1	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNT	Page 1 Y, ILLINOIS
2	COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY D	VIVISION
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4	RITCHIE MULTI-STRATEGIES GLOBAL, LLC,	)
5	by and through its Managing Member,	)
6	RITCHIE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC,	)
7	et al.,	)
8		)
9	Plaintiffs,	)
10	vs.	)No. 18 CH 6001
11	HUIZENGA MANAGERS FUND, LLC; HUIZENGA	)
12	CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC; WILLIAMS,	)
13	MONTGOMERY & JOHN, LTD.; CHRISTOPHER	)
14	BARBER; GARY GARNER; and JONATHAN	)
15	D. MILLER,	)
16	Defendants.	)
17		
18		
19	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS ha	d in the
20	above-entitled cause on August 26, 201	9, at
21	10:00 a.m.	
22		
23	BEFORE: HONORABLE SANJAY T. TAILOR.	
24		

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1	APPEARANCES:	Page	2
2			
3	WINSTON & STRAWN, LLP,		
4	(35 West Wacker Drive, Suite 4100,		
5	Chicago, Illinois 60601,		
6	312-558-5600), by:		
7	MR. DAN K. WEBB,		
8	dwebb@winston.com,		
9	MR. SEAN G. WIEBER,		
10	swieber@winston.com,		
11	MR. KEVIN P. SIMPSON,		
12	ksimpson@winston.com,		
13	appeared on behalf of Plaintiffs		
14	Ritchie Multi-Strategies Global, LLC,	and	
15	Ritchie Capital Management, LLC;		
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1	APPEARANCES: (Continued) Page 3
2	
3	WILLIAMS, MONTGOMERY & JOHN, LTD.,
4	(233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 6800,
5	Chicago, Illinois 60606-6359,
6	312-443-3200), by:
7	MR. CHRISTOPHER J. BARBER,
8	cjb@willmont.com,
9	MR. GARY W. GARNER,
10	gwg@willmont.com,
11	MR. JONATHAN D. MILLER,
12	jm@willmont.com,
13	MR. STEPHEN A. FRASER,
14	<pre>saf@willmont.com,</pre>
15	appeared on behalf of Defendants Williams,
16	Montgomery & John, Ltd., Christopher
17	Barber, Gary Garner, and Jonathan Miller;
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1	APPEARANCES: (Continued)
2	
3	CHAPMAN SPINGOLA, LLP,
4	(190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3850,
5	Chicago, Illinois 60603,
6	312-630-9202), by:
7	MS. SARA SIEGALL,
8	ssiegall@chapmanspingola.com,
9	appeared on behalf of Respondents
10	Clayborne & Wagner, LLP, f/k/a Clayborne,
11	Sabo & Wagner, LLP; B. Jay Dowling; John
12	Sabo.
13	
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22	REPORTED BY:
23	DINA G. MANCILLAS, CSR, RPR, CRR, CLR
24	CSR No. 84-3400

1	THE COURT: Are all parties here on	Page
2	Ritchie versus Huizenga?	
3	MR. BARBER: Yes, Your Honor.	
4	THE COURT: Step up.	
5	MR. WIEBER: Sean Wieber from Winston	
6	on behalf of plaintiff.	
7	MR. WEBB: Dan Webb from Winston on	
8	behalf of the RMSG entity.	
9	MR. BARBER: Good morning, Your Honor.	
10	Chris Barber, Jon Miller, Gary	
11	Garner on behalf of defendants.	
12	THE COURT: Okay. So just to review	
13	with you folks what I read to make sure I've	
14	read everything.	
15	I have the original petition for	
16	fees and costs. I don't have a date on that,	
17	but and there was a supplemental affidavit	
18	regarding fees and costs. It looks like it's	
19	dated June 31st, 2019.	
20	Then there was the plaintiffs'	
21	response filed on May 17th, 2019; defendants'	
22	reply filed on June 7th, 2019; a second	
23	supplemental affidavit filed on July 10th,	
24	2019; plaintiffs' supplemental response filed	

Page 6 on July 25th, 2019; and the defendants' 1 2 response filed on August 8th, 2019. 3 Are those all the papers that are 4 for today's hearing? MR. WIEBER: Your Honor, I believe 5 that's -- there's -- I was checking off as 6 7 you were going through. I think there was only one other 8 9 paper filed, which was July 18th of '19, 10 which was CSW's -- that's the attorney 11 respondents -- response to the fee petition. 12 That was largely, in sort of a 13 colloquial sense, a "me too" motion. 14 THE COURT: Okay. 15 MR. WIEBER: I don't think they added 16 any additional substantive arguments that 17 were different than the plaintiff. 18 MR. BARBER: That's correct. 19 THE COURT: So this was the attorneys 20 from the Clayborne firm? 21 MR. WIEBER: Correct. 22 THE COURT: Are they here today? So we 23 should probably -- do we know if they're 24 coming?

Page 7 MR. WIEBER: I don't know if they are 1 2 coming. THE COURT: Well, why don't we do this. 3 4 Why don't we wait a few minutes 5 to make sure we give them the opportunity to 6 come. That's fine. Thank you. MR. WEBB: 7 (A recess was had from 8 10:01 a.m. until 10:05 a.m.) 9 10 THE COURT: Step up, folks. Good 11 morning. 12 MS. SIEGALL: Good morning, Your Honor. 13 Sara Siegall for the Clayborne respondents. 14 15 THE COURT: And everyone else has their 16 appearances on the record. 17 So I've read the papers. It's 18 your petition. What else would you like to 19 add? 20 MR. BARBER: Just a couple points, Your 21 Honor. 22 We're technically here on a 23 hearing to determine the amount of sanctions 24 to be entered under Rule 137, the amount of

1	damages to be awarded under Section 11-110	Page 8
2	that's the motion to dissolve and then	
3	finally a continuation of this sort of	
4	never-ending saga on the propriety of the	
5	order granting our motion to dissolve.	
6	On the issue of sanctions, I had	
7	the, I guess, misfortune to have to read	
8	through everything from start to finish over	
9	the past couple days.	
10	And the objections to the 1137	
11	fee petition can pretty much be summed up as	
12	follows. First, the plaintiffs go through	
13	and categorize all the \$458,016.17 worth of	
14	fees using a keyword search. These are the	
15	two affidavits submitted by Ms. Dunkley.	
16	And the vast majority of them	
17	basically object to fees that they claim	
18	should never have been incurred in the first	
19	place. And this relates to the appeal of the	
20	motion to dissolve, the endless arguments on	
21	the motion to dissolve, the unsealing order	
22	and their opposition to it. It goes on and	
23	on and on and on. And	
24	THE COURT: Speaking of unsealing, is	

August 26, 2019

1	there anything that currently remains under	Page 9
2	seal?	
3	MR. BARBER: No.	
4	THE COURT: Okay.	
5	MR. BARBER: No. But at the end of the	
6	day, under the Dayan case versus Merrill	
7	Lynch, when you've got a complaint and an	
8	action that's sanctionable at its core and	
9	this Court has found that this action was and	
10	the plaintiffs have conceded that the	
11	sanctions relate to the complaint and action	
12	as a whole you do not engage in what I	
13	would colloquially refer to as a "ticky-tack"	
14	analysis of this amount or that amount, that	
15	the fees in total are recoverable win, lose,	
16	or draw.	
17	We actually, I think, prevailed	
18	on every single thing we filed in this case,	
19	other than that original motion to have it	
20	transferred as a related case to Judge Flynn,	
21	but to underscore sort of the ridiculousness	
22	of the objections that we've seen, a couple	
23	of points.	
24	The appeal on the motion to	

1	dissolve, they object to all of those fees.	Page 10
2	Much of the time we spent in connection with	
3	the appeal of the motion to dissolve was	
4	literally helping our colleagues from	
5	Winston & Strawn get the appellate record	
6	correct because they filed an incorrect	
7	appellate record initially, relying on what	
8	Mr. Dowling had told them, and get their	
9	petition correct because they filed a	
10	petition that contained a number of clearly	
11	false statements. And we pointed that out to	
12	them and helped them get that correct.	
13	They're asking that all that be disallowed as	
14	a sanction.	
15	In addition, they have this	
16	category called "costs unrelated to this	
17	action," or, "not directly related to this	
18	action." It's between the two Dunkley	
19	affidavits. It adds up to just a hair under	
20	\$60,000. Let me find the exact number.	
21	If you go through \$59,914. If	
22	you go through those two affidavits, you will	
23	find that every single one of those time	
24	entries that they object to as being	

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		Page 11
1	"unrelated to this action" are clearly	-
2	related to this action, preparing for	
3	hearings here, drafting pleadings for this	
4	case, drafting pleadings on appeal, etc.,	
5	etc.	
6	There are two time entries that	
7	they refer to in the supplemental petition,	
8	one for .1 hours, \$50, and the other for 1.5	
9	hours that they say are unrelated to this	
10	case.	
11	One relates it's a reference	
12	in a .3-hour time entry to the a Dentons	
13	case. They assign .1. That's 50 bucks. And	
14	then there's another reference in a	
15	three-hour time entry, they assigned half of	
16	that, or an hour and a half, for putting	
17	together a list of the attorneys 29 law	
18	firms that have represented Mr. Ritchie in	
19	these proceedings so far.	
20	A, that, first of all, was done	
21	in connection with this case at the client's	
22	request. And, secondly, it was not an hour	
23	and a half. It was probably about a	
24	half-hour.	

		Page 12
1	The bottom line is, of the	
2	\$60,000 in fees they're asking to be	
3	disallowed because they're, quote, "not	
4	associated with this case," literally, it's	
5	500 bucks total that is even arguably	
6	indirectly related to this case out of that	
7	60,000.	
8	So with respect to the objections	
9	to the fee petitions, under Dayan, none of it	
10	is valid. All of it was done in connection	
11	with this case.	
12	And the only other argument that	
13	I'd like to comment on that they make is this	
14	notion that all fees incurred after May I	
15	believe it's 28th of 2018, they moved to	
16	voluntarily nonsuit their case should be	
17	disallowed because all of that would never	
18	have been incurred but for if we had just	
19	accepted their nonsuit motion.	
20	Number one, much of the fees	
21	incurred after that point would have been	
22	incurred whether the case was nonsuited or	
23	not because most of the time relates to the	
24	motion to dissolve and arguments on the	

		_
1	motion for sanctions, number one, but, number	Page
2	two, this notion that this case would have	
3	been over with if we had just let these	
4	people nonsuit their case is patently	
5	ridiculous, and everyone in this room knows	
6	it.	
7	This case they had no	
8	intention of ending this case. There was	
9	never any acknowledgement that this complaint	
10	was a fraud on the Court. There was never	
11	any acknowledgement that the complaint	
12	basically included any number of false or	
13	half-truth statements.	
14	They just want to run away from	
15	this Court and start this thing up again in a	
16	Delaware Court. So the notion that we would	
17	never have incurred these fees is ridiculous.	
18	We just would have incurred them in front of	
19	a Delaware Court instead of here.	
20	So we believe that under the	
21	Dayan case, none of their objections have any	
22	merit to our fee petitions and that the Court	
23	should enter, with respect to the 137	
24	sanctions, an award in the amount of	

1	\$458,016.17 on the sanctions issue.	Page
2	So now comes the one and only	
3	interesting issue in connection with this	
4	whole proceeding. In addition to finding	
5	that the matter was sanctionable at its core,	
6	the Court also granted our motion to	
7	dissolve, which is the subject of this	
8	ongoing motion to vacate.	
9	The 137 motion is punitive in	
10	nature. The motion under 11-110 is	
11	compensatory in nature. There's all kinds of	
12	case law noting that attorneys' fees spent	
13	pursuing the motion to dissolve and fees	
14	related to that are properly awarded as	
15	damages, compensatory damages, under that	
16	statutory provision. I don't think anyone	
17	argues with that.	
18	And so, therefore, it is our	
19	position that we are also entitled to an	
20	award of damages, compensatory damages,	
21	relating to those fees. And to find those	
22	fees, what I did over the weekend was look at	
23	the Dunkley affidavits. And specifically in	
24	the supplemental response at Page 7,	
1		

1	Ms. Dunkley calculates the total fees and	Page 15
2	costs associated with pursuing the motion to	
3	dissolve at \$65,383.50. That's Exhibit 24C	
4	in the original affidavit, 24D in the	
5	original affidavit, and 25E in her	
6	supplemental affidavit.	
7	That is Ms. Dunkley's calculation	
8	of all fees associated with the motion to	
9	dissolve. And I will tell you right now that	
10	is a light having reviewed all the papers	
11	over the weekend, that number is light.	
12	There is there's literally	
13	been four arguments on the propriety and	
14	mootness of a motion to dissolve. It started	
15	way back in connection with the motion to	
16	nonsuit. It continued on in connection with	
17	the motion to dissolve and the motion for	
18	sanctions.	
19	There was supplemental briefing	
20	on it. There was the appeal on that issue,	
21	and now there's been the motion to vacate,	
22	which is the subject of supplemental	
23	briefing, and, I think, a total of at least	
24	two arguments.	

		Page
1	THE COURT: The fees that you're	
2	seeking on the under Section 11-110 in the	
3	amount of 65,000 and some change, you	
4	acknowledge that those are encompassed within	
5	the fees that you're requesting under	
6	Rule 137, the \$458,000?	
7	MR. BARBER: Absolutely, yes.	
8	THE COURT: Okay. So putting aside the	
9	label "compensatory" and "punitive," it is	
10	duplicative.	
11	MR. BARBER: Agreed.	
12	THE COURT: Okay.	
13	MR. BARBER: Agreed, but these cases	
14	that we cite stand for the proposition that	
15	where you have a statute where the damages	
16	are compensatory in nature, and then you've	
17	got punitive damages, which is what 137 is,	
18	it's completely appropriate to award them,	
19	even if they're duplicative, because of the	
20	differing nature of the two damage awards,	
21	one being compensatory and one being	
22	punitive, but we would ask that the Court	
23	THE COURT: So this case that you cite	
24	is a case you cite in your response filed on	

1	August 8th.	Page 17
	-	
2	MR. BARBER: It's Greeley	
3	THE COURT: You cite Winters versus	
4	Greeley, 189 Ill. App. 3d, 590 and 595 to	
5	600.	
б	And the parenthetical is,	
7	"Allowing double recovery where one source of	
8	relief is compensatory and the other is	
9	punitive." What's the context of that case?	
10	MR. BARBER: It's a defamation case.	
11	THE COURT: Okay.	
12	MR. BARBER: And it involved a	
13	semi-public figure, or a public figure, so	
14	that, in essence, the only way to award	
15	compensatory damages was to make a finding	
16	that there had been malice and willful	
17	conduct.	
18	And the defendants in that action	
19	alleged that the damages that had been	
20	awarded as compensatory damages, which were	
21	the same that were awarded as punitive, were,	
22	in essence, duplicative because the standard	
23	for reliability for compensatory damages was,	
24	in essence, the same as the standard for	

Page 18 1 punitive damages. 2 So it was a double recovery. 3 That was their argument, and the Court held, 4 One is compensatory in nature. "No. The 5 other is punitive in nature. And, therefore, 6 even though everyone agrees they're duplicative, the award of both is proper." 7 And so our argument under these 8 9 statutes is that the damages under the 10 dissolution statute are --11 THE COURT: Did you request what you 12 concede are duplicative damages in your 13 original petition, or is this raised for the first time somewhere in the course of this 14 15 briefing? 16 MR. BARBER: Well, actually, we 17 requested damages -- attorneys' fees damages 18 in connection with the motion to dissolve. And this issue -- if you want to 19 20 call it double recovery issue has been argued 21 in all of the papers in connection with the 22 sanctions award. 23 MR. WIEBER: And just briefly on that, I think the answer -- the direct answer to 24

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1	the question is, no, it was not in the	Page 19
2	original petition. It was in a footnote in	
3	one of the supplemental submissions.	
4	THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.	
5	MR. BARBER: So I saw it mentioned in	
6	our original brief, and I saw it mentioned in	
7	our supplemental brief in connection with	
8	137. And I see, in connection with our	
9	motion to dissolve, a request for attorneys'	
10	fees damages, which I think everyone concedes	
11	is the normal measure of damages associated	
12	with these things, one of the normal measures	
13	of damages.	
14	So I believe the issue has been	
15	in front of the Court all along, and the	
16	bottom line is, I think the Court is right.	
17	They are duplicative. They're different in	
18	nature, and we would request that they be	
19	awarded, in essence, both as a punitive	
20	sanction under 137 and as compensatory	
21	damages under 11-110.	
22	THE COURT: Well, so the 137	
23	provides for attorneys' fees as a punitive	
24	measure, which is also intended to compensate	

1	the other gide for its emerges in defending	Page 20
	the other side for its expenses in defending	
2	against frivolous claims or claims that were	
3	brought to for no legitimate purpose, such	
4	as to harass or obstruct.	
5	So if that's the case, the	
6	Rule 137 damages that you're seeking in the	
7	amount of 458,000, they would have a punitive	
8	as well as a compensatory character, wouldn't	
9	it?	
10	MR. BARBER: Correct. And if the Court	
11	disagrees with our argument I mean, like I	
12	said, we've cited the cases that we think	
13	support this notion, but at the end of the	
14	day	
15	THE COURT: So that defamation case,	
16	was that an instance where compensatory and	
17	punitive damages were identical?	
18	MR. BARBER: I believe that's correct.	
19	THE COURT: And the compensatory	
20	damages, were they nominal in that case, do	
21	you recall?	
22	MR. BARBER: They were special damages.	
23	Do you have a copy of that, Steve?	
24	Yeah. So in that case, they	

1	awarded presumed special damages as	Page 21
2	compensatory damages, and then I believe	
3	I've got to find it. I want to make sure	
4	it's the same amount. I can't tell, from	
5	what I see, if the amounts were identical,	
6	but the defendants were definitely arguing	
7	that the punitive damages were duplicative	
8	either in whole or in part with respect to	
9	the compensatory damages that were awarded.	
10	THE COURT: Can I see the case?	
11	MR. BARBER: Here's an unmarked one.	
12	(Document tendered.)	
13	THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you	
14	want to tell me?	
15	MR. BARBER: No, other than the same	
16	matter actually came up in front of Judge	
17	Flynn in connection with the motion to the	
18	sanctions petition in connection with the	
19	motion to vacate his judgment, and he	
20	suggested that the same outcome was a	
21	possibility.	
22	I understand the Court's point,	
23	which is, 137 damages are punitive, but the	
24	measure is designed to compensate the	

1	victim's attorneys for their attorneys' fees.	Page 22
2	I get that, but at the end of the day, I	
3	think everyone agrees that a 137 sanction is	
4	punitive in nature, and I think everyone	
5	agrees that the damage remedy under 110 is	
6	compensatory in nature.	
7	And so I don't think it would be	
8	inappropriate to, in essence, double-count	
9	those damages because it certainly sends the	
10	message that we're trying to send in	
11	connection with 137, that there ought to be	
12	some punitive nature associated with this	
13	kind of behavior.	
14	And quite frankly, as the Court	
15	has noted before, the conduct in this case is	
16	over the top because I read through these	
17	pleadings again. It's really difficult to	
18	sort of wrap your head around the notion	
19	that, "Oh, this is we've tried to avoid	
20	this fight."	
21	When you look through the	
22	pleadings that were filed in this case, there	
23	are some incredibly aggressive positions that	
24	are taken. Admittedly, they're walked back	

1	in oral argument. They say, "Oh, we're not	Page 23
2	seeking that now. We're not seeing this	
3	now," but at the end of the day, there are	
4	some very aggressive positions taken in	
5	writing.	
6	And the notion that they were	
7	just trying to end this thing back in	
8	May last year is just patently untrue. In	
9	fact, after they moved for nonsuit, they	
10	actually filed an ARDC complaint against all	
11	of us, amongst other things, talking about	
12	our conduct in connection with this case.	
13	So I don't believe for a minute	
14	that they were trying to resolve anything,	
15	and I think that the message needs to be sent	
16	that when you're engaging in this kind of	
17	conduct, there is a penalty to be paid.	
18	And I think that, in essence,	
19	double-counting that \$77,731 in motion	
20	dissolved damages would be sending that	
21	message.	
22	That's all I have on those two	
23	issues, Judge.	
24	THE COURT: Anything else you want to	

Page 24 tell me? 1 2 MR. BARBER: Unless you want me to go 3 on to the motion to vacate, which is also continued to today. 4 5 THE COURT: No. Mr. Webb or Mr. Wieber? 6 MR. WEBB: Yes, Your Honor. Dan Webb 7 on behalf of the plaintiff here. 8 9 Mr. Barber started by, I guess, suggesting that we are making endless 10 11 arguments as to why their conduct, after a 12 certain point, is far beyond what Illinois law allows, but I didn't make Illinois law. 13 The cases that we cite, in simple 14 15 terms, to get -- they got the burden of proof on 137 sanctions. The case law is that there 16 17 is strict causation applied, strict 18 causation. 19 So just think about it for a 20 I'm just going to talk about three minute. things that happened in this case as far as 21 22 whether they really wanted to end it. 23 First of all -- and why we've 24 been -- the first thing that happened in this

1	case, Your Honor, is that they they're	Page 25
2	down in St. Clair County on March 21 after	
3	all this happened, after this according to	
4	them, this awful complaint was filed and the	
5	TRO got entered.	
6	And they're down there, and they	
7	originally filed two motions in front of	
8	Judge Katz, the judge down there. And they	
9	basically ask him to dissolve the TRO because	
10	it was improper and the complaint was	
11	improper, and they wanted to transfer it to	
12	Chicago, but when they got to court that day,	
13	they changed their mind. They told the judge	
14	they didn't really want him to rule on the	
15	motion to dissolve. They wanted just to	
16	transfer the case to Chicago.	
17	And the question as far as who	
18	wants to continue to litigate this case, who	
19	doesn't want to ever end this case, I don't	
20	know why on March 21, while they're down	
21	there in St. Clair County in front of Judge	
22	Katz, why didn't they just tell Judge Katz	
23	that they wanted to pursue their motion to	
24	dissolve on a merits hearing, which they	

1	would have had within what, two days, four	Page 26
2	days I don't know when. They would have	
3	got a hearing immediately on their contention	
4	you should have dissolved the TRO. And if	
5	they got the hearing, they could have raised	
6	all this stuff, all this stuff that we now	
7	have been liti this case got transferred	
8	to Cook County, and we've been now 17 months	
9	in litigating in Cook County, 17 months.	
10	And I haven't argued that it	
11	could have all ended right there on the	
12	merits right there, and we wouldn't have to	
13	have any of this. I haven't really made that	
14	argument, okay? I mean, I really didn't	
15	because I recognize that the complaint didn't	
16	actually get brought before Your Honor in a	
17	motion until May 9th.	
18	So I thought I took a reasonable	
19	approach. I focused on May 9th as the date	
20	on which causation cannot be applied after	
21	that date. May 9th is a date we came in on a	
22	motion to voluntarily dismiss.	
23	It's clear at that point they had	
24	a strategy decision to make. They could have	

1	gotten rid of this entire case right then and	Page 27
2	gone forward with the motion for sanctions	
3	and a fee petition right then. The complaint	
4	would have been dismissed. The TRO had	
5	already been expired as a matter of law.	
6	So the TRO is gone. And on	
7	May 9th, they could have come into court and	
8	said, "All right. We'll take a dismissal of	
9	this case."	
10	They said, "No." Now, what was	
11	the reason? And they had a right to make	
12	this decision, but not under sanction law.	
13	They made a strategic decision	
14	that they wanted to proceed and get this case	
15	dismissed with prejudice because it gave them	
16	an advantage in other litigation between the	
17	same parties.	
18	So they made a strategic decision	
19	that day that for benefits they were going to	
20	receive, they hoped, in other litigation,	
21	under res judicata, they wanted to proceed by	
22	going through a tremendous amount of	
23	litigation over the next 14 months here in	
24	Cook County in order to get a strategic	
1		

Page 28 1 advantage over that. 2 And I don't believe, under 3 Illinois law, under these cases of strict 4 causation, everything after May 9th is 5 clearly not caused because of the sanctionable conduct. 6 You said there's -- here's what 7 8 you said was wrong. In March, March 2018, 9 what happened --10 THE COURT: Let me stop you, Mr. Webb. 11 Your argument is that the 12 defendants made this strategic decision to 13 seek a ruling from this Court, but it's the plaintiff who created that situation by 14 15 filing the multiple lawsuits regarding the 16 same matter. 17 So why is it that this May 9th 18 date is so vital? I mean --19 MR. WEBB: Well, actually, Your Honor, 20 I think the parties -- the parties had a 21 right -- we had a right to institute Delaware 22 litigation. 23 So I think this Court finds 24 itself on May 9th, there's other cases

1	already pending. Who filed the cases? Why	Page 29
2	they filed those cases, I honestly we	
3	filed those cases in Delaware because we felt	
4	that it was a better place for us to litigate	
5	under Delaware law, but at that point, as far	
6	as just the pure issue of sanctions, under	
7	strict causation, if they're deciding to	
8	pursue strategic remedies unrelated to just	
9	ending this case, under Illinois law, you're	
10	supposed to only get sanctions for that which	
11	is strictly caused by the sanctionable	
12	conduct.	
13	You concluded the sanctionable	
14	conduct occurred in March down there in	
15	St. Clair County because the complaint was	
16	filed that you said was improper and filed	
17	for improper reasons and not supported in law	
18	and fact and that the TRO should not have	
19	been issued.	
20	So by May 9th, the TRO is gone.	
21	It's already expired as a matter of law. The	
22	complaint is gone because we came in and	
23	said, "Fine. We'll dismiss it."	
24	And so I actually don't	

1	understand, under the strict causation cases	Page 30
2		
	in Illinois, why the conduct after May 9th is	
3	actionable, except for they do have a right	
4	to pursue their petition for sanctions. We	
5	give them credit for that.	
6	They have a right to file their	
7	petition and make their sanctions motion. So	
8	we gave them credit for all that, but on top	
9	of that, they spent another \$230,000 after	
10	May 9th that they didn't have to spend.	
11	And so my argument is relative	
12	THE COURT: May 9th is after I ruled on	
13	a motion to dismiss, is that right?	
14	MR. WEBB: Well, May 9th is the date we	
15	filed the motion to voluntarily dismiss.	
16	THE COURT: And that was after I ruled	
17	on the motion to dismiss where I dismissed	
18	some claims with prejudice or some without	
19	prejudice, right?	
20	MR. WEBB: No. That was before. This	
21	is before. May 9th before is that hearing.	
22	THE COURT: Got it.	
23	MR. WEBB: That hearing took place I	
24	think it's in August, okay?	

1	THE COURT: Got it.	Page 31
2	MR. WEBB: So in May, we came in and	
3		
	said, "We will voluntarily dismiss this	
4	complaint today. We're done. We're out of	
5	here. We're done."	
6	The TRO is gone. The complaint	
7	will be gone. They made the choice after	
8	that, for strategic reasons, to go ahead and	
9	pursue all this other stuff that we've been	
10	at for the last 15 months here in Cook	
11	County.	
12	And I don't think under the law	
13	that I read the case law, I don't see how	
14	they could argue that that extra \$230,000 is	
15	directly caused by the sanctionable conduct	
16	that you determined occurred in St. Clair	
17	County in March.	
18	And by the way, on top of that,	
19	the only case they really argue the only	
20	case they really argue against my position on	
21	that \$230,000 is that McDonald's case that	
22	Mr. Barber referred to.	
23	THE COURT: The Dayan case?	
24	MR. WEBB: Yes.	

1	THE COURT: D-a-y-a-n?	Page
2	MR. WEBB: Yes, that case, Your Honor,	
3	the D-a-y-a-n case.	
4	If you look at that case, the	
5	reason the Court ruled in that case that the	
б	complaint itself they called it the	
7	"cornerstone rule." The McDonald's case	
8	the Dayan case, the Court said which that	
9	case, by the way, is I think 35 years old,	
10	but it's there. It's a First District case.	
11	That case held that the	
12	cornerstone of the McDonald's complaint	
13	or, the Dayan the plaintiff's, Dayan's	
14	complaint, was false and perjurious from the	
15	very beginning.	
16	They contended that there was	
17	allegations made that they had complied with	
18	McDonald's standards of quality, service,	
19	etc., and this cornerstone argument developed	
20	out of that case.	
21	So then I went back and looked at	
22	our complaint. As far as what your ruling	
23	was as far as sanctionable conduct, our	
24	complaint in this case you the actual	

		<b>F</b> 22
1	cornerstone allegations of this complaint is	Page 33
2	that Huizenga violated non-disparagement and	
3	confidentiality provisions of the contract.	
4	You actually did not make any	
5	findings that those cornerstone allegations	
6	were false. It was the conduct that occurred	
7	with those resolutions that was the focus of	
8	your sanctionable conduct ruling.	
9	And so which is fine. I'm not	
10	here to argue that again. I mean, I accept	
11	your findings. All I'm saying is that when	
12	you look at the McDonald's case, that case	
13	stands for a proposition far different than	
14	our case. And it should not stand for the	
15	proposition that everything from day one	
16	forward is going to be viewed as having been	
17	caused by the filing of the lawsuit because I	
18	don't think that's a proper interpretation of	
19	that case.	
20	And by the way, all the other	
21	cases we cite that occurred years later,	
22	which apply this strict causation standard, I	
23	respectfully suggest is the right standard to	
24	follow.	

1	Now, in fact, I even would argue	Page 34
2	that if you think about this, a case that had	
3	a TRO that lasted ten days that's all it	
4	lasted ten days is all it lasted we	
5	tried to get rid of the complaint in May and,	
6	yet, we're looking at a legal bill of	
7	\$460,000.	
8	We cite a case in our brief, Your	
9	Honor, that I'd call Your Honor's attention	
10	to, which is the case down in the Central	
11	District of Illinois where basically in that	
12	case, the Court down there looked at the	
13	actual filing in that case, called the Triune	
14	Star case, and the Court said, "I'm going to	
15	accept that the lawyers actually worked the	
16	time. I'm not going to argue about their	
17	hourly rates. I'm just going to accept it,	
18	but the amount they're asking for, just	
19	based on my view as a judge in a case for	
20	what happened in this case" he decided to	
21	apply 40 percent. That's all he said,	
22	"I'll give you 40 percent of those fees."	
23	And by the way, you have that	
24	discretion in this case. If you look at this	

1	entire conduct that occurred here after we	Page 35
2	filed that motion to dismiss on May 9th, I	
3	respectfully suggest to Your Honor that if	
4	you applied the same standard, the same exact	
5	standard that the judge did in the Triune	
6	case of 40 percent, you'd be down to \$90,000,	
7	40 percent of the 260. That's where you'd be	
8	at if you applied that standard. You would	
9	be down to \$90,000 in sanctions.	
10	And I do believe I think our	
11	May 9th analysis is correct logically, and I	
12	don't think that we've overstated it under	
13	Illinois law as far as causation is	
14	concerned.	
15	And I do believe that we	
16	suggested 230,000 would be the maximum. I	
17	believe you, as a judge in equity, have a	
18	right to bring it down much further than that	
19	under the under your powers, and I suggest	
20	that you should.	
21	Now, one other issue. As far as	
22	the double recovery issue of the what I	
23	call the TRO statute, so when we were here on	
24	August 8th, at that time, Mr. Miller was	

Page 36 1 arguing. 2 And at that time, he basically 3 said, "Look, at the end of the day, that 4 would be overlap, and we wouldn't be entitled 5 to a double recovery. That's my understanding." 6 Now I hear counsel argue here, 7 two weeks later, that they are entitled to a 8 9 double recovery. And they cite this 10 defamation case, which I read over the 11 weekend. And that case, it's a case that's 12 purely evaluating in a defamation case 13 whether you can get compensatory damages and punitive damages in the same case. 14 It's not 15 addressing this issue whether, under Illinois 16 law, you can get double sanctions. 17 And I don't -- I can't find any 18 case under Illinois law which said you could get double sanctions. And that's what 19 they're asking for in this case, double 20 21 sanctions. 22 So I don't think they're entitled 23 to that. 24 THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Webb?

		D 2 -
1	MR. WEBB: No. Thank you.	Page 37
2	MR. BARBER: A couple of brief points,	
3	Judge.	
4	First of all, with respect to	
5	what happened down in St. Clair, if you read	
6	the transcript of the conversation with Judge	
7	Katz, there's actually a discussion of the	
8	very issue that Mr. Webb is referring to,	
9	which is, can she find that venue is	
10	improper, which she did immediately, and then	
11	do anything else?	
12	And she basically says and we	
13	agree with her that once you find venue is	
14	improper, she needs to immediately transfer	
15	the case and do nothing further, and that's	
16	all in the transcript.	
17	So the notion that we could have	
18	demanded a hearing on our motion to dissolve,	
19	we would have been consenting to improper	
20	venue. We would have had to appeal any	
21	ruling to the Fifth District.	
22	So that whole argument is not	
23	really something that's got any legs, all	
24	right?	

1	With respect to this May 9th	Page 38
2	THE COURT: Let me can I well, go	
3	ahead. Finish your argument. I have a	
4	question for both sides.	
5	MR. BARBER: Sure. With respect to	
6	this May 9th argument, this really is sort of	
7	what we characterize as this duty to	
8	mitigate, and there is no such duty under	
9	Illinois law. And we cite the cases that	
10	stand for that proposition, but more	
11	importantly, under Illinois law, once you	
12	have a sanctionable pleading or, a	
13	pleading you know to be sanctionable, you are	
14	obligated to step up and inform the Court and	
15	make the necessary changes and replead.	
16	That is not what happened here.	
17	Mr. Dowling moved to nonsuit the case without	
18	prejudice, knowing that there was already a	
19	subsequently filed case in Delaware that he	
20	wanted to continue on where we would incur	
21	all the same costs.	
22	THE COURT: What date was that?	
23	MR. BARBER: That's the Johnson 2 case.	
24	THE COURT: No. What date does the	

1	did you say Mr. Dowling moved to nonsuit?	Page 39
2	MR. MILLER: I believe that's the	
3	May 9th, Your Honor.	
	-	
4	THE COURT: That's the May 9th. Okay.	
5	MR. BARBER: Right. May 9th is when he	
6	filed the motion to nonsuit. It wasn't	
7	actually heard until sometime in when was	
8	that heard, in June?	
9	MR. MILLER: I believe the nonsuit	
10	motion, Your Honor, only applied to the	
11	motions against Huizenga and not to the	
12	attorney defendants.	
13	MR. BARBER: Not to the attorney	
14	defendants, but subsequent to that motion,	
15	these folks, Winston included, filed pleading	
16	after pleading after pleading saying there	
17	was nothing sanctionable about what had	
18	happened; there was no false allegations or	
19	half-truths in the complaint.	
20	The motion to dissolve was moot.	
21	Then it was not moot. Then it was moot, but	
22	you could still recover damages.	
23	When you look through the	
24	pleadings in this case, it just goes on and	

1	on and on basically asking repeatedly to keep	Page 40
2	this thing alive.	
3	For instance, when their claim	
4	was eventually dismissed, Mr. Webb asked you	
5	for leave to replead certain allegations. He	
6	told you, "We'll replead these things."	
7	And then months go by, and	
8	eventually, he comes back and says, "We can't	
9	replead these things," but then we argue lots	
10	of paper about whether it should be a	
11	voluntary motion to dismiss with prejudice or	
12	dismissed with prejudice on the merits.	
13	You'll remember all that	
14	go-round. I mean, it just every single	
15	step of the way has been a fight, fight,	
16	fight, fight, fight.	
17	And the reason is really not, you	
18	know, particularly veil. It's pretty	
19	transparent. Their job is to end this	
20	litigation in a way that allows Mr. Ritchie	
21	to continue this litigation in Johnson 2.	
22	And I have been very upfront from day one	
23	telling this Court that our job is to end	
24	this litigation, period; in other words,	

1	"this litigation" being by this party on this	Page 41
2	issue. That's this case and the Delaware	
3	case, and that's exactly what we've done.	
4	What's interesting is that the	
5	plaintiffs have done everything in their	
6	power to make this as expensive as possible.	
7	And make no mistake about it. This case was	
8	filed for an improper purpose, to create a	
9	conflict, to drive up litigation costs, to,	
10	in essence, harass my client for having	
11	played by the rules and obtained a judgment	
12	and collected it by the rules.	
13	And instead, we have what, 13	
14	lawsuits filed, four in this state, plus an	
15	ARDC proceeding, plus four or five cases,	
16	including a bankruptcy case, in Delaware, all	
17	in the past two and a half years by	
18	Mr. Ritchie in an endless onslaught of	
19	"nonsense," as Judge Flynn referred to it,	
20	"garbage," as Judge Flynn referred to it, the	
21	worst conduct that you've seen in your 15	
22	years on the bench.	
23	I don't know how Judge Wheaton	
24	refers to it out in DuPage County. This	

Page 42 thing is a train wreck, and it's time it was 1 2 brought to an end. And it's time that my client 3 4 receive some justice in this thing because all we've done for two and a half years is 5 bat away these endless cases filed by these 6 29 different law firms in these three to four 7 different jurisdictions, all of them aimed at 8 9 attacking Illinois Courts' credibility. Ι 10 mean, some of the statements that have been 11 made by these people are unbelievable, 12 attacking the intellectual capability of the 13 First District, the intellectual capability of the Circuit Court. It goes on and on and 14 15 on. 16 It is absolutely outrageous 17 conduct, and it's time that a message be 18 sent, and the best way to send that 19 message -- and I agree with you that our 20 argument on double-counting those damages is 21 a fine one, right, but the bottom line is 22 that 137 is designed to punish these people. 23 110 is designed to compensate us. 24 And I believe that although there

1		Page 43
1	is overlap and they are duplicative, that it	
2	would be appropriate for you to award both	
3	those amounts, but if you disagree with me,	
4	then I urge you to award every single last	
5	penny of what we're seeking in sanctions	
6	because if there was ever someone who	
7	deserved it, it's Mr. Thane Ritchie and	
8	his I can't even begin to go into some of	
9	the details of his in-house litigation team	
10	that have come out in the DuPage case. The	
11	conduct is absolutely over the top, and it's	
12	time to put an end to it.	
13	THE COURT: I have a question for both	
14	of you, and I'll give you an opportunity to	
15	respond to that.	
16	On this motion to vacate the	
17	dissolution of the March 13th, 2018 TRO at	
18	the last hearing, we had some discussion	
19	about why any of this mattered.	
20	I'm assuming that from your	
21	perspective, it mattered because you felt	
22	that it would affect your ability to obtain	
23	damages under the statute	
24	MR. BARBER: I'll wait for the Court to	

1	finiab and T can address that paint	Page 44
1	finish, and I can address that point.	
2	THE COURT: Yeah 11-110.	
3	And I'm assuming that it mattered	
4	to the plaintiff because it felt that it	
5	affected defendants' ability to obtain	
6	damages.	
7	And it seems like everybody is in	
8	agreement now that so long as the motion had	
9	been filed before the TRO expired by its own	
10	terms, that the Court had the authority to	
11	award damages under Section 11-110.	
12	So, you know, you spent both	
13	sides spent a lot of time litigating this	
14	issue. It even went up on appeal. And I	
15	asked myself, for what? What purpose? What	
16	purpose was served?	
17	And so if you could address that,	
18	and then I'll hear from you, Mr. Webb, on	
19	that issue as well as anything else you want	
20	to tell me in response to after arguments.	
21	MR. BARBER: I would be happy to.	
22	There are three purposes behind	
23	this house-to-house fight over the motion to	
24	dissolve.	

Г

1	Number one, we cannot obtain	Page 45
2	damages unless we filed a motion during the	
3	pendency of the TRO and it's granted. The	
4	rule clearly states, in order to get damages,	
5	your motion to dissolve has to be granted,	
6	okay? That's number one.	
7	Number two, an order denying a	
8	motion to dissolve, when not appealed from,	
9	becomes a final order that the TRO was	
10	properly granted.	
11	That's what they're up to, all	
12	right? When they tell you and the last	
13	time we were here, you were saying, "Well, if	
14	you concede they're entitled to damages, you	
15	concede I'm not changing my findings, what is	
16	it you hope to gain by having the TRO	
17	reinstated," was the phrase you used.	
18	And the bottom line is, they hope	
19	to gain two things. They hope to gain	
20	confusion and cloudiness over the meaning of	
21	the dismissal order with prejudice on the	
22	merits, and they hope to be able to use that	
23	order, which and if you remember when we	
24	went way back in the beginning, Judge, you	

1	said, "Well, it's just a TRO order. What's	Page 46
2	the big deal? It doesn't really find	
3	anything other than a maybe a likelihood of	
4	success on a subsequent hearing."	
5	That is not the case with this	
6	order. This order is 54 paragraphs, 51 of	
7	which are specific factual findings, three of	
8	which are conclusions of law, and all of	
9	which the plaintiffs have argued in front of	
10	the First District and the Second District	
11	because the same issue arose out there in	
12	DuPage County that those orders are set in	
13	concrete, that no one can touch those orders.	
14	No one can change those findings of fact or	
15	conclusions of law except for, in the case of	
16	this case, Judge Kievlan, who was the	
17	original judge down in St. Clair County, and	
18	in the case out in Wheaton, Judge Dugan in	
19	Madison County.	
20	Their position has always been,	
21	those orders stand absolute rock-solid, and	
22	no one can touch them, all right?	
23	In fact, the argument they made	
24	in the First District here was, "You don't	

1	have the inviadiation to tough these and we	Page 47
	have the jurisdiction to touch those orders.	
2	Only Judge Kievlan can amend that order,"	
3	which is patently ridiculous under the	
4	applicable case law.	
5	So there has been a strategic	
6	reason for them to engage in this fight, all	
7	right? You've asked them repeatedly, "What	
8	is it you want? Where are you trying to go	
9	with this?"	
10	And they don't really have a good	
11	answer. We sort of fill in the answer for	
12	you because I've dealt with these people over	
13	the past two and a half years, not Winston,	
14	but their predecessor counsel.	
15	And I know what's up. They're	
16	desperately looking for some way, some	
17	argument to raise in front of Judge Johnson	
18	that, "Well, it was dismissed with prejudice	
19	on the merits, but he also reinstated the	
20	TRO, and that's law of the case, and	
21	therefore, the TRO is properly entered, and	
22	you should move forward with the case out	
23	here."	
24	That's what this is all about.	

48

1	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Webb?	Page
2	MR. WEBB: He argued this two weeks	
3	ago, and I'll let him argue.	
4	MR. WIEBER: Yeah. So I'll	
5	THE COURT: Well, let me ask you,	
6	Mr. Webb, is there anything else you wanted	
7	to say about	
8	MR. WEBB: I do. I do.	
9	THE COURT: Why don't you address that	
10	first and then	
11	MR. WEBB: Thank you. Thank you.	
12	Yeah, I do want to say something because,	
13	Your Honor, I've been Mr. Barber and I	
14	have a good relationship, but I sit in these	
15	courtrooms. We have a very simple issue	
16	here.	
17	It's an issue of causation under	
18	Illinois laws and whether there could be an	
19	intervening event that shut off causation	
20	because they chose to follow strategic	
21	reasoning in order to not accept the	
22	dismissal of the complaint and this case	
23	would have been over with on May 9th. It is	
24	not a complicated issue.	

1	Mr. Barber goes off on these	Page 49
2	I'm going to call them tangents where we've	
3		
	engaged in years of outrageous conduct. We	
4	have despicable lawyers associated I	
5	don't honestly, we have a very simple	
6	issue before Your Honor.	
7	And all I want to do is just make	
8	sure that Mr. Barber does not escape	
9	addressing the issue, which is that under	
10	causation law, is there an intervening event	
11	that occurred on May 9th where Mr. Barber	
12	admitted today again that they did pursue for	
13	strategic reasons not to accept dismissal of	
14	the complaint.	
15	Had they accepted dismissal of	
16	the complaint on May 9th, combined with the	
17	fact that the TRO had expired in March, all	
18	the sanctionable conduct that you talked	
19	about would have been addressed and gone	
20	with, and we would have and then and	
21	they do then get credit for what they did to	
22	pursue a sanctions motion and fee petition,	
23	but they would have \$230,000 less in legal	
24	fees.	

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1	That's the simple issue being	Page
2	presented to Your Honor, and he goes off on	
3	irrelevant issues and doesn't address that	
4	intervening factor issue.	
5	And I want to call it to Your	
6	Honor's attention.	
7	THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Wieber.	
8	MR. WIEBER: Yes, Your Honor. On the	
9	issue of the perhaps the mootness issue,	
10	I'm just trying unpack what Mr. Barber is	
11	calling "confusion" and "cloudiness."	
12	In fact, so just a few days ago,	
13	13 when I was before you, I don't think I could	
14	be any more express. And I said we would put	
15	it in the order.	
16	I do agree with Mr. Webb that	
17	they're beyond tangents. So what is	
18	happening in all these hearings is this sort	
19	of unleashed 12 years of anger and just anger	
20	of litigation onto whoever is sitting at the	
21	bench and sort of just throwing out a lot of	
22	unnecessary arguments that have nothing to do	
23	with the case at hand.	
24	The reason that we brought the	

1	motion to ask Your Honor to enter an order	Page 51
2	changing the motion to dissolve the TRO that	
3	you entered on that order on December 19th,	
4	2018, was because when we were last before	
5	you, we were in the position of the fee	
6	petition.	
7	And we finally had a quantifiable	
8	number from Huizenga, and you've heard it	
9	here today. It's a little bit under	
10	\$500,000. And our team had done the analysis	
11	to say that if we just take them at their	
12	word that at the moment of the filing of	
13	their brief, their motion for this the	
14	11-110 damages down in St. Clair County that	
15	they had preserved let's just we've	
16	never briefed that. We've never argued up on	
17	appeal. We just for purposes of today,	
18	let's just take that as true that they	
19	that it was clear as light that they had	
20	clear as day that it had been preserved	
21	then why did it need to go to Your Honor in	
22	December and say, "It's not enough. Dissolve	
23	it as a dissolve it. It's already	
24	expired, but here's why I need you to	

Page 52 1 dissolve it." 2 And it ties right into Mr. Webb's 3 argument on their strategic and litigation 4 choices because when Mr. Miller argued it and when Mr. Barber argued it, they have been 5 consistent that they were fearful 6 strategically that if you didn't unwind 7 something, that now Your Honor clearly 8 9 understands didn't have the power to do as a 10 matter of law -- I'm not casting aspersions, 11 but as a matter of law, you could not, as a 12 matter of law, dissolve something that had 13 already expired on its own terms. They wanted their cake and to eat 14 15 it, too, with a little bit of a cherry on top which was, they knew having Your Honor do 16 17 that would go -- they could go out to other 18 jurisdictions where there are cases pending, 19 yes, but then they could go say, "Aha. Ritchie is going to come in here and argue 20 21 the following. Judge Tailor dissolved --22 formally dissolved an already expired TRO. 23 Look at their lawyers. Look at how creative 24 they are. That meant that Judge Tailor

1	blessed the findings of the trial Court and	Page 53
2	the 47 paragraphs and the parade of horribles	
3	and the factual findings," which just being	
4	plain and simple, when Your Honor first had	
5	that issue, you said, "That's not law in the	
6	case. There is no finding" TROs, by their	
7	very nature, exist in this world for a	
8	limited period of time absent an extension.	
9	Those findings of fact dissolved	
10	at expiration. There was no need to go on	
11	and continue the litigation.	
12	And so what we've tried to do is	
13	just quantify the amount of waste, economic,	
14	for their fees that have been caused by this	
15	occurrence.	
16	And then the last point, Your	
17	Honor, just the concept that I mean, sort	
18	of the parade of horribles of us trying to	
19	keep this alive, you might remember a few	
20	months ago when after Mr. Webb said, "We will	
21	review your hearing on the litigation	
22	privilege. We're going to review your	
23	transcript in detail. We're going to work	
24	with our client to see whether or not we can	

1	amend that complaint consistent with Your	Page 54
2	Honor's ruling on the litigation privilege."	
3	We took the time. You granted us	
4	the time. We asked for it. We came back and	
5	made a right-hand determination that we	
6	couldn't based on your ruling, we could	
7	not amend that complaint in a way that	
8	wouldn't run afoul of your ruling.	
9	So then what did I do when I came	
10	in? I said, "Your Honor, we're here, and	
11	we'll enter a dismissal with prejudice, with	
12	prejudice."	
13	And then that should give	
14	Mr. Barber and his good legal team whatever	
15	argument he wants on res judicata for	
16	Johnson 2 in Delaware or whatever, but we	
17	were out.	
18	And we wanted to make it clear	
19	that there had been a change in temperament,	
20	and we wanted out, but just to show you	
21	they call it "cloudiness" and "arguments	
22	beyond ridiculousness" and other pejorative	
23	terms that we've heard here.	
24	The reality is, when I said that,	

1		Page 55
1	I said, "We're out. We'll enter an order,"	
2	he said, "Not good enough. Not good enough.	
3	You can't participate in the dissolution of	
4	your case with prejudice. You can't do that.	
5	You can have no say in that."	
6	Why? Again, because of this fear	
7	mongering that, all of a sudden, we're going	
8	to go file a new case because somehow it's a	
9	ruse to have my involvement with entering an	
10	order. And I literally sat up here and	
11	almost chuckled as Mr. Barber said, "Well, I	
12	don't know what we want to do on this, but	
13	you can't be involved."	
14	They ended up entering the same	
15	order that we had proposed, except it had, in	
16	essence, their signature on it, and I	
17	couldn't be involved.	
18	And so, anyhow, the concept of	
19	wanting to keep these things alive, we have	
20	come clean. We're focused on the actual	
21	legal petition arguments and finding	
22	demarcation, clear bright-lined rules under	
23	Illinois law to give you a guidance, I think	
24	very clearly, as to how you could view the	

1	total amount of sanctions that should be	Page 56
2	awarded based on their petition.	
3		
	THE COURT: Is there anything you want	
4	to say.	
5	MS. SIEGALL: No, Your Honor.	
6	MR. BARBER: Can I make two brief	
7	points, Judge?	
8	THE COURT: Go ahead. Last points.	
9	MR. BARBER: Yeah. On May 9th, they	
10	only moved to dismiss without prejudice, and	
11	that's why the causal link doesn't break on	
12	May 9th. That's number one.	
13	Number two, I can't believe	
14	counsel brought this up. This issue about	
15	moving to dismiss? We were in discussions	
16	with counsel about this issue, and they	
17	submitted, without our approval, an order to	
18	the Court, which we then informed them that	
19	we objected to. We told the Court why we	
20	objected to it. Eventually they did not	
21	oppose our entry of the motion to dismiss	
22	with prejudice pursuant to whatever those	
23	rules are, Supreme Court Rule 212 or 213.	
24	That's what happened in	

1	connection with that, but I will tell you	Page 57
2	that every aspect of this case, every single	
3	aspect of this case has been fought with	
4	unbelievable vigor and ferocity by my able	
5	opponents now since the day they've been	
6	involved.	
7	And so with that, that's all I've	
8	got to add on this issue.	
9	THE COURT: The May 9th motion for	
10	voluntary nonsuit was without prejudice,	
11	correct?	
12	MR. WIEBER: That's what Mr. Dowling	
13	had asked for, yes.	
14	THE COURT: Okay. The Court today will	
15	grant the defendants' petition for fees under	
16	Rule 137 in the amount of \$458,016.17.	
17	The Court is denying the	
18	defendants' request for damages under	
19	Section 11-110 of the Civil Practice Law in	
20	the amount of \$65,000 and some change.	
21	I have already determined that	
22	this action was filed for an improper	
23	purpose. My not-so-brief time overseeing	
24	this case tells me that Mr. Ritchie, through	

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-		Page
1	his various companies and through his	
2	counsel, the Clayborne firm, attempted to do	
3	nothing short of sowing anarchy in the civil	
4	justice system.	
5	The purview of Rule 137 or, I	
6	should say, this misconduct is squarely	
7	within the prerogative, the portfolio, of	
8	Rule 137. I'm not persuaded by the argument	
9	that the petition fails for a break in the	
10	chain of causation on May 9th. As it's been	
11	pointed out, that motion was only a motion	
12	for nonsuit without prejudice.	
13	The situation that the plaintiffs	
14	find themselves in is created by their own	
15	course of conduct in filing the multiple	
16	lawsuits. So I do find that there is a	
17	causal link between all the fees sought in	
18	this case and the misconduct.	
19	I'm denying the petition for fees	
20	under Section 11-110 because that would	
21	amount to double recovery. I'm not persuaded	
22	that the case that's cited by the defendants	
23	is on point.	
24	The fees shall be assessed	

1	against the plaintiffs, as well as	Page	59
2	plaintiffs' counsel, the Clayborne firm. The		
3	motion to vacate the December 19th, 2018		
4	order dissolving the March 13th, 2018 TRO is		
5	going to be denied as moot.		
6	Has any counsel reported the		
7	Clayborne firm to the ARDC in this case?		
8	MR. MILLER: Not in connection with		
9	this case.		
10	MR. BARBER: Not in connection with		
11	this case.		
12	THE COURT: Okay.		
13	MR. MILLER: Your Honor, just to		
14	clarify, I believe the December 2018 137		
15	order ruled sanctions were appropriate		
16	against the Clayborne firm, as well as		
17	Mr. Dowling and Mr. Sabo individually.		
18	So I don't know how the Court		
19	would like today's order to reflect that		
20	issue.		
21	THE COURT: Actually, I think the law		
22	is that you can't sanction a firm. You can		
23	sanction an individual attorney.		
24	Is that your recollection of		

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1	MR. BARBER: No.	Page
2	MR. MILLER: It's a	
3	MR. GARNER: There's a split on that	
4	now.	
5	MR. MILLER: There's a split.	
6	THE COURT: There's a split on that?	
7	MR. MILLER: Yeah.	
8	MR. BARBER: So we would ask that it be	
9	entered against the firm and the individuals.	
10	THE COURT: What's the	
11	MR. BARBER: So my colleague,	
12	Mr. Fraser, tells me that the First District	
13	is	
14	MR. FRASER: Stephen Fraser on behalf	
15	of the defendants. It's Brubakkan,	
16	B-r-u-b-a-k-k	
17	THE COURT: Hold on a second. Brubak,	
18	you said?	
19	MS. FRASER: Brubakkan, yeah.	
20	MR. BARBER: And it holds that both	
21	firm and the individual lawyers can be	
22	sanctioned under 137.	
23	THE COURT: So the Second District	
24	so Brubakkan, B-r-u-b-a-k-k-a-n, versus	

1	Morrison, the First District 1992 case.	Page 61
2	So Medical Alliances versus	
3	Hurricane Katrina Services Corp.,	
4	371 Ill. App. 3d 755 at 757 through 759, a	
5	Second District 2007 case, held that only the	
6	attorney who signed a document can be	
7	sanctioned, not the law firm, but that Court	
8	criticized the Brubakkan case, which holds	
9	that you can sanction the law firm, though	
10	it's not clear so what are you asking for	
11	today, that the sanctions be applied to both	
12	the firm and the individual lawyers?	
13	MR. BARBER: Yes.	
14	MR. MILLER: I think that's what the	
15	Court's prior order reflected.	
16	THE COURT: It did reflect that?	
17	MR. MILLER: I believe so.	
18	THE COURT: Oh, okay. Counsel, is	
19	there anything you want to tell me?	
20	MS. SIEGALL: No, Your Honor.	
21	THE COURT: Okay. So the sanction will	
22	apply to both the law firm, as well as the	
23	individual attorney.	
24	Anything else?	
1		

[		
1	MR. WEBB: No.	Page 62
2	MR. BARBER: That's it, Your Honor.	
3	THE COURT: Thank you.	
4	MR. BARBER: Thank you.	
5	MR. WEBB: Thank you.	
6	(WHEREUPON, the court	
7	proceedings were concluded at	
8	11:06 a.m.)	
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1	Page 63 CERTIFICATE
2	OF
3	CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
4	
5	I, DINA G. MANCILLAS, CSR, RPR, CRR, CLR,
6	a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
7	Illinois, CSR License No. 084-003400, do hereby
8	certify that I stenographically reported the
9	proceedings had at the hearing, as aforesaid, and
10	that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate
11	record of the proceedings had therein.
12	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do set my hand at
13	Chicago, Illinois, this 26th day of August, 2019.
14	$\frown$
15	- Mandos
16	und provide the
17	DINA G. MANCILLAS, CSR, RPR, CRR, CLR
18	CSR License No. 084-003400.
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

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