

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION

Case No. 10-CV-22236-ASG

HOWARD ADELMAN, et al.,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
vs.)
)
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)
)

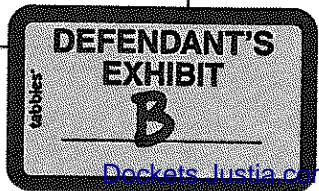
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VOLUME II

2350 South Dixie Highway
Miami, Florida
February 7, 2011
11:25 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Videotaped Deposition of JUDITH SCLAWY

Taken before Victor Selvaggi, Jr., Certified
Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of
Florida at Large, pursuant to Notice of Taking Deposition
filed in the above cause.



1 Q This is not someone that you and your husband knew
2 from this side of the state. Is that correct?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay.

5 A There were several rabbis that helped, because he
6 was over there and --

7 Q And you were here.

8 A We were here and between different people, family
9 calling and rabbis calling each other.

10 Q Okay. Did you ever have any conversations with
11 anybody in the medical examiner's office about whether an
12 autopsy should or should not be done?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Who did you speak to?

15 A The medical examiner.

16 Q That would be Marta Coburn?

17 A Whatever his name was.

18 Q A man.

19 A It was a man.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I don't know the name, but it was a medical
22 examiner.

23 Q There is a Borges. B-o-r-g-e-s.

24 A That sounds kind of familiar.

25 Q Okay. I think I know the answer to the question,

1 but why is it that you refused to have an autopsy
2 performed?

3 A It's for religious reasons.

4 Q Okay.

5 A One doesn't do it in my religion as a matter of
6 respect.

7 Q Have you done any kind of research about heat
8 exhaustion or heat stroke since your son's death?

9 A My husband has done that, kind of looking on the
10 internet.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Whatever what's been involved in finding out about
13 it, I just haven't done anything of the sort.

14 Q Okay. Whatever he has obtained, have you read it?

15 A No. He would occasionally tell me when he felt I
16 needed to know something, but for the most part, he's
17 tried to shield me from dealing with a lot of it.

18 Q Okay. Other than the two gentlemen from the Park
19 Service, did you ever talk to anybody else in the way of
20 paramedics or EMT's who responded to the Everglades to
21 try to assist Michael?

22 A If there were any conversations, it would have
23 been my husband handling those things.

24 Q Okay. When there was a discussion about an
25 autopsy being a possibility, were you told that one of

1 the things they could look for was to see whether or not
2 there was any congenital abnormality in Michael's body?
3 Were you told that?

4 A I don't remember that specifically, but the
5 medical examiner said that without it, he would not be
6 able to have conclusive results or something like that,
7 or something about testifying or something, that it was
8 advisable, and I just couldn't do it.

9 Q Okay. I'm just asking a specific question, and
10 that question was, did they tell you that without doing
11 the autopsy, they couldn't be certain about the cause of
12 Michael's death?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And did they explain to you that one thing they
15 could find is whether or not there was something that he
16 was born with that was abnormal, that would be discovered
17 on autopsy if it were present? Did they explain that to
18 you?

19 A He explained that it was my decision about the
20 autopsy and that if he didn't do it, it would not be
21 known if there was something, but I just couldn't let him
22 be hurt anymore.

23 Q Okay. What was Michael's attendance in --

24 MR. PELTZ: Do you want to take a break?

25 THE WITNESS: I'm okay. Thanks.