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2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS	
3	EASTERN DIVISION	
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5	DAVID GROCHOCINSKI, Case No. 1:06-cv-5486	
6	Plaintiff, Chicago, Illinois December 13, 2007	
7	v. Motion Hearing	
8	MAYER BROWN ROWE & MAW, LLP, et al.,	
9		
10	Defendants.	
11	TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING	
12	BEFORE THE HONORABLE VIRGINIA M. KENDALL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE	
13		
14	APPEARANCES:	
15	For the Plaintiff: Edward T. Joyce & Associates By: Arthur W. Aufmann, and Robert D. Carroll	
16	11 S. LaSalle St., Ste. 1600 Chicago, IL 60603	
17	(312) 641-2600	
18	For the Defendants: Novack & Macey By: Stephen Novack, and	
19	Steven J. Ciszewski 100 N. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 1500	
20	Chicago, IL 60606 (312) 419-6900	
21	(312) 419-0900	
22	Count Donoutous Annil M Motelon DDD CDD	
23	Court Reporter: April M. Metzler, RPR, CRR 219 South Dearborn St., Rm. 2318-A	
24	Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 408-5154	
25	Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript produced by notereading.	

1 (Commenced at 10:06 a.m.) 2 THE CLERK: 06-5486, Grochocinski versus Mayer, Brown. 00:00:04 3 00:00:08 MR. NOVACK: Good morning, your Honor. Steve Novack, N-o-v-a-c-k, on behalf of defendants. 00:00:09 THE COURT: Good morning. 00:00:13 6 Good morning, your Honor. 00:00:13 7 MR. CISZEWSKI: Steven Ciszewski, C-i-s-z-e-w-s-k-i, also for the 00:00:14 8 defendants. 00:00:19 9 00:00:19 10 THE COURT: Good morning. MR. AUFMANN: Good morning, your Honor. 00:00:19 11 Arthur Aufmann and Robert Carroll on behalf of the 00:00:20 12 00:00:22 13 plaintiff. THE COURT: Good morning. 00:00:23 14 Do you object to the plaintiff's motion for 00:00:24 15 00:00:26 16 protective order? 00:00:29 17 MR. NOVACK: We do, your Honor. And the 00:00:32 reason why we did -- why we made our objection, we have 18 19 a short fuse on this discovery period. You only gave us 00:00:35 00:00:39 20 until the end of January --00:00:40 21 THE COURT: That's right. 00:00:41 22 MR. NOVACK: -- to complete discovery. 00:00:44 23 both the trustee and Mr. Spehar's counsel asked us for extensions of time to respond to our discovery and to 00:00:48 24 00:00:51 25 extend the deposition dates --

THE COURT: Oh, I thought I'm looking at a
motion for protective order. Isn't that what I'm
looking for? Isn't that what I have up for today?

MR. AUFMANN: Correct.

THE COURT: All right. It's not a motion to extend time.

MR. NOVACK: It is not, but it will have that effect, and that's what I'm saying.

THE COURT: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

MR. NOVACK: When both those parties asked us for extensions -- and we accommodated them, absolutely accommodated them -- nobody suggested to us that there was going to be another motion, which nobody ever told us about, asking for an interim period whereby Mr. Spehar would produce his documents first to the trustee, the trustee would take a period to do something, and then there would be an intervening motion for -- possibly an intervening motion for work-product privilege claims. So faced with all of that and our impending January 28 cutoff, we objected.

And as we were looking at the situation, it occurred to us that without getting into all of the issues of waiver and all the issues of whether this is work product or not, all of which we're reserving, one overarching observation came to us, which is they have

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1 put into issue --00:02:06 00:02:07 2 THE COURT: Right. MR. NOVACK: -- at issue a waiver doctrine 00:02:07 00:02:11 we think trumps any possible work-product privilege 4 assertion. And we thought why don't we just shortcut 00:02:16 00:02:19 it, and so we responded the way we responded. THE COURT: Okay. Counsel? 00:02:22 7 MR. AUFMANN: Judge, in terms of the at 00:02:24 8 issue waiver argument that the defendants have raised, 00:02:27 9 00:02:32 10 they've filed their response two days ago. We filed a reply as quickly as we could in order to address that 00:02:35 11 00:02:38 12 issue --13 00:02:38 THE COURT: Is there a reply? MR. AUFMANN: It was filed yesterday. 00:02:40 14 THE COURT: Oh, I don't have that. 00:02:41 15 00:02:42 16 MR. CARROLL: It should have -- I apologize if you didn't get it. I did instruct somebody to 00:02:44 17 00:02:47 18 deliver it to your chambers. THE COURT: Oh, okay. I don't have that. 00:02:48 19 00:02:50 20 Well, why don't you go pull it off. Okay. Go ahead. 00:03:02 21 MR. AUFMANN: In any event, I don't think 00:03:02 22 00:03:04 23 the at issue waiver doctrine applies whatsoever here. 00:03:09 24 More to the point, the procedure that we're

suggesting, I believe, is entirely reasonable. No one

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has challenged the fairness or the reasonableness of the 00:03:15 1 procedure we're suggesting. The only issue counsel is 00:03:18 really raising is that if this procedure's put into 00:03:21 00:03:25 place, it could make it difficult to comply with the Court's discovery cutoff of January 28th. He might be 00:03:28 right about that. I don't know what your Honor's 00:03:33 feeling is about potentially extending that date. 00:03:35 7 00:03:38 would certainly have -- since we're the ones who are 8 proposing this procedure -- even though we think it's 00:03:41 9 00:03:44 10 entirely fair since we are the ones who are proposing this procedure -- we would have no objection to 00:03:47 11 00:03:49 12 extending that date, that January 28th date, so that 00:03:52 13 this procedure could be engaged in and --00:03:55 14

THE COURT: Well --

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MR. AUFMANN: To me, that's the issue that's in front of your Honor.

THE COURT: I'm not sure. They're getting me the reply.

But I don't understand why the at issue response isn't something that -- you've put this into play filing this lawsuit. We need to address whether or not this is going to be a situation of unclean hands or not.

MR. AUFMANN: It's really -- it's really two points, your Honor.

00:04:22 1 THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. AUFMANN: We have a definite understanding of what your Honor was talking about when you allowed discovery to go forward on the unclean hands issue. We think it was a narrow issue directed to the trustee's decision not to file a motion in California to try and vacate the default judgment. Okay?

hands could cover your behavior throughout the whole period of time. It's really getting to the issue as to what was the motivation for the filing of the lawsuit, whether the -- I mean, all of the steps leading up to the failure to move to dismiss this suit could potentially show intent or a pattern of behavior or some theory by the defendants as to why this would be unclean hands.

MR. AUFMANN: Right. And one of the things we've tried to address in our reply is that this whole premise that started this unclean hands argument about, Oh, the trustee could have just gone into California and gotten this default vacated, that whole premise is wrong.

THE COURT: Well, fine. Fair enough.

That's why we're doing this. But it doesn't look like it may be wrong, otherwise I wouldn't have permitted

this particular path of discovery to go first, so that 00:05:35 we could address why this is set forth in the odd way 00:05:39 that it's set forth. 00:05:44 00:05:45 MR. AUFMANN: Understood. But one of the things we've done in our 00:05:46 reply -- whereas their arguments to you earlier about 00:05:48 6 how easy this would have been to vacate this default did 00:05:51 7 not cite California law, we provided the cite to the 00:05:54 8 statute and the requirements that must be met. 00:05:57 9 00:06:02 10 believe we've demonstrated already that those requirements could not have been met. 00:06:04 11 00:06:06 12 THE COURT: Meaning what, in discovery, is 00:06:08 13 that what you're saying, or ... MR. AUFMANN: No, in our reply --00:06:09 14 THE COURT: In the reply that I don't have 00:06:10 15 Is that it? 00:06:12 16 here? 00:06:14 17 MR. AUFMANN: Right. THE COURT: Okay. But, of course --00:06:14 18 00:06:21 19 MR. AUFMANN: I'm not saying --00:06:22 20 THE COURT: -- whether that may be the end result of our first issue really shouldn't be the 00:06:25 21 00:06:29 22 response as to today's issue, which is you want a 00:06:33 23 protective order and whether or not that protective

order can be put into play, whether we adopt the

procedure that would delay discovery.

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MR. AUFMANN: Right. The argument they made 00:06:44 about at issue is, Judge, we never need to address any 00:06:45 2 issues of work-product privilege because -- simply 00:06:49 3 00:06:52 because my client in response to an accusation that says, You filed this lawsuit in bad faith, said, No, I 00:06:56 00:06:59 didn't file it in bad faith, I filed it in good faith, that does not put at issue any work-product privilege 00:07:02 7

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In order to put -- in order to invoke the at issue doctrine, there must be both a claim asserted and reliance on specific defined identifiable privileged material. For example, in the case that they're relying on, you're talking about a situation where the plaintiff said, I did not blow the statute of limitations because my lawyer told me that I first had a claim on such-and-such a date and the discovery rule applies here, and, therefore, the time for my claim to run didn't start running until my lawyer told me. He has not put into issue a specific communication with his lawyer and, thus, cannot sit back and say, No, you can't see that communication with my lawyer, it's privileged. It's the old you can't have your cake and eat it too.

The trustee has not done anything like that here. The trustee has not either in support of a claim he's asserting or in defense of something that they're

asserting said, No, what I did was justified because I'm relying on a specific piece of work product material.

If he had made a specific reference like that and relied on a specific piece of work product material, he couldn't then say, Okay, I'm relying on that, but you can't see it. That's what the at issue waiver doctrine is all about, and that hasn't happened here.

guy of bad faith. We came in on his behalf and said,
That's ridiculous, there's no evidence of bad faith. In
fact, everything that's been done here is in good faith.
And they want to take the position now that because they
made a baseless accusation against him and he denied it
that suddenly all of his attorney work product is -there's just been a complete blanket waiver? This is
not at all the way the at issue doctrine works --

THE COURT: Okay. And, again, you need to get off the baseless accusation, otherwise I wouldn't have ordered the discovery.

A response?

MR. NOVACK: Let me say two things Judge, and who knows maybe it'll become three things, but two things at the outset.

No. 1, this was said in their reply brief -THE COURT: I am going to take a few minutes

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00:09:15 1 and read the reply brief, but, go ahead and argue it -00:09:18 2 MR. NOVACK: -- one thing to you before you
00:09:20 3 do.

They make a very bold statement in there that in a work product privilege situation there are two requisite elements to raise the at issue waiver. One, that a defense was raised that implicates it.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. NOVACK: And, two -- and this is what they add, it's beyond the elements that we've put in our case law -- that there must be a specific reference to specific documents by the party claiming the work-product privilege. They cite only two cases for that, both by Magistrate Judge Schenkier, the Beneficial Franchise case and the Quality Croutons case. Both of those cases dealt with the attorney-client privilege, not with the work product privilege.

We know that those privileges are different. They're governed by separate standards. Attorney-client privilege is governed by this law of the state of the forum. The work product is federal law.

Judge Denlow's decision in Eagle which is cited in -- I can't remember if we cited it or they cited it, frankly --

THE COURT: Okay.

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00:10:20 1 MR. NOVACK: -- in the earlier briefs points
00:10:21 2 out that the standards governing attorney-client
00:10:24 3 privilege and work-product privilege are different.

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So the second element, well, it may well apply to an attorney-client privilege. It has nothing whatsoever to do with work-product privilege.

Secondly, the notion that they didn't raise their good faith as a defense, Judge, I would say to you that from cradle to grave they raised it every step of the way. In response to the motion to dismiss they said -- and they convinced your Honor, because you denied our motion to dismiss, that we failed to present evidence that plaintiff acted fraudulently or in bad faith. Your Honor agreed and said it's not just Spehar's conduct we have to look to; we have to look to the trustee.

On reconsideration they said to your Honor that if they filed the case with a good-faith belief that the malpractice claims were meritorious, then the case cannot be a fraud on the Court. They said the critical element to defendants' fraud theory -- they're interpreting our theory -- is not whether Spehar has a financial interest in the case. According to the plaintiff, it is whether the trustee knowingly filed meritless or untrue claims. That's what we're trying to

00:11:34 1 get at.

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And when your Honor made your bifurcation ruling and granted us the discovery and you asked me what I was going to do, and I said, Well, we'll take the trustee's deposition, which we've noticed, we'll take Spehar's deposition, which we've noticed, and I said we may need discovery from the former shareholders and officers. And your Honor said, Well, why do you need that?

I said, Because they are -- We believe they will testify that they were never -- this is from the transcript, I'm quoting. I said this: That we believe that they will testify that they were never contacted by the trustee before he filed the complaint, that they don't believe in this complaint, and had they been asked by the trustee they would have told him so.

Your Honor's response was, Okay. And there was no objection. Mr. Aufmann wasn't here; Mr. Joyce was. There was no objection to that. It was clear to everybody when your Honor ruled that one of the avenues of discovery was what was the good faith --

THE COURT: Okay. I am not going down another motion that wasn't filed. I'm dealing with the protective order, and I'm going to read all of this, and I'll be out in a few minutes. Okay?

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(Recess taken.)

and this is what I'm going to do.

THE COURT: Okay. Gentlemen, I have

reviewed all of the papers now, which I'm sorry I didn't

have the reply brief in hand. It was filed -- I don't

know what time that it came in, but I have read it now,

It is true that my issue, I think, is broader than the way the plaintiffs have narrowly defined it. That being said, all of these communications are going to start to percolate up as potential privileged disputes. And as such I'm extending this issue of discovery to March 3rd. I am ordering that a privilege log be prepared for any document that you assert privilege on and that that privilege log be prepared and submitted to Judge Denlow, who's going to review it, who is your magistrate judge on this case, by January -- well, let's see.

If I give you discovery to March 3rd, I'll have to give you 'til shortly thereafter. It should be something that you're generating as you're doing discovery. So I'm going to require that you give it to Judge Denlow by March 10th, so one week after the close of discovery. I don't think that is too short of a period of time, because as requests are made they can be brought to Judge Denlow's attention.

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O:28:44 1 I'm referring any issues regarding the
O:28:48 2 discovery of privilege matters to Judge Denlow. And
O:28:51 3 then I will see you all again on March 19th, so strike
O:28:54 4 any other schedule, except this one, and we'll readdress
O:28:58 5 where we're headed with this issue on the 19th.
O:29:01 6 So move forward with your requests, and if

So move forward with your requests, and if you believe that it's something that's privileged and shouldn't be turned over, you're going to need to address it with Judge Denlow.

MR. AUFMANN: Is March 19th a status date?

THE COURT: It is for me, not Judge Denlow.

And I'm going to give Judge Denlow a call right now and explain the situation so he knows what's coming. Okay?

MR. NOVACK: Judge, could I ask one thing -THE COURT: Yes.

MR. NOVACK: -- to be included in the order?

Because it sounds like what's going to happen is Spehar, instead of producing it to us, it sounds like it's going to be produced to the trustee.

And I just wonder if the order could require that Spehar Bates stamp all the documents that it produces to the trustee, keep a copy, so there's never --

THE COURT: I think that's a very helpful idea, and that's something I've done in the past when I was litigating and I think that's very helpful.

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00:29:47	1	So as you give it to the trustee, it would
00:29:50	2	be Bates stamped so we know exactly what he is
00:29:52	3	reviewing, and then that set goes to the judge and the
00:29:55	4	judge reviews it. You should be fine with that.
00:29:58	5	MR. NOVACK: Well, it's actually
00:30:00	6	MR. AUFMANN: Thank you.
00:30:00	7	MR. NOVACK: Spehar isn't here today. What
00:30:03	8	they're asking for is that instead of Spehar responding
00:30:06	9	to our subpoena I believe this is what they asked
00:30:08	10	for
00:30:08	11	THE COURT: I know.
00:30:09	12	MR. NOVACK: he send it to them.
00:30:11	13	THE COURT: Right.
00:30:11	14	MR. NOVACK: So I'm asking Spehar
00:30:13	15	THE COURT: Yes, that is fine.
00:30:17	16	MR. CARROLL: We understand. And we'll put
00:30:17	17	the Bates number of the documents being withheld on the
00:30:18	18	basis of privilege on the privilege log.
00:30:21	19	THE COURT: Exactly. That's the way it
00:30:23	20	should be. Okay. Thank you.
00:30:24	21	MR. NOVACK: Thank you, your Honor.
00:30:24	22	THE COURT: Thank you.
	23	(Concluded at 10:36 a.m.)
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5	CERTIFICATE
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7	I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
8	from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled
9	matter.
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12	April M. Metzler, RPR, CRR Date
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