

AMERICAN FREEDOM DEFENSE INITIATIVE, ET AL v. SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION, ET AL

ANTHONY CHUBB

May 21, 2013

Prepared for you by



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1	don't understand, I'm from the Boston area, every now	1	Q.	But does such a document exist?
2	and then I cut words off at the end, and I tend to	2	A.	I don't believe so. Actually, no.
3	speak quickly, so I apologize ahead of time to our	3	Q.	Anything you can recall about any other documents you
4	court reporter. So I want to make sure you fully	4		may have reviewed that are separate or distinct from
5	understand my question before you answer, sir.	5		the documents that were provided in the production,
6	A. Understood.	6		including the document that was produced yesterday?
7	Q. If you need a break at all this morning, let me know.	7	A.	I don't believe so.
8	We will certainly do that. This is not enhanced	8	Q.	Did you discuss your deposition this morning with
9	interrogation by any stretch, so if you need a break,	9		anyone other than counsel?
10	we will certainly do that. What I typically do is	10	A.	No.
11	probably after about 50 minutes I tend to take a 10	11	Q.	I'm handing you what has been marked as Deposition
12	minute break, that's usually how it works out, but	12		Exhibit Number 1. Have you seen this document prior
13	again, if you need a break, let me know. The only	13		to today?
14	caveat being that if we are in the middle of a	14	A.	Yes, I have.
15	question and answer, I would ask that you finish your	15	Q.	And do you understand that this document is the
16	answer to the question before we take a break, okay?	16		deposition notice directed to defendant SMART, which
17	A. Understood.	17		is Suburban Mobility Authority For Regional
18	Q. Now, is there any reason as you are sitting here today	18		Transportation, pursuant to rule 30 (b)(6) of the
19	why it would be difficult for you to fully understand	19		Federal Rules of Civil Procedure?
20	and answer my questions, meaning are you under any	20	A.	Yes, I do.
21	doctor's care, do you have any personal issues, and I	21	Q.	And pursuant to this deposition notice, you have been
22	don't need to know the details, I just want to know if	22		identified by and let me just back up.
23	there is anything that might effect your ability to	23		Is it okay with you, I will be using the
24	fully understand and answer my questions this morning.	24		acronym SMART, S-M-A-R-T, to refer to defendants
25	A. No.	25		Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional
	Page 10			Page 12
1	Q. In preparation for this deposition, did you review any	1		Transportation, is that okay with you?
2	documents that might help you to recall facts related	2	Α.	Understood.
3	to the issues in this case?	3	Q.	And I'm sure our court reporter will appreciate that
4	A. Yes.	4		as well.
5	Q. Do you recall what those documents were that you	5		So pursuant to this notice you have been
6	reviewed?	6		designated as the witness to testify on behalf of
7	A. I reviewed the document production that SMART has	7		defendant SMART; is that your understanding?
8	given to the plaintiffs.	8	A.	Yes.
9	MR. HILDEBRANDT: Including the CBS stuff	9	Q.	And if you look at page 2 and 3, there are subject
10	that we gave to you yesterday that came up in his	10		matter that have been identified in this deposition
11	review.	11		notice, again the numbers are 1 through 6 paragraphs,
12	A. And various other internal memorandums and documents	12		do you see those, sir?
13	related to the case.	13	A.	Yes.
14	BY MR. MUISE:	14	Q.	And are you prepared to testify on behalf of those
15	Q. Do you recall any specifics of what these internal	15		matters on behalf of SMART this morning?
16	memoranda and documents related to the case were?	16	A.	Yes.
17	A. I really no, I couldn't say.	17	Q.	And so I just want to be clear, so for purposes of
18	Q. Were they e-mails amongst individuals that work for	18		your answers in this deposition, those answers are the
19	SMART?	19		answers of SMART, do you understand that?
20	A. Not beyond those which were produced in the discovery.	20		MR. HILDEBRANDT: I'm going to object to
21	Q. Was there a document that was created regarding the	21		the question. It assumes that all of your questions
22	application of the SMART policy to the advertisement	22		are going to be properly asked and properly
23	that's at issue in this case?	23		configured. To the extent that you ask him about his
24	A. Any such document would be privileged if there was a	24		personal opinions, you may receive personal opinions.
25	review of it.	25		To the extent that your questions are directed to

	Page 25		Page 27
1	advertiser. CBS then will, if it believes that there	1	Q. Is the procedure for reviewing beyond Beth Gibbons'
2	is a potential violation of section 5.07, it will give	2	determination, is there is it set forth in any
3	a copy of the advertising to Beth Gibbons or the	3	rules, guidelines or regulations as to what the
4	person in that role obviously, and Beth then will seek		procedure will be employed if Beth Gibbons has to go
5	advice internally as necessary to make any final	5	beyond her own determination?
6	determination as to violations of section 5.07.	6	A. No. It's fairly consistent, though.
7	Q. Okay. If there is a determination that it violates	7	Q. So you have the office of the general counsel, the
8		8	general manager and perhaps other individuals?
9	section 5.07, is there a process or procedure that SMART employs to notify the advertiser?	9	A. Well, first the marketing department or the external
10	A. Generally, although there could be exceptions, Beth	10	affairs and communications department, which is Beth
11	Gibbons will then go back to CBS to tell them to	11	Gibbons, the office of the general counsel, and the
12	_	12	
13	notify the advertiser that their advertisement has	13	general manager is the standard process.
14	been rejected.	14	Q. So marketing department, and who is it after that?
15	Q. Is it the policy or practice of SMART to give a reason	15	A. The office of the general counsel, and the general
	as to why the advertisement was rejected?	16	manager's office.
16	A. Yes.	17	Q. Does it have to go to all of those or can at any point
17	Q. Would they specifically cite to section 5.07 if it was		somebody make a determination that it's either good or
18	a content based issue?	18	it fails?
19	A. They would no, not necessarily. They would say		A. At any point someone could make a determination if
20	I mean in a vague sense, yes. They wouldn't	20	they thought that it was clear-cut and didn't need to
21	necessarily say section 5.07, but they would say it's	21	be escalated further, they could make a determination
22	against SMART's content policy.	22	and the decision would be made.
23	Q. Is it the practice to explain what part of the content	23	Q. And that's a decision whether to run it or to reject
24	policy the particular advertisement violated?	24	it?
25	A. No.	25	A. Correct.
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1	Q. And I believe you testified previously that in the	1	Q. Is this the general direction it goes, marketing
2	sequence that you have described, Beth Gibbons, if she	2	department, office of general counsel, and then
3	based on her determination concluded that it violated	3	general manager's office?
4	the content restriction, she could then tell Mr.	4	A. <mark>Yes</mark> .
5	Hawkins that the advertisement has been rejected	5	Q. And using a, I guess a trite phrase, the buck could
6	without any further, seeking any further advice; is	6	stop at one of those departments; is that right?
7	that right?	7	A. That's correct.
8	A. That's correct.	8	
			Q. You know what I mean by that
9	Q. And in some cases she may seek further advice; is that	9	Q. You know what I mean by that A. Yes.
9 10	Q. And in some cases she may seek further advice; is that right?	9 10	•
			A. Yes.
10	right?	10	A. Yes.Q a final decision could be made in any one of those
10 11	right? A. Correct.	10 11	 A. Yes. Q a final decision could be made in any one of those departments?
10 11 12	right? A. Correct. Q. Who are the other officers or persons to whom she	10 11 12	 A. Yes. Q a final decision could be made in any one of those departments? A. Yes.
10 11 12 13	right? A. Correct. Q. Who are the other officers or persons to whom she would seek advice?	10 11 12 13	 A. Yes. Q a final decision could be made in any one of those departments? A. Yes. Q. Are there any guidelines that, for example, Beth
10 11 12 13 14	right? A. Correct. Q. Who are the other officers or persons to whom she would seek advice? A. Generally the office of the general counsel, the	10 11 12 13 14	 A. Yes. Q a final decision could be made in any one of those departments? A. Yes. Q. Are there any guidelines that, for example, Beth Gibbons in the marketing department would review to
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10 11 12 13 14 15	right? A. Correct. Q. Who are the other officers or persons to whom she would seek advice? A. Generally the office of the general counsel, the general manager, and other individuals within administration potentially if the ad is of a certain	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	 A. Yes. Q a final decision could be made in any one of those departments? A. Yes. Q. Are there any guidelines that, for example, Beth Gibbons in the marketing department would review to make a determination whether it then needed to be bumped up to the office of general counsel?
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1	client's advertisement at issue in this case?	1 Q. And was the decision to deny, reject my client's	
2	MR. HILDEBRANDT: Objection, vague. What	2 advertisement was made then by the general man	ager's
3	do you mean by reviewed?	3 office; is that right?	3.
4	BY MR. MUISE:	4 A. In consultation with the other departments	, ves.
5	Q. Do you understand what I mean by reviewed?	5 Q. So the final decision then went through all three of	-
6	A. Yes, I believe so. I believe that at the time we had	6 those levels up to the general manager's office?	
7	a direct there was a SMART director of marketing	7 A. That's correct.	
8	and external affairs, Beth Dryden, and I believe she	8 Q. Who was the general manager at the time?	
9	has reviewed the advertisement.	9 A. John Hertel.	
10	Q. Okay. Other than Beth Gibbons and Beth Dryden,	2. Did the marketing department make a recommen	dation to
11	anybody else in the marketing department that you are	the office of general counsel as to whether my	
12	aware of that reviewed my client's advertisement to	client's ad should be accepted or rejected?	
13	determine whether it satisfied the content based	13 MR. HILDEBRANDT: I'm going to object.	
14	requirements?	That's privileged information. The advice that the	v
15	A. No.	sought from the attorney from SMART is privileged	
16	Q. Do you know if the decision to reject my client's	16 MR. MUISE: I'm not asking for the	- ,
17	advertisement was made by the marketing department?	17 advice	
18	A. It was not.	18 BY MR. MUISE:	
19	Q. So there was something about my client's advertisement	19 Q. Is Beth Gibbons an attorney?	
20	that then caused either Ms. Gibbons or Ms. Dryden to	20 A. She is not.	
21	push the decision up to the office of the general	21 Q. Is Beth Dryden an attorney?	
22	counsel; is that correct?	22 A. She is not.	
23	A. Presumably, yes.	23 Q. Do either of them hold a role as an attorney?	
24	Q. Well, do you know?	24 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.	
25	A. I can't speculate as to their what they were	25 Q. So they are not engaging in the lawful practice of	· law
	Page 30		ge 32
1	_		gc 31
2	thinking, but they did push it beyond the marketing	at SMART; is that fair to say? A. Correct.	
3	department, and so based on our policy, yes, there was	Q. Do you know what recommendations either Beth I	Drudon or
4	something that caused them uncertainty and they needed further review.	4 Beth Gibbons made as to whether this advisement	
5	Q. Okay. So they didn't even though she had the	5 be accepted or rejected?	SHOUIU
6	authority to either approve or reject the	6 MR. HILDEBRANDT: (I'm objecting, that's)	
7	* '' *	g,g,g,	
8	advertisement, it's your understanding that Beth	attorney short privilegear	
9	Gibbons or Beth was it Beth Dryden too? A. Correct.	jg	
10		40	
11			<u>.+</u>
12	Dryden in the marketing department did not make a	witness not to answer the question because the factor that she sought legal counsel and the discussions to	
13	decision one way or the other and they pushed it up to the office of general counsel, correct?	she had with legal counsel are absolutely privileged	
14	A. Correct.		••
15	Q. Do you know if the decision to reject my client's ad	MR. MUISE: Are you instructing the client not to answer the question?	
16	was made from the office of the general counsel?	16 BY MR. MUISE:	
17	A. Can you restate that question?	17 Q. Are you going to answer the question?	
18	Q. Sure. Do you know if the decision then to reject my	18 A. Are you directing me?	
19	client's ad was made at the office of the general	19 MR. GORDON: Can I hear the question aga	ain
20	counsel?	20 please?	an 1,
_ ∠∪	ooulisti;	21 (The following record was read by the	
	Δ It was not		
21	A. It was not.	(
21 22	Q. So then the office of the general counsel decided it	reporter at 10:21 a.m.	
21 22 23	Q. So then the office of the general counsel decided it needed to be pushed up to the general manager's	reporter at 10:21 a.m. 23 "QUESTION: Do you know what	.th
21 22	Q. So then the office of the general counsel decided it	reporter at 10:21 a.m.	

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1	should be accepted or rejected?")	1	MR. HILDEBRANDT: Perfectly.
2	A. Could you clarify as to do you mean prior to the ad	2	BY MR. MUISE:
3	being reviewed by the office of the general counsel?	3	Q. I want to ask you in terms of the application of the
4	BY MR. MUISE:	4	content based restrictions generally and then focus in
5	Q. Right. I'm trying to understand the process in which	5	on how it was applied in my client's case.
6	SMART uses to apply generally the content based	6	If a determination cannot be made at the
7	restrictions and how it was applied in my client's	7	marketing department level, is it typical that the
8	case, and my question is based on your testimony the	8	marketing department will then make a recommendation
9	decision to accept or reject the advertisement was not	9	to the next level in the sequence that we described in
10	made at the marketing department level, although it	10	terms of the application of the policy?
11	could have been made under this policy, correct?	11	MR. HILDEBRANDT: You are again getting
12	A. Correct.	12	into what is the conversation between the marketing
13	Q. And so the that decision was pushed up to the next	13	department and their attorneys, the general counsel.
14	level, and the next level is the office of general	14	You don't get that. It's privileged.
15	counsel, and you testified that that decision could	15	MR. MUISE: There is nothing specific about
16	have been made to accept or reject at that point, but	16	it. The fact that
17	it wasn't. In the case of my client's ad, it was	17	MR. HILDEBRANDT: It doesn't matter if it's
18	pushed up again to the third level, which was the	18	specific.
19	general manager's office, and it was at the general	19	MR. MUISE: The fact that the fact of
20	manager's office that the final decision was made to	20	making a recommendation is not a privileged
21	reject the advertisement. Is that a correct summary?	21	communication.
22	A. That is all correct, but it isn't strictly appellate	22	MR. HILDEBRANDT: Yes, it is.
23	review; it's more of a consensus review, and if there	23	MR. MUISE: Are you going to instruct him
24	isn't absolute consensus, then another and more input	24	not to answer the question?
25	is sought, but yes.	25	MR. HILDEBRANDT: The fact that they picked
	Page 34		Page 36
1	Q. I understand.	1	up the phone to call legal is a privileged issue.
2	A. The advertisement did go through people in that order.	2	
3	Q. And so my question was did the marketing department		
4		3	What they seek legal advice about is privileged, how they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal
4	make a recommendation as to whether it believed that		they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal
5	make a recommendation as to whether it believed that the advertisement should have been accepted or	3 4 5	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged.
	the advertisement should have been accepted or	4	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged. If you want to ask what the review was at
5	the advertisement should have been accepted or rejected when it was pursuing further information from	4 5	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged. If you want to ask what the review was at the general counsel level, that's fine. If you want
5 6	the advertisement should have been accepted or	4 5 6	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged. If you want to ask what the review was at the general counsel level, that's fine. If you want to ask what the review was at the marketing level,
5 6 7	the advertisement should have been accepted or rejected when it was pursuing further information from or further determination from the office of general counsel?	4 5 6 7	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged. If you want to ask what the review was at the general counsel level, that's fine. If you want to ask what the review was at the marketing level, that was fine, but if you ask her what she asked her
5 6 7 8	the advertisement should have been accepted or rejected when it was pursuing further information from or further determination from the office of general counsel? MR. HILDEBRANDT: Objection, that seeks	4 5 6 7 8	they seek legal advice is privileged. The legal advice is privileged. If you want to ask what the review was at the general counsel level, that's fine. If you want to ask what the review was at the marketing level, that was fine, but if you ask her what she asked her attorney about or what she normally asks her attorney
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