it so --

10 [redacted] I see.

11 [redacted] -- when we're doing the interviews,
12 it will be this is what we're talking about.

13 [redacted] Yes.

14 [redacted]: So people aren't mired down in
15 reading the entire article.

16 [redacted] Yes, okay. Well that --

17 [redacted] And try and digest it.

18 [redacted] Well that's helpful to know. So,
19 when looking at what you wrote here, correct me if I'm
20 wrong.

21 [redacted] Okay.

22 [redacted] But on the first page it looks
23 like when you're drawing his attention to the last three,
24 to the last page, the first three paragraphs --

25 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] -- that he is saying he remembers
 2 this and that it was an accurate conversation with Mr.
 3 Matt Axelrod, who was then the Principal Deputy Attorney
 4 General.
 5 [redacted]: Um-hmm. Yeah, I think I mention
 6 here, read article during interview that he, we paused and
 7 let him read, read the article. I mean, he read the
 8 article, not just that piece. I think he refreshed his
 9 memory and flipped through the article.
 10 [redacted] And then do the next two entries
 11 in your notes reflect that he, Mr. McCabe stated that he
 12 read the article when it came out and he remembered this?
 13 [redacted]: Yeah. That he had read it when it
 14 came out. That's, that's my recollection now, reading
 15 this, that he indicated to me that it's, it's somewhat
 16 familiar to him because he read it when it came out, and
 17 there was another article that came out about that time
 18 about his wife
 19 [redacted]: Um-hmm. And he, is he indicating
 20 that those, the last three paragraphs that you directed
 21 his attention were an accurate conversation?
 22 [redacted]: Yes. He remembered this, and I
 23 even put that in quotations. And accurate conversation,
 24 yes.
 25 [redacted]: So when he said he remembered

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 that would be Mr. McCabe telling us that he had no idea
 2 where it came from what the source was from it.
 3 [redacted]: Did he, did you have any
 4 discussion at that, at this May 9th interview with Mr.
 5 McCabe about what he said to Mr. Axelrod or any other DOJ
 6 officials about the article when they were uncomfortable?
 7 [redacted]: I remember that it was very, the
 8 whole interaction was very short, you know, with, with
 9 this article
 10 [redacted]: Yeah, if you could, before we get
 11 into more substance.
 12 [redacted]: Yeah.
 13 [redacted]: How much, because I understand
 14 this came up as sort of the secondary focus.
 15 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted]: Roughly how much time was spent in
 17 total on this Wall Street Journal article discussion?
 18 [redacted]: If memory serves me, about five to
 19 seven minutes.
 20 [redacted]: Okay.
 21 [redacted]: Because we, I, I don't know about
 22 Voviette, but I walked in with the anticipation that he,
 23 he was a victim of that as well.
 24 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted]: And, you know, I, we present it to

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b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 this, you think this is the article?
 2 [redacted]: I think he's talking about the
 3 article. Yes.
 4 [redacted]: Yeah.
 5 [redacted]: That's what I thought at the time.
 6 And that, I continue to think that to this day.
 7 [redacted]: And then what, can you walk us
 8 through what the next entry in your notes is referring to,
 9 next day briefing, and then the line below it?
 10 [redacted]: Okay. The accurate conversation,
 11 Matt Axelrod, Principal DAG, Sally Yates right hand.
 12 [redacted]: And the one below that.
 13 [redacted]: Okay. Next day briefing, DAG, AG
 14 uncomfortable. No idea where it came from.
 15 [redacted]: Yeah. What's that?
 16 [redacted]: I believe that's my reference to
 17 when, after the article came out that Mr. Axelrod had seen
 18 it, and there is some conversation or some indication from
 19 Mr. McCabe that there was an interaction between them that
 20 the DAG, Axelrod was uncomfortable or the, the DAG was
 21 uncomfortable, didn't like the nature of the article,
 22 didn't like what was inside the article.
 23 [redacted]: And who is, is anyone saying no
 24 idea where it came from? What's that notation?
 25 [redacted]: I believe, if memory serves me,

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 him, and he said that, no, he, he wasn't aware of the, the
 2 nature of it. He wasn't, he didn't know, when he read it,
 3 he, or the second time he recognized it, he didn't, he
 4 didn't know about the article. He didn't know who gave it
 5 out. He didn't authorize it. He didn't direct anybody to
 6 give it out. But it was like a flowing, did you, were you
 7 aware, did you authorize somebody? It was like a, I
 8 didn't even need notes on that part because what I
 9 reflected in his statement afterwards, along with his
 10 changes, was just like one paragraph that said, hey, we
 11 showed it to him, and, and again, he's the victim. He
 12 didn't know about this. He didn't authorize it. He
 13 didn't know who was the one that, who the source of the
 14 article was.
 15 [redacted]: So a victim of the, of a leak,
 16 what seemed to be a leak.
 17 [redacted]: He never said that. He never said
 18 that he was the victim of a leak. He just said that he
 19 didn't know, and it was my interpretation that, well if
 20 you didn't know, you didn't authorize it. And one of the
 21 people around you are telling the media what's going on in
 22 these private meetings.
 23 [redacted]: Well let's go, if you go to, for a
 24 moment, this document here.
 25 [redacted]: Um-hmm.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

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1 [redacted] Let me show you this for example.
2 So what I'm showing you right now is, it's an email from
3 you on May 12th, 2017 to Mr. Andrew G. McCabe. And it's
4 copying [redacted] and Voviette Morgan. And it's
5 saying, actually it was then-Acting Director McCabe, thank
6 you very much for your time on Tuesday. Please see the
7 attached revised version of your statement. You will note
8 that your requested changes have been made, and we added a
9 short paragraph, in parenthesis beginning on Page 10,
10 relative to your recollection of circumstances pertaining
11 to the Wall Street Journal article we reviewed with you.
12 And so attached to this email is a document that
13 is 12 pages. And if you go to Page 10, the last paragraph
14 on the bottom beginning with on May 9th, 2017, and
15 continuing onto the top of Page 11, if you read that
16 paragraph, can you tell us if that reflects an accurate
17 statement of what Mr. McCabe told you at that --
18 [redacted]: Okay. Do you want me to read it
19 out loud?
20 [redacted] Sure.
21 [redacted] 5/9/2017, Section Chief Morgan and
22 SSA [redacted] provided me with a photocopy of a Wall Street
23 Journal article dated 10/30/2016 and requested I evaluate
24 and assess the content of the first three paragraphs
25 appearing on the last page for accuracy. My assessment of

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1 the referenced portion of the article is that it is
2 basically an accurate depiction of an actual telephonic
3 interaction I had with Department of Justice DOJ
4 executive.
5 Since this event, I have shared the
6 circumstances of this interaction with numerous FBI senior
7 executives and other FBI personnel. I do not know the
8 identity of the source of the information contained in the
9 article. I gave no one authority to share any information
10 relative to my interaction with the DOJ executive with any
11 member of the media. I initialed a photocopy of the
12 article, which is attached to my statement as Exhibit
13 Number 5. Yes
14 [redacted] So does that paragraph that you
15 just read, does that reflect an accurate statement that
16 Mr. McCabe made to you at the time of the May 9th
17 interview?
18 [redacted] That accurately reflects the
19 information that he conveyed to me. That's not verbatim
20 what he said, but that's what I understood. That's what
21 I, that was my understanding when I walked out the door.
22 And that's what I put in. And again, it was like, it was
23 a short interaction. And I even remember Mr. McCabe, when
24 I asked him, you know, because we were trying to, as an
25 investigator, I'm trying to dial down to how many people

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1 in this meeting, this isn't like your wrap-up meetings
2 that we're looking at the [redacted] email because we had
3 a whole cast of characters, executives, senior level
4 managers in that meeting. This, to me, I just, I just
5 thought it would be something a lot smaller, a lot
6 tighter.
7 But I remember we said, we were going down the
8 path, like who could it have been? Was this during a
9 meeting? So there was some indication that it was a
10 smaller meeting, and there was only a few people around,
11 and he almost, like, waved away when I said well, there's
12 no way I can, I can remember how many people were in there
13 or how many people I told the story to, because I had
14 related the story so many times that I couldn't, he
15 couldn't even begin to tell me how many people he told
16 about. So, it's almost to me got the impression that I'm
17 not going to get anywhere asking him, well, how many know
18 of this, because he's told so many people about it
19 already.
20 And again, it was still, he's the victim. I'm
21 not thinking down the road that there is anything more
22 than what he's telling me that he's trying to be helpful.
23 [redacted] Would it be fair, or, or not fair
24 to say with respect to the reference that he's told so
25 many people about this incident that that would be fresh

Page 33

1 in his mind, a fresh recollection?
2 [redacted] Oh, I don't know. I don't know if
3 I can go that far to see how fresh it was. I mean, the
4 article came out a long time before we did that interview.
5 [redacted] Um-hmm. Okay.
6 [redacted] Did Mr. McCabe, so it sounds
7 like [redacted] that he didn't, Mr. McCabe was, didn't have
8 advance notice that, that Voviette was going to raise this
9 October 30 article when you guys met with him on May 9.
10 [redacted] Yeah, that was my understanding
11 that there was no anticipation of that because I certainly
12 didn't tell him.
13 [redacted] Um-hmm.
14 [redacted] Because I was still, I was still
15 unsure whether or not we're actually going to do it, you
16 know, bring it up as this one, or, my recommendation was
17 if we're going to work it, let's open it on a separate
18 case and start fresh with this one with everyone that
19 we're going to be interviewing. But, yeah. But it was my
20 impression that this was the first time that he was, this
21 was brought to his attention by us. And it may have been
22 a surprise to him, but I don't know.
23 [redacted] So then what he told you was the
24 May 9th, 2017 interview was consistent with what you
25 expected he was going to say.

1 [redacted] I wasn't surprised by his response.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] I'll say that.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] You know, given all the other leaks
 6 going on about him that the other leak investigations are
 7 being handled by OIG and the pre-election campaign and his
 8 wife.
 9 [redacted] So on Page 2 of your notes.
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 [redacted] Going back to that for one second.
 12 Is Page 2 him giving you some background on kind of what
 13 was going on with the investigations that were the subject
 14 of the Wall Street Journal articles? Is that what's sort
 15 of being reflected in here?
 16 [redacted] Yeah. And he's, here, I'm seeing
 17 where it says there is, you know, no DOJ support but can't
 18 continue to investigate. So he's, he's kind of putting us
 19 in his mindset that he's having this phone call, and, you
 20 know, like it says in the article, do you expect me to
 21 close a validly predicated investigation, that there is
 22 some frustration according to the article with, that, in
 23 that response to whoever he's talking to on the telephone.
 24 At the time, we didn't know until recently who that person
 25 that he was talking to.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Because this is just because what
 2 we were after is his, whether or not it's accurate because
 3 if it's accurate, then it is a leak. If it's not a leak,
 4 if it's not accurate then it's either somebody trying to
 5 make him look bad or look good or whatever. But we're
 6 after his, the accuracy. Is it accurate? Did you put it
 7 out? Did you authorize it? Do you know who did? Once
 8 those questions are answered, the rest of the stuff is
 9 just background that didn't end up in his statement,
 10 anyway.
 11 [redacted] On the background, did he, did he
 12 give any reaction at the time one way or the other about
 13 whether he was upset, or, when he saw the quote?
 14 [redacted] No, not at all.
 15 [redacted] Okay.
 16 [redacted] No, not at all. Very professional.
 17 He's always been. Every dealing I've ever had with him,
 18 he is very professional, very warm, and receptive.
 19 [redacted] And, and more, more I guess my,
 20 what I was wondering was, did he say, hey, I saw this
 21 quote of me in, attributed to me from an unidentified
 22 source. I didn't authorize it, and that, nor DOJ, and I
 23 was annoyed myself. Was there any reflection on, on how
 24 he felt about seeing it, or did he not talk about that?
 25 [redacted] No, he, we didn't ask him about

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 That he was trying to give us an idea of the
 2 scenario, that he's on the phone. There may have been one
 3 or two people in the office, but he's not getting clear
 4 direction. Are we investigating, and then there is
 5 somebody saying that the Eastern District of New York is
 6 still being questioned or asked for assistance by the
 7 investigators. And he's trying to resolve that with
 8 whoever he's on the phone with.
 9 [redacted] Could you just identify this?
 10 Diego reached out to DD. Do you know who Diego refers to,
 11 or does it say Diego? I don't know.
 12 [redacted] You know, you know, I look at that
 13 myself. I can't remember. I just can't remember, unless
 14 it's San Diego.
 15 [redacted] Oh, I see.
 16 [redacted] You know?
 17 [redacted] What about [redacted]
 18 [redacted] Yeah. That's a name that he threw
 19 out. It wasn't familiar to me.
 20 [redacted] Is it [redacted]? Is that what you
 21 wrote there?
 22 [redacted] Yeah [redacted]
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 [redacted] So that would have been phonetic.
 25 [redacted] I see.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, 4, Per OIG
b7C -2, 4, Per OIG

b6 -4, Per OIG
b7C -4, Per OIG

b6 -2, 4, Per OIG
b7C -2, 4, Per OIG

1 that. I don't remember him saying that. But I remember
 2 him saying it was on the front page here that my
 3 recollection is that he was in his kitchen when he
 4 received a call from, it might have been, you know,
 5 Axelrod or, or somebody after the article came out, and
 6 they weren't happy about it. And again, to us; that was,
 7 that's not why we were there. We were --
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] You know, and even this stuff over
 10 on the next page where it says [redacted]
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted]
 13 [redacted]
 14 [redacted]
 15 [redacted]
 16 [redacted]
 17 [redacted] But again,
 18 this, to us, that was, that's good information. I'm going
 19 to write it down because it was talked about. But it
 20 really, it didn't need to be in the statement.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm. Was there any discussion,
 22 was there any statements by Mr. McCabe at the time when
 23 you're asking him about the Wall Street Journal, the last
 24 three paragraphs where he was saying I don't recall, I
 25 can't answer about the substance of it?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b7E -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] No, no. No, it was clear to me,
2 the message that was conveyed to me was he hadn't seen it
3 before. He didn't authorize it. Didn't know who did.
4 And just, just like [redacted] it was like following
5 that format in the statement.
6 [redacted] Okay.
7 [redacted] Everyone that we talked to, do you
8 know, did you do it? Do you know who did it? And that's
9 the answer that we got. And again, Voviette and I were
10 both like, okay, great. You know, we'll move on. But,
11 you know, he gave us this information. He's a very, he's
12 a very nice man. He's a gentleman. And I think to help
13 us along, he gave us some background to put us in, in his
14 mindset.

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

15 [redacted] Do you have anything on these?
16 [redacted] Unh-uh.
17 [redacted] Okay. So then I wanted to move
18 on. And feel free to refer to any of these documents.
19 I'm going to ask you to look at the next document after
20 the article. So, what I'm showing you now is a two-page
21 document of handwritten notes dated in the right corner 8-
22 slash-18-2017. Does this appear to be your handwriting?
23 [redacted] Yes.
24 [redacted] And do these appear to be your
25 notes from the interview held with Mr. McCabe on August

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 18th, 2017?
2 [redacted] Yes.
3 [redacted] And it appears that this interview
4 was held with SSA [redacted] in the Deputy Director's
5 office?
6 [redacted] Yes.
7 [redacted] Okay.
8 [redacted] That's kind of my, my protocol
9 when, when I do interviews, on the upper-right corner, the
10 date, the time, where I'm at, who I'm with.
11 [redacted] What circumstances prompted this
12 follow-up interview? Do you remember?
13 [redacted] Well, we had been trying to get Mr.
14 McCabe to finalize his statement. I mean, that's always
15 the goal. If we, we write these statements, we want the
16 person to have a chance to look at it. Now, we understand
17 he's busy. Things have been taking a while. And it
18 wasn't, we're not the ones [redacted] and I are not the
19 ones doing the outreach to the office to, to his office or
20 his special assistant or his chief of staff asking to get
21 on his calendar. That's done by my executive management.
22 And they'll tell us when, when he's available.
23 So, we were told sometime before this time that
24 we have him on the schedule, or he has us on his schedule,
25 and he'll be talking to us at 4:30. So [redacted] and I

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 made plans to talk to him at 4:30.
2 [redacted] And what were you told about what
3 the purpose was, the meeting?
4 [redacted] Oh, that was, well, it wasn't a
5 purpose. It was the understanding that we're going to go
6 up and get his statement. He's going to have either
7 revisions in his statement or he's going to have his
8 statement signed, and we'll swear him in, and, and we'll
9 be done with it.
10 [redacted] And so, when the meeting is
11 scheduled, is it just set for 30 minutes or so, or less?
12 Do you have any idea?
13 [redacted] Well there's, now, that's the
14 Deputy Director --
15 [redacted] When he tells you.
16 [redacted] We can stay until -- yeah.
17 [redacted] Okay.
18 [redacted] It's a little awkward because we,
19 we know he's, his time is very valuable, and we just want
20 to go in there and get the information and get out. And
21 we did that with all of the executive managers, the EADs,
22 and the Associate Deputy Director.
23 [redacted] So, you go into this interview,
24 and can you just kind of put us in the room for a moment?
25 [redacted] Sure.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Are you -- and feel free to, to
2 look at your notes.
3 [redacted] Yeah.
4 [redacted] Are you basically, are you going
5 over new material, or, or are you just kind of saying,
6 okay, well, you know, can we sign the document?
7 [redacted] Okay. I'll give you a little
8 background before we get to, when we actually get in. We
9 had interviewed Mr. Kortan for his second interview.
10 First interview was strictly about the [redacted] email,
11 and that was early on.
12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] He was our first interview. We
14 interviewed him again because we introduced the Wall
15 Street Journal article in the interview on the 9th of May
16 with Voviette. So, now we went back to Mr. Kortan to
17 interview him and ask him if he knew anything about that.
18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] During that time, Voviette and
20 [redacted] well first [redacted] and [redacted] (phonetic
21 sp.), another SSA. I was out of town. [redacted]
22 And they interviewed [redacted] I'm sorry. Lisa Page,
23 [redacted] Lisa.
24 [redacted] Thank you, Lisa Page. And they got
25 some information that was very enlightening. And I

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 believe Voviette actually went back to, for a follow-up
2 interview with [REDACTED] with Lisa Page where Lisa Page
3 gave, really kind of like draw back the curtain and said,
4 yeah, she knows all about this article. I know this from
5 talking to [REDACTED] and reading the statement. She knows
6 about the article. She was authorized by the Deputy
7 Director and Mr. Kortan and her sat down with Devlin, the
8 author of the article in the Wall Street Journal to lay
9 out the information.

10 And she even pointed out that the two people,
11 plural and singular, that's me and that's Mr. Kortan. So
12 we had that we're grappling with. Well, we go interview
13 Mr. Kortan to get validation to confirm is, is that right.
14 Did you sit down and do this? Well Mr. Kortan gives us
15 information that he looks at the article. We show him the
16 highlighted version, and he says, I say well how do you
17 characterize? How do you characterize what you're reading
18 there on the last page or on the third page and
19 highlighted? It's a leak. Why do you say it's a leak?
20 And he says, I asked him, why do you, why do you
21 characterize it as a leak? And he gave me the three
22 reasons that are in his statement.

23 So we have that. The next day, or, I believe it
24 was the next day or within the next two days, we're back
25 up in Mr. Kortan's office because he has some, he made, he

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 changes, and I have some emails to show you, to explain my
2 changes. And to us, it's not that common to have people
3 explain their changes. It is what it is. You don't have
4 to sell us your changes. Just make the changes, and then
5 we'll, if we have any questions, we'll ask you. But we
6 were very compliant. We, he's been a gentleman to us, and
7 we treat all our employees like we'd want to be treated.
8 Say, sure, if that makes you comfortable, we'll come up.

9 We're sitting with him, and he's bringing this,
10 this information out. I didn't know if it really helped
11 the investigation, didn't really draw a finer point on it.
12 But during that time, I left my phone because I know that
13 we're, this isn't, like, I turned my phone off after we
14 started here. It's nothing that we're going to be
15 disturbed with. [REDACTED] had her phone with her. We got
16 called from our unit chief and said we need to get to the
17 Deputy Director's office because he's available now,
18 early, a half-hour early. I think it was 4 o'clock. Well
19 by the time that we got back to our office to get the
20 material we needed for Mr. McCabe, sometime elapsed, and I
21 think it was right around 5 o'clock that we were actually
22 in there. Because normally I have this all prepared, who
23 I'm going to be interviewing, with who, and where. That I
24 was doing on the fly when we were getting in there because
25 we didn't want him to wait.

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 made some corrections. We sent it to him like protocol,
2 made some changes. He made some changes. We accepted the
3 changes, [REDACTED] did. Because [REDACTED] wrote that
4 statement, and she emailed it back to him. And then we
5 were going to go down and sign it, and he had some more
6 changes he wanted to make. So we took those changes, and
7 he had some emails, and he said he'd look up some more.
8 So we said, okay, we'll just table the signing of the
9 statement.

10 And then we went back, but each time we went
11 back, he seemed to step himself away from that, oh, that's
12 easy, that's an easy one. That's a leak. Because of the
13 verbiage, it's on a pending case, and we don't use that
14 kind of verbiage about identifying the people in there if
15 it's on background. So we, and he said well, it's
16 possible it could have been this or it could have been
17 that. So he's stepping away from this.

18 So now we're at a position where we want him to
19 finally put in his corrections to his statement the way he
20 wants it written. The last time, now we, now we're up
21 into the date that we have that interview or that meeting
22 with Mr. McCabe.

23 [REDACTED] On August 18th?
24 [REDACTED] Yes. So, now August 18th, we get a
25 call from Mr. Kortan that says, okay, I, I have some more

1 So that's where we are now at the beginning of
2 your question. We come in, and, you know, he apologized.
3 I think he was, you know, apologetic that it's taken so
4 long to get his statement finalized because, you know, so
5 much time has elapsed. And, you know, very cordial, as
6 always, very professional, very, very warm and friendly.
7 And I, I had a copy of the statement. And in light of
8 what has transpired with the Lisa Page interview and our,
9 the awkwardness of Mr. Kortan's interview, and the
10 information that's, that's coming out, that I gave him the
11 statement.

12 And I said, you know, here's your statement
13 again. You probably have, and I think you might have a
14 copy on a, or a copy of it or he was looking for it. I
15 turned to the last page. And I, I said, there's something
16 I want you to look at. Or maybe I didn't turn to the last
17 page. I said, there's something in your statement I want
18 you to look at. But before we do that, I want to look, I
19 want to show you this article. And I want to ask you if
20 you remember it. Now, we asked you about this article
21 before. I want to ask you about this article because
22 we're, we're having conflicting information. And so I
23 need to know from you, did you authorize this article?
24 Were you aware of it? Did you authorize it?

25 And he looked at it, and he read it. And as

1 nice as could be, he said yep. Yep, I did. And, you
2 know, that's our, our reaction was, when we first talked
3 to you, we were under the impression, you left us with the
4 impression that you didn't have anything, any knowledge of
5 that article being -- and then we kind of went into a
6 conversation, and the note-taking kind of stopped there
7 because it was like an ongoing --

8 [redacted] Sure.
9 [redacted] Not an investigation, it was an
10 ongoing, things had suddenly changed 180 degrees with
11 this. And this is where our protocol is really important
12 for the person on the other side of the table because with
13 any witness or victim, there will be that until the
14 investigator starts feeling well maybe you shouldn't be
15 classified as the victim, or, or a witness. And now it's
16 starting to turn that way to where if, if the line of
17 questioning continues, now it's, it's going to be --

18 [redacted] Right.
19 [redacted] -- getting, you know, trying to get
20 an admission of something that may have been a misconduct,
21 we stop that. Right? In our business, we stop and say,
22 look, now, now we're getting into an area for due process,
23 we're going to, we're going to back out, and we're going
24 to, we're going to contemplate what's going on here. And
25 if it turns out that you should be better classified as a

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1 find out who amongst your ranks of trusted people would,
2 would do something like that. And he kind of just looked
3 down, kind of nodded, and said, yeah, I'm sorry.

4 And I said, you know, we're not in the business,
5 Inspection Division is not in the business to adjudicate
6 what a senior executive has a right to release to the
7 media. That's none of our business. That's none of our
8 business until somebody reports it as misconduct. We're
9 not the ones that adjudicate that. If it comes to us as a
10 complaint, it is, here, I'm not sure what we have. And he
11 said well, you know, what you told us then isn't what
12 we're here now.

13 And he said something to the effect that well
14 there was a lot going on then. And as a matter of fact, I
15 had been interviewed, this is Mr. McCabe talking, he told
16 us that he had been interviewed recently by, and he
17 couldn't remember Dan Beckhard's name. Dan Becker. And
18 he kept, he threw out a couple names. And I threw out, is
19 it Beckhard? And he says, yeah, that's it. That's him.
20 And I said, well, and [redacted] and I both looked
21 at each other and said well that's unusual because we've
22 gone to numerous, multiple deconfliction meetings on who
23 was going to do what, and, and who is going to address
24 which leak. And he said that he was interviewed by
25 another special counsel. And I asked him if it was Mr.

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1 subject, then we would notice that person, give them full
2 right of due process with the courtesy of having an
3 attorney in the room because right now we're working this
4 as an unknown subject.

5 If one of these leaks turns out that you
6 authorized this, then it's either not a leak or it is a
7 leak and then you're the subject of it. But I didn't go
8 into that with him. I was just very careful to say, you
9 know, with all due respect, this is what you told us.
10 This is, this has caused us some kind of, you know,
11 sidetracking here now with some information other people
12 have told us.

13 [redacted] With that, with the understanding
14 that you didn't probe it deeply given this new change in,
15 in direction of, of his statements; did he elaborate on, I
16 understand I told you I didn't authorize it on May 9th,
17 and now today on August 18th, I'm saying I authorized it.
18 Did he say what prompted a revision on his part? Or, or
19 a. or --

20 [redacted] No, I remember --
21 [redacted] -- a difference in statement.
22 [redacted] I remember saying to him, at, I
23 said, sir, you understand that we put a lot of work into
24 this based on what you've told us. I mean, and I even
25 said, long nights and weekends working on this, trying to

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 Mueller, Special Counsel, and he goes, no, this is a
2 different one. And he said, and they asked me about the
3 [redacted] they asked me about the other leaks, and they
4 asked me about this article. And I said, and that's,
5 again, [redacted] and I are trying to make sense of this and
6 say, why would they be asking you about the [redacted]
7 email? And, and he started to tell me. And I, I stopped
8 him, and I said, hey, with all due respect, during that
9 Special Counsel, did they admonish you not to talk about
10 this? He goes they did. And I said well then don't talk
11 about it.

12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] Then don't tell me. We'll, we'll
14 have to get, if we need the information, we'll have to get
15 it from them. And he, he understood, and he stopped
16 talking about it.

17 [redacted] So he didn't say that the [redacted]
18 interview had any effect on his memory about the article?
19 [redacted] Well, what he said along those e
20 lines, my recollection is that, our General Counsel, Mr.
21 Baker, had looked at his statement [redacted]

22 [redacted]
23 [redacted]
24 [redacted]
25 [redacted]

b6 -1,3
b7C -1,3

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b5 -1
b6 -2
b7C -2

b5 -1

1 [redacted]
2 [redacted]
3 [redacted]
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted]

6 And which caused me other concerns because I'm
7 hearing that he has a, General Counsel, an FBI attorney,
8 looking at something here where just that day we had
9 people from the General Counsel's Office in our shop at my
10 request, because, on this case, another, a witness wanted
11 an attorney to see his statement. And we kind of
12 collaborated on it. And we all thought it would be okay
13 as long as they're not in the interview. We asked OGC,
14 and OGC's opinion is no, it's not okay. If the person, if
15 the employee is not in jeopardy, then why should an
16 outside party be informed about the inner workings of the
17 Bureau?

18 So we put that statement on, and we had OGC come
19 in that day to, to explain why, explain the reasoning to
20 all of the personnel, not just the investigators but the
21 professional staff. And I just found that ironic that
22 here is the day that, or the day after that we have the
23 General Counsel representing or assisting in an
24 administrative inquiry. So, there I had a problem too
25 that, I, I couldn't comprehend all the things that were,

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1 that we didn't anticipate happening at this point.
2 And I drew Mr. McCabe's attention to the last
3 paragraph right before in his statement, actually in his
4 statement where it says --

5 [redacted] The draft one is there.
6 [redacted] The one that you had me read out
7 loud?

8 [redacted] Right, it's --
9 [redacted] Well, I brought his attention to

10 it, and I said, well, since your last time we changed some
11 things like Acting Assistant Director, but this is that
12 part that we put in there. And, and he read it while we
13 were sitting there. And he says, I'm not sure if I
14 remember seeing that. And --

15 [redacted] And just for the record is
16 complete.

17 [redacted] Yes.
18 [redacted] You're talking about on Page 10.
19 [redacted] Starting on Page 10.

20 [redacted] The bottom paragraph.
21 [redacted] Bottom paragraph.

22 [redacted] Continuing to top of 11.

23 [redacted] Top of 11, and ending where the
24 next paragraph is, I'm willing to voluntarily take a
25 paragraph. To us that's memorable because that's where

1 the statement actually ends. The rest of this is
2 boilerplate that appears in every statement.

3 [redacted] And so you pointed that
4 [redacted] Yes.

5 [redacted] paragraph out to him, and his
6 response was?

7 [redacted] Yeah, he read it. And he shook his
8 head, and he goes, I don't remember ever seeing this
9 before. And I told him, I said we sent it to you at least
10 three times or two times. We had them. And he says,
11 well, he doesn't remember seeing it. And I said, okay.
12 He goes, well, I'm going to, I'm going to, I'm going to
13 complete the statement or I'm going to, I'm going to look
14 at the statement and I'm going to make my, my changes and
15 additions. And that's, and, and to me I was satisfied at
16 that point because at this point you're still, you can
17 explain. You know, he said there was a lot going on at
18 that time. Then he can explain in his statement, then we
19 can see it in his own hand as opposed to trying to draw it
20 out of him.

21 [redacted] I see.
22 [redacted] So [redacted] to make sure I'm

23 following.

24 [redacted] Yes.
25 [redacted] When he said sorry, there was a

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b7C -2

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b7C -2, Per OIG

1 lot going on at that time, was he referring to, to May 9
2 when you interviewed him for the first time about, about
3 the October 30 article, or was he saying there was a lot
4 going on at that time, was he referring to late-October of
5 2016 when the article came out?

6 [redacted] I don't know. My, my impression
7 was it's either one or the other. And because of May 9th,
8 that was a pretty important day for our former Director.
9 And maybe there was, maybe that's what it is. But I
10 didn't, I didn't follow up on that to ask him what he
11 meant by that because, again, my mind now is going to be,
12 I may be back, but these questions are going to be more
13 directed at --

14 [redacted] Okay, and --
15 [redacted] -- the leak itself.

16 [redacted] And his response to you after you
17 gave him the article and you mentioned that you guys were
18 getting conflicting info, you said his response was yep,
19 yep, I did. What again was the question that you posed to
20 him exactly? Did he authorize --

21 [redacted] Yes.
22 [redacted] -- those paragraphs?

23 [redacted] Yeah. Did you authorize, and I,
24 the last page that we're looking at, did you, did you, did
25 you authorize that? And he read it, and yes. And he went

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 on to say that he had worked with Mr. Kortan and Lisa Page
 2 to address the inaccuracies of a previous article. And
 3 this article that we're looking at that, that whole issue
 4 appears on the last page. Even the preceding pages are
 5 what he was directing or, or requesting Mr. Kortan to try
 6 to, you know, correct the inaccuracies of the previous
 7 article. And this article was intended to do that.
 8 And then when I asked him about that, that part
 9 there where, you know, about that telephone conversation,
 10 he did say, yeah, he did say that, I don't recall
 11 specifically authorizing that, or telling that, but I said
 12 were you, you know, is that your authorization? And
 13 again, he still, he took, he took responsibility, or he
 14 took ownership of it.
 15 [redacted] In what respect? Just that he,
 16 when you say took ownership, how?
 17 [redacted] Well, he didn't seem all that
 18 concerned about it.
 19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] He just is very matter-of-fact.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] I mean, again, very pleasant. I
 23 mean, there was no change in his demeanor whatsoever.
 24 There was no awkwardness.
 25 [redacted] So, in the middle page of your

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b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 for the record? Is that Mr. McCabe saying he was okay
 2 with those last three paragraphs?
 3 [redacted] I think he was okay with the entire
 4 article.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] Including the last three
 7 paragraphs.
 8 [redacted] Okay.
 9 [redacted] It says McCabe regarding contents
 10 of the article right after that.
 11 [redacted] Was he, and again, I understand
 12 caveating with that, there was a lot of new developments
 13 happening in this, at the moment.
 14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 15 [redacted] And you may not have probed it.
 16 But, was there any inquiry about how others in the FBI
 17 management, such as then-Director Comey or senior DOJ
 18 officials would feel or react to seeing his authorization
 19 of internal conversations between him and other managers
 20 at the Department?
 21 [redacted] Okay. I don't, I don't know
 22 specifically how they, they would react. You know, I'm
 23 sure they, whoever you'd ask would ask for themselves.
 24 But I remember that Mr. McCabe told us that Mr. Axelrod
 25 called him.

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b7C -2, Per OIG

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 notes, there is an asterisk from the August 18th, 2017.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] I believe it says, well, why don't
 4 I have you read that for the record?
 5 [redacted] Authorized, and then there's a
 6 hyphen, Kortan and Lisa for info in Barrett's, you know,
 7 Devlin Barrett's article 10/30/2016.
 8 [redacted] Is that essentially, does that
 9 notation reflect what you were just describing?
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 [redacted] And you were referring to,
 12 because it's a long article.
 13 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 14 [redacted] But you were referring him
 15 specifically to the page at the end that had those three
 16 paragraphs?
 17 [redacted] That's where it started. That's
 18 where I referred him to. But then he went back and just
 19 talked about the entire article saying, yeah, this was the
 20 article, this article was intended to correct the
 21 inaccuracies of Barrett's previous article.
 22 [redacted] And a couple of lines down from
 23 the asterisk, he, you have in quotes, okay with it?
 24 [redacted] Yeah. That's his quote.
 25 [redacted] Right. Can you just explain that

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b7C -2, Per OIG

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b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 2 [redacted] At his home the day after the
 3 article. And he was, he was upset about the article,
 4 about that particular part of the article. But again, we
 5 didn't go and ask him did you own it? Did you tell --
 6 [redacted] Right.
 7 [redacted] -- did you apologize? I mean, we,
 8 those are questions that we, we were thinking, obviously
 9 we wanted to ask that question. But then again, it's to
 10 the point where I'm not looking for an admission from a
 11 subject. I'm looking for closure on this issue to
 12 determine when I go back to tell my management my
 13 recommendation is we kind of, we name somebody in this.
 14 And, and we're at that point. And this is where it kind
 15 of reflects back into the earlier notes from when we
 16 talked to him the first time when the article was brought
 17 up. Because he said that he was in his kitchen at the
 18 time.
 19 My understanding then was that when he was
 20 having the conversation, as reflected in the article, it
 21 was in an office setting with a few people around. And he
 22 couldn't name those, it wouldn't be, it wouldn't be, it
 23 would be futile for him to name them because he's told the
 24 story so many times. So that was my mindset then. What
 25 he's telling us this time is that the call, the actual

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1 call took place in his kitchen. It wasn't in a
 2 professional setting. And he was on his way to travel to
 3 [redacted] or somewhere.
 4 He went on to, to elaborate on that.
 5 And then it kind of took me back, because I
 6 remembered, my understanding, either I misunderstood him,
 7 which is entirely possible. Or he said something and my
 8 interpretation was, was something else. But it sounded to
 9 me now he's saying that the conversation he had, you want
 10 me to close a predicated investigation, happened in the
 11 kitchen, and the call happened later with Mr. Axelrod
 12 calling him, upset, happened at a different time, not in
 13 the kitchen. It was, it was the other way around.
 14 [redacted] Was it -- go ahead.
 15 [redacted] No, go ahead.
 16 [redacted] Was there any discussion about
 17 once he indicated on August 18th that he authorized Mr.
 18 Kortan and Ms. Page to talk to the reporter for the
 19 October 30th article what the scope of that authorization
 20 entailed, whether he had documentation of this
 21 authorization? Did he get into that detail?
 22 [redacted] No. I don't, I don't think it did.
 23 No. I mean, sitting here, I probably wouldn't have gone
 24 to that detail because, again, that would have been a
 25 little bit more specific asking, focusing, now the phone,

b6 -1
b7C -1

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b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 authorization than a specific authorization to mention the
 2 August 12 call?
 3 [redacted] Right, right.
 4 [redacted] Do you know whether or not, or was
 5 there any discussion about whether Mr. McCabe notified
 6 then-Director Comey that he was giving authority to his
 7 staff to, including Mr. Kortan, to talk to the Wall Street
 8 Journal?
 9 [redacted] I don't know if I remember. I
 10 think, I think that did come up. I think [redacted] maybe
 11 asked him that.
 12 [redacted] Okay.
 13 [redacted] If Mr. Comey was aware. And I
 14 don't, I don't specifically recall.
 15 [redacted] Okay. Do you have any additional
 16 questions?
 17 [redacted] But Mr. McCabe never expressed to
 18 you that, that he thought that, that that piece of the
 19 October 30 article, the, the three paragraphs on the, on
 20 the call with Axelrod, that that was unauthorized? He
 21 never said, he never disavowed that?
 22 [redacted] No, he didn't. No, and that's
 23 what's so, you know, when I put in here in quotes, okay
 24 with it. It must have been a question something like how
 25 do you feel about that now, in hindsight? Well, how do

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b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

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b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the funnel, the cone on him.
 2 [redacted] Him saying that yes he authorized
 3 it, was there any ambiguity at the time about what he was
 4 claiming he authorized? In other words, is it, was it
 5 clear to you he was referring to that Axelrod call on
 6 April 12, on August 12?
 7 [redacted] It was during most of that
 8 conversation. But he did say during that conversation, he
 9 goes -- I'm not sure about whether or not he did authorize
 10 the call specifically.
 11 [redacted] That may be in his sworn, in one
 12 version of his sworn statement.
 13 [redacted] No, I don't think we --
 14 [redacted] Well the sworn statement --
 15 [redacted] Yeah, we didn't reflect anything
 16 from that August -- yeah. I don't see that in my notes.
 17 It must have been during that conversation that went back
 18 and forth about authorizing them to correct the, the
 19 issues on there. But it wasn't specific on what the
 20 corrections are going to be, that Kortan and Page are
 21 going to sit down and make those corrections. He gave me
 22 the impression that it's not specifically saying tell him
 23 this, tell him that. Just give him, give him the
 24 information that's on background.
 25 [redacted] So it was a more general type of

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b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 you feel about this, this information and the, and the
 2 level of, you know, detail in this? And he said he's okay
 3 with it. And I think that's what spawned the conversation
 4 that, hey, we're not in the position of saying what an
 5 executive manager in the FBI can release and what they
 6 can't.
 7 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 8 [redacted] That's not our position here. So
 9 if you're okay with it, then, then, you know.
 10 [redacted] Did he -- sorry. I cut you off.
 11 [redacted] Did he, did he ever explain to
 12 you what prompted him to now recall this? I know that --
 13 [redacted] No.
 14 [redacted] You said before that he, he, he
 15 apologized and said there was a lot going on, which
 16 perhaps was his way of explaining why he didn't remember
 17 it then.
 18 [redacted] And I think --
 19 [redacted] But did he explain what prompted
 20 his memory now?
 21 [redacted] The apology, I don't think it was
 22 for that. I think the apology was for my comment of
 23 saying, hey, we threw a lot of work into this, a lot of --
 24 I think that's what that was for. But no, we didn't ask
 25 him, and he didn't clarify, you know, beyond what he said.

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b6 Per OIG
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b7C -2

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1 [redacted] Did he articulate that his
2 relationship with former Principal Deputy Attorney General
3 Matt, Matthew Axelrod, did he articulate any, what the
4 nature of that relationship was, good, bad? Was there any
5 conversation about that?
6 [redacted] I don't recall. No, I don't. I
7 don't recall him saying that it was a bad relationship or
8 there's any kind of animosity between them.
9 [redacted] The involvement of the General
10 Counsel and what Mr. McCabe said about how I guess Mr.
11 Baker recommended that, that the statement be pared down,
12 is it, was it, I know you said before it was a bit of a
13 contradiction, but had you ever had an experience where a,
14 an attorney from the General Counsel's Office, whether it
15 be the General Counsel or one of the attorneys in his
16 office, did you ever have an experience before where,
17 where one of them inserted themselves in providing almost
18 like legal advice to an employee who is a witness in a
19 matter?
20 [redacted] No. That's, that's prohibited.
21 No. I've never had that experience. I mean, if it's
22 happened, it's not come to our attention. I mean, if
23 they're doing it behind the scenes, you know, it's never
24 brought to my attention because that would have been
25 something that would be pretty noteworthy. Because even

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1 in our book, our process when we give personnel
2 notification they're under investigation, there's IAS
3 forms. I believe IAS-1, there's IAS-1, 2, and 3, 2 and 3
4 are nondisclosure agreements that the employee and the
5 attorney sign.
6 IAS-1 explains the process, so they know what
7 they're, they're going to be in store for. Page 2 starts
8 talking about use of attorneys. And I think in there it
9 even says can I use a government attorney. And we won't
10 pay for your attorney. You have to bring your own or
11 agent's association if they are members, if they are
12 investigators.
13 [redacted] I have a couple of
14 questions about the period between the May 12 email that
15 forwarded the sworn statement to Mr. McCabe --
16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
17 [redacted] -- and the interview on, on
18 August 18. But, if you have more --
19 [redacted] Do that.
20 [redacted] Okay.
21 [redacted] No, no. Do that. Do that.
22 [redacted] Because that's, so I'm going
23 backwards. Is that okay? Do you --
24 [redacted] Do that, yeah.
25 [redacted] Okay.

Page 64

1 [redacted] Do that.
2 [redacted] So, you mentioned that Mr. McCabe
3 apologized for the delay with his sworn statement.
4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
5 [redacted] When you met with him on August
6 18.
7 [redacted] Yeah, I think he said, sorry this
8 is taking so long.
9 [redacted] Okay.
10 [redacted] To get this done.
11 [redacted] Can you describe for us the
12 process? So, so you, so the statement was emailed to him,
13 I guess the current version, right, was emailed to him on,
14 on May 12. His interview is --
15 [redacted] Um-hmm. Yeah.
16 [redacted] -- right, three days after May 9
17 interview. What happened from that point to August 18 in
18 terms of any efforts undertaken by Inspections to get the,
19 the, to get Mr. McCabe to focus on his sworn statement and
20 get it squared away and signed.
21 [redacted]: Okay. So we, we kept our executive
22 management, my section chief, Voviette, informed of the
23 process. I had this nice spreadsheet made up of where
24 you know, we are on those because I'm trying to track [redacted]
25 different leaks here. So we told her, and she said she

Page 65

1 would, you know, there were a couple of times where she
2 said she would talk to the Assistant Director, you know,
3 and Nancy McNamara and say maybe she can reach out to the
4 Associate Deputy Director and find out if we can, you
5 know, move this along.
6 I know that [redacted] actually ran into the
7 Deputy Director I think at Starbucks and mentioned to him.
8 And he asked her to send it to, send it to him again. And
9 fine. I can't even imagine how many emails they have and
10 maybe he just can't pull it up readily. I remember one
11 particular time, I was [redacted]
12 [redacted] I had a presentation to do. And I live in
13 [redacted] So I work out of the computer-based
14 training room at the Academy, do my presentation, and
15 return through the bounds of my day. And I remember that
16 [redacted] sent it out, but she didn't send it to [redacted]
17 [redacted]
18 And we, I noticed it right away. And we sent it
19 to him, but it was too late because Mr. McCabe already
20 received it from [redacted] And [redacted] I
21 pointed out to [redacted] already reached out to
22 [redacted] and said delete it.
23 Don't open it. This is official business. He would. He
24 promised. That's great. But he forwarded it after that
25 call, forwarded it to Mr. McCabe anyway. So Mr. McCabe

1 sent me an email and said this is, you know, you know,
2 unfortunate or, you know, this is, you know, this is
3 something that's very, should be very -- and I explained
4 to him, I wrote back an email to him saying that I
5 understand. We identified the issue right away. We took
6 steps to, you know, proactive steps to do this, and it's
7 not going to happen again, and then I let [redacted] know
8 that, you know, he's already aware of it.

b6 -1
b7C -1

9 So he had it then. I, I know he had it then.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

10 And the joke --

11 [redacted] When was that about would you
12 say?

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 [redacted] I don't know. But I have, I
14 provided that, those three that we sent. It was the
15 second one, I think, the second time that we sent it to
16 him in that version. And we joked around about it too, so
17 if it, if you want to get this thing done, this is, the
18 ball is in your court. You know, we don't have to send
19 this anymore. Let's get this thing done. This is well
20 before I knew these incidents that came up.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

21 [redacted] Um-hmm. So, so the email that,
22 that was first sent to [redacted]
23 [redacted] that would, that would have been the same
24 day as the Starbucks encounter?

b6 -1
b7C -1

25 [redacted] Yeah. I think it was right after

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 any other efforts made to, to have him sign the sworn
2 statement? I'm just wondering to what, how, how much
3 effort.

4 [redacted] Well, I know my effort, and I'm
5 sure I speak for [redacted] on this point that our
6 interactions with the Deputy Director were always vis-a-
7 vis emails. We didn't call him. We didn't call his
8 secretary. We didn't, this is, we consider this very
9 private, you know, these statements. We wouldn't call the
10 secretary and say, hey, the Deputy Director has a
11 statement to sign. So we let our management do that.

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

12 And I think a couple times Voviette may have
13 said that she will, she will discuss it with our Assistant
14 Director and through her channels because she meets up
15 there on the seventh floor with these people all the time,
16 and maybe she bumps into him, ask him if there is anything
17 he needs to try to further the process.

18 [redacted] Can you speak to what extent the,
19 the management above you, [redacted] had reached out informally
20 or through --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

21 [redacted] I, I can't.

22 [redacted] -- assistance?

23 [redacted] I can't. I don't recall if they,
24 they came back to me to tell me, hey, we, we put in a
25 call. But something tells me that Voviette did come back

1 she met him. She came right up to her desk and did as he,
2 you know, requested.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

3 [redacted] Um-hmm. So it was three times,
4 was it three times prior to August 18 that, that you had
5 submitted the sworn statement to Mr. McCabe electronically
6 by email?

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 [redacted] Yeah. I think it was, well, three
8 times for sure, including the very first one that he got.
9 So, the third time --

10 [redacted] In April.

11 [redacted] Yes.

12 [redacted] Yeah.

13 [redacted] The third time I believe was right
14 after we had that interview with him before we went home
15 that day because, again, he asked us to send it to him.

16 [redacted] Okay. On the 18th?

17 [redacted] Yes.

18 [redacted] Right after you met with him?

19 [redacted] Yes.

20 [redacted] Okay. Were there any other
21 efforts, so, so other than emailing the sworn statement to
22 him on May 12, and seeing him at Starbucks, and, and
23 resending that again -- [redacted] seeing him in Starbucks.

24 [redacted] Um-hmm.

25 [redacted] Were there any other, were there

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 to me at least on a couple of occasions saying, yeah, I
2 talked to Nancy, and Nancy will see if we can't get him to
3 get on the calendar to, to get it to sign. Or at least
4 ask him what the status is of his review. That's
5 basically what it is. Because we're not asking for, hey,
6 when are you ready to sign? It is, what's the status of
7 your review.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

8 [redacted] Um-hmm.

9 [redacted] We're not rushing anyone. It's,

10 you know.

11 [redacted] Okay. I think that was all on

12 that.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

13 [redacted] Okay. So let's sort of bring us

14 now, go back to the interview on August 18 is ending.

15 [redacted] Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

16 [redacted] What happens next?

17 [redacted] We, we left Mr. McCabe's office and

18 came down to our office. And we had a note or [redacted]

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

19 was told by, by [redacted] (phonetic sp.), our unit

20 chief, that pulled us out of the Mr. Kortan interview and

21 said, when you're done, brief Nancy McNamara, our AD,

22 about the results of what transpired today. So we went

23 right to her office, and her secretary told us she already

24 left for the day. So we went back to our office, went

25 into our unit chief's office, [redacted] office, and

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 called our section chief, called Voviette. We were
 2 uncomfortable about calling the AD. I didn't know where,
 3 you know.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] Normally I'll brief up my section
 6 chief, my management, and they'll brief up from there. So
 7 we put Voviette on speakerphone, and [redacted] and I
 8 briefed her up about the interaction with Mr. Kortan, and
 9 being called out of the meeting, because she wasn't in
 10 that day. She may not have even been in that entire week.
 11 And we were called into Mr. McCabe's office and, and he
 12 told us that he authorized it. And Voviette was tracking
 13 this because she sat in on most of the interviews.
 14 There's, you know, just a very few that she didn't sit on.
 15 And she even inserted herself on follow-up interviews with
 16 Mr. Kortan after [redacted] was done and with, with Lisa.
 17 So the three most important ones, the ones that were
 18 causing us this epiphany, were Mr. Kortan and Lisa Page.
 19 Well, Voviette was very in tune on that.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] And I know, I remember Voviette was
 22 surprised, too, with the information that Lisa Page
 23 released. And now when we talk to Mr. McCabe, and he told
 24 us he authorized it, that she was taken a little aback by
 25 it too.

b6 -1,2,Per OIG
b7C -1,2,Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

1 the victim of a leak.
 2 [redacted] Right.
 3 [redacted] Either he is, either it's not a
 4 leak and it was, it was authorized, and it's going out, or
 5 it's something that he was aware of after the fact and he
 6 didn't have a problem with.
 7 [redacted] If you could look at the next
 8 document there.
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 [redacted] That's an email from you on August
 11 18th at 5:04 p.m. to Mr. Andrew G. McCabe, copying
 12 [redacted] And you state at the email, it also
 13 attaches a 12-page draft statement. Are you familiar with
 14 this document?
 15 [redacted] Yes. Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] And it appears this is sent after
 17 the interview is completed on August 18th. Is that
 18 correct?
 19 [redacted] Yes, it is.
 20 [redacted] And so what is your expectation
 21 after you send this to him as to what's going to happen
 22 next?
 23 [redacted] Well, we sent it to him because he
 24 requested it.
 25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -1,2,Per OIG
b7C -1,2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

1 [redacted] And so let me just show you, when
 2 you say taken aback, can you just elaborate? Meaning
 3 surprised, or?
 4 [redacted] Well, yeah, kind of. Like our
 5 reaction was. It was a very natural reaction, like, you
 6 know, we didn't know what to expect when we went in there,
 7 but we went in with the impression that we're not going
 8 to, we're not setting anyone up for failure here. I'm not
 9 going to let him sign that statement until, you know, take
 10 the onus on it and say maybe you misunderstood me. Maybe
 11 I didn't write it the way I heard it. And you never gave
 12 us back your, your changes, so we didn't know if we were
 13 expecting to see changes where he had already talked to
 14 the other people and found out that somebody -- we didn't
 15 know. So I took the proactive approach and said, here,
 16 before you sign your statement, this is what you told us.
 17 Here is this article again. Tell us. And that's how we
 18 entered into that.
 19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] So, yeah, there was, you know, her
 21 reaction was, really? Wow. Okay. Okay, we're going to
 22 have to talk about this. It was the same reaction that we
 23 had, that it's, it's not as simple as it first appeared.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] It's, it doesn't appear that he is

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

1 [redacted] : Because, again, based on the
 2 statement that he, it's not at his fingertips or he, it's,
 3 it's in his email. Would we be kind enough to send it to
 4 him again? Absolutely. As soon as I get back to my desk.
 5 And actually, we sent it to him I think before we even
 6 spoke to Voviette. And we sent it to him. And my
 7 expectation was it was the same statement that we had
 8 before that he correct the inaccuracies. I mean, my
 9 expectation is there is going to be some correction of
 10 that paragraph that you had me read aloud about whether or
 11 not he authorized or was aware of who is the source of the
 12 information.
 13 [redacted] So it would be, the ball would be
 14 in Mr. McCabe's court to make whatever revisions, and then
 15 have you and [redacted] or anyone else from your office look
 16 at those revisions?
 17 [redacted] Yes.
 18 [redacted] Okay.
 19 [redacted] We're still in the draft stage at
 20 that point.
 21 [redacted] Still in the draft stage. And so,
 22 I know you gave OIG a draft version of Mr. McCabe's
 23 statement that says current version pending.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] I think I even have it in your

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

b6 -2,Per OIG
b7C -2,Per OIG

1 stack there here.
 2 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] But, is the, is the current
 4 version pending heading, is this document that you're now
 5 looking at with that heading, current version pending, no
 6 different from the document --
 7 [redacted] That we sent to him?
 8 [redacted] -- attached to the August 18, 2017
 9 email?
 10 [redacted] I'd have to go through line-by-
 11 line, word-by-word.
 12 [redacted] Well, I mean, I just don't want to
 13 take up that time now.
 14 [redacted] Yeah.
 15 [redacted] Not that I don't want to afford
 16 you that opportunity.
 17 [redacted] I would think, typically I do this
 18 kind of notation on these cases when the, the statement is
 19 in its most complete form. As far as we're concerned, as
 20 far as --
 21 [redacted] I see.
 22 [redacted] -- we're accepting changes, and
 23 changes have been made. We're waiting, we're waiting for
 24 the respondents or the interviewee either to respond to
 25 saying I have more changes, or I'm ready to sign. And

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Okay.
 2 [redacted] forgive me if you said this
 3 before. But when Mr. McCabe said that he had authorized
 4 the on background discussion --
 5 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 6 [redacted] -- for the October 30 article, he
 7 specifically mentioned Lisa Page and Mike Kortan?
 8 [redacted]: Yes. My recollection is that yes,
 9 he did.
 10 [redacted] And I believe it's reflected in
 11 your notes.
 12 [redacted]: Yes, right here. Authorized Kortan
 13 and Lisa. Lisa meaning Lisa Page.
 14 [redacted] I was going to move on.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] So, it's my understanding that you
 17 were not present for the interview conducted of Lisa Page
 18 on August 7th, 2017, correct?
 19 [redacted] Correct. I never had contact with
 20 Lisa Page on this.
 21 [redacted] Okay. But you're familiar with
 22 what facts were being gathered --
 23 [redacted] Yes.
 24 [redacted] -- in that sworn statement?
 25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 this is probably just something that was sitting on,
 2 sitting on the file to let anyone know if I'm out of the
 3 office that say if he needs the current version or
 4 somebody needs to look at it, management, they can pull it
 5 and look at it.
 6 [redacted] And also, just so the record
 7 doesn't look like I'm cutting you short.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] I want to just bring your
 10 attention maybe to the heart of what we're talking about
 11 here.
 12 [redacted] Okay.
 13 [redacted] So if you turn to Page 10 in both
 14 of those documents, current, with current version pending
 15 heading and the one attached to the August 18, 2017 email.
 16 [redacted] Okay.
 17 [redacted] If you look at the bottom of 10,
 18 the paragraph to the top of 11 --
 19 [redacted] Wait.
 20 [redacted] -- stating, on May 9th, 2017. It
 21 doesn't look like there is any change in that paragraph
 22 that we have been focusing on about authorizing or not
 23 this, these statements, in the --
 24 [redacted] Yeah. It doesn't look to be any
 25 changes. They appear to be identical.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Okay. So then let's segue into
 2 the developments of Mr. Kortan's final sworn statement
 3 after three interviews in mid-August 2017.
 4 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] And the next --
 6 [redacted] The next attachment?
 7 [redacted] Yeah, the next document would be,
 8 I wanted to ask you about, what appears to be your notes
 9 on August 16th, 2017? Is that right?
 10 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.
 11 [redacted] Two pages of notes? Is that
 12 right?
 13 [redacted] Yes.
 14 [redacted] Okay. And you attended, or this
 15 interview was attended by you and SSA [redacted] is
 16 that right?
 17 [redacted] Yes, that's correct, in Mr.
 18 Kortan's office.
 19 [redacted] In Mr. Kortan's office. And it
 20 looks like this is where you, you being INSD
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] -- is now circling back to Mr.
 23 Kortan to talk to him for the first time about the Wall
 24 Street Journal article that appeared on October 30th,
 25 2016. Is that right?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 [redacted] Um-hmm, yes.
 2 [redacted] Okay. And you were drawing Mr.
 3 Kortan's attention to the last three paragraphs on --
 4 excuse me. The last page of the article, first three
 5 paragraphs, correct?
 6 [redacted] Correct.
 7 [redacted] Okay. And I think you referenced
 8 this earlier, but it appears on your notes reflecting this
 9 four lines from the bottom of the first page, or five
 10 lines, that Mr. Kortan said it was a leak.
 11 [redacted] Yes.
 12 [redacted] And that he wouldn't do that. Is
 13 that what that says, call it a leak, he would not do that?
 14 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.
 15 [redacted] Okay. During --
 16 [redacted] And, because that's practice and
 17 protocol, underneath in parenthesis.
 18 [redacted] And that's OPA's practice and
 19 protocol?
 20 [redacted] Yes. Yeah, that's OPA's practice.
 21 [redacted] During discussion of this, is
 22 there any surprise by Mr. Kortan? Is he familiar with
 23 this sort of leak that's been out there? Was he familiar
 24 with it?
 25 [redacted] You know, I, I -- yeah, I believe

1 next document here --
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 [redacted] -- labeled Draft I up at the top,
 4 is that your handwriting?
 5 [redacted] Yes.
 6 [redacted] And so Draft I, as we discussed
 7 earlier, this would reflect the draft put together by
 8 INSD.
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 [redacted] And so would you be the author of
 11 this, or [redacted] or would it --
 12 [redacted] It's hard to say. It's hard to say
 13 because it's, typically how we do this is whoever, whoever
 14 writes it provides it to the co-interviewer. And, you
 15 know, some changes are made or some, you know,
 16 clarification is, is garnered, and then it's printed. And
 17 since I was the case agent, I was the one that was
 18 actually maintaining the file, that I would typically,
 19 once we're in agreement, once, and the agreement would be
 20 this is what we're sending to the person to read. We hit
 21 print, and I will, I would write on it right away so I
 22 would know for the file for the 1-A that this is, this is
 23 what's going to be in there.
 24 [redacted] But both of you would be in
 25 agreement?

1 he was familiar with the article. I don't, I don't recall
 2 specifically if we, I remember [redacted] was taking a lot
 3 more notes than I was on this. But I don't think he was
 4 surprised by the article itself or the author of the
 5 article. I think they, I think he elaborated to us that
 6 he knows, he knows them, and.
 7 [redacted] I mean, I understand there being,
 8 and you personally may have been investigating more than
 9 one leak, and so I'm not sure if, if FBI managers are, are
 10 used to seeing this and so, I mean, is there any type of
 11 reaction that's -- well, I guess I should say, what was
 12 his demeanor when you presented this to him? Was he, what
 13 was his demeanor?
 14 [redacted] Mr. Kortan is a very nice man. And
 15 he was very, to me, he was very business-like, very, you
 16 know, we put something in front of him, asked him to look
 17 at it. He looked at it. He took his time looking at it,
 18 pondered on it a little while, and very clearly, you know,
 19 so what do you call it or characterize it. Oh, it's a
 20 leak. And, you know, we were very willing to accept that
 21 because that's how we viewed it. And that's when I asked
 22 him specifically why, what, why would he say that? What,
 23 what classifies this or characterizes this as a leak in
 24 his mind? And he gave us I think the three points of.
 25 [redacted] And maybe that, if we look at this

1 [redacted] Yes.
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] If I, if it's, if Draft I is
 4 already written on, both of us should have been in
 5 agreement on it.
 6 [redacted] And would this document typically
 7 be accompanied by an email to Mr. Kortan from your office
 8 saying here is Draft I for review?
 9 [redacted] Yeah. That would be how we deliver
 10 it to him.
 11 [redacted] Okay. So if you could turn to
 12 Page 4.
 13 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 14 [redacted] The second paragraph on that page,
 15 the first sentence states, when I look at the highlighted
 16 paragraphs in Exhibit I, I would consider this information
 17 to be a media link.
 18 [redacted] Leak.
 19 [redacted] Leak.
 20 [redacted] Yes.
 21 [redacted] Leak. And I believe this would,
 22 I'm show you what appears to be Mr. Kortan's initials to
 23 Exhibit I of what ultimately became his final signed copy.
 24 But --
 25 [redacted] Yes, and it's dated 8-16, so it

1 would correspond with (*indiscernible 1:29:14).
 2 [redacted] Okay. And just so you have at
 3 your, have handy --
 4 [redacted] And we had him actually initial
 5 right above the highlighted portion too, so there is no
 6 discrepancy on what we're asking him to comment on.
 7 [redacted] And so the record reflects, you're
 8 looking at a document that contains the October 30th, 2016
 9 Wall Street Journal article, the last page, the first
 10 three paragraphs are in yellow highlight and have Mr.
 11 Kortan's initials and dated August 16, 2017. And so the
 12 statement again that I was asking you to look at was, when
 13 I look at the highlighted paragraphs in Exhibit I, I would
 14 consider this information to be a media leak. Does that
 15 sentence contain an accurate statement made by Mr. Kortan
 16 during the August 16th, 2017 interview with you and Ms.,
 17 SSA [redacted]
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 [redacted] And then, in the -- let me show
 20 you this other document here, Draft 2.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted] Again, this, that's your
 23 handwriting up at the top?
 24 [redacted] Yes, it is.
 25 [redacted] And so now Draft 2 is going to

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 source, you wouldn't do that on background. Quotations
 2 aren't necessary. That's like somebody really trying to
 3 sell something because they're not sure it's going to be
 4 believed by whoever is receiving it. But then he said,
 5 well, you know, sometimes we do do that for certain
 6 situations. So each one of them he kind of like just
 7 brought back and said, well, that's not -- I can't say
 8 it's never done, so.
 9 [redacted] So that was his explanation as to
 10 why he was striking that out?
 11 [redacted] Yeah. I can't remember exactly
 12 why, if we asked them why we struck that out or, you know,
 13 why he made the change or what his explanation was for it.
 14 [redacted] Because it seems to be a, a
 15 significant change from what he had told you.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] In the, in the interview. And in
 18 this draft, it maybe might even be helpful to go to the
 19 final version, which is over there. So the, the document,
 20 this document now I'm showing you is 11 pages. It has a
 21 signature page on Page 11 of what appears. Is that your
 22 signature?
 23 [redacted] Yes, it is. Yep.
 24 [redacted] So does this appear to you to be a
 25 true and accurate copy as best you can tell of Mr. Michael

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 encompass changes by a witness.
 2 [redacted] Correct.
 3 [redacted] And here, this would be changes by
 4 Mr. Kortan?
 5 [redacted] Yes.
 6 [redacted] Okay. And so if you turn to Page
 7 5, you'll see that the reference to media leak is stricken
 8 in track changes. Do you see that?
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 [redacted] Was there any discussion or
 11 explanation from Mr. Kortan about why he deleted that?
 12 [redacted] I think this was one of the first
 13 changes that he made, and that's why we're going back to
 14 talk to him. But, and when we did talk to him, you know,
 15 he, he said that he had the chance to think about it, and
 16 he said there's nothing hard and fast. There's, there's
 17 always varying degrees. Now you can't, there's never,
 18 never any, like, instance where something couldn't be done
 19 a certain way.
 20 And he gave some examples that some cases are
 21 helped by releasing information, the issues that he talked
 22 about before, the direct quote where something is quoted,
 23 he told us that that's not, that we don't do that on
 24 background because that's like somebody wanting to prove
 25 something. Well, if we're giving, we're the, we're the

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG.
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 Kortan's final signed sworn statement on August 24th,
 2 2017?
 3 [redacted] It is, yes.
 4 [redacted] And if I could direct your
 5 attention to Page 4 on the bottom, there is a statement in
 6 the, in the last paragraph there beginning with when I
 7 look.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm. Yes.
 9 [redacted] The second sentence states, I do
 10 not recall any on background conversation that included a
 11 direct quote, especially regarding what was at the time an
 12 ongoing investigation. Was that one of the criteria that
 13 he used to describe in his mind what would be a media
 14 leak?
 15 [redacted] Yes.
 16 [redacted] So he's still including at least
 17 one of these criteria.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] So was he able to explain to you,
 20 here is a criteria I have for characterizing something a
 21 leak, but then still not calling it a leak?
 22 [redacted] Yeah, I think he did anecdotally.
 23 I mean, each one of those, you know, three different
 24 reasons why he would consider it a leak. I think each one
 25 of him he gave us examples on when it would be used

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 legitimately.
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm. Oh, I see.
 3 [redacted] Yeah. Yeah.
 4 [redacted] Oh, so for, for this sentence that
 5 I just read, he gave you an example of when it could be
 6 done legitimately?
 7 [redacted] Yeah.
 8 [redacted] Okay.
 9 [redacted] I mean, I don't see that in the
 10 statement --
 11 [redacted] Do you recall what that was?
 12 [redacted] No, I don't. I don't. It was
 13 just, it was just his attempt, and he kept I think
 14 reinforcing to us that he wanted to make sure that the
 15 statement is, is, is accurate. He doesn't want to make
 16 (*indiscernible 1:34:45) this is, this would never happen
 17 because, again, he's under oath. And I think he started
 18 to second-guess himself after a while that he's sticking
 19 too much out there, drawing a hard and fast line where
 20 there are reasons that are not invalid or, or troublesome
 21 to the FBI or to the Office of Public Affairs that this
 22 would be done on some, some instances. And I think he was
 23 coming up with areas that would cover that.
 24 [redacted] Did you determine [redacted] what
 25 prompted Mr. Kortan to, to start second-guessing himself?

1 so much. And every time we talk to him it's less and less
 2 what he said before.
 3 [redacted] To what extent, you said there
 4 are emails in the file of, of references between, emails
 5 that Kortan had referencing communications with the
 6 reporter.
 7 [redacted] Right.
 8 [redacted] Between the October 24 article
 9 and the October 30 article.
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 [redacted] So were these emails that are in
 12 the file, were they provided to you by Kortan, and to what
 13 extent did that play into any changes in his statement?
 14 [redacted] Okay. Some of the emails that,
 15 that were in there were provided to us from Mr. Kortan.
 16 Some of them we had to show him to help him reflect his
 17 memory. It's nothing that we've, we've found something
 18 here that says, hey, you authorized this disclosure. It
 19 wasn't that at all. It was just, this was a conversation.
 20 There was a, I think there was a couple of references to
 21 maybe a phone call or call me at this number or whatever.
 22 They're trying to, there's, it appeared to be some effort
 23 on both their parts to try to link up somehow and have a
 24 communication and say this happened at a certain time
 25 frame around the publication of this article. Does this

1 [redacted] No. I don't know why. He just, it
 2 just is the process was continuing of getting the draft
 3 version through the process of review to the final signed
 4 statement that he would, he would initiate calls to
 5 [redacted] and say, hey, I've got some more changes, and
 6 I've got something else I want to show you, and I want to
 7 explain the changes to you, and we're like, sure. We'll
 8 go up. We'll, you know, that's unnecessary. You don't
 9 have to explain the changes because, you know, that's his
 10 view of what he's telling us. But we were willing, you
 11 know, as colleagues to go up there and listen to his
 12 changes.
 13 [redacted] Did you find that change
 14 troubling?
 15 [redacted] I found it, I found his, you know,
 16 kind of pulling back on things that he told us that he was
 17 so sure about, his, his reaction initially, I found that a
 18 little unusual.
 19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] And I found it noteworthy, and I
 21 know [redacted] does too because we talked about it even
 22 when we walked out of the office. I said, what just
 23 happened? I thought, I thought we had hard and fast that
 24 this, it's a leak. That's what it is. It's what he's
 25 calling it. It is how he sees it. It's done. Now, not

1 help you refresh your memory? Do you remember what you
 2 talked about? Do you remember what he asked you? Those
 3 are the, that was the line of questioning.
 4 But there was nothing there that was concrete
 5 that would solve all the questions. And I think he was
 6 really going out of his way to find emails to show us that
 7 he's being cooperative and, and trying to help us, but
 8 there just wasn't there. And we asked him for copies of
 9 notes or records or calendar items that would reflect
 10 bullet points on what they discussed, and he said that he
 11 doesn't keep a record of, you know, on background
 12 investigations, or on background interviews with
 13 reporters.
 14 [redacted] Did he begin second-guessing
 15 himself in your mind, did he begin that before or after he
 16 found or you all showed him email communications
 17 referencing the reporter or with the reporter?
 18 [redacted] I don't, I can't say that for sure.
 19 My only recollection is that it was very obvious to me he
 20 started that after he saw his statement. It wasn't during
 21 that interview, and then he said this, and then before he
 22 left he started pontificating and saying, no. It's more
 23 like, no, it was hard and fast when we left. When he got
 24 his statement, then he started taking it back with each
 25 progression of, of the drafts.

1 [redacted] And he got his statement on
 2 August 16?
 3 [redacted] The 16th was the interview.
 4 [redacted] Right. So --
 5 [redacted] Yeah, and the final, the
 6 finalization wasn't until later, like the 24th or
 7 something.
 8 [redacted] We might want to see the emails
 9 that went with the drafts to him just before it went, that
 10 you were sending out to him. But we can put --
 11 [redacted] I don't think, we weren't sending
 12 him emails. We, I think [redacted] had those and showed it,
 13 showed him emails.
 14 [redacted] Oh, no, no, no. I mean the emails
 15 from INSD to Mr. Kortan --
 16 [redacted] Oh, okay.
 17 [redacted] -- saying here is this draft for
 18 you to review, just so we understand the time sequence.
 19 [redacted] Oh, okay. All right.
 20 [redacted] Does that make sense?
 21 [redacted] Yeah.
 22 [redacted] But --
 23 [redacted] And [redacted] is the one sending
 24 those out.
 25 [redacted] We'll put something in an email

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

1 had the interaction back and forth with Mr. Kortan. Yeah,
 2 and I'm pretty sure that's how it went.
 3 [redacted] Okay. So she had, would you say
 4 during this period of August 16th to 18, that, or the
 5 24th, whichever the date is on the statement that he
 6 signed, [redacted] was taking the lead in interacting with
 7 Mr. Kortan?
 8 [redacted]: Yeah, I believe that's how it was.
 9 Yeah, I believe that's, I think she wrote the statement
 10 and the correspondence was going back and forth from her,
 11 and she was collecting the information to take in for, for
 12 kind of visual aids during the interview for him to look
 13 at.
 14 [redacted] Your recollection that at one
 15 point he went behind a desk during one of the interviews
 16 and, and went onto the computer to check some for
 17 something, do you recall whether that was on the 16th or
 18 when you met him on the 17th or the 18th? Do you --
 19 [redacted] I don't remember. I think, it
 20 wasn't at the last meeting because the last meeting he
 21 already had everything that he could find. And there was,
 22 you know, there was a stack of stuff in there. I want to
 23 say, it was probably the second meeting, but it was a very
 24 short, you know, he looked. He couldn't find what he was
 25 looking for, or he was looking for a folder. And he said

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 because --
 2 [redacted] Okay.
 3 [redacted] -- there's a couple things we
 4 might want.
 5 [redacted] Okay.
 6 [redacted] Was there ever a time, was, were
 7 you ever present when Mr. Kortan searched his computer for
 8 emails?
 9 [redacted] I think he may have gotten behind
 10 his desk to look for something while we were talking on
 11 one of the occasions. But I know the last occasion we
 12 went to see him, he had a stack already printed for us,
 13 and he was walking through and showing us them. But I
 14 don't remember there was anything substantive in that. I
 15 don't think it really gleaned much information for us when
 16 [redacted] and I were talking --
 17 [redacted] What he gave you?
 18 [redacted]: Yeah. And what he was producing.
 19 I, I think there was conversation about there was a
 20 meeting, and they were addressing that article talking
 21 about an article about, you know, inaccuracies in one
 22 article. But as I recall, I think [redacted] actually wrote
 23 the statement.
 24 [redacted] Okay.
 25 [redacted] And she had the, she, she really

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 that, he told us that he will continue to look. He just
 2 couldn't find it then. And he said that he will find and
 3 provide us something that might be able to help us, or at
 4 least help him reflect his memory.
 5 [redacted] Do you want me to wait, or do you
 6 have --
 7 [redacted] No, go ahead.
 8 [redacted] Did he, on his final statement
 9 here on the bottom of Page 4, he references that it's not
 10 OPA's practice or protocol to give a direct quote.
 11 [redacted]: Yes.
 12 [redacted] Did he show you anything written,
 13 any written protocols?
 14 [redacted] No. No. There was none of that.
 15 Yeah, there was no policy or, or protocol statement that,
 16 that he referred to.
 17 [redacted] was going to move into this,
 18 unless you want to do some stuff (*indiscernible 1:43:14).
 19 [redacted] The first draft of Kortan's
 20 statement, you were the original or primary author, and
 21 then [redacted] would have reviewed it as well before,
 22 before the marking of Draft 1 was placed?
 23 [redacted]: So that's what we were saying
 24 earlier. I think [redacted] wrote it.
 25 [redacted] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1,2, Per OIG
b7C -1,2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] I think she was the original
2 author.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

3 [redacted] Okay.
4 [redacted] If memory serves me, I think she
5 was.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

6 [redacted] But you would have reviewed it?
7 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

8 [redacted] And, and you agreed with, she
9 prepared it, you reviewed it, and you were in agreement
10 with her?

11 [redacted] Yes, yes. And after I had made
12 some changes. We don't keep those changes. You know,
13 those are --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

14 [redacted] The internal?
15 [redacted] Yeah, exactly. Those are, those
16 are just, once it's resaved, it's, it's captured as a
17 final product, like a group, like a team product.

b6 -1
b7C -1

18 [redacted] Even though Mr. Kortan seemed to
19 be second-guessing himself and maybe pulling back on some
20 of the representations he made to you the first time you
21 and [redacted] talked to him about the October 30 article,
22 did he, did he ever go so far as, as to say, oh yes, you
23 know, I or Lisa Page or both of us were, were authorized
24 to go on background with Devlin Barrett in preparation,
25 you know, prior, or, for purposes of the October 30

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 article?
2 [redacted] I don't recall that specifically.
3 I remember --

4 [redacted] How far did he go?
5 [redacted] There was, there was, I believe
6 there was conversation that he said that he had
7 communicated with Devlin Barrett about inaccuracies of the
8 article, but I don't, I don't remember it going to the
9 point where there was any kind of authorization or
10 direction from, from his, you know, executive structure to
11 go in and specifically address certain parts of that.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

12 [redacted] Um-hmm, um-hmm. Was he still
13 denying that, that he had authorization to do that, you
14 know, as of the date he signed his statement?

15 [redacted] You know what? I'm going to have
16 to review his statement for that question to see if he --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

17 [redacted] You can look even in this.
18 [redacted] He was still --

19 [redacted] Yeah, because it says right in his
20 statement here -- I'm sorry.

21 [redacted] No, go ahead. Go ahead.
22 [redacted] It says, to my recollection there

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

23 is no, there were no on background conversations with Mr.
24 Barrett between 10-24 and 10-30-2016. So.

25 [redacted] Yes.

1 [redacted] Do you want to look at the final
2 version? Are you looking at a draft version?
3 [redacted] He was still saying that, that he
4 did not believe that his office, OPA, had any involvement
5 in the October 30 article.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

6 [redacted] Yeah, and see, this is our first
7 version where we're saying that that's what he said. And
8 he's saying on the final version, I'm, I'm skipping over
9 the the one in the middle.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 [redacted] What page?
11 [redacted] Page Number 6. He said in the

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

12 original, to my recollection, there was no. And on his
13 final regarding the same point, I do not recall on
14 background conversations with Mr. Barrett between the 10-
15 24 and 10-30 articles. So, I think he is saying to us
16 there that it wasn't him. If there was a conversation on
17 background, he didn't recall it. He's not saying that he
18 didn't. He's just saying he doesn't remember it.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

19 [redacted] Okay.
20 [redacted] Which is, again, what we're walking
21 into with that interview with Mr. McCabe. We have Mr.
22 Kortan saying I don't recall, but I have Mr. McCabe and
23 I've got Lisa Page saying, oh yeah, we both did it. Why
24 can't he remember?

25 [redacted] Although --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] : And not saying he's not being
2 honest. He, if he can't remember --

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 [redacted] Oh, McCabe is saying he did it,
4 but he --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

5 [redacted] He, yeah, he authorized --
6 [redacted] Right.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

7 [redacted] -- Kortan and Page. Page remembers
8 it well and --

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

9 [redacted] Right.
10 [redacted] -- owns it. Mr. Kortan can't

11 remember it.
12 [redacted] Right.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

13 [redacted] Says he can't remember it, so.
14 [redacted] : And McCabe, is it fair to say --

15 [redacted] So why can't he remember it?
16 [redacted] Right. Mr. McCabe, is it fair to

17 say he, is it an assumption on his part that he authorized
18 it, because he doesn't have a specific recollection of it?

19 But I guess your notes said he authorized it.
20 [redacted] : Yeah.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

21 [redacted] But he doesn't remember it
22 specifically.

23 [redacted] : No, I don't remember him saying
24 that he doesn't specifically remember authorizing it. I

b6 -2
b7C -2

25 think he remembered authorizing it.

1 [redacted] Right.
 2 [redacted] I mean, at least that's what I
 3 understood, that he, he looked at it and he says, yes, I
 4 authorized them to correct inaccuracies of the other
 5 statement.
 6 [redacted] Okay.
 7 [redacted] It's that part that I, that I said
 8 earlier that, you know, I remember him saying that. He
 9 goes, well, I don't know about that particular statement.
 10 [redacted] Meaning?
 11 [redacted] The quote?
 12 [redacted] The quote.
 13 [redacted] Okay, got it. So the last
 14 document here is that one there. And feel free to look at
 15 the other documents. The email that you sent on August
 16 20th, 2017 to Voviette Morgan, I just wanted to ask you a
 17 couple things about that.
 18 [redacted] Sure.
 19 [redacted] On Page 4, the prompt.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 [redacted] This is regarding Mr. Kortan.
 22 There was an asterisk about Mr. Kortan's overall
 23 nervousness.
 24 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] And inability to recall specifics.

1 stammering because he wasn't. It wasn't that noticeable.
 2 But it just wasn't the same Mr. Kortan that I've dealt
 3 with in the past. And it, and I don't want to read too
 4 much into it. I don't want to say that's an indicative,
 5 design of some kind of, you know, deception or anything,
 6 but it just seemed to me that he was frustrated, but not
 7 with us.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] That he was just, inability to find
 10 things and, you know, commenting a couple of times, he
 11 said he should have just taken notes. He should take
 12 notes during these meetings, that he should have, you
 13 know, had something written down somewhere. I think
 14 Voviette even commented to us once that she went to talk
 15 to him with [redacted] for a short time, and she made a
 16 comment, too, like he was a wreck. He was a nervous
 17 wreck. And I'm like, you know.
 18 [redacted] When was this?
 19 [redacted] I don't, I don't remember. It was
 20 just one of the conversations that, because she was
 21 relating to me what [redacted] had said.
 22 [redacted] Can you bring us sort of, again,
 23 sort of the, the -- as I understood, was Mr. Kortan's last
 24 interview wrapping up or in the middle while you then were
 25 summoned to go talk to Mr. McCabe?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -1, Per OIG
b7C -1, Per OIG

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 Can you describe what you observed that you're commenting
 2 on here?
 3 [redacted]: Well, it was, if I were to have met
 4 Mr. Kortan one time, and he behaved a certain way, you
 5 just, you know, what are you comparing it to? Right?
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 7 [redacted]: But I've dealt with him from the
 8 earliest interview on this, very, very, a gentleman.
 9 Very, you know, eager to help and, and, and professional
 10 and courteous, warm. But as we saw that, as the
 11 progression of that draft stage from that interview that
 12 happened on the 16th and the progressive meetings with him
 13 to explain those changes, his, his demeanor changed. He
 14 was still nice. He was still very friendly, very
 15 welcoming. He wasn't, he didn't look like he bared a
 16 grudge against us at all or was unhappy to see us. But he
 17 just appeared nervous to me.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] He just looked nervous. He looked
 20 unsure of himself, fiddling around with his emails.
 21 [redacted] That's what I was going to ask
 22 you. Were there any physical body gestures that you
 23 observed that reflected in your experience nervousness?
 24 [redacted]: No, I think it was more, I think it
 25 was more in his speech that he, I don't want to say he was

1 [redacted] It was hard to tell, because we
 2 weren't getting anywhere. We were, we were not, you know,
 3 we were still fumbling around through the emails and
 4 stuff. It wasn't, we weren't, we weren't going to end it
 5 then. We were going to continue on.
 6 [redacted] Okay, right. So can you just put
 7 us into that room in the sense of what the dynamics were?
 8 Was, were you just in the middle of listening to his
 9 description of what changes he wanted to make, or what was
 10 happening?
 11 [redacted] I think that's what it was. I
 12 think he was looking at his statement, and he had, at that
 13 point he was made, he had already made some changes, and,
 14 and he was showing us what he was striking out and
 15 bringing out an email to say I think this is what this had
 16 to do with. I think this helped me. And there was still
 17 nuance changes that really wasn't, wasn't that
 18 substantive. It just wasn't, it just seemed like there
 19 was a lot there that just didn't, it didn't progress the
 20 process any, any more.
 21 [redacted] And it was at that point that you
 22 were then summoned to go talk to Mr. McCabe?
 23 [redacted] Yeah, it was right, it was right,
 24 that's what ended the interview where [redacted] her phone
 25 is ringing, and she answered it. And she excused herself

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 for a second. And she came back and said we've got to go
2 because the Deputy Director is waiting for us. And, and I
3 was taken a little bit aback, and I said is that -- I
4 didn't know it was our unit chief calling. I thought that
5 was the Deputy Director's Office saying, hey, come up now.
6 And I thought that was a little awkward because, God,
7 we're not done here.

8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
9 [redacted] You know, everybody, we had
10 appointments, but.

11 [redacted]: Did Mr. McCabe know that you were
12 meeting with Mr. Kortan at the time?

13 [redacted] I don't know. I don't know.
14 [redacted] While Mr., Kortan was making
15 these, or giving, providing explanations to you about his
16 reasoning behind why he wanted to do some of the changes,
17 did you ask him why he wanted to give all these
18 explanations? Was there any discussion about what was
19 behind all this, or?

20 [redacted] No. No, we just accepted it as we
21 don't know, you know, when he called us and said he's got
22 something to show us, we were, were eager. Yeah, great.

23 [redacted] Um-hmm.
24 [redacted] You've got something that you
25 found. That could help us out here. Fantastic.

1 when I took my statement up to him and said, hey, as long
2 as I'm here, give me your gun because, you know, we're
3 going. So we had a pretty good relationship.

4 But I could tell that, you know, he is putting a
5 lot of pressure on himself. I don't know if it was
6 internal. I don't know if we were causing this pressure.
7 Because we were as friendly to him as we are right now. I
8 mean, we're, you know, we weren't just firing questions at
9 him. We were trying to understand. And I said to him, I
10 said, look. I said, is it possible that something got out
11 of control or something happened, somebody unilaterally
12 made a decision to, to give something they shouldn't have,
13 and once the horse was out of the stall that you found
14 yourself in this position that, that you're actually in a
15 position that, that you were aware of this and you're
16 protecting someone?

17 I just threw it out there. I mean, because I
18 wanted to know.

19 [redacted] Um-hmm.
20 [redacted] Because if I'm not going to ask,
21 he's not going to offer it up. And I thought maybe I
22 could take advantage of that right there where there's a
23 break, and [redacted] is, is, like, the door is still open,
24 so [redacted] I think we could still see her. And he just,
25 he looked at me, and then [redacted] came in, it's the

1 [redacted] Was there any conversation or
2 reference to, you know, whether he was, at that point
3 there was some inconsistencies in his stories, whether he
4 had other objectives in making these changes, or?

5 [redacted]: Like he's protecting someone?
6 [redacted] Sure.

7 [redacted] Okay. All right. When [redacted]
8 took the phone call, she went out in the hallway. And,
9 and I took it as an opportunity, because you know, to me
10 he looked nervous. He looked like he was, you know,
11 troubled. And I said to him, I said, look, I told him, I
12 said, I've known you for a long time. I've known of you.
13 You know, we haven't worked together. I haven't had, you
14 know, the necessity to talk to you in these circumstances,
15 but, and I told him, you're very well respected, and
16 that's how we still feel.

17 And you're, you know, the job that he's done for
18 the Bureau is, is, has got to be pretty good because they
19 keep extending him, and now they've extended him to a
20 point where he's no longer allowed to carry a gun because
21 [redacted] He's a professional staff employee
22 now. [redacted]

23 [redacted]
24 [redacted] And this was
25 during the earlier part of this investigation. And that's

1 Deputy Director, we've got to go. And I looked at him,
2 and I said we'll be back. And I gave him something to
3 think about.

4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
5 [redacted] You know, he didn't blurt anything
6 out like yeah, you got me. But then when we were walking
7 out of Mr. McCabe's office, he's right there.

8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
9 [redacted] Across the hall in the other room
10 looking at us. And he, he looked like he was in good
11 spirits. He was smiling. He was happy. And, and we
12 just, we just left. We didn't continue. We didn't go
13 back to do the interview at that point.

14 [redacted] Um-hmm. This might be getting 100
15 far afield, but was the, was there enough time, if this
16 was so far from the truth, would there have been enough
17 time for him to have said, oh, absolutely not, in response
18 to your question?

19 [redacted] Yeah, I guess he could have blurted
20 that out, but we were, you know, when [redacted] came in,
21 her tone of her voice and her, her message was so, you
22 know, it was, it was pretty, pretty important. It wasn't,
23 it was like, come on, we've got to go. The Deputy
24 Director wants us in his office. It was, I think we could
25 both tell this is something that was pretty important.

1 This is urgent. And that's how we took it. And I said,
2 okay, we'll be back. We'll talk to you later. And then I
3 did revisit that issue with him the next time we were, the
4 next time when we're signing the statement.

5 [redacted] Oh, okay. Then what happened?
6 [redacted] Well, he clearly said no,
7 absolutely not.

8 [redacted] Oh, okay.
9 [redacted] I mean, as clear as, he's

10 comfortable. There's no more nervousness. There's no
11 more going on. And I said, I, you know, I told him, I
12 said I left at an untimely moment when I asked you a very
13 important question. And I just want to make sure that you
14 understand how important it is to us. And I'm going to,
15 you know, I'm ready for your answer. And he said no,
16 absolutely not. I'm not covering for anyone. I don't
17 know anything about this, and it wasn't me, and, okay.

18 [redacted] You know, give me one second. Let
19 me just check something.

20 [redacted] You might well imagine, at that
21 point, you know, we have somebody saying, yeah, that's us.
22 We did it together. You know, I thought our process could
23 have been is it possible that she did it unilaterally, and
24 now she's trying to get people to say, yeah, it was
25 authorized? So we don't know where we are. Here's a guy

1 would have been. And if you see in the middle of the
2 paragraph, that statement is still there. Do you see
3 that? It appears to me that someone unilaterally took it
4 upon themselves to provide information to Mr. Barrett.

5 [redacted] Um-hmm.
6 [redacted] I don't know who that, I don't
7 know who that could possibly be.

8 [redacted] Yes.
9 [redacted] I mean, that's sort of consistent

10 with what you were saying earlier.
11 [redacted] Yeah.

12 [redacted] Not everything, but that, not that
13 he's covering for anyone, but that is, he can't remember.

14 [redacted] Sure. He's distancing himself from
15 it. Yeah.

16 [redacted] Yeah. He can't remember. He has
17 no recollection.

18 [redacted] But it happened.
19 [redacted] It happened.

20 [redacted] But --
21 [redacted] And as best he can make sense of

22 it, someone who he doesn't know unilaterally did this.
23 [redacted] Yeah, because I think the

24 assumption there was it was accurate, and it wasn't made
25 up. It wasn't, like anybody could have said it because

1 that's looking at us and saying no, I don't.
2 [redacted] Well, what's interesting is that
3 if you look at, so if you look at Draft 2.

4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
5 [redacted] Which contains --

6 [redacted] His changes.
7 [redacted] -- his changes, as well as your

8 original to the extent there's no track, there's no cross-
9 off.

10 [redacted] Right.
11 [redacted] So if you look at Page 6 of 13.

12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] The paragraph that is beginning in

14 part on the top of the page.
15 [redacted] Um-hmm.

16 [redacted] The fourth line down from the top,
17 the statement is it appears to me that someone
18 unilaterally took it upon themselves to provide
19 information to Mr. Barrett. Do you see that?

20 [redacted] Yes.
21 [redacted] And then he says I don't know who

22 that could possibly be.
23 [redacted] Um-hmm.

24 [redacted] If you go to the final version on
25 Page 5, it's the main paragraph on Page 5 starting with I

1 it's not true, and you don't have to have information if
2 you're making things up. I think the, the acquiescence
3 was already it was true, it obviously was published. It
4 got out. It was without my authorization, without my

5 knowledge. I think that's what he's conveying to us. So
6 it must have been unilaterally because those kind of

7 disclosures to the media, whether it's done by a division
8 head or done by an executive manager, are, according to

9 him come through his office.
10 [redacted] Right.

11 [redacted] So he's, he's got some kind of,
12 some kind of awareness, some kind of visibility on what's

13 released in case of future articles coming out for
14 additional questions.

15 [redacted] Right. So, if all of that is
16 true, you would think he would have done something about

17 some statement that was made at the time that he didn't
18 authorize.

19 [redacted] Um-hmm. Well --
20 [redacted] Did he say that he could find such

21 efforts?
22 [redacted] No. Not, not that I recall. He

23 didn't say that. And it's also clear that nobody from OPA
24 or the seventh floor reported that to us as misconduct,

25 as, as a leak, like they did with the [redacted] That

1 came from the front office. Hey, look into this because
2 this, this is bad. This is, this is misconduct. Somebody
3 is out there releasing information from executive level
4 meetings.

5 [redacted] And --
6 [redacted] This one didn't come to us like
7 that.
8 [redacted] Right. Right. Again, I
9 understand, do you know how it came to the attention of
10 OIG and/or FBI at the, at the very inception?

11 [redacted] It was my understanding that our
12 Assistant Director had it, found it, discovered it, or
13 maybe OIG and Nancy McNamara, you know, together, you
14 know, simultaneously found it and discussed it before we
15 had our meeting.

16 [redacted] Going back to your email.
17 [redacted] Yes.

18 [redacted] On that same page, Page 4 of the
19 August 20th email, there under overall problematic issues
20 noted.

21 [redacted] Yes.
22 [redacted] There is one, two, three, fourth
23 down.

24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
25 [redacted] There is a discussion about

1 perceptions that some folks may have that [redacted]
2 [redacted]
3 [redacted] : Um-hmm. Yes.
4 [redacted] Can you describe what the basis of
5 that perception was?

6 [redacted] Sure.
7 [redacted] For those who expressed it to you
8 and what was meant by [redacted] ?
9 [redacted] Yeah. Okay. You have, and maybe,
10 you know, in hindsight I could have worded that
11 differently because it's not Mr. McCabe's [redacted]

12 [redacted] It would be [redacted]
13 purported --
14 [redacted] Um-hmm.

15 [redacted]
16 [redacted] We, during our interviews, we had, you know,
17 someone tell us that, you know, in great detail, somebody
18 in a position to know that their, their assessment, not
19 ours, their assessment of watching [redacted]

20 [redacted]
21 [redacted] And I think
22 [redacted] the person went out so much to say that he felt that there
23 was some sort of [redacted] to Mr.
24 McCabe. And she kind of like exercised some kind of, like
25 [redacted]

1 carte blanche ability to walk in and out of his office. [redacted] b6 Per OIG
2 [redacted] Um-hmm. b7C Per OIG

3 [redacted]
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted]
6 [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted]

11 [redacted] Was that expressed by more than
12 one person, this? b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

13 [redacted] Yeah. That was expressed by a
14 couple of people. I think on my spreadsheet that I had in
15 there, I had a column in there that said, that didn't
16 appear in their statements because they didn't want them
17 in their statements, and we considered investigative
18 leads, who they suspected. And I think she was suspected
19 by a couple of people about not only this leak but the
20 leak about the [redacted] email.

21 [redacted] I see. b6 -2,3, Per OIG
b7C -2,3, Per OIG
22 [redacted] Which made almost no sense to me
23 until it was explained to me by the person we were
24 interviewing, you know, it's clearly this is a, this, this
25 [redacted] email that came out to pundit.

1 [redacted] Right. b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
2 [redacted] That was very derogatory towards
3 the Deputy Director. b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

4 [redacted] Right.
5 [redacted] But he was, he was convinced that
6 that was probably her too because she knew, in his mind,
7 [redacted]

8 [redacted] And that's my
9 reaction, for the record, the knitted brow from [redacted]
10 that, when that was told to us, that was, that was almost
11 diabolical. That's almost, you know, something that you
12 would see on some television show or something.

13 [redacted] Did you just say, and I just want
14 to make sure I understood this, that even Mr. McCabe
15 thought?

16 [redacted] : No. b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
17 [redacted] Okay.
18 [redacted] No, not Mr. McCabe.

19 [redacted] I see.
20 [redacted] The person that we were b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG
21 interviewing.

22 [redacted] I see.
23 [redacted] Yeah. Mr. McCabe never brought her
24 up as, as -- b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

25 [redacted] I see. Okay.

1 [redacted] -- any concern whatsoever.
 2 [redacted] I see. Okay. Roughly how many
 3 people do you recall had this perception that you just
 4 described that, of [redacted]? I mean, Ms. Page, I'm
 5 sorry.
 6 [redacted] I think there were two, and I
 7 didn't bring, I didn't bring my spreadsheet with me, but I
 8 think there was two [redacted] (phonetic sp.).
 9 [redacted] Um-hmm
 10 [redacted]
 11 [redacted]
 12 [redacted]
 13 [redacted]
 14 [redacted] chose not to. I can't remember.
 15 There is somebody else. [redacted] I think may, may have been
 16 one. But as we, as this started to unfold, we shared this
 17 with our management.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] With, with Voviette and with, with
 20 our Assistant Director. And Voviette came back a couple
 21 of times with, you know, I wouldn't say rumors, but things
 22 that she's heard from other people on the seventh floor
 23 that this is, has been an ongoing problem. This is
 24 something that she's surrounded with trained observers,
 25 right?

1 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 2 [redacted] And people have made that, come to
 3 that conclusion as well that they don't like, you know,
 4 [redacted]
 5 [redacted] And that's the [redacted] that I'm
 6 referring to, because think of, remember the audience on
 7 this. This is the audience on here is Voviette. Voviette
 8 is on board on all of this, and all of these interviews.
 9 So when I say that, she knew exactly what I was talking
 10 about. There was no need for elaboration.
 11 [redacted] Do you want to, I'm going to move
 12 on.
 13 [redacted] I may have had one. I guess to
 14 some extent [redacted] I think you may have addressed some of
 15 this previously in, in how you described to us your
 16 question to Kortan about whether or not he was protecting
 17 somebody.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] But maybe this is a slightly
 20 different question. Did you ever through your interviews
 21 or otherwise, come to suspect or be concerned that, that
 22 the key witnesses, Kortan, McCabe, Page, or any
 23 combination, that they were coordinating or colluding with
 24 one another in terms of what information they were
 25 providing to Inspections?

1 [redacted] There was nothing overt, nothing
 2 obvious that made me think that way other than the fact
 3 that, you know, I made, I mentioned it to, to [redacted] I
 4 said isn't it odd that we get this information, and then
 5 all of a sudden, Lisa Page tell us something that we're
 6 going to rely on because it's, you know, if we look at it
 7 one way, it's a statement against self-interest.
 8 [redacted] Right.
 9 [redacted] If we're not going to, if it's not
 10 against self-interest since she's authorized and she did
 11 nothing wrong, then she's under oath, so we're going to
 12 rely on her because she is under oath, and it's a truthful
 13 statement, that, you know, Mr. Kortan, it would be easy
 14 for him to say the same thing. And it's, it's, it was a
 15 wonder to me why he isn't remembering that. And then when
 16 you get to Mr. McCabe, all of a sudden, the timing of
 17 this, all of a sudden he's taking ownership of it. And,
 18 which led me to make the comment to, to [redacted] that,
 19 boy, we should have started with Lisa Page. I mean, she's
 20 on the list.
 21 She wasn't prioritized because, again, we
 22 started with the [redacted] email and who was in the, the
 23 close-out meetings. And surely she was, but the people
 24 would have this information, we're going to, we're going
 25 to try to eliminate first the people who can tell us under

1 oath, no, it wasn't me. And we got such strong denials, a
 2 couple of times, you know, Voviette even told us, well
 3 let's stand down for now because I think we're, we're not
 4 getting anywhere, and we're pulling all these executive
 5 managers off on this case. And then we introduce the Wall
 6 Street Journal article, and then we kind of breathe more
 7 light into it.
 8 I think we were probably pretty close to closing
 9 that, that part anyway about the [redacted] email. It
 10 wasn't panning out. I mean, the people we talked to
 11 clearly told us that was never said, things like that are
 12 never said on the seventh floor. Mr. (*indiscernible
 13 2:11:39) even told us that would have been a defining
 14 moment in his career if he ever heard any talk like that
 15 on the seventh floor. I mean, we can't get any clearer
 16 than that, and we can't ask, well are you sure you didn't.
 17 No, it was pretty clear to us every executive manager told
 18 us that. Even the people that were retired told us the
 19 same thing.
 20 [redacted] Just a close-up question.
 21 [redacted] Sure.
 22 [redacted] Is there anything that we haven't
 23 discussed that you'd like to add or that you think would
 24 be helpful?
 25 [redacted] You know, I've been thinking about

1 that all along, even on the way over here, because I
 2 anticipated some of these questions, especially with this
 3 email because, you know, take it for what it's worth.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] Through observations. And I can't
 6 think of anything else that we have that we could offer
 7 you other than the fact that our next step would have been
 8 to get authorization to interview Mr. Axelrod and what
 9 happened during that conversation, whether it was
 10 (*indiscernible 2:12:32) before, or the conversation that
 11 actually, that was reported in the article, did it happen
 12 in his kitchen? Was he on his way traveling, or did that
 13 complaint from Mr. Axelrod happen in the kitchen? And
 14 when he complained to Mr. McCabe, as Mr. McCabe put it,
 15 that he was, he was, he was upset, what did Mr. McCabe say
 16 to him? Did he take ownership? Did he say sorry, that,
 17 that one got by us? That's what I'd want to know.
 18 I mean, that's what we would want to know
 19 because if, if Mr. McCabe did take ownership of that and
 20 apologize, then, then we're, then we'd have to leave it up
 21 to somebody at a greater pay grade than mine to say is
 22 that really a leak then? Apparently it was true. It
 23 happened. And apparently there was stress and pressure
 24 put on our management by DOJ. Nobody refutes that.
 25 And there was a question asked, do you want me,

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 I don't remember anybody, you know, bringing up that that,
 2 that's, that's something that shouldn't have happened, or,
 3 you know, other than Mr. Kortan saying that that, you
 4 know, that's, we don't do that.
 5 [redacted] And so does the fact that that
 6 wasn't expressed, I don't know, strike you as unusual, or?
 7 [redacted] Well, it didn't after we spoke to
 8 Mr. McCabe at that last meeting. It made sense to me --
 9 [redacted] Well, why is that?
 10 [redacted] -- at that point because, well,
 11 he's not upset with it. He, it was his comment that was
 12 leaked. And he's --
 13 [redacted] Right.
 14 [redacted] -- he doesn't seem to be upset with
 15 it. Compare that, again, with our mindset through this
 16 whole time was that [redacted] email that made, that was
 17 very derogatory towards the Deputy Director.
 18 [redacted] Right.
 19 [redacted] Everyone was, you know, you know,
 20 indicating what you're asking. Did anybody say anything
 21 that would have been very bad or, or a negative reflection
 22 on the FBI? Oh, yeah, everybody. They looked at that and
 23 said, that's, that's ridiculous. We would never do that.
 24 But, you know, when we bring this up to Mr. Kortan and Ms.
 25 Page, and, and the Deputy Director, there was none of

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, 3
b7C -2, 3

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 what are you telling me? Do you want me? I mean, you
 2 know, these are our managers and, you know, I can't be,
 3 you know, I've got to be honest with you that when, when I
 4 heard that, when I read that, when I read that I'm like
 5 well that kind of balances things out, doesn't it, I mean,
 6 with all these other leaks. But it's still unfortunate
 7 that it's coming from our shop, because who else would
 8 have known that but another executive manager. And that
 9 just, that riles me. That's just a very, the very thought
 10 of our executive managers talking about what's happening
 11 inside.
 12 [redacted] Yeah. On that point, there
 13 doesn't, and I understand you didn't dig deep into it, but
 14 it, it, does it, is, does it strike you as -- I'm trying
 15 to think of the right word, but, maybe I'll just say it
 16 more directly.
 17 [redacted] Sure.
 18 [redacted] There doesn't seem to be, as I've
 19 seen in your notes of statements that were made by Mr.
 20 McCabe or Mr. Kortan. I guess he has less recollection,
 21 not much recollection, if any, or Ms. Page about any --
 22 remorse is probably too strong, but the fact that they are
 23 airing dirty laundry about FBI and DOJ interactions to a
 24 reporter.
 25 [redacted] No, I don't remember any of that.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 that, well, this shouldn't have been released because it's
 2 just not right. There wasn't any of that.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] And that's why, to answer your
 5 question, did we think people were talking? You know
 6 what? I don't know. And, and that's what I hope you can
 7 determine because, you know, we admonish everyone not to
 8 discuss these cases and this, this information. But you
 9 know, the possibilities are limitless, right? Lisa Page
 10 may have just been off her, off her game and maybe told
 11 us, or maybe she was afraid of losing her Bar license to
 12 say, this is what happened. It is what it is.
 13 And, now all of a sudden, the person that would
 14 be easy, like Mr. Kortan, easy to say yes, I was
 15 authorized to do that, he could have just simply said
 16 that, or was there something behind the scenes saying that
 17 we're not going to, you know, this is what we're going to
 18 release. I don't know. I don't know. But as
 19 investigators, we're always thinking that. So I don't put
 20 any weight on that.
 21 But that's where I would be going if I was
 22 looking at this investigation and say, what did you
 23 discuss with who? And, you know, in my, even in my email
 24 I say is there some, is this something that Mr. McCabe
 25 finds himself conflicted, that maybe, maybe Lisa did

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

1 unilaterally put this out. And then she came to him and
2 told him, I did this. And then he sat back and said,
3 well, I already told them I, I didn't know anything about
4 this.

5 But everything we've heard about Mr. McCabe from
6 people who worked with him from when he was a supervisor,
7 street supervisor, was he stands by his people. He's a
8 good man. If somebody needs him, his, I think his stock
9 in trade back when he had a field desk was he would never
10 go home at night until his last person was done speaking.
11 And people would take advantage of him. If they had
12 something they wanted to talk to him, he's that kind of
13 leader.

14 And I never worked for the man, but I hear it so
15 many times from so many different people, I have to
16 believe it's pretty accurate. And he strikes me as that
17 kind of person too that, you know, when you're talking to
18 him, you have his undivided, 100 percent attention.
19 Maybe, you know, and that's what I alluded in there. I
20 said, maybe there's something else going on that maybe
21 there's, there's, he's conflicted now, but he's going to
22 try to protect someone. I don't know. That's, that's a
23 possibility.

24 Maybe they went too far. Maybe he said go
25 ahead, clean up these inaccuracies that they threw that

1 when I looked at it. I'm like, oh, well that, on the one
2 hand it makes us look good. On the other hand, that makes
3 us look bad that we can't even trust the people around us.

4 I mean, how do you keep this stuff in?

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

5 [redacted] Um-hmm.

6 [redacted] I mean, how do you swear people to,
7 to silence? A couple of people expressed that, but not
8 the people that, like the victim in this case. You know,
9 not, not Mr. McCabes, not the Kortans, that, hey, somebody
10 went around me. Hey, somebody released something I said.
11 We're not getting it from them.

12 [redacted] Okay: Well, we will stop now.

13 We're almost at 4:50. We want to thank you very much for
14 all of your time today and cooperation.

b6 -2, Per OIG
b7C -2, Per OIG

15 [redacted] You're very welcome.

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 out there, and now he looks at it, and he's like, what?
2 What is this? It is what it is and can't go back. But
3 now they're going to have to address it. Those are just
4 things that are playing in everyone's mind, you know. Not
5 just mine. I mean, it's --

6 [redacted] But no one brought up at the time
7 other than Mr. --

8 [redacted] We're okay.

9 [redacted] Oh, yeah. We'll stop in one
10 minute.

11 [redacted] No, we're okay. We're okay.

12 [redacted] Other than Mr. Axelrod from the
13 Department calling and being upset about this quote
14 appearing in the Washington, Wall Street Journal article,
15 there, you didn't hear about any FBI senior managers at
16 the time being upset about seeing that quote appear?

17 [redacted] I remember talking to people. You
18 know, I can't remember who it was, but they, they
19 expressed that, you know, when we're, we're looking at
20 this, and they say, well, it's got to be one of the people
21 on the, are close to them that are in these meetings. I
22 mean, it can't be that many people. And it's, it's a
23 dirty shame that people would release something like that.
24 But it wasn't the, you know, it wasn't, it was like, it's
25 something that you would naturally say when you look at,

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b6 -2
b7C -2

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DO LABBE
REINTERVIEW

(1-3)

5/9/17 2:30P
w/ SC MORGAN

CASER w/ PUBLIC IF POTUS⁶ DR SPOKE ON 2/7²
(NSA) (RE INITIAL STATEMENT)

WST/DELUW BARRETT ARTICLE (EXHIBIT #5)
PROVIDED W/ ARTICLE FOR REVIEW.

LAST Pg. 1-3 PARAGRAPHS.

READ ARTICLE - DOWN INTERVIEW.

← READ WHEN CALLED OUT.

READ ANOTHER PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN ABOUT THE WIRE
AFTER READING PR
REMEMBERED THIS -

ACCURATE → COMMUNIST
MATT AXELROD

PUN - DAL SAUW BATES (RIGHT HAND)

NEXT DAY BRIEFING - DAL AS UNCOMFORTABLE
NO IDEA WHERE CAME FROM.

ACTUAL IN KITCHEN - BETTING TO ALP TO TRAVEL

RANDY COLEMAN, STEVE RICHARDSON, MST
w/ PUN

PUN SAID NOTHING

2(2)

NO DOJ SUPPORT BUT CAN CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.

CONSTANT DRAMA -

DIEGO REACHED OUT TO DD.

b6 -4
b7C -4

[REDACTED]

KEEPS PUSHING THEM

SAME TIME

ANGELROD CALLED DD SAYS FBI KEEPS HARASSING HIS AUSA'S -

b6 -4
b7C -4

FORWARDED EMAIL FROM [REDACTED] TO ANGELROD.

SUTC -

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -1

[REDACTED]

b7E -1

AFTER SUTC - TV FROM ANGELROD

[REDACTED]

TOLD STORY OF INTERACTION - MULTIPLE PEOPLE -

1ST PART. DENLAW CALLED WIFE'S CELL PHONE

(3-3)

ON WAY TO [REDACTED]

SPOKE TO HIM AT [REDACTED]
HE CALLED KOLTAN.

b6 -1
b7c -1

1ST ARTICLE ABOUT WIFE (ANDREW) COURTIZ

2ND ARTICLE → INSTANT ARTICLE.

(LAST PAGES)

OPE STUDY - "ATTACKER STUDY"

(POWER OFL ATTACKS 2016)

FERRY → IACA

FRI DAY AM - WASH. TIMES.

HAS DOF

08/18/2017

MCCABE

DO OFFICE - 5000
W/SSA [REDACTED]

DID AUTHOR - BACKGROUND

b6 -1
b7C -1

PREVIOUS ARTICLE - BEFORE 10/30/16 ARTICLE

CALLED BY WIFE -

SPENT FAIR CHUNK OF DAY -

W/ KORTAN, ET AL

NEXT WEEKEND - IN PROCESS... GOING

OUT OF TOWN. [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1

ACCUSED TELCAL IN FRONT OF REFUG - IN KITCHEN

KORTAN: LISA - PREGARING FOR ARTICLE

(THURS / FRI / SAT)

AVOID. DU

CAT DEV. PR. CALLED W/RS ON HER CELL

BEFORE 1ST ART.

*
||

AUTHORIZED - KORTAN: LISA FOR INFO IN

BARRETT'S ARTICLES
10/30/16

ACCUSED TELCAL - IN KITCHEN TELCAL

(AUG 12) TRM FROM HOME

OK WITH IT... → MCCABE RE CONTENTS OF ARTICLE

OK - HAS OTHER INT. UNRELATED?

OTHER SPECIAL COUNSEL - NOT MURKIN

BIRKWARD - BIRKWARD / ???

SUGGESTED NAME OF K (SAID YES)

RECORDED - / O/R

GC
SPOKE TO BAKER ABOUT IT,
BAKER AOK N

REC. NOT TO SIGN STATEMENT

BASED ON HIS CONVERSATION W/ OIR OR OTHER
SPECIAL COUNSEL. "PALE DOWN" HIS HIS
INTERVIEW.

AOK MCCABE THAT HIS WOULD TAKE A
DIFFERENT COURSE HE HAD TOLD ME
& SC MORGAN THAT HE AUTHORIZED THE
ARTICLE IN WSJ -

SAID "I KNOW" BUT THERE WAS A LOT
GONE ON AT THE TIME.

TOLD HIM A LOT OF EFFORT INC WEEKENDS
SPENT ON TRY TO ID THE LEADER -
SAID "Sorry"

(DID NOT ASK WHY HE DISMISSED DENIED
AUTHORIZING THE STORY)

Lisa Page

Interviews, Signed Sworn Statement, and Notes

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-29-2018 BY NSICG

b6 -1
b7C -1

263D-HQ- -13

b6 -1
b7C -1

Ex. 6

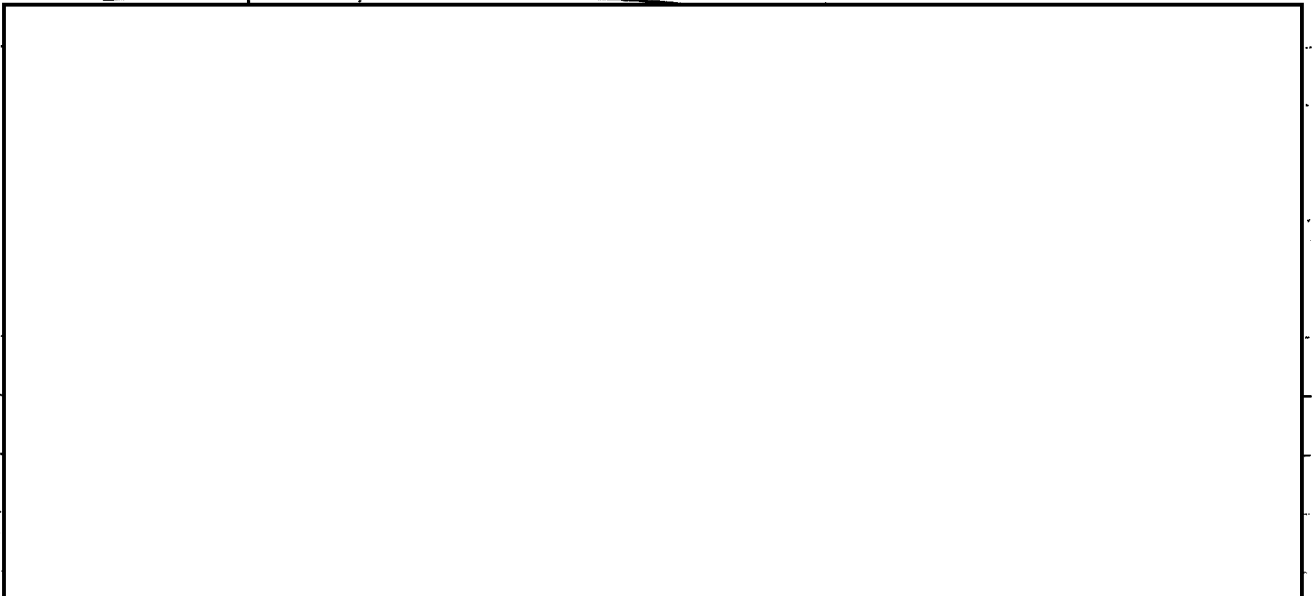
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-02-2018 BY [redacted] NSICG

b6 -1
b7C -1

10/27/16

b5 -2
b7E -1

Call re Kortan, Devlin Barnett



~~Timmins~~
re DOJ mtg

[Redacted]

b5 -2
b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -1

[Redacted]

"stand down"

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- "Stand down"

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

"stand down"

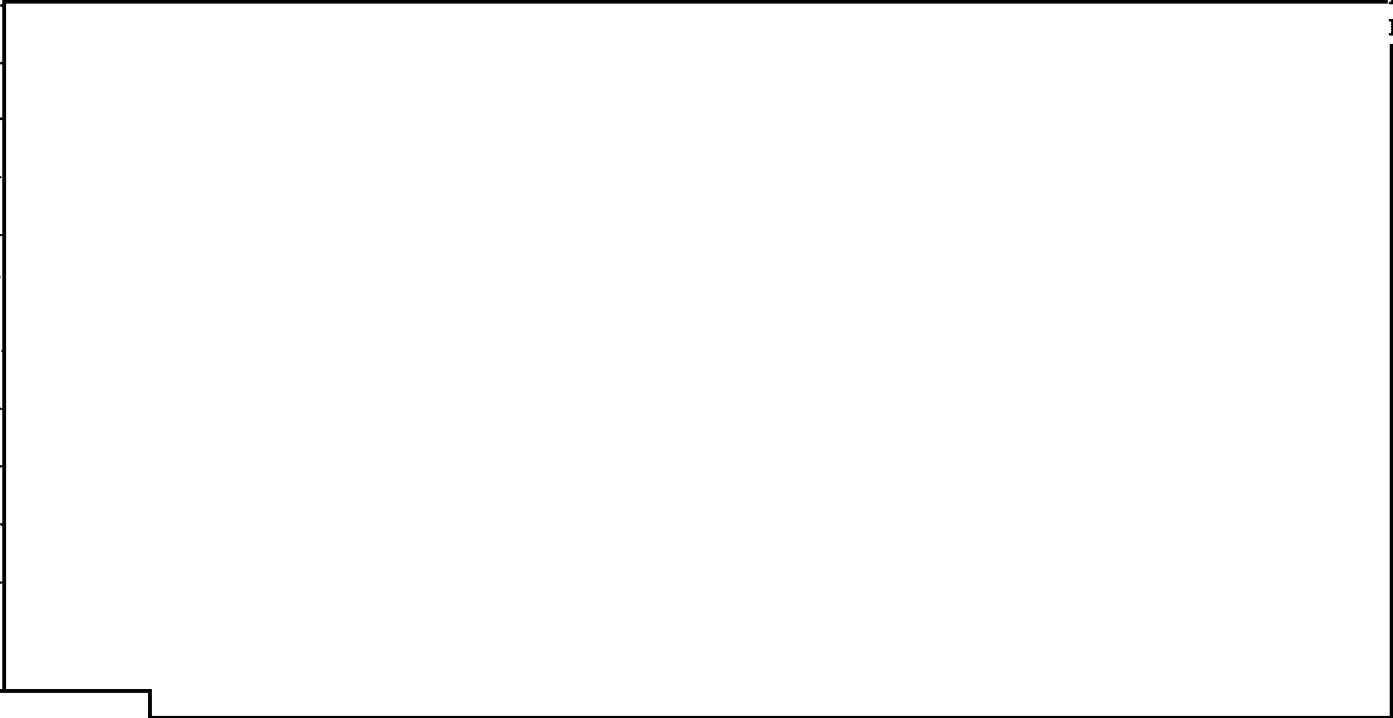
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Fri. Aug. 12 w/Axe/rod

b5 -2
b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -1



- Can't explain why they have the wrong ideas about something



They sat. in trouble for it.

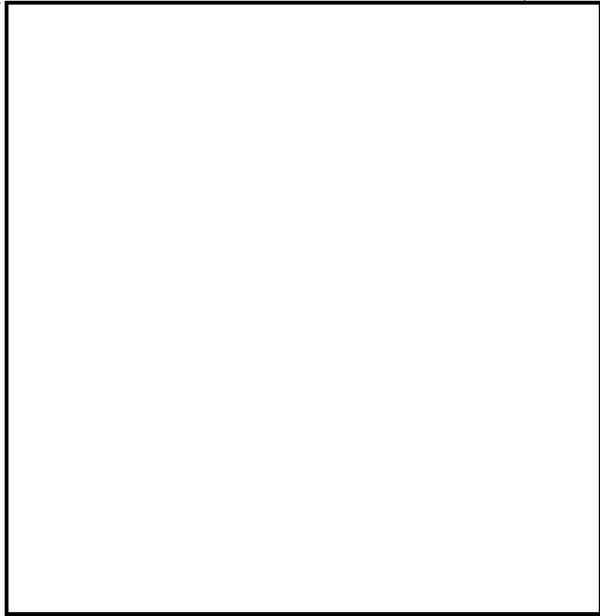


- Mark:



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-02-2018 BY [redacted] NSICG

b6 -1
b7C -1



b5 -2
b7E -1

(This post-it was on the
same page as the Axelrod
notation so I copied it
separately).
-LCP

10/28/16

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-02-2018 BY [redacted] NSICG

b6 -1
b7C -1

Call w/ Devlin

[Large redacted block]

b5 -2
b7E -1

McKot.
↑

*Take w/ Mr. McLaughlin
w/o. ahem w/ no*

[Redacted block]

*More info to my
For agents
already concerned
(unusually late)*

Senior DOJ official calls Mc unhappy to hear that agents in NY
are still pursuing the CF probe. [redacted]

[Redacted block]

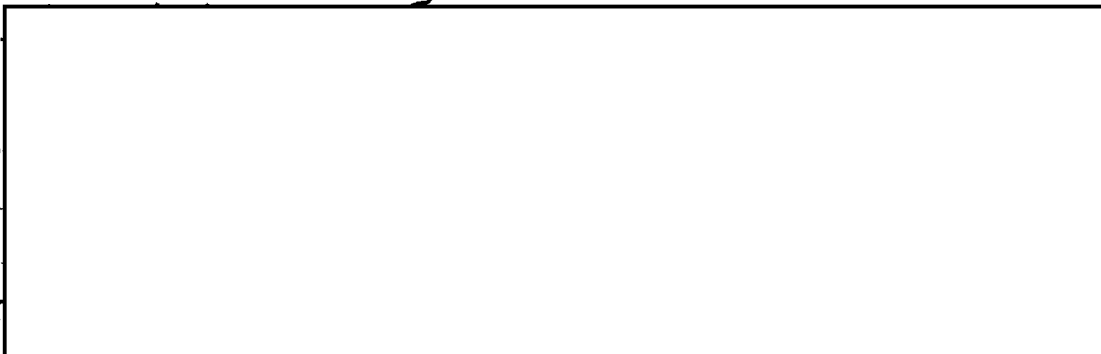
b5 -2
b7E -1



10/31/16

Morning mtg.

- [REDACTED]
- Need to figure out how to get our folks to understand why leaks hurt our organization. He's really not bothered, thinks we're making the right decision.



b5 -2

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

-----X
IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF LISA PAGE :
-----X

September 7, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of
Lisa Page

By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 9:45 a.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

[Redacted] Oversight and Review Division

[Redacted] Oversight and Review Division

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

FOR THE WITNESS:

AMY JEFFRESS, Esquire

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

1 tenure, those emails were never recovered, but we knew
2 they were on a BlackBerry server. And so the thinking
3 being, like, oh my God, well what if it's that? Like,
4 that would be, you know, hugely, or the potential to be
5 hugely impactful because, you know, if there was a
6 conspiracy to mishandle or there was purposeful intent to
7 use a server in order to, you know, be what, do whatever,
8 one would expect that happens at the beginning, you know,
9 as decisions are being made.

10 And so sort of those two facts are what in my
11 mind sort of put it over the edge. And so that evening,
12 we brief the Director. I'm sorry --

13 [REDACTED] October 27th?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

14 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry. We brief the Deputy
15 Director.

16 [REDACTED] On which date? The 26th?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

17 MS. PAGE: No, 26th.

18 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

19 MS. PAGE: It was Wednesday night. We informed
20 the Director -- oh, I did it again. Sorry. We informed
21 the Deputy Director, and he says, yeah, we've got to get
22 this in front of the Director tomorrow. And so that gets
23 scheduled for the next day. Andy is leaving town that
24 next day, unfortunately. So he, Andy is out of town
25 Thursday through Sunday of, in October. So the, whatever

1 the date is now. So the 27th through that Sunday, Andy is
2 not, not in D.C.

3 So the meeting gets scheduled for the Director
4 so we can tell him what we found and what the team thinks,
5 which is certainly we need to go get a warrant for this
6 information.

7 But does Andy attend the meeting on
8 October 27th, or?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

9 MS. PAGE: No, he does not.

10 Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

11 MS. PAGE: Well, he tries --

12 Was he on the phone, or?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

13 MS. PAGE: Well, so that's a little more
14 complicated.

15 Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

16 MS. PAGE: And it requires taking a few steps
17 back in time to October 23rd or 24th, which is, either the
18 23rd or the 24th, the Wall Street Journal publishes an
19 article alleging that Andy's wife, Andy should have --
20 alleging that Andy had sort of essentially engaged in
21 misconduct in the Clinton Foundation case and had told him
22 to stand down and all manner of other incorrect
23 information. And had done so because of a sort of
24 conflict of interest formed by his wife who ran for
25 state senate and received substantial donations to her

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 campaign from both the Virginia Democratic Party and also
2 the PAC controlled by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

3 So that article comes out on, I think it's that
4 Sunday. It could be Monday, but I don't know with one
5 print edition or --

6 Right.

7 MS. PAGE: -- sort of whatever, so.

8 Okay.

9 MS. PAGE: So that article comes out on Sunday.
10 And it is like an enormous fire storm. It is hugely, you
11 know, it's not only all over the news, but there's just a
12 lot of swirl and churn associated with that fact coming
13 out. And so that is essentially Monday, for lack of a
14 better, for purposes of the work week. Right? And, in
15 the meantime, I understand both from Andy and partly from
16 Baker that Baker and the Director, and Rybicki to sort of
17 a lesser extent, are, are pretty concerned about the, the,
18 not so much the allegations but the calls for recusal.

19 Grassley immediately puts out a letter calling
20 for his recusal, and saying the entire has been tainted
21 and, you know, blabbity, blabbity-blah. And so that's all
22 happening, and there are clearly conversations happening
23 between the Director and Jim Baker and I think Rybicki
24 about -- well, let me take a step back. So then, so
25 that's Monday. Wednesday, we sort of have, he learns this

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 information which is like, okay, we're going to need to
2 reopen. This is, this is significant. Or we're going to
3 need to at least seek a search warrant to sort of look at
4 this material.

5 And so Thursday he calls into the, to the 10
6 o'clock call, and, at the 10 o'clock meeting with the,
7 with the Director.

8 This is the Director briefing
9 then?

10 MS. PAGE: Correct. Uh-huh. 10 o'clock on, 10
11 o'clock Thursday morning, the whole team assembles, the
12 original Midyear team is back again, and, to talk about
13 what to do about it. Andy calls in and we sort of start
14 talking about what it is we found and, you know, and very
15 soon thereafter, like within probably minutes, Baker says,
16 well, hold on. Can we pause for a second? And sort of
17 turns to the Director and said, you know, I know you are
18 still sort of, we haven't quite decided the recusal issue
19 and whether Andy should recuse himself or not and what we
20 should do about this. And so, you know, should he just,
21 you know, out of abundance of caution, sort of not be on
22 the call right now.

23 And the Director says, yeah, I think that's
24 right. Andy, you're okay with that? And Andy's like,
25 well I guess. What are you going to say if the Director

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 wants you to get off the call? And so he says I guess so.
2 And so Andy got off the call.

3 And I, for reasons I don't necessarily probably
4 totally thought out, but because I work for Andy raised,
5 like, well should I step out too? Do you, you know, what,
6 I don't know exactly what the thinking is between the
7 Director and Jim because I'm either hearing it secondhand
8 through Andy or sort of in, in somewhat veiled terms from
9 Jim Baker, and so I just sort of say like do you want me
10 to step out? And Jim says, yeah, you know, while we're
11 working this out, why don't you step out?

12 So I leave. So I am actually not privy to any
13 of the rest of the discussion on the 28th, so. I of
14 course here after the fact some of what happens, but I am
15 not privy to sort of the decision to seek the search
16 warrant, the decision to write the letter to Congress,
17 the, you know, I understand that there was robust
18 disagreement, and it was very much a split vote, but I am
19 not present for any of it and do not participate in any of
20 that decision-making.

21 Okay. So you leave the October
22 27th Director briefing --

23 MS. PAGE: 28th.

24 MS. JEFFRESS: 27th?

25 MS. PAGE: 27th. Shoot. I just screwed up

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 Pete opposed it. Like, Steinbach opposed it. And I can't
2 remember [REDACTED] I can't remember where [REDACTED] was. And
3 Baker supported, Bowdich supported. I can't remember who
4 else I'm missing. Moffa supported. I mean, so it was
5 just a split, that was, that was the readout that I, I
6 got.

7 [REDACTED] Okay. How did, how do you that those
8 were the -- who did you hear that from, that those were
9 each of the positions that they took?

10 MS. PAGE: I think, I think Pete and Moffa. I
11 think I talked to both of them afterwards.

12 [REDACTED] I just want to go back quickly.

13 MS. PAGE: Sure.

14 [REDACTED] I haven't looked at the October
15 24th Wall Street Journal article in a long time.

16 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.

17 [REDACTED] But what I recall is that there
18 was discussion of a so-called stand-down order --

19 MS. PAGE: Stand-down, yep. Yep.

20 [REDACTED] -- in the Clinton Foundation
21 case. And what we've been told is that there was a
22 discussion at some point with Axelrod in which the
23 direction not to take investigative activity until after
24 the election, it was discussed in connection with both
25 Clinton Foundation and one of the Russia cases. Is that

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 incorrect?

2 MS. PAGE: That's totally incorrect.

3 [REDACTED] Okay, so --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

4 MS. PAGE: Yeah. And the stand-down, is a, is
5 a, is a garble of a different -- yes. That's incorrect.
6 And it's a super-garbled --

7 [REDACTED] Sure.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

8 MS. PAGE: -- set of circumstances.. And
9 ultimately, I, because the original article is so both
10 one-sided and inaccurate, I work with Mike Horton. Andy
11 directs me to work with Mike Horton on a follow-up story
12 with Devlin Barrett.

13 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

14 MS. PAGE: So I am a source on background with
15 Devlin at Andy and Mike's direction in order to try to
16 correct the inaccurate sort of representations in that
17 article.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. Is that, is that like --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

19 MS. PAGE: It's the 30th or something.

20 [REDACTED] (*Indiscernible 5:15:18.)

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

21 MS. PAGE: Uh-huh. Exactly. Like, it was at
22 the 30th-ish, 29th, something like that.

23 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

24 [REDACTED] So what, what is your understanding
25 of the policy regarding overt investigative activity .

1 before an election?

2 MS. PAGE: I do not have an understanding of the
3 policy.

4 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

5 MS. PAGE: It's sort of not, not at all relevant
6 to the, this part of the discussion that --

7 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

8 MS. PAGE: This thing with respect to the
9 Clinton Foundation in all of this.

10 [REDACTED] Sure.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

11 MS. PAGE: So, the answer is I don't know what
12 the policy is off the top of my head.

13 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

14 [REDACTED] Now, what about, for example, in
15 Midyear, with the reopening, seeking a search warrant
16 several days before the election, is there a policy that
17 speaks to whether --

18 MS. PAGE: I don't know.

19 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

20 MS. PAGE: And if they talked about it, I wasn't
21 there.

22 [REDACTED] You weren't there. Right.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

23 Okay.

24 MS. PAGE: So the, in August, well, so, I'm
25 going to skip ahead to like Andy becoming Deputy Director.

1 At some point, relatively early, I don't remember when the
2 Clinton Foundation case starts. [REDACTED]

3

b7E -1

4

[REDACTED] And

5 as, as has been briefed to me, as I participated in
6 briefings on the topic, all were fairly stagnant.

7

8 At some point, I don't remember exactly when,
9 but maybe -- I don't know. I mean, it could be March. It
10 could be June. So I, I really shouldn't speculate. But
11 at some point, [REDACTED]

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b7E -1

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[REDACTED] And earlier, actually, I think it's actually in
February. Yeah, sorry. Before that. I think it's in

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 February. And I'm not there, but [redacted] is there. And I
2 remember she gives me a readout because she was like so
3 unbelievably embarrassed and appalled.

4 [redacted]

5 [redacted]
6 [redacted] Is that right? So maybe it's
7 later. Okay. Well I, I can't help you with the dates.

8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted]
11 [redacted]
12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]
14 [redacted]
15 [redacted]
16 [redacted]
17 [redacted]
18 [redacted]
19 [redacted]
20 [redacted]
21 [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -1


22 And so Andy says take the investigative steps
23 that you can take on your own. There's plenty of things
24 that the FBI can do that does not, that do not require,
25 you know, departmental resources. [redacted]

b7E -1


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b7E -1

 Like, go do the work that you can do on your own, and then come back to me, and we'll sort of reevaluate.

And so, they are taking these steps. And meanwhile, my understanding is New York, being New York pitches SDNY, and SDNY says no, and pitches EDNY, and EDNY says no. And they sort of tell Axelrod, you know, the FBI is still sniffing around on this. And that prompts a call on August 12th, which I only know because I had to look at this for something else, between Axelrod and Andy. And this is where the are you telling me to shut down a validly predicated investigation --

 Um-hmm.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

MS. PAGE: -- sort of that statement comes from. And so, Axelrod is fuming, and he is saying I, you know, I thought that, you know, we weren't going to pursue this investigation. And Andy said, no, you said the Department

1 isn't going to support it, and that's fine. And I can't
2 make the Department support it. But the FBI can take
3 investigative steps. Are you telling me to shut -- and,
4 and Axelrod is super-pissed off.

5 And Andy is saying, are you, are you telling me
6 to, to shut down a validly predicated investigation? And
7 Axelrod is, you know, no, I'm not saying that. Blah,
8 blah, blah. But the, the readout that I get from, like
9 that, the discussion is not about, at that time is not
10 about proximity to the election. It's not, like this is
11 August. But this is talking about activity which has
12 occurred in the past. It's just that Axelrod is now
13 finding out that the FBI still has this case open.

14 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

15 MS. PAGE: And appeared to be under the
16 impression that the case was closed. And Andy, as I said,
17 Andy said, no, you guys aren't supporting it. That's
18 fine. But I'm not closing a validly predicated
19 investigation. They have predication. I've told them do
20 what you can do within the authorities that you, that we
21 as FBI agents have. Right? [REDACTED]

b7E -1

22 [REDACTED]

23 Now, the reality was they didn't do much. There
24 wasn't much to do. But that's not, you know, that's not,
25 that's not Andy's fault.

1 [REDACTED] Right.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

2 MS. PAGE: That's not Andy -- the stand down is,
3 I think, a garble of a conversation that Andy has when he
4 [REDACTED] essentially reflecting, like,
5 you're not, we're not going to go to the Department.
6 Like, I don't, I'm not sure that the word stand-down ever
7 happens, but, i.e., like, stop with the pursuit. Like,
8 I'm not going to help you fight the Department. You go
9 build a better case. Come back to me with stronger
10 predication or with whatever else it is you have built,
11 and then we'll go back to the Department, and we'll, and
12 we'll, you know, I'll fight your cause, essentially, and
13 so.

b7E -1

14 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. And when was that
15 conversation?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

16 MS. PAGE: Earlier. I don't remember. It's
17 whenever the, I don't remember [REDACTED]

b7E -1

18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

20 MS. PAGE: Whether it's in that time frame.
21 It's, I don't know. I just don't remember. I can't, I
22 would be totally guessing to pick out a date.

23 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

24 [REDACTED] So there are a handful of texts.
25 And in the interest of time --

1 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED] -- we don't need to go through
3 them unless you need to refer to them, where you're
4 talking, you know, you say you're on the phone with Devlin
5 Barrett.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

6 MS. PAGE: Uh-huh.

7 [REDACTED] Who I guess is the Wall Street
8 Journal reporter. And you don't feel so bad about
9 throwing Matt --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

10 MS. PAGE: Right, right.

11 [REDACTED] I guess Matt Axelrod was who you
12 were throwing under the bus.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

13 MS. PAGE: Yes.

14 [REDACTED] Is that referring to the October
15 30th or 31st Wall Street Journal article?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

16 MS. PAGE: Yes. Exactly.

17 [REDACTED] Okay. And you said that, you
18 said that Andy had authorized you to provide that
19 information.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

20 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.

21 [REDACTED] Okay, so including, like,
22 information about the August 10th call?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

23 MS. PAGE: Yes. I didn't know it, but, or --

24 [REDACTED] Okay..

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

25 MS. PAGE: Or, the 12th I think it is. I, yeah,

1 I didn't know it before Andy telling it to me.

2 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

3 MS. PAGE: So, so yeah.

4 [REDACTED] So that's something you're doing
5 at his direction?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

6 MS. PAGE: Correct, correct.

7 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

8 [REDACTED] So did he specifically tell you tell
9 the Wall Street Journal about the October, about the
10 August 12th call?

11 MS. PAGE: The, the answer was the first article
12 is inaccurate. We are going to paint a fully accurate
13 picture.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

15 MS. PAGE: Because part of the, the -- the
16 earlier date, whatever it is, the 23rd or whatever it is,
17 contains information that is probably from the Department
18 that frankly we thought was inaccurate. And so, like, you
19 know, he says we are going to fix this story and give a
20 complete picture. And the stand down was not, you know,
21 was not Andy shutting down the Clinton Foundation case.
22 Quite the contrary. The stand down was I'm not going to
23 fight the Department and, you know, insist that they sort
24 of support this with prosecutorial resources. But, nor am
25 I going to shut down the investigation, you know, although

1 I think that's what the Department wants.

2 [REDACTED] So, I'm sorry if you already answered
3 this, but, or already said this, but you, you were not a
4 part of the August 12th conversation?

5 MS. PAGE: No.

6 [REDACTED] You didn't hear any of it or weren't
7 present for it?

8 MS. PAGE: Not to my recollection.

9 [REDACTED] So when was it that Andy told you
10 about that conversation?

11 MS. PAGE: I don't remember.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. So did he tell you about it in
13 the context of you clarifying this article, or was it
14 before then?

15 MS. PAGE: No, no, no. Oh, no. My recollection
16 is that after it happens, he tells me because Matt is, was
17 a challenging partner to work with at the Department. And
18 so, you know, he regularly would talk to me about, like,
19 frustrating things that might be happening. And so,
20 sometime after the call, he tells me about the call with
21 Matt in which, you know, he's like, ugh (phonetic sp.).
22 You know, like it's just sort of, he wants Andy to shut
23 the investigation down. But of course he's not going to
24 ask for it because he knows that's a completely untenable
25 thing to ask for.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 And so instead, he's doing this sort of mealy-
2 mouthed, like, well you're, you said you weren't going to,
3 you know, do anything. And he's like, no, I did not. I
4 specifically said that they can take whatever
5 investigative steps they're going to take. We're not
6 going to come to you. And yeah, New York went to the U.S.
7 Attorney's Office, and he chided them for doing that
8 because he's like we're not going to venue shop. Stop
9 doing it. I told you what we're going to -- you know,
10 like, so there was all that back-and-forth as well.

11 But, but ultimately, what was your -- oh, no.
12 I, I learned about the fact of the call sometime after the
13 call.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 MS. PAGE: I just surely had forgotten it by the
16 time I was engaging with Devlin two months later. But as
17 a part of the sort of here's the, here are the things that
18 we think are wrong in the article, I think it was
19 discussed again.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 MS. PAGE: Although I don't have a precise
22 recollection of that.

23 [REDACTED] So you --

24 MS. PAGE: About that, excuse me.

25 [REDACTED] So you have a conversation with Andy

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

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b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 where he tells you to, where he instructs you to have this
2 background conversation with Devlin --

3 MS. PAGE: Correct.

4 [REDACTED] -- Devlin Barrett.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

5 MS. PAGE: Correct.

6 [REDACTED] And was Mike Horton there for that
7 conversation as well?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

8 MS. PAGE: Uh-huh. Yep.

9 [REDACTED] Okay. Was anyone else there other
10 than you and Mike?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

11 MS. PAGE: Me and Mike, yeah.

12 [REDACTED] And so, and he is, and, and --

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

13 MS. PAGE: I had two conversations, actually,
14 with Devlin. But, go ahead.

15 [REDACTED] Okay. And so Andy tells you to have
16 a background conversation to clarify or to correct the
17 October 24th Wall Street Journal article.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

18 MS. PAGE: Correct.

19 [REDACTED] And what specifics does he tell you
20 to clarify? Does he give you the specifics to clarify?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

21 MS. PAGE: I don't, I don't think it's quite
22 that, quite that direct. I mean, part of it is I knew the
23 facts myself. Right? And so, I knew, and I don't
24 remember, like, when we have a particular conversation
25 about it. But I, on the, you know, so I have the 23rd

1 article, just simply reading it, there are things in there
2 that are clearly inaccurate. Right? And so, I'm certain
3 after getting the article, Andy and I sat down as we would
4 and said, like, well that's totally not true, because
5 remember blah, blah, blah happened. It's like, yeah,
6 right. And that's when you had this conversation with so-
7 and-so. And so, my recollection is it would have
8 happened -- what I don't recall happening is, okay Lisa,
9 so, we're going to need to say --

10 Sure.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

11 MS. PAGE: -- blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,
12 blah, blah. I mean, that's just sort of how we worked.
13 And so it would have just been, my speculation, although I
14 don't have a precise memory, is here's the article. We
15 would have talked about it. This is what's not right
16 about it. You know, and then engage with Devlin in that
17 capacity.

18 Just so you know, because I have read the
19 article recently, there is a whole slew of stuff in the,
20 the 30th about the Weiner laptops and what we found and
21 all of that. I am not the source of that stuff. So I
22 don't know. But that was all out at that point anyway,
23 and the letter to Congress had gone out. But, the only
24 stuff that I'm really on that I believe that I am the
25 source of is the stuff sort of related to the, the call

1 with, with Matt Axelrod and like a few other sort of
2 corrections with respect to the Clinton Foundation, yes.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. And during the meeting where,
4 where McCabe tells you and Horton to provide the
5 information to clarify, does, does, I assume, so based on
6 what you're saying, does he specifically bring up the
7 August 12th meeting as part of that conversation?

8 MS. PAGE: I'm sure he did. Yeah. I don't
9 remember in this exact moment, but.

10 [REDACTED] Okay.

11 MS. PAGE: I don't think I would have remembered
12 that on my own.

13 [REDACTED] To bring, to kind of bring this
14 back around, and with the understanding that you were not
15 in the October 27th meeting about the statement, are you
16 aware if the handling of the Clinton Foundation case or
17 the ongoing Russia investigation was discussed in
18 connection about whether to make a statement?

19 MS. PAGE: I am unaware.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED] So just one more question on the, on
22 the August 12th. Why was it necessary to, to specifically
23 talk about the August 12th conversation and what Matt
24 Axelrod said to clarify the October 24th Wall Street
25 Journal article?

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 MS. PAGE: I would have to look at the October,
2 I don't remember exactly, but I, my recollection is it's
3 as [] described it. There was a, a, a confluence, or a
4 mix-up of what, of what this sort of stand-down thing was.
5 And so the only way to explain, to separate out what the
6 misunderstanding was, was to explain there are two
7 different conversations. There are two different
8 incidents which that represents. And so the only way,
9 because the way that the journalist was representing it
10 was the way that the New York case, presumably that the
11 New York Office was representing it, which was Andy McCabe
12 ordered a stand-down of the Clinton Foundation case. 9

13 That's why this was so explosive, because the
14 suggestion is his wife gets a ton of money from McAuliffe.
15 And he tells New York, shut down Clinton Foundation. And
16 that's totally inaccurate. And so in order to correct
17 that representation, we had to, we have to separate out
18 what the two sort of misunderstandings were.

19 [] Okay.

20 MS. PAGE: Does that make sense?

21 [] Yeah, sure. I mean what, so, was
22 this something, was communicating with the media something
23 that you commonly did for Andy?

24 MS. PAGE: Oh, sorry. That was the first time I
25 had ever done it.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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 Lisa Page

[Redacted Signature Box]
[Redacted Name Box]

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

Transcriber

October 4, 2017

Date

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

-----X
IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF LISA PAGE :
-----X

October 26, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of
Lisa Page

By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 12:20 p.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

[Redacted] Oversight and Review Division
[Redacted] Oversight and Review Division
[Redacted] Oversight & Review Division
[Redacted] Oversight & Review Division

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

FOR THE WITNESS:

AMY JEFRESS, Esquire

Page 2

I N D E X

EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER | PAGE NUMBER |
|----------------|-------------|
| None. | |

Page 4

1 MS. PAGE: I reread my, the statement I provided
2 to the Inspection Division related to this. I also looked
3 at the attachments related to this in the Inspection
4 Division matter, but also the 10/23 article, which I had
5 not looked at prior to my Inspection Division interview or
6 prior to sort of preparing for, for this interview.
7 [redacted] Anything else? b6 Per OIG
8 MS. PAGE: I don't think so. b7C Per OIG
9 [redacted] And when you say the 10/23
10 article, you're referring to the October 23rd, 2016 Wall
11 Street Journal article? b6 Per OIG
12 MS. PAGE: Correct. b7C Per OIG
13 [redacted] Did you have any conversations
14 with anyone about this upcoming interview other than your
15 attorney? b6 Per OIG
16 MS. PAGE: Not to my recollection, no. b7C Per OIG
17 [redacted] No conversations with anyone at
18 the FBI?
19 MS. PAGE: I mean, I know Jim Bakers knows I'm,
20 I'm coming back here today. I mean, so, I think people
21 know that I've, I'm coming back to the IG. b6 Per OIG
22 [redacted] With the, with the exception of b7C Per OIG
23 telling folks at the FBI that you have an interview here
24 today and that's where you would be, did you have any
25 other discussions with anyone at the FBI?

Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 [redacted] Okay, on the record. My name is
3 [redacted] I'm an Investigative Counsel in the
4 Oversight & Review Division. I'm here with [redacted]
5 who is also an Investigative Counsel in the Oversight &
6 Review Division. We are joining an interview that's in
7 progress. The time now is approximately 12:20. We're at
8 the same location, 1425 New York Avenue, in the Oversight
9 & Review Division conference room. Those who were present
10 earlier are all still here. That includes [redacted]
11 [redacted] Ms. Jeffress, and the witness, Lisa Page. Is that
12 correct?
13 MS. PAGE: Yes.
14 [redacted] And you are a fact witness in the
15 review that we are looking at. We are looking at
16 allegations regarding disclosures of nonpublic information
17 to the media and subsequent statements related to those
18 disclosures. You're still under oath, and to protect the
19 integrity of our focus here, we request that you not
20 discuss the substantive nature of our questions and the
21 substantive nature of your answers with others with the
22 exception of your attorney. Is that okay?
23 MS. PAGE: Yes.
24 [redacted] What did you do to prepare for
25 this portion of the interview?

Page 5

1 MS. PAGE: I think I told Jim that I'm going
2 back today, but it's not on, it's on stuff related to
3 Andy.
4 [redacted] I see. Did you tell him what
5 specifically? b6 Per OIG
6 MS. PAGE: No, I don't, I don't think I had to. b7C Per OIG
7 I think he knew what it related to.
8 [redacted] Okay. Any other conversations?
9 What about with Mr. McCabe? Is he still your -- excuse
10 me. Is he still your supervisor?
11 MS. PAGE: Not exactly. I mean, I'm working for
12 Jim Baker right now.
13 [redacted] Okay. b6 Per OIG
14 MS. PAGE: I don't think I -- no, I don't think b7C Per OIG
15 so.
16 [redacted] And just so I'm clear -- b6 Per OIG
17 MS. PAGE: Sorry. No, I don't think I had any b7C Per OIG
18 conversations with Mr. McCabe about my presence here
19 today.
20 [redacted] Okay. Well -- b6 Per OIG
21 [redacted] Oh, I was just wondering, and does b7C Per OIG
22 that include you didn't have any conversations with Mr.
23 McCabe about the events that we're going to be talking to
24 you about?
25 MS. PAGE: Oh, no. Correct.

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

b6 Per OIG
b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Okay.
 2 MS. PAGE: Right.
 3 [redacted] I just want to make sure we're
 4 clear.
 5 [redacted] Well, why don't we jump right into
 6 your sworn statement to the FBI's Inspection Division.
 7 And I will get that for you here. So, I think the first
 8 one, I don't think, so I attached these to, the tabs there
 9 refer to Exhibits 4 and 6. Exhibit 4 is the, is the
 10 article, the October 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal.
 11 Exhibit 6 Tab are your notes that you gave to Inspection
 12 Division. And, there is one other thing I was going to
 13 tell you, but it slipped my mind. Well, we'll just get to
 14 it. So I will point out, the only thing I haven't
 15 highlighted is if you look at Exhibit 4, you may recall
 16 when you interviewed and when you signed your sworn
 17 statement that on the last page of Exhibit 4, the
 18 Inspection Division highlighted the three paragraphs --
 19 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] -- to identify where you had
 21 identified that you were a source for those statements.
 22 But we'll, we'll jump into that. But I just wanted to
 23 point out, that's the only highlighting that I have not
 24 done that you'll see today.
 25 MS. PAGE: Okay. Can I actually -- well, go

1 know that, that my recollection was faulty with respect to
 2 that point because I have actually seen the article. So I
 3 just wanted to kind of clarify that point because I know
 4 it to be incorrect now.
 5 [redacted] Yes. No, I appreciate you
 6 clarifying that. So that's, that's helpful. And it, and
 7 you helped me remember what I wanted to say, was that we
 8 are not going to focus on the first part of what your
 9 sworn statement is about.
 10 MS. PAGE: Right.
 11 [redacted] The (*indiscernible 06:12) e-mail.
 12 So we are, there might be some general statements before
 13 that topic in that, in, in your sworn statement. But,
 14 we're primarily going to be focusing on the Wall Street
 15 Journal part of it, so.
 16 MS. PAGE: Understood.
 17 [redacted] So, turning to Exhibit 4, which
 18 is, should be your first red tab I believe. As I
 19 understand it, that was the first time you were authorized
 20 to communicate with reporters on background. Is that
 21 right?
 22 MS. PAGE: That's correct.
 23 [redacted] And Mr. Andrew McCabe authorized
 24 you to go on background for that purpose, for this
 25 article?

1 ahead.
 2 [redacted] No, please.
 3 MS. PAGE: So I was just going to, because,
 4 because I have re-reviewed it, when, when I was first
 5 asked by Inspection to come and talk, it was obviously
 6 about this [redacted] article that was referred I believe
 7 by Andy to Inspection Division because it was a leak that
 8 we believed came out of his RAP (phonetic sp.).
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 MS. PAGE: So when they asked me to return for
 11 some follow-up, I believed it to be follow-up with respect
 12 to the [redacted] article. When I got there, it was on
 13 this new topic, the Devlin Barrett article.
 14 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 15 MS. PAGE: And so, the answers I gave then, as
 16 well as the answers I gave to [redacted] and [redacted]
 17 [redacted] in my last OIG interview were done without the
 18 benefit of having looked at the 10/23 article since
 19 essentially it came out, so eight or 10 months ago. So my
 20 recollection was that that article had references to a
 21 stand-down --
 22 [redacted] Right.
 23 MS. PAGE: -- which was the reason that Andy had
 24 asked me to engage with Mr. Barrett and Mr. Kortan.
 25 That's obviously not the case. And so I know now -- I now

1 MS. PAGE: Yes. That's correct.
 2 [redacted] How did he convey the scope of
 3 your authorization?
 4 MS. PAGE: That's a good question. Maybe, can
 5 you clarify what you mean?
 6 [redacted] Well, specifically, to start with,
 7 I'm wondering was it written, was it oral?
 8 MS. PAGE: Oh, oh. No, I think we would have
 9 had a conversation. So I, I, I knew that the 10/23
 10 article had come out. My recollection is that it was not,
 11 it didn't tell us what, a complete picture of sort of --
 12 or, no. I guess maybe, actually, that's probably not
 13 right.
 14 I actually think it's that probably following
 15 that article, Barrett starts to get information with
 16 respect to maybe Clinton Foundation or, which I think it's
 17 after that happens that Kortan must approach, I suspect
 18 Kortan approaches Andy. Mike Kortan approaches Andy
 19 McCabe to say that they're making, that the reporter is
 20 making this connection between McAuliffe and the Clinton
 21 Foundation and had, you know. And so Andy authorizes me
 22 to sort of help clarify those facts.
 23 [redacted] Okay. So, let me just unpack a
 24 couple of things. As I understood what you said, the same
 25 reporter who had done the initial story on October 23rd,

1 2016, reaches out to Kortan, and that's Mr. Michael Kortan
2 who is the head of the Office of Public Affairs at the
3 FBI?

4 MS. PAGE: That's my belief, yes.
5 [redacted] And then Mr. Kortan talks to you
6 and/or Mr. McCabe about Mr. Barrett doing a follow-up
7 story?

8 MS. PAGE: That's correct.
9 [redacted] Okay.

10 MS. PAGE: That's my belief. I don't recall
11 personal discussion at that point with, with Mr. Kortan.
12 But I think because we see that he's now trying to make a
13 connection between McAuliffe and the Clinton Foundation
14 [redacted] that's why I'm engaged,
15 to sort of help clarify those facts.

16 [redacted] And so, at what point or what
17 prompts Mr. McCabe to bring you into sort of the
18 interaction with the reporter? It's my understanding that
19 Mr. Kortan was the only one who interfaced directly with
20 the reporter for the prior article, the October 23rd
21 article. Is that right?

22 MS. PAGE: I'm not sure. Actually, I, I don't
23 know whether Mr. McCabe interfaced with --
24 [redacted] Oh, okay.

25 MS. PAGE: -- Mr. Barrett as well.

1 Mr. McCabe?

2 MS. PAGE: Yes. Again, but it's, it's less
3 formalistic than you are -- I think he just says talk to
4 Kortan and, you know, there's this reporter who has
5 questions about the McCabe and Clinton Foundation. And
6 again, it's, it's pretty general, is my recollection.
7 [redacted] Well, how is it you know that
8 you're to go on background? Does he instruct you or tell
9 you, hey, Lisa, Ms. Page, I'd like you to go on background
10 with Mike to talk to this reporter and help clear things
11 up?

12 MS. PAGE: No. I get that information from
13 Mike. Mike, at the outset of the call with, well, before
14 the call with Devlin Barrett --

15 [redacted] Um-hmm.

16 MS. PAGE: -- sort of describes the, the ground
17 rules.
18 [redacted] But even before that, as I
19 understand that, you are not authorized in your position
20 to talk directly to the media, is that right?

21 MS. PAGE: That's correct.

22 [redacted] So you need to be authorized by
23 some official at the FBI who has authority to do that.

24 MS. PAGE: That's correct.

25 [redacted] So who was that with respect to

1 [redacted] But, but --

2 MS. PAGE: I, I did not.

3 [redacted] You didn't?

4 MS. PAGE: Yes. That's correct.

5 [redacted] And, and so what, what prompts Mr.
6 McCabe, or who is the one who, who asks for your
7 assistance with the follow-up story?

8 MS. PAGE: Who asks? I assume Andy tells Kortan
9 to talk to me about the sort of substantive underlying
10 facts, but I don't know precisely who spoke to whom and,
11 and how that came to be.

12 [redacted] Um-hmm. And more I'm just trying
13 to figure out the circumstances, as I understand what you
14 described there.

15 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.

16 [redacted] The reporter reaches out to
17 presumably Mr. Kortan. Says he's going to do a follow-up
18 story. And I'm just trying to understand better how is it
19 that you get roped in, if you know, or if you recall?

20 MS. PAGE: I don't really. I just know that I
21 do.

22 [redacted] Okay. Okay.

23 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

24 [redacted] So you're roped in. And do you
25 get the authorization to speak on background orally from

1 the October 30th, 2016 article?

2 MS. PAGE: Mr. McCabe.

3 [redacted] Okay, and help us understand how,
4 what exactly does he say that in your mind signifies I am
5 now authorized to talk to a reporter on background?

6 MS. PAGE: So I don't remember the precise words
7 that he used, but it was talk with Kortan and work with
8 this reporter on this issue.

9 [redacted] Okay.

10 MS. PAGE: I don't remember anything more
11 specific than that.

12 [redacted] Okay.

13 MS. PAGE: But,

14 [redacted] Was it --

15 MS. PAGE: But, but the, I do not think that
16 Andy would have said on background or, you know, off the
17 record or whatever, you know, that would have been Andy's
18 sort of, the language that Andy used or even the sort of
19 thing that Andy was communicating.

20 [redacted] And --

21 MS. PAGE: That's OPA's job to figure out how
22 that engagement happens.

23 [redacted] Right. And so because this was
24 the first time, this being the October 30th article, first
25 time that you talked on background with someone from OPA

1 and a reporter, you have never heard Mr. McCabe say go
2 work with Mr. Kortan and a reporter? That, that
3 conversation never happened before?

4 MS. PAGE: With me?

5 [redacted] Yes.

6 MS. PAGE: No. No.

7 [redacted] Okay. Was your authorization ever
8 memorialized in a written record?

9 MS. PAGE: No.

10 [redacted] Did you take notes in the, during
11 the conversation where you understood Mr. McCabe to be
12 authorizing you to work with Mr. Kortan on background?

13 MS. PAGE: No.

14 [redacted] So if it wasn't written in any
15 shape or form, how, how did you, under, what did you do to
16 determine or ensure that your future steps would be within
17 the scope of your authorization on background?

18 MS. PAGE: I guess I wasn't thinking about it
19 given that this was my first engagement with OPA, I, I
20 don't think I was thinking about in such formal terms. I
21 understood generally the, the topics to be covered. And
22 my recollection in talking to, to Kortan was that that
23 first engagement with Devlin was sort of in receive mode.
24 So Devlin has a story. He's going to sort of tell us what
25 he's hearing. And then we'll essentially figure out the

1 this?

2 MS. PAGE: I think the foundation and some
3 connection back to McAuliffe and his wife's run, I think,
4 and I could be conflating that now because my original
5 recollection was wrong, so I've been trying to kind of
6 reconstruct my recollection. So, I, that's my, that's my
7 best guess, but I'm not positive.

8 [redacted] Okay.

9 [redacted] And the broad, when you say the
10 broad topics, was that from -- who relayed that
11 information to you? Was that Kortan to you from Barrett,
12 or Mr. McCabe to you?

13 MS. PAGE: I don't remember.

14 [redacted] Okay.

15 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry.

16 [redacted] That's okay. The details of the
17 August 12th, 2016 conversation between Mr. McCabe and Mr.
18 Axelrod, which is highlighted on Page 7 to 8 of your
19 statement. Does Mr. McCabe instruct you to provide that
20 information, or was that your decision?

21 MS. PAGE: I think he, I don't really remember.
22 I think what happened is that we, Kortan and I have the
23 initial engagement with Barrett. And that engagement, I
24 think during the course of that engagement, that's where
25 he first raises the, the, Andy ordered people to stand

1 response once we hear sort of what the facts are. So I
2 can't, I can't say that I gave greater thought to the
3 scope of my authorization beyond my general knowledge that
4 it was about the McAuliffe, Foundation, Clinton e-mail,
5 some version therein. But I don't, in advance, I'm not
6 sure that I knew more than that.

7 [redacted] Okay, so --

8 [redacted] Go ahead.

9 [redacted] Take us back to that day. Can you --

10 MS. PAGE: Which day, I'm sorry?

11 [redacted] When Mr. McCabe first says to you I
12 want you to talk to Kortan and work with Kortan on this
13 article, what more did he tell you about what he wanted
14 you to do? Did you ask questions about --

15 MS. PAGE: I don't, I don't remember.

16 [redacted] -- what do you want me to do? How
17 long did that conversation last?

18 MS. PAGE: Oh, I mean, probably a minute-and-a-
19 half. I really, I don't remember, I don't remember it
20 being deeply substantive beyond sort of the, the broad
21 topics. And then, I think I had some understanding that
22 we would learn more sort of what the, the story that,
23 that, that, that Devlin Barrett was developing was.

24 [redacted] Okay. And what did he tell you the
25 broad topics were going to be that would be involved in

1 down, if I'm not mistaken. Is that right? I can't, I
2 didn't --

3 [redacted] I --

4 MS. PAGE: I haven't looked at my notes. Yeah,
5 I think that's right. I just couldn't, I haven't looked
6 at my notes again recently, recently. And so, I think,
7 I'm pretty sure I follow up with, so we have the first
8 conversation with Barrett in which I, my recollection is
9 we're mostly I think in receive mode. And then, I think I
10 follow up with Andy to sort of relay the, the substance of
11 the discussion. And I think he reminds me of the, how can
12 I have, how can I have been trying to stand down the
13 Clinton Foundation case when I have that back-and-forth
14 with Axelrod, which I am pretty sure I already knew of. I
15 learned in real-time, you know, thereabouts.

16 Sort of as you, in my Inspection statements as,
17 like, my recollection is I generally knew that he had had
18 that back-and-forth with Matt Axelrod at the time that it,
19 that it actually happened, or, you know, on or about
20 August 12th, or around there. And so, my recollection is
21 that Andy probably reminds me of the, that engagement,
22 which is directly contrary to an order to essentially
23 stand down the investigation. So I don't, to answer your
24 question more specifically, I don't think that he directs
25 me to say it. He just sort of reminds me of, of that

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b7C Per OIG

1 salient fact.
2 [redacted] And when you were mentioning a
3 minute ago that you were learning about the August 12th
4 call in real time, what, what was going on that, at the
5 time that prompted Mr. McCabe to give you a readout of
6 what had happened during that call?

7 MS. PAGE: Nothing -- what do you mean what was
8 going on?

9 [redacted] I mean, was there anything
10 specific that led him to share those details with you?

11 MS. PAGE: I don't think so. Those are typical
12 of the types of details he would share with me.

13 [redacted] As, as I understood from some of
14 your prior testimony, I thought you may have said
15 something to the effect of you only knew about the call
16 because you had to look at it for something else. Does
17 that refresh your recollection about anything, or no?

18 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry? Wait, about the Axelrod
19 call?

20 [redacted] Right.

21 MS. PAGE: That I was looking at -- I don't
22 remember saying that. I'm sorry. Can you direct me to --

23 [redacted] Well, if that's your prior
24 testimony --

25 MS. PAGE: Yeah, um-hmm.

1 know that this happened on August 12th because I had to
2 look at it for something else. The something else being
3 the Inspection Division interview of myself.

4 [redacted] Okay..

5 MS. PAGE: That's why I had that --

6 [redacted] Got it.

7 MS. PAGE: -- recall the date which I ordinarily
8 wouldn't have.

9 [redacted] Got it.

10 MS. PAGE: Yeah. Sorry.

11 [redacted] No, that's helpful. So, Mr.

12 McCabe, as best you understand it, reminds you about this
13 August 12th call with Mr. Axelrod. Does he give any
14 specific detail, does he highlight any specific details
15 about the call for you?

16 MS. PAGE: I, I don't recall. My, my, my guess
17 is no, that he doesn't need to. And again, this is just
18 speculation. But because I have at the top of my notes
19 this random Friday, August 12th with Axelrod, I think that
20 was all I needed to jog my recollection of the
21 conversations.

22 [redacted] So, so let's turn to that for a
23 moment now.

24 MS. PAGE: Sure.

25 [redacted] So you're looking at Exhibit 6 of

1 [redacted] -- being on 276, Lines 15 to 18.
2 And it may have just been an indefinite reference --

3 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

4 [redacted] -- that I read into.

5 MS. PAGE: No, let me check.

6 [redacted] 276, Lines 15 to 18.

7 MS. PAGE: Oh. I think I'm, I might be
8 referencing the date, but I don't, I don't recall any, any
9 particular thing --

10 [redacted] Okay.

11 MS. PAGE: -- which had me look for that.
12 Yeah. My, my recollection is, as I've --

13 MS. JEFRESS: Date?

14 MS. PAGE: The date, that's what I'm saying. I
15 think that I went back and looked because on my notes I
16 have that, at the top of the page it says.

17 [redacted] Yes.

18 MS. PAGE: So I think I'm explaining it to my
19 interviewers.

20 [redacted] I see.

21 MS. PAGE: I only know that right now.

22 [redacted] I see.

23 MS. PAGE: Like, I have recall of August 12th,
24 which is a weird date to sort of randomly recall. I think
25 what I'm doing is explaining to my interviewers I only

1 your statement, Page 3 of your notes, right?

2 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.

3 [redacted] And this is at the top, there's a
4 note which says Friday, August 12th with Axelrod. So,
5 when you, when you were just saying a moment ago that you
6 wrote that up there to jog your memory, do you believe you
7 are expressing this statement on October 27th?

8 MS. PAGE: I think that -- I think. Again, I'm
9 not positive. I think that what my notes reflect, and I
10 mostly think this simply because of the different colors,
11 because I wouldn't change color during the course of a
12 single conversation unless my pen ran out of ink. It
13 doesn't look like my pen ran out of ink. So, I think that
14 the, the portions which are in black is again me in
15 receive mode taking on materials from Devlin Barrett, you
16 know, the information that, that he was conveying to us.

17 [redacted] And when you say, I know exactly
18 what you're saying, but just so it's clear for the record.

19 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

20 [redacted] When you say portions in black in
21 receive mode, you're talking about roughly the first page,
22 the first, the bottom of Page 1 --

23 MS. PAGE: And --

24 [redacted] -- through the almost --

25 MS. PAGE: Three-quarters of Page 2, yeah.

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1 [redacted] Correct. And then it transitions
 2 to red ink.
 3 MS. PAGE: Correct.
 4 [redacted] And who is that? What is that?
 5 MS. PAGE: I think that's -- again, I, I, this
 6 is my speculation, but I think that's me after the call.
 7 Maybe during the call, but I think after the call jotting
 8 down my own thoughts. I think.
 9 [redacted] Well, maybe just take a moment to
 10 scan it now and see if your, you have any --
 11 MS. PAGE: I have.
 12 [redacted] You have? Okay.
 13 MS. PAGE: I just don't --
 14 [redacted] Okay, okay.
 15 MS. PAGE: I don't remember with precision.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 MS. PAGE: But, and then I think that the black
 18 ink is probably talking to Andy, but I'm not positive.
 19 And the reason I hesitate a little bit is because this,
 20 this part here that's still in red ink, so maybe it's on
 21 two different occasions --
 22 [redacted] When you say the black ink, which
 23 one --
 24 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry. This is the, now the
 25 bottom quarter of Page 3.

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1 [redacted] Okay. Same ink --
 2 MS. PAGE: And the black ink at the top that has
 3 Friday, August 12th with Axelrod.
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 MS. PAGE: I think those are discussions with
 6 the Deputy. And the, the only reason I hesitate is
 7 because this, the fact, the very last fact that's in red
 8 ink that starts with the words Mark, colon.
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 MS. PAGE: That is a reference to Mark Giuliano,
 11 the prior Deputy Director.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 MS. PAGE: And I didn't know this fact. So,
 14 that's the only reason I hesitate a little bit about what
 15 the notes actually represent because I had learned this
 16 from Andy. At least, I presume. I, I can't think of
 17 anybody else I would have learned it from. And so, that's
 18 the only reason I hesitate a little bit with respect to
 19 what pieces I wrote, when.
 20 [redacted] Okay. So, I'm just going to
 21 summarize, and I want you to correct me --
 22 MS. PAGE: Okay.
 23 [redacted] -- if I've gotten what you best
 24 believe what this reflects. Just so I'm clear.
 25 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.

1 [redacted] So the first page and three-
 2 quarters, going to the very bottom of 2, before the red
 3 ink, that reflects receive-mode, Devlin Barrett's comments
 4 giving his account to you and Mr. Kortan?
 5 MS. PAGE: Of that I am certain, yes.
 6 [redacted] Okay. Then it transitions to red
 7 ink. And you believe that that reflects after the call
 8 ended with Mr. Barrett, you are writing down your
 9 thoughts.
 10 MS. PAGE: I think so.
 11 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 12 MS. PAGE: Although it is possible this is also
 13 a discussion with Andy.
 14 [redacted] Okay.
 15 MS. PAGE: And the only reason I, or maybe part
 16 of it, you know, because there's a line there.
 17 [redacted] Yes.
 18 MS. PAGE: And so, maybe that line is to
 19 distinguish for myself that, from below the line, again,
 20 the line is right above the, the statement that begins
 21 Mark in red ink. So, I think it's entirely possible, I
 22 just don't have a precise recollection that below the line
 23 is a conversation with Andy. So maybe it happens at two
 24 different times, which is why there's two different inks.
 25 But my, my best belief, as I sit here today, is that most

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1 of the red represents my thinking on the matter.
 2 [redacted] And are you doing any of this
 3 thinking with Mr. Kortan?
 4 MS. PAGE: Kortan wouldn't know the substance of
 5 it, so it's totally possible that I am talking him through
 6 my suggested response, which would have, the salient facts
 7 which rebut some of what Mr. Barrett had just said
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 MS. PAGE: Totally, I surely would have talked
 10 to him in advance of our next call for Barrett. So
 11 whatever happened at the time that I'm writing these
 12 notes, or whatever happened later, I, I surely would have
 13 talked to Kortan, so he sort of knew, hey, this is
 14 generally like this is why this isn't true. This is why
 15 that isn't true. And sort of got a, gave him a feel for
 16 it. But I don't recall whether I'm doing it with him in
 17 that moment. You know, because again, he's, these are
 18 substantive responses, and, and like, it doesn't
 19 substantively, you know, wouldn't substantively know ^{any}
 20 of this.
 21 [redacted] When you're in this first call
 22 with the reporter, Devlin Barrett, you're with Mr. Kortan.
 23 MS. PAGE: Correct.
 24 [redacted] Was there anyone else in the room?
 25 MS. PAGE: No.

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1 [redacted] is anyone else from the FBI
2 listening?
3 MS. PAGE: Not to my knowledge.
4 [redacted] So just you two?
5 MS. PAGE: As best I know, yeah.
6 [redacted] Okay. Is Mr. Kortan also taking
7 notes during this call?
8 MS. PAGE: I don't think so. He's not a big
9 note-taker. And if he, when he does, it's like four words
10 on a page, so. I don't, I don't think so is the answer.
11 But I don't really remember.
12 [redacted] So while we're with, with the
13 notes. Above it -- I'm sorry. Let me start over. On
14 Page 3 -- actually, I did highlight it for you. That's
15 good.
16 MS. PAGE: Ah, yeah.
17 [redacted] So the highlight that Andy got in
18 trouble for it. What, what is that in regards to?
19 MS. PAGE: Hmm. Sorry. Let me just reread
20 them. So, I can certainly explain the prior. Right.
21 So -- huh. I'm wondering if this is with Devlin. I
22 really am not sure. I'm sorry. But anyway, so, so the,
23 the lead bullet there, which reads can't explain why they
24 have the wrong idea about something. This is because
25 there was a long back-and-forth. And so maybe part of

1 this occurs with Barrett. I just don't, I'm not sure
2 whether I'm conflating the first call and the second call,
3 which is the reason I'm, I'm hesitating. But he was very
4 adamant that --
5 [redacted] Who is he?
6 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry. Thank you. Devlin
7 Barrett was very adamant that the sources he spoke to,
8 which I presume are case agent or sort of low-level
9 supervisors, are adamant that they were told to stand down
10 on the Clinton Foundation case. And I keep pressing,
11 again, I don't know whether it's in this conversation or
12 the following one, that, that, I don't, I don't, I can't
13 tell you why they have this impression.
14 I can't tell you where this garble would have
15 happened. Devlin certainly well, knows the FBI well
16 enough to know that we are astronomically hierarchical.
17 And so this purported order coming from the Deputy
18 Director potentially had to travel through seven, eight,
19 nine people for the people you are talking to, to say
20 stand down. What I'm telling you is that doesn't make any
21 sense in light of the August 12th Axelrod call.
22 And so this is my -- I'm not sure what the Andy
23 got in trouble for it meant. I think it's -- again, I'm
24 speculating. I think we heard, I think, maybe it's a
25 reflection of the article, but I think we had heard at

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1 that point this claim that like people think he's trying
2 to kill the Clinton investigation. I'm sorry, the Clinton
3 Foundation investigation. And so people are, you know,
4 pissed at him. But, I'm really speculating because I
5 don't, I don't have a precise recollection of what I'm
6 thinking about or talking about there.
7 [redacted] So if we turn then to the next
8 page, page 4 of your notes.
9 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
10 [redacted] That was --
11 MS. PAGE: With the Post-It note?
12 [redacted] Yes.
13 MS. PAGE: Okay.
14 [redacted] So that, as I understand, from
15 what you wrote from a little note there, that Post-It note
16 was on Page 3, is that correct?
17 MS. PAGE: Correct, yeah.
18 [redacted] Okay.
19 MS. PAGE: Yeah, it was, it was, when I went to
20 go copy these notes.
21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
22 MS. PAGE: Which, of course, I haven't looked at
23 probably since I made them, which following my Inspection
24 Division interview, I went to go copy these notes, and I,
25 this Post-It was on it. And so I don't really remember

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1 what the purpose of it was. But since it was there, sort
2 of to be as transparent as possible, I made a copy of it.
3 So it's clearly related, but I don't remember what these
4 random dates and notations are, are referencing back to.
5 [redacted] Okay. Can you, and if you want to
6 look to, I'm going to segue to it soon, but if it helps
7 you to look at the second page of your notes as well. Can
8 you put us in the room in terms of how the conversation
9 went when you're providing the details regarding the
10 August 12th call between Mr. McCabe and Mr. Axelrod? How
11 does that conversation go?
12 MS. PAGE: Wait, wait. I'm sorry. You're
13 talking about my recounting back to Devlin Barrett?
14 [redacted] Yes.
15 MS. PAGE: Oh, okay. Sort of as I just
16 described it to you, which is it's, it's entirely provided
17 as a rebuttal to the claim that Andy is trying to kill the
18 Clinton Foundation case because Barrett keeps coming to us
19 with this, my, you know, my guys are, my sources are
20 certain that they got the instruction to stand down. And
21 I kept responding, I, I believe in their certainty.
22 [redacted] Um-hmm.
23 MS. PAGE: What I'm telling you is that not only
24 did it not happen, it's inconsistent with the fight that
25 he has with Matt Axelrod about the fact that New York

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1 agents are continuing to investigate the Clinton
2 Foundation matter in August. And so, you know, I recount
3 the, the substance of the conversation as I recall it'
4 with, I'm sorry, to Devlin Barrett in an attempt to
5 demonstrate that he cannot simultaneously be trying to
6 kill the investigation while he is fighting with Axelrod
7 about allowing the New York agents to take the
8 investigative steps that they deem necessary without
9 engaging prosecutorial resources.

10 [redacted] And are you the only one who is
11 sharing these details regarding the conversation, the
12 August 12th call, or is Mr. Kortan also participating?

13 MS. PAGE: No. I mean he, Mr. Kortan doesn't
14 have any substantive knowledge to my knowledge, so.

15 [redacted] So, so the quotes attributed to
16 Mr. McCabe that actually appear in the article on the last
17 page.

18 MS. PAGE: The highlighted stuff? Uh-huh.

19 [redacted] The highlighted on the Exhibit 4,
20 those would have come directly from you?

21 MS. PAGE: I believe so. I don't know anybody
22 else it could be, so.

23 [redacted] Okay.

24 MS. PAGE: To the best of my, I mean, I'm not
25 Devlin Barrett, but --

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1 MS. PAGE: Oh, actually. Can I --
2 [redacted] Go ahead.

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3 MS. PAGE: Just --
4 [redacted] Sure.

5 MS. PAGE: Go ahead. Sorry.
6 [redacted] And where he has this direct quote
7 from Mr. McCabe, it says according to people familiar with
8 the conversation.

9 MS. PAGE: I don't know who people, I mean, if
10 that's what you're asking me.

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11 [redacted] But, what is in question is if he,
12 if you know, was he attributing that to you and to Mike
13 Kortan?

14 MS. PAGE: I, I, I don't know. I can't answer
15 that.

16 [redacted] Okay. Do you know of anyone other
17 than yourself that was familiar enough with this
18 conversation to confirm that for Mr. Barrett?

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19 MS. PAGE: I, I don't know, but it doesn't mean
20 that there aren't other people. I just, I don't know.

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21 [redacted] Okay.

22 MS. PAGE: Sorry. The one thing I was going to
23 flag is that partly I think because the question with
24 inspection was not totally precise. So, just to be
25 totally clear.

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b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] Right.
2 MS. PAGE: I think that's me. Yeah. As I said
3 in my inspection interview.

4 [redacted] Right. And one of the reasons I
5 did, I am asking is, I think your statement on the bottom
6 of 9 said something to the -- well, let's go right to it.
7 Last line on 9, I presume --

8 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
9 [redacted] -- the portions of those
10 paragraphs. And I understand what you just said. You
11 don't know all his sources. But, do you recall --

12 MS. PAGE: I definitely said that, so.
13 [redacted] Okay.

14 MS. PAGE: I, I, it's in all likelihood me. But
15 again, I don't know who else he's talking to.

16 [redacted] Can I ask one question here?
17 [redacted] You can ask more than one
18 question.

19 [redacted] Sure. In those paragraphs that are
20 highlighted --

21 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
22 [redacted] -- in the article.

23 [redacted] Here. Sorry.

24 [redacted] What Mr. Barrett writes is that in
25 that final, in the third paragraph that's highlighted --

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1 [redacted] Sure.

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2 MS. PAGE: The first line of the first of the
3 three highlighted paragraphs. So it reads, according to a
4 person familiar with the probes, on August 12th, a senior
5 Justice Department official called Mr. McCabe to voice his
6 displeasure at finding that New York FBI agents were still
7 openly pursuing the Clinton Foundation probe during the
8 election season. I do not recall during the election
9 season being an issue that was ever brought up between Mr.
10 Axelrod and Mr. McCabe.

11 So that little fact there is not me because the
12 only facts that I recall the frustration about was, was it
13 being related to Clinton Foundation and the quality of the
14 investigation which I agree was probably not particularly
15 strong. But I don't recall ever, when, when Andy first
16 tells me about the back-and-forth with he and Axelrod --

17 [redacted] Yes.

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18 MS. PAGE: -- tying it to the period of time is
19 not something that comes up.

20 MS. JEFRESS: It's under incoming.

21 MS. PAGE: Is it? I don't remember that.

22 MS. JEFRESS: (*Indiscernible.38:13.)

23 MS. PAGE: No, that, that, that's Devlin saying
24 it.

25 MS. JEFRESS: Right, exactly.

1 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 2 MS. JEFRESS: So that's, I think that's where,
 3 so you said that before you talked to him?
 4 MS. PAGE: Correct.. Correct. Yeah. So,
 5 because that's what he --
 6 MS. JEFRESS: That being Devlin?
 7 MS. PAGE: What Devlin says to us --
 8 MS. JEFRESS: Correct.
 9 MS. PAGE: -- is well it's, it's SOP during
 10 election season. And in fact, I think my response is
 11 they're not taking overt steps. So I don't, that's not
 12 ever something that comes up in the conversation between
 13 Andy and Axelrod. And I'm pretty sure I said I think
 14 that's sort of convenient after-the-fact justification to
 15 explain this unpleasant-looking matter, which is that they
 16 don't think the Clinton Foundation is, you know, worth its
 17 salt. And, but they don't have the authority -- well,
 18 they do have the authority to shut it down, but they won't
 19 want to exercise that authority.
 20 [REDACTED] There is, as you were mentioning,
 21 there's a lot of notes regarding stand-down and what it
 22 meant.
 23 MS. PAGE: Uh-huh.
 24 [REDACTED] Primarily on the first, on October
 25 27th. And that would also be on October 28th as well.

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b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

1 [REDACTED] Right.
 2 MS. PAGE: And so we did deny it, and we said
 3 stand-down didn't happen. But it's, it's insufficient
 4 because you can, we can demonstrate with, you know,
 5 evidence as I refer to it, the conversation between Mr.
 6 Axelrod and Mr. McCabe, that's better than a blanket
 7 denial, which could be true and could not be true. You
 8 have him taking active steps to push back on Axelrod's
 9 desire for this case to be closed, which is in direct
 10 contradiction of a purported order to stand down the case.
 11 [REDACTED] And did you talk to Mr. McCabe about
 12 that before you provided this information to Devlin
 13 Barrett about the conversation?
 14 MS. PAGE: I think as I said earlier, when I, I
 15 believe when I sort of came back to him to give him the
 16 kind of run-down of the conversation with Barrett, he
 17 reminded me, which again is what I think that notation at
 18 the top of the notes on Page 3 is a reference of, of the
 19 stand-down. I mean, I'm sorry. Gosh. Of the Axelrod,
 20 you know, are you, are you asking me to shut down a
 21 validly predicated investigation conversation.
 22 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. And you understood from him
 23 raising that that he wanted you to provide that
 24 information to Mr. Barrett?
 25 MS. PAGE: Yeah. I think so. I don't think

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1 Why wouldn't it have been sufficient to simply deny that
 2 any stand-down had been issued by Mr. McCabe?
 3 MS. PAGE: Well, because there was direct
 4 evidence to the contrary. So, I mean, a denial doesn't
 5 really get you very far. So, a denial is sufficient, and
 6 of course we did deny that it occurred. But I think
 7 presentation of a fact which is in direct contraction of
 8 the activity which purportedly occurred is the best
 9 evidence to demonstrate the erroneousness of the stand-
 10 down statement.
 11 [REDACTED] And when you say direct evidence,
 12 you're referring to what exactly?
 13 MS. PAGE: The conversation between Axelrod and
 14 Mr. McCabe.
 15 [REDACTED] Oh. To rebut the alleged
 16 statements by the FBI agents?
 17 MS. PAGE: No, no. The statements from other
 18 FBI agents purport Mr. McCabe --
 19 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. Um-hmm. Right.
 20 MS. PAGE: -- trying, ordering a stand-down --
 21 [REDACTED] Yes.
 22 MS. PAGE: -- of the Clinton Foundation matter.
 23 [REDACTED] Correct.
 24 MS. PAGE: And so, simply saying -- the question
 25 I think you asked me was why is a denial not sufficient?

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1 that he explicitly said go tell this to Barrett, right?
 2 But in my back-and-forth in describing, again, this is, I
 3 don't have a precise recollection of this, so this is a
 4 little bit of me filling in the gaps here. But in
 5 describing, like, having a huge focus on stand-down, you
 6 know, I probably gave more color to sort of what the, the
 7 focus is, he would have reminded me of, well that's
 8 ridiculous. We had that whole conversation with Axelrod
 9 in, in August, so.
 10 [REDACTED] Do you confirm --
 11 MS. JEFRESS: He's not named. (*Indiscernible
 12 42:53) in the actual call.
 13 MS. PAGE: Oh. (*Indiscernible 43:00.) Oh, I'm
 14 sorry.
 15 MS. JEFRESS: Your notes may have, but I'm not
 16 sure you named him, if these are your notes from what you
 17 told Devlin.
 18 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
 19 MS. JEFRESS: I'm not sure you named him.
 20 MS. PAGE: Oh, I'm not sure if I did or not.
 21 I'm sorry. Yeah, I don't recall whether I used Axelrod or
 22 not. I'm sorry.
 23 [REDACTED] Yeah, at any time as we're going
 24 through --
 25 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

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b6 Per OIG
 b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] -- feel free to cut us off if you
 2 want to --
 3 MS. PAGE: No, I appreciate that. No.
 4 [redacted] Do you, you were describing that
 5 after these calls with Mr. Barrett, you would, you would
 6 give a readout to Mr. McCabe on what transpired? Is that,
 7 is that right?
 8 MS. PAGE: I, I don't have a specific
 9 recollection of having done so, but I, that would be
 10 totally my state or practice, so I'm sure that I did.
 11 [redacted] Did you confirm from Mr. McCabe
 12 that you provided the details on the August 12th call?
 13 MS. PAGE: I don't remember.
 14 [redacted] Okay; let's go to the next, the
 15 last two pages of your notes.
 16 MS. PAGE: Okay.
 17 [redacted] So this is, as I understand it,
 18 this would be October 28th, 2016.
 19 MS. PAGE: Correct.
 20 [redacted] And so, looks like we only have
 21 one color of ink. So I'll let you interpret what that
 22 means.
 23 MS. PAGE: Your guess is as good as mine. I,
 24 this is -- no, I, because it says lead --
 25 [redacted] Yes.

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1 MS. PAGE: -- this is clearly Devlin telling me
 2 and Kortan here is what I think, this is, this is what the
 3 story is going to look like. And so I think this is me.
 4 sort of taking those, those notes.
 5 [redacted] And so you see I highlighted --
 6 well, first, there's some notations in the margin that are
 7 highlighted. Can you tell us what that says and what
 8 notes that, those, what specific notes those apply to?
 9 MS. PAGE: What notes it applies to?
 10 [redacted] Well what --
 11 MS. PAGE: Oh --
 12 [redacted] What --
 13 MS. PAGE: I think this is just an aside that he
 14 agrees to take out --
 15 [redacted] So that first --
 16 MS. PAGE: Mr. McCabe's, I think --
 17 [redacted] It says take out --
 18 MS. PAGE: Take out Mr. McCabe's role.
 19 [redacted] Role, okay.
 20 MS. PAGE: On easy with the investigation. I'm
 21 not sure what that means, on easy. I think that's what
 22 that says. I, I think all of this is receive mode.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 MS. PAGE: So that's, my guess is that I kind of
 25 put that on, on an aside. Like, my guess is, again, I'm

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1 very much speculating. But Kortan, you know, it's
 2 Kortan's job to sort of manage the, like, what's, how it's
 3 going to be referenced. You know, can you include this?
 4 Can you exclude that? Kind of, that's sort of the OPA,
 5 how stories get made.
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 7 MS. PAGE: Sausage making.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 MS. PAGE: So maybe that's Mike saying that.
 10 I'm not, I'm not really positive. But, I don't think this
 11 is, has anything to do with me, at least.
 12 [redacted] Do you have any idea what it
 13 means, take out Mr. McCabe's role? What does the role
 14 refer to? Any sense?
 15 MS. PAGE: Can I just look at my notes for a
 16 second? No, I'm not really sure.
 17 [redacted] What about the notes in the margin
 18 that I highlighted below that? What is, can you make out
 19 what that says and what that --
 20 MS. PAGE: So, so this is, this is definitely
 21 Barrett, because I remember this, this, I think it's in
 22 the story, which is why I remember it. For agents already
 23 concerned, comma, uneasy with Mr. McCabe's -- oh. Maybe
 24 that goes up to --
 25 [redacted] Okay.

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1 MS. PAGE: -- there. Maybe that, that's what
 2 that little arrow is.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 MS. PAGE: Well, that doesn't really follow. In
 5 August -- oh, that's, that's the senior DOJ. Sorry.
 6 Sorry. So back to, for agents already concerned, comma,
 7 uneasy with Mr. McCabe's role. Oh, I see role is actually
 8 down there in the paren at the bottom there.
 9 [redacted] So his role meaning his oversight,
 10 perhaps?
 11 MS. PAGE: Oh, yeah. Oh, that's probably right
 12 yeah.
 13 [redacted] Okay. And so the, the line that I
 14 highlighted in the notes for you, the, and as I interpret
 15 it, I think it says, the notes there say in August, senior
 16 DOJ official calls Mick (phonetic sp.) for McCabe.
 17 Unhappy to hear that agents in New York are still pursuing
 18 the, the CF probe. Is that right? Is that, is that what
 19 that says?
 20 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 21 [redacted] And does CF refer to --
 22 MS. PAGE: Clinton Foundation, yes.
 23 [redacted] Is that a common way that it's
 24 referred?
 25 MS. PAGE: Yes.

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b7C Per OIG

1 [redacted] In the FBI?
 2 MS. PAGE: I have no idea in the FBI, but in my
 3 notes.
 4 [redacted] Okay. Okay. And so, by virtue of
 5 the fact that this notation is in, on the, on, in your
 6 notes on October 28th, does that mean you probably
 7 provided this information to Mr. Barrett before October
 8 28th?
 9 MS. PAGE: That's a good point. Yeah, possibly.
 10 Huh.
 11 [redacted] Which would be consistent with the
 12 notation up above.
 13 MS. PAGE: That's totally fair. Again, I'm just
 14 guessing that --
 15 [redacted] Right.
 16 MS. PAGE: -- that's what that notation above
 17 means. That's a really good point. I, I am not sure.
 18 [redacted] Do you recall more than two calls
 19 with Mr. --
 20 MS. PAGE: No.
 21 [redacted] -- Barrett.
 22 MS. PAGE: I do not. And then I gave to your
 23 colleagues, but obviously I have these couple of e-mails,
 24 which these reflect the two calls that I recall having
 25 with Mr. Kortan and Mr. Barrett.

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1 happens with different readings separated by sort of two
 2 spaces usually. So, whatever happened in the morning on,
 3 on 10/27 was not relevant to the, to what Inspection
 4 Division was looking at.
 5 [redacted] Was it relevant at all to the Wall
 6 Street Journal article?
 7 MS. PAGE: No.
 8 [redacted] Okay. And that being the October
 9 30th article.
 10 MS. PAGE: No. Yes.
 11 [redacted] What about --
 12 MS. PAGE: If, if it was, I would have produced
 13 it.
 14 [redacted] Okay. What about at the end of
 15 Exhibit 6? Similar question. There's a big blank.
 16 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
 17 [redacted] Actually, it's farther down, blank
 18 at the end of this. Last page.
 19 MS. PAGE: Oh, I see. Yes.
 20 [redacted] So this is the end of October
 21 28th, 2016. Was that redacted too?
 22 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 23 [redacted] Did it relate at all to the Wall
 24 Street Journal article?
 25 MS. PAGE: No.

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1 [redacted] And was Mr. Kortan present for the
 2 entirety of both of those calls?
 3 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 4 [redacted] And can you tell us how long each of
 5 those calls lasted? Do you remember?
 6 MS. PAGE: I'm guessing maybe 30 minutes to 60
 7 minutes. I'm sort of speculating, but an hour at the
 8 most.
 9 [redacted] Okay.
 10 [redacted] So just one, two questions on the
 11 notes in format, again. On --
 12 MS. PAGE: God, I'm sorry.
 13 [redacted] So, in the beginning of the
 14 Exhibit 6.
 15 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
 16 [redacted] Page 1 of your notes, there's a
 17 big, blank space.
 18 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 19 [redacted] Why is that?
 20 MS. PAGE: That's because I have notes there
 21 that are not at all relevant to the inquiry from which
 22 Inspection Division asked me to produce notes.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 MS. PAGE: So I redacted them. The way I take
 25 notes is a single day has a running set of everything that

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1 [redacted] Okay. I'm going to circle back
 2 now, unless you want to have a couple additional things.
 3 [redacted] Well, I was just wanting to make
 4 sure that I had it right in my head what the timeline is
 5 here. So the article is published on the 23rd in the Wall
 6 Street Journal.
 7 [redacted] 30th.
 8 [redacted] Oh, no, no. The first one.
 9 [redacted] Okay, sorry. Sorry.
 10 [redacted] The first one.
 11 [redacted] Okay.
 12 [redacted] And then at some point subsequent to
 13 that, you have a conversation with Mr. McCabe where he
 14 says I want you to work with Mike Kortan on a follow-up
 15 article.
 16 MS. PAGE: Yes.
 17 [redacted] Okay. And then after that, you meet
 18 with Mike Kortan?
 19 MS. PAGE: I'm sure that I did, yes.
 20 [redacted] Okay. In advance of actually
 21 getting on the phone with the reporter?
 22 MS. PAGE: It might be immediately in advance
 23 of.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 MS. PAGE: So I don't know whether, I don't

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1 recall when I had the conversation with Andy, so I don't
2 recall whether following that conversation I had, I guess
3 I probably had some, if nothing else, a logistical sort of
4 planning with, with Mike Kortan. But I'm sure before the,
5 the back-and-forth with -- I'm sorry, before the
6 engagement with Devlin Barrett, Mike and I would have had
7 some amount of conversation. But I don't remember if that
8 happens that, you know, early in the week or whether we
9 sit down before we make the phone call.

10 [redacted] And can you remember the details of
11 that conversation?

12 MS. PAGE: No. I mean if, I -- only because
13 I've now done this with Mike, I suspect he would sort of
14 just be giving, like, hey, we're going to have this, we're
15 going to talk to him. It will be on background. Like, I
16 think he would have just sort of set sort of general
17 ground rules. And if he already knew substantive
18 information, he may have communicated it. But I don't
19 have any specific recollection.

20 [redacted] Okay. And when you get on the call
21 with Mr. Barrett.

22 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm. Yes.

23 [redacted] And then after that, you have a
24 follow-up conversation with Mr. McCabe?

25 MS. PAGE: I believe so.

1 [redacted] Um-hmm, yeah.
2 [redacted] Okay, yeah. You can use those
3 too.

4 MS. PAGE: Okay.

5 MS. JEFRESS: Okay. (*Indiscernible 54:13.)

6 MS. PAGE: Yeah, it's possible.

7 [redacted] If that helps. I'm just, I'm just
8 trying to --

9 MS. PAGE: I don't, I don't have any precise
10 recollection, so.

11 [redacted] Yeah.

12 [redacted] So is that, you are showing her
13 texts that --

14 MS. JEFRESS: Yeah.

15 [redacted] -- may reflect she was in a
16 meeting with all three of them?

17 MS. JEFRESS: Yes.

18 [redacted] Okay. On October 25th?

19 MS. JEFRESS: Right.

20 [redacted] Okay.

21 MS. PAGE: So that seems like it would have been
22 in, that's in advance maybe setting this sort of, Devlin
23 has this story, He's going to run this, whatever. But I,
24 I don't have any precise recollection. That is just
25 speculating.

1 [redacted] Okay.

2 MS. PAGE: Again, this is, as I think I've
3 explained, that's my speculation purely because I'm trying
4 to figure out what my notes mean and why the colors
5 change. So my best guess is that I have a conversation
6 with Andy. And I expect that I would. I mean I, I have
7 no reason to believe that I didn't, I guess would probably
8 be the best way to say that. I don't have a precise
9 recollection, but, that would totally have been my, my
10 normal practice, and he would have been interested to know
11 what he had said. So I'm sure that I did. And I think
12 maybe that the notes after the line, as I've described,
13 the red line on the first set of notes, maybe reflects
14 that. But I'm really not positive.

15 [redacted] Okay. And then, do you remember if
16 Mr. Kortan was a participant in the conversation you had
17 with Mr. McCabe?

18 MS. PAGE: I don't remember. I would think not,
19 but I don't remember.

20 [redacted] Okay. And then there was another
21 phone call with --

22 MS. JEFRESS: Can we just, can I have a couple
23 minutes just to share something?

24 [redacted] Sure.

25 [redacted] (*Indiscernible 54:06.)

1 [redacted] Do you recall on the exact, do you
2 recall the date that Mr. McCabe said, hey, Lisa, I need
3 you to work with Mike to go on background on this story.

4 MS. PAGE: No, I do not.

5 [redacted] Were any talking points prepared --

6 MS. PAGE: Can I --

7 [redacted] Go ahead.

8 MS. PAGE: That, no, that no talking points were
9 prepared. The other thing I would just note on that,
10 while it's entirely possible that is Foundation-related,
11 it also just might be Kortan coming in to talk about some
12 other thing in the news. Right? That's --

13 [redacted] Yeah.

14 MS. PAGE: And just to sort of be clear because
15 I don't have a precise recollection of that meeting.

16 [redacted] Okay. I mean are, were there other
17 times as sort of your regular duties that you met with
18 McCabe and Kortan?

19 MS. PAGE: Absolutely.

20 [redacted] Oh, okay.

21 MS. PAGE: Yeah.

22 [redacted] Because I sort of got the feeling
23 from your, from what I've read previously that this was
24 the very first time that substantively you were tasked
25 with working with Mike Kortan on a story for a reporter.

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1 MS. PAGE: That's correct. But it was totally
2 common, if I was in Andy's office, and Kortan was coming
3 in to convey such-and-such is in the news. Here's an
4 article I want you to read. This news outlet just called
5 me about X topic. I would, I would be present for lots of
6 conversations like that. I had never personally engaged
7 with a reporter on background before this engagement.
8 But, simply being present in a meeting with Andy and Mike
9 Kortan was, is totally commonplace.

10 [redacted] Okay.
11 [redacted] Did you schedule the call with
12 Devlin Barrett?

13 MS. PAGE: No.
14 [redacted] That would be Mike Kortan's role?

15 MS. PAGE: I have no idea how to get in touch
16 with Devlin Barrett.

17 [redacted] Would, were you, were you and Mr.
18 Kortan equally engaged during the calls? How did that
19 flow work?

20 MS. PAGE: No. I was mostly engaged because it
21 was a communication of substantive information back and
22 forth. So, Mike, might interject at moments, but I would,
23 I would say that I was most engaged of the two of us.

24 [redacted] And going back to the article,
25 October 30th article, Exhibit 4 in your statement, the

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1 I don't recall any election timing being a part of the
2 conversation between Axelrod and Andy on the August 12th
3 call.

4 [redacted] So on that, on the call, the
5 particulars of it, you, you aren't present from the call,
6 as I understand it.

7 MS. PAGE: I actually don't recall. I think my
8 Inspection lays out three possibilities, which is, I'm
9 sorry. I don't think that I was. But I don't have a
10 precise recollection of, because it's possible -- I should
11 take this back. I was not on the call. That's probably I
12 think what you're asking. So, I was not one of the three,
13 hello, Lisa Page was on this call participants. But it is
14 possible, although I'm just not sure that I was present in
15 the room in real-time when the call is happening. I don't
16 think that's true. But that has certainly happened a
17 number of times with me and Andy where he gets a, a sort
18 of unscheduled phone call, and I would simply stay for the
19 pendency of the call, and then we would finish whatever we
20 were doing.

21 So, but I do recall in relatively close time
22 simply because this -- well, go ahead.

23 [redacted] Well, you can finish your thought.

24 MS. PAGE: This is not a, Axelrod, this would
25 not be surprising to people who worked with Matt Axelrod

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1 highlighted portions that the Inspection Division
2 highlighted for you, this would be the second paragraph.

3 MS. PAGE: Um-hmm.
4 [redacted] Do you recall telling Mr. McCabe
5 that you informed Devlin Barrett that the Justice
6 Department official was very pissed off?

7 MS. PAGE: No, I don't, I don't recall what I
8 said back to Andy, I think you're probably going to ask me
9 whether I had done that. And I don't, I don't recall that
10 I went back and said, hey, I told them about whatever. I
11 imagine I, broadly speaking, described the conversation.
12 I think that's normally what I would have done. I don't
13 have a specific recollection. Can I just flag one thing?

14 [redacted] Yes, please.

15 MS. PAGE: I guess it's obvious, but I guess
16 I'll just be clear. That second line in the second
17 paragraph.

18 [redacted] Um-hmm.

19 MS. PAGE: Others said, that's not me. I
20 presume that's Matt Axelrod. Others said the Justice
21 Department was simply trying to make sure FBI agents were
22 following long-standing policy not to make overt
23 investigative moves that could be seen as trying to
24 influence election. That's analogous to the answer I gave
25 with respect to the first line of the first paragraph that

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1 that he would call in a fury and flustered and mad and,
2 you know, blustery about something happening. That's a
3 pretty common Axelrod reaction. So, him communicating
4 that to me was not because -- Andy communicating that to
5 me would not have been necessarily out of a, like, you
6 know, substantive need for me to know, but more out of a,
7 oh, I got a, you know, angry phone call from Matt today,
8 and sort of more in a, there's not a lot of people
9 obviously that he can share that type of detail with
10 because he wouldn't want to affect the relationship
11 between his other executives and the, the PADAG at the
12 Department. And so that's the type of thing that he might
13 share with me.

14 [redacted] When you say PADAG, you're
15 referring to the Principal Deputy --

16 MS. PAGE: Principal Associate Deputy Attorney
17 General, yes.

18 [redacted] Okay.

19 MS. PAGE: Which was Matt Axelrod's role.

20 [redacted] And so, as I understand what
21 you're saying, is it fair to say that the call that
22 happened on August 12th wasn't the first time Mr. McCabe
23 had a call like that with Mr. Axelrod?

24 MS. PAGE: Not in substance.

25 [redacted] Right.

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1 MS. PAGE: But one in which Matt Axelrod was
2 calling over mad about something that the Bureau was
3 doing, yes.

4 [redacted] Okay.
5 [redacted] Let me ask you a question. You had
6 said that the second sentence in this middle paragraph --

7 MS. PAGE: Yes.
8 [redacted] -- others said the Justice Deputy
9 Director was simply trying to make sure that FBI agents
10 were following long-standing policy. You had said that
11 you presumed that Matt Axelrod was the source for that.
12 Did Devlin Barrett tell you he was talking to Matt Axelrod
13 for this?

14 MS. PAGE: No, he did not.
15 [redacted] Then why do you presume that he was
16 the source for that?

17 MS. PAGE: Because he has the most at stake in
18 this back-and-forth statement. And I don't know, if it's
19 not Matt, it's somebody -- I guess I should -- at the
20 Justice Department who has spoken to Matt because they are
21 the only two people on the conversation on August 12th.
22 So, there would not be another person who is, has, is
23 privy to this information.

24 [redacted] Okay. I was just wondering if Mr.
25 Barrett had said to you, you know, I was told blah, blah,

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1 MS. PAGE: I have a pretty good memory.
2 [redacted] So you're relying on your memory?

3 MS. PAGE: Again, I don't recall whether Andy
4 and I re-discussed the substance of the call when he
5 reminded me of it. It's possible that we did. I just
6 don't remember. But either way, I remember the substance
7 of the conversation being in the context of FBI agents,
8 you know [redacted]

9 [redacted] And so when that
10 got back to Axelrod, he was pissed, as it says in here,
11 because he believed that the investigation was essentially
12 to be, you know, made dormant. And that's not ever the
13 sort of communication that we had had with respect to
14 Clinton Foundation as, as my, my prior statement says.

15 [redacted] Prior statement or OIG interview?

16 MS. PAGE: I'm sorry. My OIG -- thank you.
17 Sorry. Right.

18 [redacted] On September 7th?

19 MS. PAGE: Yes, my OIG interview says there was
20 a meeting early on, I don't remember when, in which

21 [redacted]

22 [redacted] And so, my guess is that
23 [redacted] Axelrod was under the impression that that meant that it
24 was dead. This is just my speculation. When, in fact,

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b7E -1

1 blah.

2 MS. PAGE: Oh.
3 [redacted] To elicit a response from you.

4 MS. PAGE: Oh, yes. I think that's reflected in
5 my notes. He did say I was told that that engagement is
6 simply, you know, a concern about the election season.
7 And my response back would have been that's not what was
8 said on the call. I think that's a convenient explanation
9 being generated after the fact. But that's not what
10 happened at the time.

11 [redacted] Okay.

12 MS. PAGE: Yes, he did.
13 [redacted] When you said Mr. Axelrod has the
14 most at stake, what did you mean by, what does that mean
15 at stake?

16 MS. PAGE: Well, this is not a particularly
17 positive reflection of Mr. Axelrod. So I would imagine
18 that he would want to provide a response which puts him in
19 a better light.

20 [redacted] But how did, with the call, the
21 August 12th call, how did you ensure, other than the, the
22 notation in your notes, in Exhibit 6, Friday, August 12th
23 with Axelrod, how did you ensure the details you were
24 providing regarding the details you were providing
25 regarding the details of that call were accurate?

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1 the communication back from Andy to Randy Coleman and
2 therefore to the team was I'm not going to fight for DOJ
3 resources this time.

4 Do what, you know, you say that there are other
5 investigative steps that you can take. [redacted]

6 [redacted]

7 [redacted] And
8 [redacted] so, you know, in fairness to, to Mr. Axelrod, my, my guess
9 is that he thought [redacted]

10 [redacted] that maybe the
11 case was dead when in fact it was not.

12 [redacted] Let me ask you a question about when
13 media coverage for the Clinton Foundation more broadly.
14 I'm wondering if you know whether or not this October 30th
15 article was the first time that, that that, that the
16 existence of that investigation was confirmed in any way
17 by the FBI.

18 MS. PAGE: I have no idea. I'm sorry. I
19 haven't otherwise followed -- excuse me -- followed news
20 reporting with respect to the Clinton Foundation.
21 [redacted] Do you remember having any
22 conversations with Mr. Kortan about whether that had been
23 revealed yet or not?
24
25

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b7E -1

b7E -1

b6 Per OIG
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1 MS. PAGE: I don't remember having conversations
2 about it.

3 [redacted] Or the need to prevent there from
4 being any kind of implicit FBI acknowledgment about an
5 ongoing investigation?

6 MS. PAGE: I don't remember having a
7 conversation about it. I -- no, I don't remember having a
8 conversation about that.

9 [redacted] Okay.
10 [redacted] Did Mr. McCabe ever tell you not
11 to discuss something with the reporter?

12 MS. PAGE: Not to my recollection. But I don't,
13 again, I don't remember having a deeply substantive
14 conversation with him about what I would and wouldn't say.
15 I think he just sort of knew I had a general knowledge of
16 the facts. So, I don't, I don't recall a substantive
17 back-and-forth with him about it.

18 [redacted] And again, there was no written e-
19 mail, hey, Andy or Mr. McCabe, this is what I intend to
20 say?

21 MS. PAGE: No.
22 [redacted] What about Mr. Kortan? Did you,
23 did he ever tell you not to discuss something?

24 MS. PAGE: Not to my recollection, no.
25 [redacted] Was Mr. Comey aware of the

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1 [redacted] Right around 1:30.

2 MS. JEFRESS: Thanks.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off
4 the record and back on the record.)

5 [redacted] Okay. Back on the record after a
6 short break. It is around 1:37. So I just want to be,
7 have a clear understanding. Before, either before any
8 engagement with Mr. Barrett or after the first call when
9 you were in receive mode and understood what his story was
10 intending to, to discuss, what was the, what was the FBI's
11 goal or Deputy Director McCabe's goal in having you and
12 Mr. Kortan speak to the reporter? What, what did the,
13 what was the Deputy Director trying to accomplish?

14 MS. PAGE: Well, I think he was, for lack of a
15 better expression, trying to thread the needle, right? I
16 think he, I think we understood that there was, you know,
17 obviously there was a claim that he's trying to kill a
18 valid investigation for presumably inappropriate, improper
19 reasons. And so part of it is to insure, you know, the
20 American public that, like, that doesn't happen at the
21 FBI; and that this is a validly predicated investigation;
22 and if the agents believe there are necessary
23 investigative steps, then they should take those, those
24 steps.

25 At the same time, trying to be responsive, or

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1 decision to call the Wall Street Journal reporter in
2 advance of the first call?

3 MS. PAGE: I don't know.
4 [redacted] How about Jim Rybicki?

5 MS. PAGE: I don't know.
6 [redacted] Anyone other than Mr. McCabe or
7 Mr. Kortan? Do you know if any other FBI official knew of
8 these calls in advance?

9 MS. PAGE: I don't know.
10 [redacted] Did Mr. McCabe confer with the New
11 York Assistant Director in Charge in advance of the call
12 saying, hey, I'm going to talk about the Clinton
13 Foundation investigation?

14 MS. PAGE: I don't know. I doubt it.
15 [redacted] So no notification that you're
16 aware of?

17 MS. PAGE: There wouldn't need to be one, so I,
18 I just don't know. So.

19 [redacted] Okay.

20 MS. JEFRESS: Do you mind if I just talk to her
21 for a minute?

22 [redacted] Sure.

23 MS. JEFRESS: Okay, okay.

24 [redacted] Let's stop for one second.

25 MS. JEFRESS: Yes.

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1 for lack of a better term, to the Department's view that
2 they were not interested. You know, that whatever
3 predicated sort of level they had, we, you know, there's,
4 there's, there's predication somewhere between what the
5 FBI needs to investigate and what the Department needs
6 to sort of prosecute or, you know, support that
7 investigation.

8 And so, you know, we were in this sort of gap.
9 And so, he wasn't, um, he was respectful of the fact that,
10 like, it is the Department's prerogative to say that they
11 don't think that there was sufficient evidence for the
12 Department to sort of continue, or to support the
13 investigation. But that alone is not a reason for the FBI
14 not to continue taking investigative steps that are within
15 its, you know, rules, or whatever.

16 And so, I think the goal was to essentially
17 communicate that. That, like, investigations don't get
18 shut down for improper reasons. And this investigation
19 was in fact not shut down or stood down, you know, to sort
20 of use the terminology that the reporter used.

21 [redacted] Did you understand from anything
22 that Mr. McCabe said to you that he was under pressure
23 from others within your office, even the Director or, you
24 know, anyone else, to convey that message; you know, we
25 need someone to get out there and say, we just don't do

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