

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
06 Civ. 0589 (CGE)

-----X
ANUCHA BROWNE-SANDERS,

Plaintiff,

- against -

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, L.P., ISIAH LORD
THOMAS, III, and JAMES DOLAN,

Defendants.

-----X
January 19, 2007
10:01 a.m.

Videotaped Deposition of KARIN
BUCHHOLZ, taken by Plaintiff, pursuant to
Notice, held at the offices of Vladeck
Waldman Elias & Engelhard, P.C., 1501
Broadway, New York, New York, before Todd
DeSimone, a Registered Professional
Reporter and Notary Public of the State of
New York.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
06 Civ. 0589 (CGE)

-----x
ANUCHA BROWNE-SANDERS,

Plaintiff,

- against -

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, L.P., ISIAH LORD
THOMAS, III, and JAMES DOLAN,
Defendants.

-----x

January 19, 2007
10:01 a.m.

Videotaped Deposition of KARIN
BUCHHOLZ, taken by Plaintiff, pursuant to
Notice, held at the offices of Vladeck
Waldman Elias & Engelhard, P.C., 1501
Broadway, New York, New York, before Todd
DeSimone, a Registered Professional
Reporter and Notary Public of the State of
New York.


1 BUCHHOLZ

2 no. I asked her again, "Are you sure?
3 Did he force you to do it?" And she said
4 no, but that she was ashamed. She
5 regretted it. She is so sorry that she
6 lied to me, that she just didn't know what
7 to do. I think that was it.

8 Q. Did she tell you whether or
9 not -- strike that.

10 Did she tell you whether after
11 that incident Stephon Marbury had
12 communicated with her?

13 A. I think she said that he tried
14 to text her, you know, "I want some more
15 of that," but that she didn't respond to
16 him.

17 Q. Did you have any other
18 conversations with 
19 concerning either Stephon Marbury or
20 Hassan Gonsalves?

21 A. After Hassan was let go, I
22 asked her how she was doing, if he has
23 tried to communicate with her, and she
24 said she was fine and no. We talked when
25 she was interviewed by Human Resources or

BUCHHOLZ

1
2 wasn't from, you know, just Anucha wanting
3 him to be fired. I wasn't supposed to
4 talk about what the reason was. So I was
5 conscious of that but I wanted to tell her
6 that.

7 Q. Did she seem surprised to hear
8 that there had been an investigation?

9 A. She said that -- well, her take
10 was there was an investigation but she
11 thought the girls were lying and that this
12 was just untrue, that her cousin couldn't
13 have done those horrible things.

14 Q. Did you tell her that Stephon
15 had slept with [REDACTED]?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Who, if anyone, did you tell
18 about Marcia Marbury's statement to you
19 that it was a shame that Hassan had to be
20 fired because Ms. Browne-Sanders and
21 Stephon didn't get along?

22 A. I don't remember.

23 Q. When was the first time that
24 you told anyone at the Garden that you had
25 consulted with Judith Vladeck and Kevin

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 Mintzer?

3 A. When did I tell anyone at the
4 Garden?

5 Q. Correct.

6 MR. GREEN: Objection to form.
7 You may answer.

8 A. I believe it was the day after
9 it hit the papers, or the day that it was
10 going -- that it hit the papers.

11 Q. So was it your understanding
12 that it was after Ms. Browne-Sanders filed
13 her lawsuit?

14 A. Yes, it was after.

15 Q. And who did you mention it to?

16 MR. GREEN: Objection to form.
17 But to the extent you mentioned that to
18 the attorneys representing you at the time
19 you may not respond to this question.
20 Otherwise you may answer the question.

21 THE WITNESS: Say that again,
22 I'm sorry.

23 MR. GREEN: To the extent in
24 answering this question you reveal a
25 conversation you had with any of the

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 MR. GREEN: Asked and answered.
3 You may answer again. You can add to your
4 prior response.

5 A. Because it was a case that
6 Anucha filed against the Garden and I had
7 been with her when she wanted to seek
8 counsel.

9 MR. SCHOENFELD: Can I have a
10 quick conference?

11 THE WITNESS: Can I go to the
12 bathroom, too, again?

13 MS. VLADECK: Sure.

14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off
15 the record. The time is 11:39.

16 (Recess taken.)

17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back
18 on the record. The time is 11:57.

19 BY MS. VLADECK:

20 Q. Who is Jennifer Hatch?

21 A. She is one of my best friends.

22 Q. And did you call Ms. Hatch to
23 try and get the name of an employment
24 lawyer?

25 A. Yes.

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 Q. When did you do that?

3 A. After Anucha asked me to give
4 her a name of a lawyer.

5 Q. And when was that?

6 A. That was I think the end of
7 November.

8 Q. Was it after you had a meeting
9 with John Moran?

10 A. I don't know.

11 Q. Was it at the time that you
12 were concerned that if Stephon thought you
13 had been responsible for firing Hassan
14 that there may be issues for you?

15 MR. GREEN: Objection to form.
16 You may answer.

17 A. Was it around that time you are
18 asking?

19 Q. Correct.

20 A. It was around that time, yes.

21 Q. Now, what did you say to
22 Ms. Hatch when you were asking for a
23 lawyer?

24 A. I told her that my boss asked
25 me if I knew of any lawyers and that she

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BUCHHOLZ

wanted to seek counsel for some issues that she was having at the Garden. It was very short. She sent me -- or she told me -- gave me the name and a phone number and I e-mailed it to Anucha.

Q. You then met with Anucha, Judith Vladeck and Kevin Mintzer on or about December 2nd; is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. After that meeting, you called Vladeck Waldman without Ms. Browne-Sanders on the phone; is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And you had asked to have time to talk in greater detail about your situation; is that correct?

MR. GREEN: I'm going to object. That's a privileged communication.

MS. VLADECK: I thought she waived her privilege.

MR. GREEN: Unless you agree to let her say everything, I can't allow you to parse through what is and what isn't

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 A. With John Moran, when I told
3 him that she had said that she was not
4 forced to sleep with Stephon, I kept
5 asking her and she said definitely not,
6 definitely not. Then I said that she was
7 not convincing. And she was very, very
8 regretful.

9 Q. Was it your belief after
10 talking to [REDACTED] that she felt
11 forced to have sex with Stephon Marbury?

12 MR. GREEN: Objection to the
13 form. But you may answer.

14 A. No, I thought it was
15 consensual.

16 Q. Then what was not convincing
17 about her when she said she wasn't forced?

18 MR. GREEN: Same objection.
19 But you may answer.

20 A. She just seemed, when she was
21 talking to me, that she was so embarrassed
22 and ashamed and blaming it on, you know --
23 she was so ashamed, she was coming up with
24 excuses of why she did it. So she wasn't
25 convincing me of a lot of what she was

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.

BUCHHOLZ

players sleeping with [REDACTED]

MR. GREEN: Objection to form.

You may answer.

A. I don't know about any rules regarding players sleeping with [REDACTED]

(Buchholz Exhibit 1 marked for identification.)

Q. For the record, what you have before you as Buchholz Exhibit 1 is an e-mail from Anucha Browne-Sanders to John Moran dated December 7th, 2005 which attaches an e-mail from you to Anucha Browne-Sanders dated November 28th, 2005.

Is this something that you wrote to Ms. Browne-Sanders?

A. I would like to read it.

Q. I'm sorry. Take your time.

(Witness perusing document.)

A. Yes, I remember this e-mail.

Q. Now, the first sentence says "After our meeting with John Moran I am documenting the incidences where Stephon Marbury made it clear to employees that he did not like you."

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What occurred at the meeting
5 with John Moran that made you document the
6 instances where Stephon Marbury made it
7 clear to employees that he did not like
8 Browne-Sanders?

9 A. I have no idea. I don't
10 remember what that meeting was.

11 Q. Did you have a meeting with
12 John Moran and Anucha Browne-Sanders in
13 November of 2005?

14 A. I don't remember.

15 Q. Do you know which employees
16 other than as stated in this e-mail
17 Stephon Marbury made it clear to that he
18 did not like Anucha Browne-Sanders?

19 A. I have to make it clear right
20 now that Anucha asked me specifically and
21 gave me wording and told me to document
22 this e-mail. And I was very uncomfortable
23 that she said, you know, document the
24 e-mail about how Stephon doesn't like me,
25 what everyone said, who said it, why.

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 asked me to talk to her after the
3 interview. She wanted to know everything
4 about it.

5 And you asked me if I was
6 afraid of my future at the Garden because
7 of the Garden. I was afraid of my future
8 at the Garden because of Anucha and that
9 if I didn't cooperate with her I could be
10 on her bad side. So when she asked me
11 things, you know, about the investigation
12 with John Moran, I really felt pressured
13 that I have to be loyal to her because she
14 is still my boss. I was very
15 uncomfortable.

16 I will tell you, I was very
17 uncomfortable when she asked me to go to
18 the law office with her and because she
19 was my boss I told her I was uncomfortable
20 and she still asked me to go. In this
21 instance, you know, she called. I told
22 her some things that happened, that I had
23 shared at the meeting with John Moran and
24 Rochelle Noel and I didn't feel
25 comfortable telling her everything because

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.

BUCHHOLZ

I was afraid if it got back to her and she didn't like some of the things that I said, that I was not being loyal and that would have determined my future. I could have ended up like [REDACTED] If she didn't like you and didn't think you were loyal, you didn't have a bright future working for her.

So I was definitely -- and things had changed by that time. I admit that I was very close to her. I admit that we had an excellent relationship. I respected and admired her. When she told me all of these things -- when she told me all of the things that she thought that was wrong about what the Garden was doing to her, there was no reason I didn't believe her. And I felt for her and listened to her. And I thought she was a good friend. And then slowly I started to realize that she wasn't a good friend.

What kind of friend would really kind of force you to go to a law office when you clearly were uncomfortable

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 with it? What kind of friend would on the
3 way to the law office tell you that I had
4 no future at the Garden anymore because I
5 was her right-hand person and that I had
6 to go ahead with her on this? What kind
7 of friend would keep calling me and
8 telling me even when she knows I'm not
9 supposed to discuss the case, would put me
10 in a position knowing that she is still my
11 boss that I had to feed her information?
12 I felt very uncomfortable because it was
13 definitely outside of my integrity.

14 Then, you know, I'm just going
15 to be completely honest here, when I found
16 out -- when I went with Anucha to the law
17 office and my understanding that it was
18 all these issues about her being wronged
19 by the Garden, and then when I found
20 out --

21 Q. Wait, are you going to be
22 testifying about anything that was said
23 here?

24 A. No. But when I found out that
25 it came out that it was sexual harassment

1. BUCHHOLZ

2. against Isiah Thomas, I was shocked. You
3. know, as good a friends as we were I would
4. have thought she would have told me
5. throughout the years that I had known her
6. that she felt she was sexually harassed by
7. him. She never once told me that she
8. thought she was sexually harassed by him.

9. I thought it was -- everything
10. I knew about Anucha right then and there,
11. I was shocked that she could make these
12. allegations about Isiah, which are strong
13. allegations, that he sexually harassed
14. her. That could ruin someone's -- that
15. could ruin someone's life. I was shocked.

16. I do not think that the things
17. that she told me, that meant that he
18. sexually harassed her. When she told me
19. about the case and everything that she was
20. complaining about, it was all about, you
21. know, her issues with not being able to do
22. her job, the Garden.

23. So as it went along, yeah, my
24. feelings towards Anucha changed from
25. really admiring and respecting her to all

1. BUCHHOLZ

2. A. No.

3. Q. Did you suggest to John Moran
4. that he should have a conversation with
5. Stephon Marbury about what he thought?

6. A. No, that's not my job to tell
7. John Moran what to do with an
8. investigation.

9. Q. So other than maybe or maybe
10. not calling John Moran after you heard
11. from Marcia Marbury, you did nothing; is
12. that correct?

13. A. That's correct.

14. Q. Did you ever work with Dan
15. Gladstone on a list of issues with respect
16. to Vernon Manuel?

17. A. Yes, I did.

18. Q. And why did you do that?

19. A. Anucha requested that we
20. document everything -- well, there were
21. several occasions that we did that. It
22. was throughout his work history. But in
23. November, Anucha asked us right before
24. Thanksgiving to prepare a document
25. documenting everything.

1. BUCHHOLZ

2 Q. And do you know why she asked
3 you to do that?

4 A. I think it was to get him
5 fired.

6 Q. And do you know why she wanted
7 to get him fired?

8 A. Because we had problems with
9 him throughout his work career and there
10 were a couple of things that happened at
11 the time where we created the document
12 that was the straw that broke the camel's
13 back.

14 Q. Did you believe that Vernon
15 Manuel should be fired?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. Did you ever tell anyone that
18 you were completely fed up with the issue
19 with respect to Vernon Manuel?

20 A. I don't remember saying that.
21 I don't know. Do you know who it was to?

22 Q. Did you ever say it? Do you
23 have any recollection of saying it?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. Did you believe that Anucha

1. BUCHHOLZ

2 Browne-Sanders was asking you to do
3 anything wrong by documenting issues with
4 respect to Vernon Manuel?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did she tell you what she was
7 going to do with the documentation?

8 A. She said she was going to give
9 it to Steve Mills.

10 Q. Did you have any discussion
11 with Dan Gladstone concerning Anucha
12 Browne-Sanders asking for documentation
13 concerning Vernon Manuel?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what was that conversation?

16 A. We both were a little upset
17 that we had to do it right before
18 Thanksgiving. We were talking about
19 having to work on it through Thanksgiving.
20 We just talked about the issues. There
21 were a lot of notes that we had taken
22 throughout the year and a half or two
23 years that he was there that we discussed.
24 Each incident we went through.

25 Q. Do you know why it was asked

1 BUCHHOLZ

2 for at around Thanksgiving?

3 A. Because that was about the time
4 that these incidences happened that I
5 referred to that kind of broke the camel's
6 back.

7 Q. Did you express to Anucha
8 Browne-Sanders that you were annoyed that
9 it was about the same time as
10 Thanksgiving?

11 A. No. We knew we had to get it
12 done. It was just unfortunate that it was
13 around Thanksgiving. If she asked for it,
14 we of course were going to get it done.

15 (Buchholz Exhibit 3 marked for
16 identification.)

17 (Witness perusing document.)

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. What has been marked as
20 Buchholz Exhibit 3 starts with an e-mail
21 from Karen Buchholz to Anucha
22 Browne-Sanders dated November 24th, 2005,
23 production number MSG 04066.

24 If you look at the bottom
25 e-mail, which is the first in this chain,

REDACTED

From: Browne Sanders, Anucha
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2005 8:47 PM
To: Moran, John VP ER MSG
Cc: Mills, Steve
Subject: Fw: Issues

As a follow up to last weeks meetings, steve said that you are reviewing all emails. I want you to have this one as well.

-----Original Message-----

From: Buchholz, Karin <Karin.Buchholz@thegarden.com>
To: Browne Sanders, Anucha <Anucha.BrowneSanders@thegarden.com>
Sent: Mon Nov 28 21:04:21 2005
Subject: Issues

Anucha,

After our meeting with John Moran, I am documenting the instances where Stephon Marbury made it clear to employees that he did not like you. Last season, I asked Chris Bernard to get several jerseys signed by Stephon and Stephon refused because he thought they were requests from you. Chris asked me not to say anything and said the reason Stephon wasn't signing was because he didn't like you. It took several days before we got the jerseys signed after letting Stephon know that the jerseys were for Cablevision and a charitable organization. Stephon said he didn't want to do anything to help Anucha. On several occasions, Jamie Mathews said that Stephon did not want to cooperate with CR requests because he did not like Anucha. Dan Gladstone told me that Stephon called him on his cell phone and said that wasn't going to do anything for "that bitch" and that he hated you. It is common knowledge with the staff that Stephon doesn't like Anucha.

As you can imagine, this has made our job in Community Relations very difficult at times.

Karin

Karin J. Buchholz
Vice President,
Community Relations & Fan Development
New York Knicks
Two Pennsylvania Plaza
New York, NY 10121
(212) 465-6382
karin.buchholz@thegarden.com

EXHIBIT
Buchholz 1
11/19/07 TD
PERIOD 900-881-6388

CONFIDENTIAL

MSG 03933

REDACTED

From: Browne Sanders, Anucha
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2005 8:47 PM
To: Moran, John VP ER MSG
Cc: Mills, Steve
Subject: Fw: Issues

As a follow up to last weeks meetings, steve said that you are reviewing all emails. I want you to have this one as well.

-----Original Message-----

From: Buchholz, Karin <Karin.Buchholz@thegarden.com>
To: Browne Sanders, Anucha <Anucha.BrowneSanders@thegarden.com>
Sent: Mon Nov 28 21:04:21 2005
Subject: Issues

Anucha,

After our meeting with John Moran, I am documenting the instances where Stephon Marbury made it clear to employees that he did not like you. Last season, I asked Chris Bernard to get several jerseys signed by Stephon and Stephon refused because he thought they were requests from you. Chris asked me not to say anything and said the reason Stephon wasn't signing was because he didn't like you. It took several days before we got the jerseys signed after letting Stephon know that the jerseys were for Cablevision and a charitable organization. Stephon said he didn't want to do anything to help Anucha. On several occasions, Jamie Mathews said that Stephon did not want to cooperate with CR requests because he did not like Anucha. Dan Gladstone told me that Stephon called him on his cell phone and said that wasn't going to do anything for "that bitch" and that he hated you. It is common knowledge with the staff that Stephon doesn't like Anucha.

As you can imagine, this has made our job in Community Relations very difficult at times.

Karin

Karin J. Buchholz
Vice President,
Community Relations & Fan Development
New York Knicks
Two Pennsylvania Plaza
New York, NY 10121
(212) 465-6382
karin.buchholz@thegarden.com

EXHIBIT
Buchholz 1
1/19/07 TD
PERCJAD 800-651-9988

CONFIDENTIAL

MSG 03933