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1 was conversations of starting Signal. I wasn't
2 using it at the time. I was being asked to download
3 it. I -- I -- I'd have to go through either
4 documents, or maybe my memory can be recollected
5 later, when I actually downloaded Signal and we
6 started communicating.

7 Q Who asked you to download Signal?

8 A So I had --

9 MR. FREEDMAN: If -- I would instruct you
10 not to answer --

11 THE WITNESS: Sure.

12 MR. FREEDMAN: -- to the extent this
13 invades the attorney-client privilege.

14 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. Well, initially
15 Stephanie Jones asked me to download Signal. She
16 used it frequently. And we were working together
17 with a client to -- who primarily used Signal. And
18 then after that client terminated us, I had
19 deactivated the app because I didn't use it for
20 anything else.

21 BY MS. TAHLER:

22 Q And after that deactivation, up until the
23 time of this lawsuit, did you reactivate Signal?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And why was that?

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1 A Again, it was -- I believe that this
2 would be attorney protected.

3 Q When was this?

4 A When? August. It would be August. I
5 don't recall when in August. I apologize. But it
6 would be August 2024.

7 Q An attorney instructed you to download
8 Signal?

9 A I don't believe the attorney -- an
10 attorney instructed me to download it, initially,
11 but my communications in Signal are with attorneys.

12 Q Which attorneys?

13 A My attorneys, Bryan Freedman, et al.

14 Q And you had Signal communications with
15 Mr. Freedman -- this is just a yes-or-no answer --

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q -- in August of 2024?

18 A I -- I believe a chain was started. I
19 don't think there were communications on that chain.

20 Q Was Mr. Freedman your personal attorney
21 in 2024?

22 A No.

23 Q Was he an attorney for Mr. Baldoni?

24 A He --

25 MR. FREEDMAN: Just to clarify, you're

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1 asking her in August '24, 2024, or anytime in 2024?

2 MS. TAHLER: I'm asking at this time, the
3 Signal chat.

4 MR. FREEDMAN: August '24?

5 MS. TAHLER: Yes.

6 MR. FREEDMAN: Listen to the question.

7 THE WITNESS: In August 2024, no.

8 BY MS. TAHLER:

9 Q Do you know whose client was
10 Mr. Freedman's in August of 2024?

11 A No.

12 Q The client that you referred to earlier
13 that you were communicating with via Signal with
14 Ms. Jones, was that [REDACTED]?

15 A No.

16 Q Who was it?

17 A Do you want to go on?

18 Q We're still on.

19 A Okay. Sorry. [REDACTED].

20 Q Did you ever communicate with [REDACTED]
21 on Signal?

22 A No.

23 Q With any of his people?

24 A I don't -- I don't recall [REDACTED] using
25 Signal. Stephanie asked that I download Signal

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1 specifically for our work on behalf of [REDACTED]
2 I don't recall if I ever used that app for [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 Q After downloading Signal in August of
5 2024, do you recall actually having communications
6 in it?

7 A No.

8 Q You don't recall one way or another, or
9 there weren't communications?

10 A I don't recall one way or another if
11 there were communications in Signal --

12 Q Do you know?

13 A -- in August.

14 Q Do you know how many people were part of
15 the chat that you've been testifying to in the
16 August 2024 time period?

17 A No, I don't. I just know that's when I
18 started Signal, and I don't recall start having any
19 communications in the app. That's when I opened the
20 app, or re-downloaded the app. Sorry.

21 Q In the chat with Mr. Freedman that you
22 referred to earlier, do you recall any others that
23 were in that chat?

24 A No, I don't. I just recall potentially
25 starting a thread, but I don't -- I don't believe we

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1 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection. Same
2 instruction.

3 THE WITNESS: Outside of that
4 instruction, no.

5 BY MS. TAHLER:

6 Q Do you believe that any security measures
7 were circumvented in accessing your iCloud?

8 A I am not sure. Sorry.

9 Q In your counterclaims, you assert -- or
10 allege that you were ordered to provide your
11 passcode to your company iPhone.

12 Who ordered you to provide your passcode?

13 A Gordon Duren, Stephanie's chief of staff.

14 Q What did he say?

15 A After I had clarified to both him and the
16 lawyer who was present that if I were to leave, that
17 they would release the number back to me if I were
18 to go directly to Verizon, which would then render
19 the cell phone inactive. I had specified to the
20 lawyer who was there that it was also my personal
21 phone.

22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Somebody from Liner's
23 office.

24 THE WITNESS: So as I said before, it was
25 communicated to me after I said, for clarity, it was

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1 agreed that my personal cell phone number would be
2 released back to me, which would render the phone
3 inactive. I clarified with the lawyer who was
4 present that it was my personal cell phone, that I
5 had private stuff on there. And Gordon says, "Yes,
6 right?" And looked at the lawyer, and the lawyer
7 said, "Yes, that's fine. It would render that phone
8 inactive." And so I said, okay. I handed it over.
9 And as I was walking out, Gordon says, "We need your
10 passcode."

11 Q What would have happened if you didn't
12 provide your passcode?

13 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

14 THE WITNESS: I don't know. It was my
15 assumption in the context of that conversation that
16 they needed the passcode in order to release the
17 phone back to me.

18 BY MS. TAHLER:

19 Q You provided your password, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You didn't ask, Oh, can I not give you my
22 passcode? I don't want to give you my passcode.
23 Anything like that?

24 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

25 THE WITNESS: I wasn't given a choice.

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1 A Yes.

2 Q What are strategic partnerships?

3 A I would say my definition of a strategic
4 partnership is when a client is coming out with a
5 product or is an ambassador of an organization or
6 clothing company, just to be specific, that that
7 would be a strategic partnership. And I would work
8 on behalf of my client to handle the communications
9 surrounding that partnership.

10 Q Okay. Thank you, Ms. Abel.

11 From -- let's say from the August 1st,
12 2024 through, let's call it, the end of
13 September 2024, that period of time, so we're
14 specific about the time period we're talking about
15 here. At some point during that period of time, RWA
16 launched; is that right?

17 A In September.

18 Q In September?

19 A So you have to be specific. Yes.

20 Q Okay. So let's just say whenever -- do
21 you know the date in September it launched?

22 A September 1st.

23 Q From September 1st through the end of
24 2024 then, did RWA have any other employees or staff
25 besides yourself?

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1 like the -- you know, you don't like the person's
2 past or their history or their reputation?

3 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

4 THE WITNESS: I think to better answer
5 your question, as a personal publicist, I'm able to
6 make decisions based on who I think I'm able to
7 represent based on my aligning values.

8 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

9 Q Okay. Do you typically do like a
10 background investigation or look into your clients
11 when you have new opportunities presented to you?

12 A I think the extent of my ability to do a
13 background investigation is to Google. I'm sure
14 I've done that in the past.

15 Q Okay. When did you first meet
16 Justin Baldoni?

17 A In 2020.

18 Q What were the circumstances in which you
19 met him?

20 A I became his publicist and started
21 running his account.

22 Q How did that come about?

23 A When I was employed at Jonesworks, I was
24 hired to oversee the entire talent and entertainment
25 department, and he was a talent client at that time.

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1 Q Okay. Do you remember when in 2020 this
2 was?

3 A I believe I was hired at the end of
4 July 2020. So it would have been sometime around
5 that time period.

6 Q And were -- were you introduced to
7 Mr. Baldoni through someone at Jonesworks or how --
8 how did that come about?

9 A I'm trying to remember -- I apologize --
10 the first time that I met him. I believe there was
11 a photo shoot and I came to set, and that was the
12 first time that we met. But again, I'm -- it's a
13 long time ago so I'd have to think more about that,
14 and I can correct that later.

15 Q Do you remember where that was?

16 A I do not. Sorry.

17 Q Did you meet anybody else at Wayfarer
18 Studios when you were brought in, in 2020 to work
19 with Mr. Baldoni?

20 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

21 THE WITNESS: So I don't recall the exact
22 date of when I was introduced to the Wayfarer team.
23 Yeah, I apologize. I don't recall the exact date.

24 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

25 Q At that time in 2020, were you

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1 representing Mr. Baldoni personally or Wayfarer
2 Studios or some combination of both?

3 A At Jonesworks, they were the same. They
4 were kind of the same contract, the same agreement.
5 So I oversaw them as one client.

6 Q Okay. When did you first meet
7 Jamey Heath?

8 A Again, I'd have to refresh my memory when
9 he joined Jonesworks. I apologize, I don't have
10 that date readily available.

11 Q Do you know what year it might have been
12 in?

13 A Yeah, I would say -- oh, gosh, time
14 flies. I would say probably around, to the best of
15 my recollection -- again, I -- sitting here today, I
16 may have to come back and correct this. I would say
17 2022.

18 Q Okay. How about Steve Sarowitz?

19 A Steve, I met much later. Actually, I
20 don't recall when I first met Steve. Yeah, I
21 apologize. I don't recall when I met Steve for the
22 first time.

23 Q Do you have any recollection of when you
24 first learned of Steve Sarowitz, of his existence?

25 A Of -- of course. When I was brought on

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1 at this time sitting here, but I'm happy to review
2 and I can speak to it.

3 Q Do you recall Mr. Baldoni comparing that
4 video or any other to one where he made a social
5 media post standing in front of a private jet during
6 a promotion of the film?

7 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

8 THE WITNESS: I -- so just for clarity, I
9 don't remember the comparison between the two. But
10 I do recall the video. They had done a deal with a
11 jet company to, during production as they needed to
12 get to locations quickly, and in support of the
13 film, they were able to do a deal with them to
14 assist them during production.

15 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

16 Q Okay. All right.

17 So we talked earlier about how you
18 started representing Mr. Baldoni and Wayfarer early
19 on. It was before filming of It Ends with Us began,
20 right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And during the filming of
23 It Ends with Us, did you ever visit the set?

24 A No.

25 Q How often did you talk to either

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1 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

2 Q Exhibit 57 is a document bearing the
3 Bates No. BALDONI_20412 through 20417. This appears
4 to be a text chain between you, Ms. Jones, Mr. Heath
5 and Mr. Baldoni, on November 10th, 2023?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And it starts around 9:53 p.m. and
8 concludes around 10:12 p.m.; is that right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And do you recall this conversation?

11 A I do.

12 Q And in this conversation, Mr. Baldoni
13 reaches out and he says he needs you and Ms. Jones
14 on a Zoom, right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And Mr. Heath says, "It begins again"?

17 A Yes.

18 MR. FREEDMAN: Are we missing a page
19 here? Goes from 2414 to 2416.

20 MS. TAUSTINE: It's this. It's the
21 picture of this bear.

22 MR. GOTTLIEB: It's missing an image from
23 the production. I will represent to you,
24 Mr. Freedman, it's a screenshot of this bear.

25 MR. FREEDMAN: I have that one here.

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1 MR. GOTTLIEB: Yeah.

2 MR. FREEDMAN: That's 24 -- that's 20413.

3 MR. GOTTLIEB: It's an entire page with
4 this reproduced on it.

5 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

6 Q What did mister -- what did you
7 understand Mr. Heath to mean by saying, "It begins
8 again"?

9 A I mean, at the time, I don't think I
10 really gave that much notice. But now in this
11 context, I assume additional issues.

12 Q Do you see at 10:11, at the bottom of
13 page 0414, Mr. Heath has forwarded to you a legal
14 letter, a screenshot of a legal letter, anyway, that
15 had been received from Ms. Lively's lawyer?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And in it, Ms. Lively's lawyer discusses
18 the complaints of our clients and others?

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q And do you see there is an attachment
21 that Mr. Heath had sent at 10:12 p.m.?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And that attachment is the protections
24 for return to production document, that is at
25 BALDONI_20416 and 20417?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you recall receiving these 17
3 protections for return to production?

4 A Yes. He texted it to us.

5 Q Do you recall reviewing them at the time?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you review all of them?

8 A We had a phone call, and we talked
9 through these.

10 Q And, in fact, there came other points in
11 time later on in the timeline, when you talked about
12 these points with Mr. Heath and Mr. Baldoni, right?

13 A You're going to have to be a little bit
14 more specific.

15 Q This wasn't the last time --
16 November 10th, 2023 was not the last time you
17 looked at this 17-point list, right?

18 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

19 THE WITNESS: Correct.

20 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

21 Q Eventually, you all devised sort of
22 responses or points to address these, should they
23 ever become public, right?

24 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

25 THE WITNESS: I believe that we put

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1 your belief that that person could bury Ms. Lively?

2 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

5 Q You sure?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Ms. Abel, yesterday you testified that in
8 some point in August of 2017, you were added to a
9 Signal chain; is that right?

10 A Sorry. What was the date?

11 Q At some point in -- did I say 2017?

12 THE STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER: Yeah.

13 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

14 Q In August of 2024, you were added to a
15 Signal chain with a few people; is that right?

16 A I believe I testified that I think I was,
17 around that time frame. I don't think there was any
18 content in that text chain.

19 Q Okay. And who was -- hold on just a
20 second.

21 Who was -- who was on that text chain to
22 the best of your recollection?

23 A I believe it was -- I would have to --
24 I'd have to go back and refresh my memory.

25 Q Okay. You're not sure as you sit here

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1 today?

2 A I'm not sure.

3 Q Did you -- is it fair to say you didn't
4 use Signal very often?

5 A Correct.

6 Q You didn't open the app very much? It
7 wasn't something you used on a regular daily basis;
8 is that your testimony?

9 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

10 THE WITNESS: I believe my testimony
11 yesterday was I had to re-download it because the
12 only time that I used it was when Stephanie
13 introduced me to the app for use on another client.
14 And I had deleted it.

15 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

16 Q You had deleted it.

17 And in August 20 -- August of 2024, at
18 some point, you reinstalled the app?

19 A I recall doing so, yes.

20 Q And you are on some chain that you don't
21 remember who was on it. And you don't remember
22 really what was sent or not sent?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Did you ever send a message on Signal in
25 August of 2024, to the best of your recollection?

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1 A I don't recall.

2 Q And the thing about that is, we'll never
3 know, right, because Signal is an ephemeral
4 messaging platform?

5 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

6 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

7 Q Do you know what an ephemeral messaging
8 platform is?

9 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

10 THE WITNESS: I know the definition of
11 ephemeral messaging, yes.

12 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

13 Q The messages delete after a certain
14 period of time if you have the settings set a
15 certain way, right?

16 A That is my understanding of how it works.

17 Q Sorry.

18 That's why some people like to use
19 Signal, right?

20 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

21 THE WITNESS: Sure.

22 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

23 Q Because it -- messages delete and,
24 therefore, there's perceived privacy in those
25 communications?

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1 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

2 THE WITNESS: Amongst other reasons, yes.

3 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

4 Q Security reasons?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Are you aware that Mr. Wallace was
7 communicating with your colleagues, or colleagues at
8 TAG or others at Wayfarer, using the Signal platform
9 in August of 2024?

10 A I don't recall if I was aware at the
11 time, but I have become aware of that since then.

12 Q Okay. What did you become aware of?

13 A The -- the usage of Signal amongst
14 Jed Wallace and other -- other people.

15 MR. GOTTLIEB: Okay. Let's look at
16 Exhibit 62.

17 (Exhibit 62 marked for identification.)

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 Q Ms. Abel, you've been handed a document
20 marked JONESWORKS 37247 through 37248, a text chain
21 between you and Stephanie Jones on June 17th,
22 2024.

23 Previously, I asked you if you had
24 recommended the retention of any other individuals
25 in this case because they could bury Ms. Lively.

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1 "So we can share with him tonight. But
2 he feels good about the call and he
3 feels protected."

4 Do you see that?

5 A Yes.

6 Q A few days earlier, he had told you he
7 didn't feel protected, right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And at this point, that's changed and he
10 does feel protected?

11 A This is in reference to specific
12 messaging regarding why the cast had unfollowed him
13 and there were no images as he was doing the Today
14 Show the following day.

15 MR. GOTTLIEB: Okay. So this is on
16 August 7th? I'm going to show you another
17 document. This is Exhibit 65.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay.

19 (Exhibit 65 marked for identification.)

20 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

21 Q This is a one-page document marked
22 HEATH 28187. It has an email from Katie Case that
23 you then forward on August 7th, 2024.

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you recognize this document?

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1 A I do.

2 Q And this is -- the top email is an email
3 that you send in reply to Ms. Case; is that right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And at 2:50 p.m. on the 7th, Ms. Case had
6 sent to Mr. Heath and yourself specifics regarding
7 social and digital mitigation or mediation, right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And she's describing the work that the
10 digital team that Wayfarer was retaining would do,
11 right?

12 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, this looks like a list
14 of their capabilities.

15 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

16 Q You see at the top, you're discussing --
17 you have a question about the amount of the fee.
18 And then you have a reference to what we discussed
19 with MN earlier regarding social manipulation.

20 Do you see that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q MN is Ms. Nathan?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And then you say:

25 (As read):

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1 "From the separate team based in
2 Hawaii."

3 Do you see that?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What is the separate team based in
6 Hawaii?

7 A I don't mean to laugh, but we've
8 discussed this and it was either a misunderstanding
9 on my side or I misheard, but I had a conversation
10 with Melissa regarding a digital team that she had
11 worked with, and it was my understanding that they
12 were based in Hawaii.

13 Q Okay. And did you later come to learn
14 that there was no team based in Hawaii?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Was there a separate team?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And that separate team, not in Hawaii,
19 was something that you had discussed regarding
20 social manipulation.

21 Do you see that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Who was the separate team?

24 A It's my understanding that this was Jed
25 and Streets Relations.

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1 Q What was your understanding of who else
2 worked at Street Relations or with Street Relations
3 other than Jed Wallace?

4 A I had no communications directly with Jed
5 or Street Relations, so I'm not sure.

6 Q You were never on a call with
7 Mr. Wallace?

8 A No, not that I can recall.

9 Q Did you ever meet him?

10 A No.

11 Q You ever on a text chain with him?

12 A I don't think so, no.

13 Q Was it your impression that the specific
14 efforts that are described in the bullet points in
15 Ms. Case's email were services that Mr. Wallace's
16 team was capable of performing?

17 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

18 MR. GLOVER: Objection. Form.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, as I said earlier, it
20 was my understanding this is a list of their
21 capabilities.

22 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

23 Q Did you think at the time that this was
24 all puffery?

25 A Explain what you mean by "puffery."

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1 THE WITNESS: No, I believe that was a
2 continuation of the recommendation that was
3 requested earlier. And I had clearly brought -- I
4 asked for Melissa's opinion. I don't think that was
5 the --

6 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

7 Q Ms. Abel?

8 A Yes.

9 Q You say at 10:32 p.m., in response to
10 Ms. Nathan saying "can he please hire a lawyer," you
11 say:

12 (As read) :

13 "He needs to. He has one but he needs
14 a litigator."

15 A Right. But I don't think that was the
16 impetus. I'm sorry. I'm just trying to respond to
17 your question.

18 Q Okay. All I'm asking is: Following your
19 learning about the request to put out a statement,
20 you and Ms. Nathan immediately say that your client,
21 Mr. Baldoni and Wayfarer, needs to hire a litigator.
22 You both agree on that, right?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Okay. And then at 11:42 p.m., Ms. Nathan
25 says:

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1 (As read) :

2 "Can I start a Signal thread with you,
3 me, and Jed just in case you need him
4 to connect you to Bryan because they
5 are very close?"

6 Do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Does that refresh your recollection as to
9 who the Signal thread you were on was with in August
10 of 2024?

11 A Yes. But, again, I don't know if one was
12 actually started. So I -- I would have to refresh
13 my memory on that.

14 Q Okay. And on the next page 2156,
15 Ms. Nathan says "Definitely contact him on" --
16 sorry, to have context for that. At 11:43 p.m. on
17 the previous page, you say:

18 (As read) :

19 "I can reach out to Bryan too. We've
20 worked together."

21 Right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And that's referring to Mr. Freedman?

24 A Sorry. I'm on the wrong page.

25 Yes.

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1 Q Okay. And then at 11:44 p.m., Ms. Nathan
2 says:

3 (As read) :

4 "Definitely contact him on Signal
5 though."

6 Do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q She says:

9 (As read)

10 "Feel free to add me obviously because
11 of the crisis."

12 So Ms. Nathan is telling you definitely
13 connect with Mr. Freedman on Signal.

14 Do you see that?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And, again, Mr. Freedman is not your
17 lawyer at this point in time; is that right?

18 A That is correct.

19 Q Did you think it was strange that you
20 were being directed to contact an attorney on
21 Signal?

22 A No.

23 Q Is that something you've been asked to do
24 before? Contact an attorney on Signal?

25 A I don't recall, no.

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

3 Q All I'm asking, Ms. Abel, is you didn't
4 tell anyone, don't look at my Signal messages,
5 right?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. So if you had them, presumably --
8 and they were responsive, they would have been
9 produced to us, right?

10 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

11 THE WITNESS: I believe so, yes.

12 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

13 Q And, again, Signal is a messaging
14 platform where messages delete after a certain
15 period of time, right?

16 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 MR. GOTTLIEB: Handing you what's been
19 marked as Exhibit 70.

20 (Exhibit 70 marked for identification.)

21 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

22 Q This is a document bearing the Bates Nos.
23 JONESWORKS 14019 through 14029.

24 And, Ms. Abel, I'm only going to be
25 asking you about questions starting with messages on

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1 your email accounts?

2 A I -- I don't -- I don't know.

3 Q Do you know, for example, whether your
4 RWA email account deletes information after a
5 certain period of time?

6 A I do not know.

7 Q Did you ever, at any point, go check
8 whether the RWA account has an auto delete feature
9 on it?

10 A I don't believe it does, but I did not
11 specifically check.

12 Q Did you ever receive an instruction to
13 discontinue any deletion, auto delete functions that
14 might exist on your accounts?

15 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection. I will
16 instruct you not to answer as to any communications
17 you had with counsel. Other than counsel, did you
18 get an instruction from someone?

19 THE WITNESS: No.

20 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

21 Q Did you come to understand at any time,
22 Ms. Abel, that you had an obligation to preserve
23 documents relating to the dispute between Ms. Lively
24 and Mr. Baldoni?

25 MR. FREEDMAN: Same instruction as it

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1 will invade the attorney-client privilege. So even
2 if you're going to say yes to that, that's going to
3 invade the attorney-client privilege. So you're not
4 going to -- I'm going to instruct her not to answer.

5 MR. GOTTLIEB: About the simple fact of
6 whether she knew she was required to preserve
7 documents?

8 MR. FREEDMAN: Yeah, because the simple
9 fact is revealing the actual privileged
10 communication.

11 MR. GOTTLIEB: Okay.

12 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

13 Q So are you going to follow your counsel's
14 instruction?

15 A Yes, I'm going to follow my counsel's
16 instruction.

17 Q Okay.

18 Other than the Signal thread that you --
19 that we talked about earlier in August, between
20 August and December of 2024, can you think of any
21 other Signal thread or Signal communications that
22 you sent or received to anyone about anything?

23 A Not that I can recall, no.

24 Q Okay. Have you had Signal communications
25 since December of 2024?

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1 A December 2024 until now?

2 Q Yes.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And how many different Signal chains or
5 threads do you have going at any one time now?

6 A I -- I don't recall. I don't know.

7 Q Have those Signal communications included
8 communications about the issues in this case?

9 A To clarify, I have with my attorneys.

10 Q Okay. Have any of those communications
11 been about the press?

12 A I don't recall.

13 Q Have you communicated with Mr. Wallace on
14 Signal at any time from December of 2024 to the
15 present?

16 A With inclusion of my attorneys.

17 Q So the answer is yes?

18 A Yes. With inclusion of my attorneys.

19 Q Okay. Have you communicated with
20 Mr. Wallace outside of any threads including your
21 attorneys?

22 A Not that I can recall.

23 Q Have -- since the lawsuit was filed, have
24 you taken any steps -- not talking about any
25 conversations or advice you have received -- but

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1 have you taken any steps personally to ensure that
2 your communications are preserved?

3 MR. FREEDMAN: Other than what you've
4 learned from counsel, you can answer, if you've
5 taken steps outside of what we discussed.

6 THE WITNESS: I've produced documents as
7 requested.

8 MR. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Freedman, she can
9 testify about what she's done, even if she's
10 discussed what she's done with you. That's clearly
11 not privileged.

12 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

13 Q And so my question is: Can you think of
14 anything that you have done -- I don't want to know
15 about what you talked to your lawyers about. But
16 can you think of anything you have done, any steps
17 you have taken outside of conversations you've had
18 with counsel, but actual things you've done to
19 preserve your documents, your electronic
20 communications in this case?

21 A Yes. And I apologize, I thought I
22 answered. I've produced everything as requested.

23 Q Okay. So my question is a little bit
24 different. So --

25 A Okay.

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1 Q -- I understand you're saying you
2 produced what you found. My question is: At any
3 point in time, do you have a recollection of taking
4 steps to ensure that nothing would be deleted, no
5 auto delete functions would be on, no messages would
6 expire from a set period of time or the like,
7 anything like that?

8 MR. FREEDMAN: Same instruction as to
9 attorney-client privilege. If you can answer it
10 outside of that, you can answer it.

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I don't think I can
12 answer it.

13 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

14 Q Are you aware that you have produced four
15 Signal communications to us in this case?

16 MR. FREEDMAN: Again, if you're aware of
17 it based on something you learned from counsel, I
18 would like you not to provide that information. If
19 you're aware of it some other way, you can answer.

20 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of it any
21 other way.

22 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

23 Q Do you know that there are Signal
24 communications that you have been copied on that
25 have been produced to us in this case that you have

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1 not produced to us in this case?

2 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

5 Q Did you have Signal communications with
6 Sage Steele in early January of 2025?

7 A I don't recall by Signal.

8 Q But you had some communications that you
9 recall with Sage Steele in early January 2025?

10 A Yes, I -- I recall Sage had reached out
11 to us. She -- this case personally resonated with
12 her. I believe she had a brother who was falsely
13 accused, and she expressed interest in wanting to
14 support in our defense.

15 Q And do you know that you had Signal
16 communications with Ms. Koslow and Ms. Nathan in
17 January of 2025 that did not include your attorneys?

18 MR. FREEDMAN: Objection.

19 THE WITNESS: In -- in January? I don't
20 recall.

21 BY MR. GOTTLIEB:

22 Q Okay. But your testimony is you've
23 produced to us everything that could be found in
24 your phone that was responsive to our request,
25 right?

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1 "Wasn't his story."

2 Meaning James.

3 (As read):

4 "No it's not his name. Fuck ours is
5 way better."

6 Do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Meaning, our story that Ms. Nathan is
9 communicating?

10 A Again, it could be one that she
11 contributed to, meaning, we were getting incoming
12 commentary, asking for commentary. We were
13 balancing stories left and right.

14 Q You really were not told that TAG was
15 placing a story with The Daily Mail?

16 A No, I was not. And, actually, I would
17 like to add to that, that not only were we not told,
18 we were given explicit instructions from our client
19 to not place any story that was negative about Blake
20 or otherwise. Our main focus was to mitigate the
21 negative press that was breaking, organically, from
22 the press tour.

23 Q Ms. Abel, on the next page with 5:20, at
24 the top, do you see a text message between
25 Ms. Nathan and James Vituscka?