

Exhibit QQ

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Eastern Profit Corporation,)
Plaintiff,)
V.) Civil Action No.
Strategic Vision U.S, LLC,) 1:18 CV 02185
Defendant.)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Videotaped Deposition of Bill Gertz
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

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Reported by: Jackie Smith

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<p>1 EXHIBITS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 No. Description Page</p> <p>4 1 E Mail, 11 11 17 11</p> <p>5 2 News Article 61</p> <p>6 3 News Article 83</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12 (EXHIBITS RETAINED)</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 themselves. Counsel, please introduce yourselves</p> <p>2 MS. KROPF: I am Sara Kropf. I</p> <p>3 represent the witness.</p> <p>4 MS. LUETKEMEYER: Lucinda Luetkemeyer on</p> <p>5 behalf of the defendant and counter claimant,</p> <p>6 Strategic Vision.</p> <p>7 MS. CLINE: Joanna Cline, Pepper</p> <p>8 Hamilton, on behalf of Eastern Profit.</p> <p>9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Will the court</p> <p>10 reporter please swear in the witness.</p> <p>11 (Whereupon, witness was duly sworn.)</p> <p>12 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>13 Q. Good morning, Mr. Gertz.</p> <p>14 A. Good morning.</p> <p>15 Q. We met earliest. I am Lucinda</p> <p>16 Luetkemeyer and I represent, Strategic Vision, the</p> <p>17 defendant in this action. You are here today for your</p> <p>18 deposition.</p> <p>19 Have you ever been deposed before?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And when was that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>
<p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 (12:03 a.m.)</p> <p>3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: I am Jeffrey Elam,</p> <p>4 your videographer, and I represent Atkinson Baker,</p> <p>5 Incorporated in Glendale, California.</p> <p>6 I am not financially interested in this</p> <p>7 action, nor am I related or employed of any attorney</p> <p>8 or any party. The date is October 15, 2019. The time</p> <p>9 is 12:03 p.m.</p> <p>10 This deposition is being taking place at</p> <p>11 Kropf Moseley PLLC, 1100 H Street, Suite 1220,</p> <p>12 Washington, D.C. The Case is filed in the United</p> <p>13 States District Court for the Southern District of New</p> <p>14 York, Case No. 18 CV 2185(K) excuse me, (JGK),</p> <p>15 entitled Eastern Profit Corporation, Limited versus</p> <p>16 Strategic Vision U.S., LLC.</p> <p>17 The deponent is Bill Gertz. This</p> <p>18 deposition is being taken on behalf of the defendant.</p> <p>19 Your court reporter is Jackie Smith from ELSS</p> <p>20 Executive Reporting.</p> <p>21 Counsel will now please introduce</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 A. Many years ago.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember what action it was</p> <p>3 in?</p> <p>4 A. I don't.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. So if you have been deposed</p> <p>6 before, it's fair to say that you understand what a</p> <p>7 deposition is?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. You take an oath to tell the truth</p> <p>10 and you understand that's the whole truth to the full</p> <p>11 extent of your knowledge?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. If you answer a question that I ask,</p> <p>14 I'm going to assume that you understood my question;</p> <p>15 is that fair?</p> <p>16 A. Okay.</p> <p>17 Q. And if you need clarification or if I</p> <p>18 speak too quickly, which sometimes I do, please just</p> <p>19 ask me to rephrase it and I will.</p> <p>20 And I will also ask you to please give</p> <p>21 verbal answers like yes or no instead of um hum or uh</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>

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1 **huh, just so it's clear for the court reporter; is**
 2 **that fair?**
 3 A. Okay.
 4 **Q. Mr. Gertz, I see that your Counsel**
 5 **has provided me with one document that you brought**
 6 **with you today.**
 7 **Do you have a copy of that in front of you?**
 8 A. Yes, I do.
 9 - - - -
 10 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for identification.)
 11 - - - -
 12 **Q. I'm going to go ahead and mark this**
 13 **as Exhibit 1. And what is this document, Mr. Gertz?**
 14 A. It appears to be an e mail from
 15 French Wallop.
 16 **Q. And that's to you, correct?**
 17 A. Yes.
 18 **Q. And this e mail is dated November**
 19 **11th of 2017?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. And do you remember what prompted**

Page 10

1 **this e mail?**
 2 A. I do not.
 3 **Q. And how did you discover this e mail?**
 4 A. I did a search of my e mail.
 5 **Q. And was that in response to the**
 6 **document request that we sent your Counsel?**
 7 A. Yes.
 8 **Q. And this is the only receptive**
 9 **document you had in response to that request?**
 10 A. Yes.
 11 **Q. And I see that this e mail is**
 12 **regarding the use of an encrypted messaging ap called**
 13 **Signal, is that correct?**
 14 A. Yes.
 15 **Q. And after Ms. Wallop sent you this e**
 16 **mail, did you, in fact, communicate with her via**
 17 **Signal?**
 18 A. Yes.
 19 **Q. And Signal has a functionality where**
 20 **you can delete messages automatically, does it not?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 11

1 **Q. And did you, in fact, use this Signal**
 2 **ap to auto delete the messages that you received?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 **Q. Do you how long you had the setting**
 5 **for, one day, ten minutes?**
 6 A. No, I don't remember.
 7 **Q. Do any of the messages with**
 8 **Ms. Wallop remain on your Signal ap?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. What about messages with Mr. Waller?**
 11 A. No.
 12 **Q. Did you ever communicate with**
 13 **Mr. Waller over Signal?**
 14 A. I can't remember.
 15 **Q. Did you ever use any encrypted**
 16 **message Aps in this matter?**
 17 A. No.
 18 **Q. Okay. Did you ever communicate with**
 19 **Mr. Guo via Signal?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. Okay. And do any of those**

Page 12

1 **communications remain?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. Okay. And did you search your**
 4 **standard e mail for communications responsive to the**
 5 **request as well?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. In your normal phone and text**
 8 **messages also?**
 9 A. Yes.
 10 **Q. And no responsive communications**
 11 **remained?**
 12 A. No responsive communications
 13 remained.
 14 **Q. To your recollection, about how many**
 15 **messages would you say you had over Signal with**
 16 **Ms. Wallop?**
 17 A. I don't know.
 18 **Q. If you gave your best estimate, would**
 19 **you say under 50?**
 20 A. I'd say, yes.
 21 **Q. Okay. And did you use the ap, What's**

Page 13

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1 **Ap, to communicate with Mr. Guo?**
2 A. No.
3 **Q. Okay. Did you ever use What's Ap to**
4 **communicate with Ms. Wallop?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. And do you have any hard copy**
7 **documents in your possession related to this matter?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. Okay. Any handwritten notes?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Okay. I don't think I have any more**
12 **questions about this exhibit now, but we might come**
13 **back to it later, so feel free to keep it in front of**
14 **you. Thank you.**
15 **Mr. Gertz, how did you prepare for today's**
16 **deposition?**
17 A. I just, basically, got ready to talk
18 about this case.
19 **Q. And did you meet with anyone to**
20 **prepare for today's deposition?**
21 A. No.

Page 14

1 **Q. Did you meet with your lawyer?**
2 A. Yes.
3 **Q. Okay. Did you I'm not going to**
4 **ask you about your communications with your lawyer**
5 **because those are privileged, but did you meet with**
6 **anyone other than your lawyer to talk about this**
7 **deposition?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. Did you speak with Ling Cho Hann**
10 **(phonetic) about this deposition?**
11 A. No.
12 **Q. Did you speak with Mr. Guo about this**
13 **deposition?**
14 A. No.
15 **Q. And have you reviewed any other prior**
16 **depositions taken in this case?**
17 A. No.
18 **Q. Okay. So you haven't seen French**
19 **Wallop's deposition, for example?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. Okay. Have you ever reviewed any of**

Page 15

1 **the pleadings in this case?**
2 A. No.
3 **Q. So you haven't seen the complaint or**
4 **the counterclaim?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Do you know, generally, what this**
7 **case is about?**
8 A. Vaguely.
9 **Q. And how do you have knowledge of**
10 **that?**
11 A. I think it was from some news reports
12 about a contract dispute.
13 **Q. Okay. And that might have been the**
14 **news reports from earlier this summer?**
15 A. Yes.
16 **Q. Okay. And did you show this document**
17 **that we discussed earlier, Exhibit 1, to anyone other**
18 **than your attorney before today?**
19 A. No.
20 **Q. Did anyone instruct you not to**
21 **provide documents responsive to our request?**

Page 16

1 A. No.
2 **Q. Let's start with going into your**
3 **background a little bit, your education and your**
4 **profession. Can you just tell me a little bit about**
5 **you, and what you do, and how you arrived to your**
6 **position today?**
7 A. I am a journalist and author. I work
8 for The Washington Times, and until recently, The
9 Washington Beacon. I have written eight books.
10 I have -- I was educated at Washington College in
11 Chester Town, Maryland and also at George Washington
12 University in Washington, D.C.
13 **Q. And do you also occasionally do**
14 **speaking engagements?**
15 A. Yes.
16 **Q. And how often would you say you do**
17 **speaking engagements?**
18 A. Maybe once every two to three months.
19 **Q. Is that around the country or mostly**
20 **around here?**
21 A. It could be locally or it could be

Page 17

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1 around the country.

2 **Q. And do you have a company that**

3 **arranging those for you or do you have an LLC that you**

4 **do speaking engagements through?**

5 A. No.

6 **Q. Just available to book you through**

7 **your website?**

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. So if someone wanted to book you to**

10 **do a speech at a college or university, how would they**

11 **get in touch with you?**

12 A. Probably through phone.

13 **Q. Do you have a book agent?**

14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. And who is your agent?**

16 A. Joseph Valerie.

17 **Q. And what company does he work for?**

18 A. He passed away recently, last year.

19 **Q. Oh, sorry. Okay. Do you have anyone**

20 **new that you work with?**

21 A. No.

Page 18

1 **Q. That's who you worked with on your**

2 **most recent book?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q. And tell me about your most recent**

5 **book?**

6 A. My most recent book is called

7 Deceiving The Sky.

8 **Q. And what's it about?**

9 A. It's about China. It is

10 basically, in the year 2000, I wrote a book called The

11 China Threat. And this book was initially, the

12 working title was The China Threat 2.0, to look at all

13 of the various things that have happened related to

14 China since 2000.

15 **Q. And when did Deceiving The Sky come**

16 **out?**

17 A. It was published in September, early

18 September of this year.

19 **Q. And did you go on a book tour?**

20 A. It's not really a tour in the sense

21 of a tour. It's more or less a promotional -- a

Page 19

1 promotion of radio and television.

2 **Q. And when did your appearances on**

3 **radio and TV begin?**

4 A. That would probably be around

5 September 3rd, after that.

6 **Q. And are they ongoing, those**

7 **appearances?**

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. When is the last one that you had?**

10 A. I think I was on the Adam Carolla

11 Podcast last week.

12 **Q. That must have been interesting. And**

13 **you were Fox News last week as well, correct?**

14 A. I think I was on Lou Dobbs, yes.

15 **Q. Okay. We have talked a little bit**

16 **about being an author and a journalist. What's your**

17 **main focus of writing?**

18 A. I write about defense and national

19 security affairs.

20 **Q. And has that always been the case**

21 **since you began journalism?**

Page 20

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. And you have written eight books. We**

3 **have talked about two of them.**

4 **Generally, what are the other six about?**

5 A. They are about -- one was about the

6 Clinton Administration's national security policies.

7 One was about arms proliferation. Another was about

8 the intelligence failures related to 911. The China

9 Threat was one. One was called IWar, which was war

10 and peace in the information age.

11 **Q. And since 2017, which is the**

12 **operative time for this dispute, which entities have**

13 **paid you money? We discussed the Free Beacon, The**

14 **Times.**

15 **What other sources of income have you had?**

16 A. In what sense?

17 **Q. Anyone who pays you, that hits your**

18 **bank account. So who have your employers been?**

19 A. My employer has been The Washington

20 Times and The Washington Free Beacon. The most recent

21 book was published by Encounter Books.

Page 21

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1 **Q. And when do you speaking engagements,**
2 **do you receive a fee or honoraria for those?**
3 A. Sometimes.
4 **Q. And that's just paid to you directly?**
5 A. Yes.
6 **Q. And you receive royalties for your**
7 **books?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. And that's through Encounter, the**
10 **publisher?**
11 A. It will be, yes. I have not received
12 royalties.
13 **Q. And wherever you published this book**
14 **with Encounter, what is your contract with them?**
15 A. In what sense?
16 **Q. What are the royalties and what are**
17 **the terms of payment?**
18 A. I don't know all of it, but it's
19 basically after the first number of copies that are
20 sold, you get 15 percent, and after that, a certain
21 number, it's 12 percent, and then I think it's 10

Page 22

1 percent of the sales of the book.
2 **Q. Do you get more money if the book**
3 **does better in sales, such as like bestseller list or**
4 **anything like that?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Okay. And when did you sign the**
7 **contract for the most recent Encounter book deal for**
8 **Deceiving The Sky?**
9 A. I think it was the August time frame.
10 **Q. And did you receive a lump sum**
11 **at the beginning for publishing that book?**
12 A. No.
13 **Q. Do you know about when your first**
14 **payment would come in from them?**
15 A. I'm not sure of the terms, but I
16 think it would be six -- six months or so.
17 **Q. From publication?**
18 A. From publication, or maybe a year.
19 **Q. And based on your prior seven books,**
20 **about how much do you expect to make from your most**
21 **recent book, Deceiving The Sky?**

Page 23

1 A. It's hard to say. I couldn't say. I
2 don't know.
3 **Q. Well, what's your best guess?**
4 A. I'd rather not guess.
5 **Q. Do you think it would be over**
6 **\$100,000?**
7 A. It could be.
8 **Q. How much did you make on your last**
9 **book?**
10 A. I made around that amount.
11 **Q. Okay. And the six books before that,**
12 **was it about that amount as well?**
13 A. I really can't remember.
14 **Q. Is it safe to say possibly in the six**
15 **figures, but that that amount could change, based on**
16 **sales?**
17 A. I really don't remember. I really
18 don't have a clear recollection.
19 **Q. Do you have a contract in writing**
20 **with Encounter for this most recent book deal?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 24

1 **Q. And your former agent negotiated that**
2 **for you?**
3 A. No, he didn't.
4 **Q. You negotiated that on your own?**
5 A. Yes.
6 **Q. Who did you negotiate with at**
7 **Encounter?**
8 A. Roger Kimble.
9 **Q. And what's his position?**
10 A. I believe he is the publisher.
11 **Q. And was Encounter paid by anyone to**
12 **publish your book?**
13 A. Not that I know of.
14 **Q. Okay. Would they have disclosed that**
15 **to you, do you believe, if they had received payment**
16 **from a third party?**
17 A. Yes.
18 **Q. And you said you have worked for both**
19 **The Washington Times and the Free Beacon at the same**
20 **time, is that correct?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 25

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19 **The Washington Times and the Free Beacon at the same**
20 **time, is that correct?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 25

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1 **Q. And how long have you worked for each**
2 **publication?**
3 A. I have been with The Washington Times
4 since 1985, and I was with The Washington Free Beacon
5 from 2012 to 2019.
6 **Q. And did your roles differ for the two**
7 **publications?**
8 A. At The Washington Times, I am a
9 national security columnist, and I write a weekly
10 column.
11 **Q. And at The Free Beacon, you were?**
12 A. Senior editor, and did writing.
13 **Q. Okay. For the entire time, from 2012**
14 **to 2019?**
15 A. Yes.
16 **Q. And last Friday, The Free Beacon**
17 **announced that you were no longer affiliated with**
18 **them, correct?**
19 A. Yes.
20 **Q. And what led up to that decision and**
21 **announcement?**

Page 26

1 A. We had a dispute about an editorial
2 matter.
3 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
4 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
5 **Q. You can answer. Say that one more**
6 **time.**
7 A. We had a dispute about editorial.
8 **Q. What do you mean by "dispute about**
9 **editorial?"**
10 A. An editorial matter.
11 **Q. A matter of news reporting?**
12 A. Yes.
13 **Q. And who was your dispute with at The**
14 **Free Beacon?**
15 A. It was with the managers of the Free
16 Beacon.
17 **Q. So it wasn't with the editor,**
18 **Ms. Johnson?**
19 A. Yes, it was with Ms. Johnson.
20 **Q. Anyone else?**
21 A. Yes. Michael Goldfarb.

Page 27

1 **Q. Anyone else?**
2 A. Aaron Harrison.
3 **Q. Okay. And when you say a dispute**
4 **about an editorial matter, what do you mean by that?**
5 A. We had a disagreement.
6 **Q. And what was the disagreement?**
7 A. The disagreement was about my book
8 work.
9 **Q. And what was the contention that you**
10 **disagreed with?**
11 A. It was having to do with some outside
12 funding for the book project.
13 **Q. That you had received?**
14 A. Yes.
15 **Q. And what was that outside funding?**
16 A. If I can explain, it was -- I met Guo
17 Wengui in 2017 and interviewed him. And I realized he
18 was a tremendous source of information and had a
19 tremendous story that I wanted to do a book about him.
20 And over the months, I sought to see if he would be
21 willing to do a book. And he initially said that he

Page 28

1 would like to do a book, but then said that he did not
2 want to do a book.
3 I then drafted a proposal for The China
4 Threat 2.0. And my agent at the time circulated it
5 among a number of publishers, and the publishers
6 turned it down.
7 So, at that point, I went to Guo Wengui and
8 I asked if he would be willing to act as a self
9 publisher. I was prepared to self publish the book
10 and I was going to ask him to provide a loan for
11 research, and that the loan would be in the form of an
12 advance payment to be paid back with royalties.
13 And I outlined that. I said that, again, I plan to
14 self publish this, but if I get a publisher, then the
15 royalties that I make from the book would be returned
16 to pay off the loan. I presented him with these
17 options and he told me that he could not provide the
18 support.
19 I then approached an associate of his named
20 William Je. And William Je, I had met through Guo,
21 and he was a supporter of my work. He is a wealthy

Page 29

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1 financier, and he said that he would agree to give me
 2 the loan on the same terms, it would be an advance
 3 payment against royalties.

4 **Q. And did you enter into that**
 5 **agreement?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. And was this a written agreement you**
 8 **had with Mr. Je?**

9 A. It was more of an e mail agreement,
 10 yes.

11 **Q. And do you have those e mails?**

12 A. I have one e mail.

13 **Q. And what is that one e mail that you**
 14 **have?**

15 A. It explains that he is transferring
 16 the funds, and in exchange, I'm going to abide by the
 17 terms that I outlined to you.

18 **Q. And how much money was the agreement?**

19 A. Well, I'd rather not say, but I would
 20 say that it was the same amount as the advance on my
 21 last book, IWar.

Page 30

1 **Q. And what was the amount of your**
 2 **advance on your last book, IWar?**

3 A. Well, since it has nothing to do with
 4 this litigation, I'd rather not say.

5 **Q. Mr. Gertz, I'm going to ask you the**
 6 **question very plainly, which is, the amount of the**
 7 **loan, as we phrased it, in the financial transaction**
 8 **that was the subject of The Free Beacon's announcement**
 9 **last Friday, how much money was that from Mr. Je?**

10 A. It was \$100,000.

11 **Q. And how was that money paid to you?**

12 A. It was sent by wire.

13 **Q. Was that sent to your business bank**
 14 **account or personal bank account?**

15 A. Personal bank account.

16 **Q. And when was that sent?**

17 A. I think it was early April of 2018.

18 **Q. And was Mr. Guo aware of this**
 19 **arrangement?**

20 A. No. Mr. Guo, I'm not sure, I don't
 21 think he was.

Page 31

1 **Q. Did he suggest that you seek out**
 2 **Mr. Je?**

3 A. I can't remember whether he suggested
 4 it or whether I want to Mr. Je on my own.

5 **Q. And how did you first meet Mr. Je?**

6 A. I met Mr. Je at lunch meeting with
 7 Mr. Guo.

8 MS. KROPP: You might want to pause for
 9 a second.

10 MS. LUETKEMEYER: Sure. We can take a
 11 short break.

12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Please stand by. We
 13 are going off the record at 12:22 p.m.

14 (Short Recess).

15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
 16 record at 12:23 p.m.

17 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:

18 **Q. We were just discussing Mr. Je. And**
 19 **I can't recall what your answer was before so I'll**
 20 **just ask you the question again, but how did you first**
 21 **meet Mr. Je?**

Page 32

1 A. I met Mr. Je at a lunch meeting with
 2 Mr. Guo.

3 **Q. Do you remember when that was?**

4 A. I do not.

5 **Q. Was it in 2017?**

6 A. I honestly can't remember.

7 **Q. Do you remember where the lunch was**
 8 **held?**

9 A. It was in Mr. Quo's house in New
 10 York.

11 **Q. At the Sherry Netherland?**

12 A. Yes.

13 **Q. Was anyone else present for this**
 14 **lunch?**

15 A. I don't believe so.

16 **Q. And when you -- we'll get back to**
 17 **Mr. Je in a minute, but whenever you received the**
 18 **funding from Mr. Je, was your publisher aware of that?**

19 A. I don't think he was, no.

20 **Q. Is your publisher aware of it now?**

21 A. I don't know.

Page 33

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1 **Q. And when the money came into your**
 2 **account via the wire and you began work, did you by**
 3 **the terms of your agreement, need to provide updates**
 4 **to Mr. Je of your book's progress?**
 5 A. No.
 6 **Q. And when was he expecting to be**
 7 **repaid?**
 8 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 9 THE WITNESS: The only -- the only
 10 repayment was when I got the royalties, that the
 11 royalties would go to him. We arranged that I would
 12 that we'd work out the repayment of the royalties when
 13 the first royalties came in.
 14 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 15 **Q. So the agreement that you all had did**
 16 **not have any interest amount or terms, other than that**
 17 **you would work it out later?**
 18 A. Correct.
 19 **Q. And did you negotiate that \$100,000**
 20 **or was that just what he decided to give you?**
 21 A. It was based on my last book advance.

Page 34

1 Like I said, I structured it as an advance payment
 2 against future royalties for book sales.
 3 **Q. So did you receive any other advance**
 4 **for this book then?**
 5 A. Yes, from the publisher.
 6 **Q. From Encounter?**
 7 A. Yes.
 8 **Q. And when did you receive that**
 9 **advance?**
 10 A. That would have been -- half of it
 11 would have been in August, and then the other half
 12 would have been in probably the April time frame.
 13 **Q. In August, 2018 and April, 2019?**
 14 A. Yes.
 15 **Q. And I understand these dates are**
 16 **approximate. Whenever you received that advance from**
 17 **your publisher, Encounter, was Encounter the same**
 18 **publisher that published your prior books?**
 19 A. No.
 20 **Q. So you found a new publisher?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 35

1 **Q. And when you received that advance**
 2 **from Encounter, how much was that, in two**
 3 **installments?**
 4 A. Six thousand total.
 5 **Q. Was it divided equally?**
 6 A. Half.
 7 **Q. So \$3,000 in August and \$3,000 in**
 8 **April?**
 9 A. Yes.
 10 **Q. And that was also wired to you?**
 11 A. That was a check.
 12 **Q. Okay. And was The Free Beacon aware**
 13 **of that payment?**
 14 A. No.
 15 **Q. Did they ask about that payment?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. And The Free Beacon's announcement on**
 18 **Friday which we have discussed referred to the**
 19 **arrangements as a previously undisclosed financial**
 20 **transaction with an individual or affiliate covered in**
 21 **your reporting, is that correct?**

Page 36

1 A. Correct.
 2 **Q. And why do you believe that they**
 3 **worded it that way?**
 4 A. I don't know.
 5 **Q. Was Mr. Je ever covered in your**
 6 **reporting?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. And was Mr. Je's relationship to**
 9 **Mr. Guo ever covered in your reporting?**
 10 A. No.
 11 **Q. And is it The Free Beacon's**
 12 **disagreement with you that Mr. Je was the true source**
 13 **of the funds?**
 14 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 15 THE WITNESS: It's not clear in your
 16 question.
 17 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 18 **Q. Did The Free Beacon believe that**
 19 **Mr. Guo was the true source of the funds?**
 20 MS. CLINE: Same objection.
 21 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

Page 37

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1 **Q. When Ms. Johnson first raised this**
2 **issue with you, when did that occur, the first**
3 **meeting?**
4 A. It was probably two or three weeks
5 ago.
6 **Q. And what was said to you from**
7 **Ms. Johnson and the other two individuals -- I forget**
8 **their names?**
9 A. I don't remember, actually, other
10 than that they were unaware of my book project, the
11 financing for my book project.
12 **Q. And how did they first learn of the**
13 **financing for your book project?**
14 A. Through some discussions.
15 **Q. What discussions?**
16 MS. KROPF: They are privileged, so
17 objection.
18 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
19 **Q. And whenever you say there was a**
20 **disagreement about an editorial matter, why do you say**
21 **it was an editorial matter?**

Page 38

1 A. Because we disagreed on whether there
2 was a conflict of interest.
3 **Q. You believe there was not a conflict**
4 **of interest?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. No, you did not believe there was a**
7 **conflict of interest?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. What did you believe?**
10 A. I believed that they didn't
11 understand that the money that I received from the
12 book did not come from Guo.
13 **Q. Did they ask you to provide any**
14 **evidence of the source of the funds?**
15 A. No.
16 **Q. Did you show them the communications**
17 **you had had with Mr. Je?**
18 A. No.
19 **Q. Did you explain to them the nature of**
20 **the transaction with Mr. Je?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 39

1 **Q. And whose decision, ultimately, was**
2 **it to let you go from The Free Beacon?**
3 A. I don't know.
4 **Q. Who communicated to you that you were**
5 **being let go?**
6 A. Michael Goldfarb and Aaron Harrison.
7 **Q. And what are their positions?**
8 A. Chairman and president.
9 **Q. And do you have any e mails or**
10 **communications with them or Ms. Johnson about this**
11 **dispute?**
12 A. No.
13 **Q. We talked earlier about your e mail**
14 **with Mr. Je that memorialized your agreement.**
15 **Were there any attachments to that agreement, a Word**
16 **document or a PDF?**
17 A. No.
18 **Q. And leading up to that e mail, how**
19 **had you and Mr. Je communicated about this**
20 **arrangement?**
21 A. By phone and by text.

Page 40

1 **Q. And was the texting via Signal, or**
2 **another ap that's encrypted, or was it a text?**
3 A. By Signal.
4 **Q. And do you have any hard copy**
5 **documents with Mr. Je related to this transaction?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. Just the bank records showing the**
8 **wire and that one e mail?**
9 A. No.
10 **Q. Other than those?**
11 A. No.
12 **Q. Did anyone at The Free Beacon ask to**
13 **see your bank regards regarding the transaction?**
14 A. No.
15 **Q. Did they ask how much money was**
16 **involved in the arrangement?**
17 A. I can't remember. No, they didn't.
18 **Q. And has your publisher reached out to**
19 **you since The Free Beacon announcement on Friday**
20 **regarding this matter?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 41

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1 **Q. And what have those conversations**
2 **been?**
3 A. They asked me about my departure from
4 The Free Beacon.
5 **Q. And what did you tell them?**
6 A. I told them that I left because of a
7 dispute over an editorial matter.
8 **Q. Did you inform them of the**
9 **arrangement with Mr. Je?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Have you spoke went Mr. Je since you**
12 **left The Free Beacon?**
13 A. No.
14 **Q. Have you spoken with him in the last**
15 **few weeks?**
16 A. I might have had a text conversation
17 with him, yes.
18 **Q. And when did that text conversation**
19 **occur?**
20 A. Probably three weeks ago. I can't
21 really recall.

Page 42

1 **Q. Was it after the Free Beacon**
2 **leadership first came to you?**
3 A. I can't recall.
4 **Q. Do you remember what you were**
5 **discussing with Mr. Je?**
6 A. I don't recall.
7 **Q. When is the last time you spoke with**
8 **Mr. Je?**
9 A. I don't have a clear recollection of
10 that.
11 **Q. It might have been the text**
12 **conversation three weeks ago?**
13 A. I can't recall.
14 **Q. And who is William Je? Let's back up**
15 **a little bit. I will ask you that.**
16 A. He is a financier from Hong Kong, and
17 I know -- I think he lives in New York. I think he
18 has his own company.
19 And like I said, I got to know him through
20 meetings, and he discussed various things about the
21 Chinese communist party that he was opposed to.

Page 43

1 And it was my impression that he was a
2 supporter of Mr. Guo because he supported the idea of
3 bringing about democratic change in China.
4 **Q. How many times have you met with**
5 **Mr. Je in person?**
6 A. I don't know. Probably two or three.
7 **Q. Including that lunch where you first**
8 **met him?**
9 A. Yes.
10 **Q. And is he someone you speak to**
11 **regularly on the phone?**
12 A. I wouldn't say regularly. I speak to
13 him occasionally.
14 **Q. So we spoke earlier about whether he**
15 **was the subject of your reporting.**
16 **Would Mr. Je have ever served as a source**
17 **for you on the record?**
18 A. I can't recall.
19 **Q. Might he have provided background**
20 **information for you for some of your pieces?**
21 A. No.

Page 44

1 **Q. Did he work with you on the**
2 **substance, or layout, or formatting of your book?**
3 A. No.
4 **Q. Did he ask you for updates regarding**
5 **the status of your book after he provided you with the**
6 **financial assistance?**
7 A. No.
8 **Q. What do you think his interest was in**
9 **providing you with the \$100,000?**
10 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
11 THE WITNESS: I believe he wanted to
12 support my efforts to bring about exposing the kinds
13 of activities that are being carried out by the
14 Chinese Government, Chinese party.
15 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
16 **Q. And did you ever speak with Mr. Guo**
17 **about Mr. Je's financial assistance?**
18 A. I don't believe I did. I don't have
19 any recollection of it.
20 **Q. Do you know, did Mr. Guo ask Mr. Je**
21 **to give you that money?**

Page 45

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1 A. I do not know.
2 **Q. Did you ever speak with anyone else**
3 **about Mr. Je providing you with the financial**
4 **assistance?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Was your wife aware of it?**
7 A. Yes.
8 **Q. What about Ling Cho Hann?**
9 A. I don't know.
10 **Q. I'm sorry. You don't know?**
11 A. No, I don't know.
12 **Q. Is it possible that other people were**
13 **aware of the financial assistance?**
14 A. I don't know.
15 **Q. And following the announcement from**
16 **The Free Beacon on Friday, have you had any**
17 **conversations regarding this financial assistance with**
18 **The Washington Times?**
19 A. Yes.
20 **Q. And what were those conversations?**
21 A. It was in the context of my returning

Page 46

1 to The Washington Times full time.
2 **Q. And will you be returning to The**
3 **Washington Times full time?**
4 A. Yes.
5 **Q. And when will that begin?**
6 A. I don't know.
7 **Q. And would that include you continuing**
8 **to write your column?**
9 A. Yes.
10 **Q. And would you also serve as a**
11 **reporter and editor?**
12 A. Yes.
13 **Q. Any additional duties you would take**
14 **on at The Washington Times?**
15 A. No.
16 **Q. Will you receive a pay increase from**
17 **The Washington Times for returning full time?**
18 A. Yes.
19 **Q. And has that been negotiated yet?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. Do you have knowledge of any others**

Page 47

1 **that have been paid directly or indirectly by Mr. Je?**
2 MS. CLINE: Objection to form,
3 foundation.
4 THE WITNESS: No.
5 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
6 **Q. You are not aware of any other**
7 **reporters or editors who he made investments in?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. Do you have any knowledge of any**
10 **other individuals who have been paid by Mr. Guo?**
11 MS. CLINE: Objection; form, foundation.
12 THE WITNESS: No. I would like to
13 explain though that it's my view that the book project
14 had nothing to do with my introduction of French
15 Wallop and Mike Waller to Quo Wengui.
16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
17 **Q. Can you expound on that a little bit?**
18 A. It had nothing to do with it. There
19 was no relationship between it.
20 **Q. Between the book project and the**
21 **introduction?**

Page 48

1 A. Yes, which is the subject of our
2 deposition.
3 **Q. And we'll get to that in a minute.**
4 **What is the Rule of Law Foundation?**
5 A. In October of 2018, Guo Wengui
6 announced publicly, at a press conference in New York,
7 that he was starting a rule of law organization to
8 bring about democratic reform in China. And
9 subsequently, the Rule of Law Society was created.
10 **Q. And are you involved with the Rule of**
11 **Law Foundation?**
12 A. I was asked to be a director, unpaid.
13 **Q. Did you agree to be a director?**
14 A. And I agreed.
15 **Q. And when was that?**
16 A. I can't remember exactly when. It
17 would have been sometime after October of '18.
18 **Q. And what does your role as a director**
19 **entail?**
20 A. Well, so far, we have had two
21 telephonic meetings where we have discussed what kind

Page 49

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1 of programs and projects that might be carried out in
 2 support of this larger goal of bringing about
 3 democracy and rule of law inside of China.
 4 **Q. And who are the other directors?**
 5 A. I don't -- I'm not sure I can recount
 6 them all. Steve Bannon is the chairman, and there are
 7 two or three other people whose names I can't
 8 remember.
 9 **Q. And is Mr. Guo a director?**
 10 A. No.
 11 **Q. What is his role?**
 12 A. I don't know. He is not a formal
 13 participant of the Rule of Law Society, as far as I
 14 know.
 15 **Q. Was he involved in the two phone**
 16 **conferences you referenced?**
 17 A. No, not that I am aware of.
 18 **Q. Have you ever been paid by the Rule**
 19 **of Law Foundation?**
 20 A. No.
 21 **Q. Do you know of anyone else who, as a**

Page 50

1 **director, has ever been paid?**
 2 A. I don't know.
 3 **Q. And what's your understanding of the**
 4 **mission of the organization?**
 5 A. As I said, it was outlined in the
 6 press conference by Guo Wengui in October where he
 7 felt that he wanted to pull resources toward focusing
 8 on bringing about rule of law and democracy in China.
 9 **Q. And in the last year, what has the**
 10 **organization accomplished?**
 11 A. It's in the formative stages, and I
 12 think that they have created a -- what they call a
 13 whistleblower system whereby people in China can
 14 provide tips and information about things that are
 15 going on inside the Chinese system that could be used
 16 to bring about the rule of law in China.
 17 **Q. And was the idea for this**
 18 **organization Mr. Quo's idea?**
 19 A. That's what he announced in October
 20 of 2018.
 21 **Q. And leading up to this announcement**

Page 51

1 **which we have talked about was the form of a press**
 2 **conference, had you had conversations with him about**
 3 **forming this group?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. And when did you first hear about the**
 6 **organization being formed?**
 7 A. About which organization?
 8 **Q. The Rule of Law Foundation.**
 9 A. It was after the October thing where
 10 he announced that he was moving ahead or having people
 11 move ahead with creating the organization. I don't
 12 remember the specific time frame.
 13 **Q. And do you believe the organization**
 14 **has long term goals?**
 15 A. I'm not clear about what you mean by
 16 that.
 17 **Q. Do you think it will continue to**
 18 **exist in the future or do you believe it's a short**
 19 **term vehicle for achieving change?**
 20 A. I don't know.
 21 **Q. And are there any tenants of the**

Page 52

1 **organization that you disagree with?**
 2 A. I'm not sure I know all of their
 3 tenants, so I can't answer that.
 4 **Q. Are there board members as well as**
 5 **directors?**
 6 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
 7 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
 8 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 9 **Q. And is Kyle Bass on the Rule of Law**
 10 **Foundation?**
 11 A. I believe that there's two entities;
 12 one is the Rule of Law Society, and one is the Rule of
 13 Law Foundation, and he may be on the Rule of Law
 14 Foundation.
 15 **Q. And what's the Rule of Law Society?**
 16 A. I'm not sure. I think one is a
 17 501(c)(3) and one is a 501(c)(4). I think the society
 18 may be 501(c)(4).
 19 **Q. And who is Kyle Bass?**
 20 A. He is a financier.
 21 **Q. And where does he live?**

Page 53

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1 A. I think he lives in Texas.
2 **Q. And how did he get involved with the**
3 **Rule of Law Foundation?**
4 A. I don't know.
5 **Q. Have you ever met him in person?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. Do you know, was he participating in**
8 **the phone calls that you all had, the phone calls?**
9 A. No.
10 **Q. But you think he might be involved**
11 **with the Rule of Law Foundation?**
12 A. Yes.
13 **Q. And why do you think that?**
14 A. I think it was announced that he was
15 part of that organization.
16 **Q. Have you ever spoken with him on the**
17 **phone?**
18 A. No.
19 **Q. Have you ever e mailed with him?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. Have you ever texted with him?**

Page 54

1 A. No.
2 **Q. Is it safe to say you have never**
3 **discussed his investments in China with him?**
4 A. Correct.
5 **Q. And to your knowledge as a director**
6 **of the Rule of Law Foundation, how much financial**
7 **support money has Mr. Guo provided, indirectly or**
8 **directly, to the Rule of Law Foundation?**
9 MS. CLINE: Objection; form, foundation.
10 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
11 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
12 **Q. Do you know how much total has been**
13 **given to the organization?**
14 A. I do not.
15 **Q. So you have not reviewed his**
16 **operating budget?**
17 A. No.
18 **Q. And do you know how much the Rule of**
19 **Law Foundation has spent?**
20 A. I do not.
21 **Q. Does the Rule of Law Foundation have**

Page 55

1 **any employees?**
2 A. I don't know.
3 **Q. Before you had the two phone**
4 **conferences, did you receive an agenda or written**
5 **board materials, as the director?**
6 A. I don't recall. An agenda, what do
7 you mean by that?
8 **Q. Any written communication about what**
9 **was to be discussed in those two meetings?**
10 A. I can't recall that.
11 **Q. Do you know if the Rule of Law**
12 **Foundation has spent money given to think tanks?**
13 A. I don't know.
14 **Q. Has the Rule of Law Foundation put on**
15 **any public events?**
16 A. I don't know the answer to that.
17 **Q. Who is Sasha Gong?**
18 A. Sasha Gong is a former Voice Of
19 America employee.
20 **Q. And how do you know her?**
21 A. I knew her from her reporting, and

Page 56

1 she has known me for a number of years from her
2 reporting and my reporting.
3 **Q. And when is the last time you spoke**
4 **with Ms. Gong?**
5 A. I can't recall.
6 **Q. Have you spoken with her about this**
7 **case?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. Who is Ling Cho Hann?**
10 A. Ling Cho Hann is a human rights
11 activist, a Chinese oriented human rights activist.
12 **Q. When is the last time you spoke with**
13 **him?**
14 A. I spoke with him on Sunday.
15 **Q. Was it about this case?**
16 A. He had called me and asked me how I
17 was doing, and if I needed any help.
18 And my response was, "I don't need any help.
19 I have a lawyer."
20 **Q. Did you ask Mr. Hann to contact**
21 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller on your behalf?**

Page 57

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1 A. No.
 2 **Q. Are you aware that he did so?**
 3 A. I don't know.
 4 **Q. Did he call you after he had spoke**
 5 **with them on Sunday?**
 6 A. No.
 7 **Q. Did he speak with you after he spoke**
 8 **with them on Sunday?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. So after Mr. Hann called you and**
 11 **asked if you needed any help, did you send him any**
 12 **communication in writing?**
 13 A. No.
 14 **Q. You just told him verbally that you**
 15 **did not need any help?**
 16 A. That's right.
 17 **Q. Do you know why he would call you?**
 18 A. He's a friend, and I think he was
 19 concerned about my situation.
 20 **Q. And you remain friends?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 58

1 **Q. Have you spoken with Mr. Hann about**
 2 **this case, Ling Cho Hann, about this case?**
 3 A. No.
 4 **Q. So when he called you on Sunday**
 5 **asking if you need any help, was that needing any help**
 6 **with respect to your deposition today?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. What did he mean by help?**
 9 A. He just wanted to know if he could do
 10 anything to help. He said he felt bad that I was in
 11 this position that I was in.
 12 **Q. And what did you tell him?**
 13 A. I said, "I'm fine. I have a lawyer.
 14 I don't need any help."
 15 **Q. And did Mr. Hann share with you his**
 16 **thoughts on this lawsuit?**
 17 A. No.
 18 **Q. Did he tell you that he had been**
 19 **deposed?**
 20 A. I don't recall. I don't think that
 21 came up.

Page 59

1 **Q. Were you aware that he had been**
 2 **deposed in this lawsuit?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 **Q. But you have not reviewed his**
 5 **deposition?**
 6 A. No.
 7 **Q. What's Mr. Ling Cho's relationship**
 8 **with Mr. Guo?**
 9 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 10 THE WITNESS: I don't know. I know that
 11 he served as a translator in some of the meetings that
 12 I had with Mr. Guo.
 13 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 14 **Q. And those would have been in 2017?**
 15 A. Probably 2017 and 2018.
 16 **Q. Let's go back to the very beginning**
 17 **of when you first met Guo Wengui. When was that, to**
 18 **the best of your recollection?**
 19 A. It would have been either June or
 20 July of 2017.
 21 **Q. Okay. Do you remember writing an**

Page 60

1 **article for The Free Beacon in May of 2017 about**
 2 **Mr. Guo?**
 3 A. I do not.
 4 - - - -
 5 (Exhibit No. 2 marked for identification.)
 6 - - - -
 7 **Q. Let me mark it so we can talk about**
 8 **it. I'm going to hand you, Mr. Gertz, what's been**
 9 **marked as Exhibit No. 2 and I'm going to give a copy**
 10 **to your Counsel as well. This has a marking.**
 11 **Sir, if you can take a minute and look at**
 12 **that. It's been marked as Exhibit 2, and the headline**
 13 **is, "China Intervenes to Block Businessman From**
 14 **Revealing Spying Secrets on VOA."**
 15 MS. CLINE: Do you have another copy, by
 16 any chance?
 17 MS. LUETKEMEYER: I'm sorry. I don't,
 18 but I can give you mine in just a second. I'm sorry.
 19 **Q. Sir, this article was published on**
 20 **May 3, 2017. Do you see that?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 61

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1 **Q. Had you interviewed Mr. Guo before**
2 **this article?**
3 A. No.
4 **Q. Had you met Mr. Guo before this**
5 **article?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. And how soon after this article was**
8 **written did you meet with Mr. Guo?**
9 A. Like I said, it was in the June or
10 July time frame.
11 **Q. Do you believe this is the first**
12 **article you wrote about Mr. Guo?**
13 A. I don't know.
14 **Q. It's the earliest I found, so take**
15 **that for what you will.**
16 **In this article, Sasha Gong is quoted as a**
17 **source. Do you see that in the fourth paragraph?**
18 A. Yes.
19 **Q. What is this article about,**
20 **Mr. Gertz?**
21 A. It's about an interview that was

Page 62

1 curtailed by the Voice Of America, and the suspension
2 of four VOA employees.
3 **Q. Did you interview Sasha Gong for it?**
4 A. Yes.
5 **Q. Will you turn to the third page of**
6 **this Exhibit 2, please. It's the paragraph that**
7 **begins with, additionally. "Additionally, Guo's wife**
8 **and daughter currently have been allowed by Chinese**
9 **authorities to visit him in New York, but are required**
10 **to return to China for 20 days where they can be used**
11 **for political leverage against Mr. Guo."**
12 **Do you see that, Mr. Gertz?**
13 A. At the top there, um hum.
14 **Q. Now, if you didn't interview Mr. Guo**
15 **for that, do you remember where you learned that**
16 **information?**
17 A. It was probably Sasha Gong.
18 **Q. Okay. And then a few paragraphs**
19 **down, you say, Guo said -- if that was not from an**
20 **interview from Guo, would that also been from Sasha?**
21 A. It would have been in a recent video.

Page 63

1 **Q. And these are videos that Mr. Guo**
2 **would put on the Internet?**
3 A. Yes.
4 **Q. Just available for public viewing?**
5 A. Yes.
6 **Q. Okay. Did Sasha Gong introduce you**
7 **to Mr. Guo?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. And when did that occur?**
10 A. It would have been in the June to
11 July time frame, before I did the interview. I
12 contacted Sasha and said I would like to interview
13 Mr. Guo.
14 **Q. Do you know how Sasha met Mr. Guo?**
15 A. I do not.
16 **Q. And did she agree to make the**
17 **introduction?**
18 A. Yes.
19 **Q. And when did you first meet him?**
20 A. It was in the June or July time
21 frame.

Page 64

1 **Q. And where did you meet?**
2 A. In New York.
3 **Q. At his apartment?**
4 A. At a restaurant.
5 **Q. And was Ms. Gong present?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. Who was present for that meeting?**
8 A. An interpreter and Evette Wong.
9 **Q. Do you remember who the interpreter**
10 **was?**
11 A. Yes. His name is Wui Chungua
12 (phonetic).
13 **Q. And who was the other third person**
14 **you said?**
15 A. Evette Wong.
16 **Q. Who is Evette Wong?**
17 A. She, I believe, is an assistant to
18 Mr. Guo.
19 **Q. And who is her employer?**
20 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
21 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

Page 65

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1 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 2 **Q. And is that the first time you had**
 3 **met her?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. And you said you met at a restaurant?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. And how did that meeting go?**
 8 A. It was an interview.
 9 **Q. So it was an interview. Was it on**
 10 **the record?**
 11 A. Yes.
 12 **Q. And do you remember about how long it**
 13 **lasted?**
 14 A. Probably an hour.
 15 **Q. And what was your first impression of**
 16 **Mr. Guo?**
 17 A. I was amazed. I felt that this is a
 18 person who is an amazing resource of inside
 19 information within the Chinese system.
 20 I felt like he was, in a sense -- in my
 21 experience, I have covered intelligence defectors.

Page 66

1 And I believe that he was like a defector in
 2 the sense that he had access to inside information
 3 related to the Chinese Government, the Chinese
 4 Communist Party, and the Chinese Intelligence
 5 Services.
 6 **Q. And did you believe that he would be**
 7 **a valuable source for you?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. How long did that meeting last, or**
 10 **interview?**
 11 A. About an hour.
 12 **Q. And did you agree to meet again?**
 13 A. I don't know. I don't recall.
 14 **Q. After that first meeting, did you**
 15 **begin to speak with Mr. Guo over the phone?**
 16 A. After the first meeting, again,
 17 because I realized he was a valuable resource, I
 18 actually wanted to seek to do a book about him.
 19 **Q. Already, after that first meeting?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. Did he provide you with any documents**

Page 67

1 **in that first meeting?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. And did you make up a proposal to**
 4 **Mr. Guo after the first meeting?**
 5 A. Not after the first meeting. I think
 6 it might have been several months later.
 7 **Q. How frequently would you speak with**
 8 **Mr. Guo after that first meeting?**
 9 A. After the first meeting, it was not
 10 frequently, yes.
 11 **Q. And did he eventually become a source**
 12 **for you, subject of many of your articles and columns?**
 13 MS. CLINE: Objection.
 14 THE WITNESS: Occasionally. I
 15 interviewed him occasionally, and he was a source.
 16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 17 **Q. Did your opinions of Mr. Guo change**
 18 **over time?**
 19 A. No.
 20 **Q. Do you still believe today that same**
 21 **thing you believed whenever you left that first**

Page 68

1 **meeting?**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. And if you were to describe Mr. Guo**
 4 **to someone who had never heard of him, how would you**
 5 **describe him?**
 6 A. A dissident, Chinese millionaire, who
 7 is working to bring about democracy and rule of law in
 8 China.
 9 **Q. And what do you think his motivations**
 10 **are?**
 11 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 12 THE WITNESS: I don't know his
 13 motivation, other than he has become a defector,
 14 former insider, who is now seeking to bring about
 15 democratic change.
 16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 17 **Q. And when you say bring about**
 18 **democratic change, can you expand on that a little**
 19 **bit, about his goals?**
 20 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 21 THE WITNESS: He believes that the

Page 69

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1 Communist Party of China is the source of the problem
2 of what I regard as the China threat today.
3 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
4 **Q. When you say "the China threat," can**
5 **you explain that to me?**
6 A. That's the title of my 2000 book. In
7 China, they have something called the China threat
8 theory, which is the Chinese Government and
9 Intelligence Services use to monitor opposition to
10 China's development.
11 So it's a play on the Chinese threat theory.
12 And it is, basically, the national security threats
13 from China which range from military, to political, to
14 intelligence, to economic, to financial.
15 **Q. And do you believe Mr. Guo has value**
16 **in defeating the China threat?**
17 A. Yes.
18 **Q. In what way?**
19 A. Because he is a former insider and
20 has access, he can provide valuable information that
21 could be used to help expose what I call the China

Page 70

1 threat.
2 **Q. And when you first met Mr. Guo and he**
3 **told you his story, did you do any independent**
4 **reporting or verification on what he told you?**
5 A. I did. As much as I possibly could,
6 I read some of the stories about him in the Chinese
7 press or the press around the world, but there wasn't
8 a lot of information available on him.
9 **Q. Mr. Gertz, do you speak Mandarin?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. And so when you would meet with**
12 **Mr. Guo, was there always an interpreter present?**
13 A. Not always, but many times.
14 **Q. Does Mr. Guo speak English?**
15 A. I'd say haltingly.
16 **Q. Was it usually the same interpreter?**
17 A. No.
18 **Q. Who would interpret for him, if you**
19 **can remember any of their names? You mentioned one**
20 **earlier.**
21 A. Evette Wong, Ling Cho Hann were

Page 71

1 interpreters.
2 **Q. So for many of your meetings with**
3 **Mr. Guo, was Ms. Wong present?**
4 A. I would say occasionally.
5 **Q. Did you ever meet with him one on**
6 **one, Mr. Guo?**
7 A. Yes.
8 **Q. And where would that occur?**
9 A. In his apartment.
10 **Q. And how frequently would you travel**
11 **to New York to meet with him?**
12 A. I'd say once every two months.
13 **Q. And would you describe your**
14 **relationship with Mr. Guo as a professional one?**
15 A. I'd say it was a combination of both
16 a professional, as a source, as well as some
17 friendship. In the news business, sources can be
18 friends. It's not unusual.
19 **Q. Would you socialize with him?**
20 A. Would I socialize with him; what do
21 you mean by that?

Page 72

1 **Q. Have you ever spent time with Mr. Guo**
2 **in a purely social capacity where he is not serving as**
3 **a source for you?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. Have you ever been on his yacht?**
6 A. Yes.
7 **Q. How many times?**
8 A. Once.
9 **Q. And you said you have been in his**
10 **home in New York City?**
11 A. Yes.
12 **Q. Have you ever been in his home, not**
13 **to work on your book or the reporting, just to spend**
14 **some time together?**
15 A. Well, like I said, I view him as a
16 valuable source of information. So there is never a
17 time that I am not with him when I am not looking for
18 some inside information that could be produced as a
19 news story.
20 **Q. Did you help Mr. Guo in his**
21 **application for asylum?**

Page 73

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1 A. No.
 2 **Q. But you are aware of that?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 **Q. You never advised him on that**
 5 **application?**
 6 A. No.
 7 **Q. You never consulted with him or his**
 8 **lawyers?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. Has he ever asked you for help**
 11 **applying for asylum?**
 12 A. No.
 13 **Q. Wherever you would write articles or**
 14 **columns about Mr. Guo, would you ever show him a draft**
 15 **before they were published?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. Would you ever show him quotes before**
 18 **they were published, to make sure they were approved**
 19 **or translated correctly?**
 20 A. No.
 21 **Q. And to your knowledge, did Mr. Guo**

Page 74

1 **read what you wrote about him?**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. Did he ever express an opinion about**
 4 **your writing about him?**
 5 A. Yes.
 6 **Q. And what he did he say?**
 7 A. If he liked a story, he would send me
 8 a text that he liked the story.
 9 **Q. And if he didn't like the story?**
 10 A. I didn't hear anything.
 11 **Q. Were you certain that Mr. Guo was a**
 12 **dissident?**
 13 A. Yes.
 14 **Q. And why is that?**
 15 A. I have had much experience dealing
 16 with defectors, from covering the intelligence beat.
 17 And I can tell you that people who defect, as I
 18 consider it, as he does, frequently come with baggage.
 19 They have usually had many types of
 20 different problems and things. So often, dealing with
 21 people from this situation are sometimes difficult to

Page 75

1 deal with. And so I am aware of that, and I still
 2 regard him as a valuable resource.
 3 **Q. Do you believe that Mr. Guo has that**
 4 **kind of baggage?**
 5 A. I think all defectors have that
 6 baggage, and I would say yes.
 7 **Q. When you say baggage, what do you**
 8 **mean by that?**
 9 A. Whatever personality difficulties or
 10 adjustments to dealing with a new society. He came
 11 from a different system than is in the United States.
 12 **Q. Did you think that Mr. Quo's main**
 13 **goal was to bring down the Chinese Communist Party?**
 14 A. Did I believe?
 15 **Q. Did you and do you?**
 16 A. I do.
 17 **Q. And do you believe he is an opponent**
 18 **of Chairman Xi?**
 19 A. Yes.
 20 **Q. And have you personally ever heard**
 21 **Mr. Guo give an oath of loyalty to the Chinese**

Page 76

1 **Community Party?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. Have you ever heard a video of him**
 4 **doing that?**
 5 A. No.
 6 **Q. Have you ever heard an audio of him**
 7 **doing that?**
 8 A. No.
 9 **Q. So it's fair to say you are unaware**
 10 **of any expressions of loyalty to Chairman Je?**
 11 A. I would say that at the early stages
 12 of what he describes as whistle blowing or basically
 13 exposing things, that I believe that perhaps he was
 14 trying to hedge his bets.
 15 I can remember him kind of pulling his
 16 punches in criticizing Xi Jinping, while at the same
 17 time, criticizing what he regarded as large scale
 18 corruption, but I never saw it as a kind of a loyalty
 19 or fidelity to Xi Jinping.
 20 **Q. And what did he tell you about his**
 21 **past?**

Page 77

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1 A. That he has been working to
 2 privately within the system to eventually break with
 3 the regime, and try to bring about democratic change.
 4 **Q. Did he tell you about Tiananmen
 5 Square?**
 6 A. He mentioned that around the time of
 7 Tiananmen, he had some type of an incident related to
 8 a police run in.
 9 **Q. Did you verify whether or not he was
 10 ever arrested in Tiananmen?**
 11 A. I did not.
 12 **Q. And why did Mr. Guo leave China?**
 13 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 14 THE WITNESS: I don't know the answer to
 15 that.
 16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 17 **Q. Did he ever tell you why he left?**
 18 A. No.
 19 **Q. Do you know when he left?**
 20 A. Not exactly.
 21 **Q. Did you ever try to establish when he**

Page 78

1 **actually left China?**
 2 A. The only thing I could determine was
 3 that 2015 or 2016, based on news reports.
 4 **Q. That he arrived in America sometime
 5 then?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. Do you know if he spent any time in
 8 another country in between?**
 9 A. I don't know.
 10 **Q. Do you believe that Mr. Guo has
 11 broken with the regime definitively?**
 12 A. Yes.
 13 **Q. What do you know about his
 14 relationship with Wang Qishan?**
 15 A. I know that he believes that he has
 16 obtained information about corruption related to Wang
 17 Qishan, and that that was one of his main whistle
 18 blowing activities when he began to go public in the
 19 2017, 2018 time period.
 20 **Q. And what did he represent to you was
 21 their relationship?**

Page 79

1 A. I never had any sense that he had a
 2 relationship with him.
 3 **Q. And in the course of covering or
 4 getting to know Mr. Guo, did you learn that he had
 5 brought many lawsuits in the United States?**
 6 A. I did.
 7 **Q. And what was the purpose of those
 8 lawsuits?**
 9 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 10 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
 11 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 12 **Q. Have you seen the pleadings in any of
 13 those cases?**
 14 A. I did.
 15 **Q. Which ones, do you recall?**
 16 A. I don't recall.
 17 **Q. Do you recall writing an article or a
 18 column about his defamation lawsuit?**
 19 A. I do.
 20 **Q. And do you recall the outcome of that
 21 case?**

Page 80

1 A. I think he won the case.
 2 **Q. What have you heard from Mr. Guo
 3 about his lawsuits against or on behalf of himself
 4 regarding defamation claims?**
 5 A. It's not something we have discussed.
 6 **Q. So you covered the lawsuits, but he
 7 did not discuss them with you?**
 8 A. I didn't discuss them with him.
 9 **Q. Okay. So whenever he was successful
 10 in prevailing in that defamation case, did you talk to
 11 him about that court victory?**
 12 A. I do not believe I did.
 13 **Q. You wrote an article about it though?**
 14 A. Yes. I might have quoted him. He
 15 may have sent a quote for the story.
 16 **Q. Did you know who the defendants were
 17 in those lawsuits?**
 18 A. I do not.
 19 **Q. Were you aware that they were mostly
 20 dissidents?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 81

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1 **Q. Why do you believe that Mr. Guo, if**
2 **he was a dissident, was suing other dissidents?**
3 A. I don't know.
4 **Q. Did you ever ask him about it?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Were you ever given any indication by**
7 **Mr. Guo or anyone else that these cases might have**
8 **been more for show than an actual dispute?**
9 A. I don't understand that question.
10 **Q. Did Mr. Guo ever tell you that there**
11 **was additional purpose to the lawsuit besides**
12 **prevailing on defamation law?**
13 A. I am not aware of anything like that.
14 **Q. You are not aware of any PR purpose**
15 **to the lawsuits?**
16 A. No.
17 **Q. What have you heard from Mr. Guo, if**
18 **anything, about his lawsuits involving Soho, China?**
19 A. I don't know anything about it.
20 **Q. Do you know anything about his**
21 **lawsuits involving Sho Shen?**

Page 82

1 A. No.
2 **Q. Or its founder, Hui shu Lee?**
3 A. No.
4 **Q. Were you ever given any indication by**
5 **Evette Wong or William Je about these lawsuits and**
6 **their purpose?**
7 A. No.
8 **Q. Did Mr. Guo talk to you about his**
9 **lawsuits against Chinese state connected companies?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Were you aware of Mr. Quo's movement**
12 **of money to Hong Kong for investments in Hi Chong**
13 **Securities?**
14 A. No.
15 ----
16 (Exhibit No. 3 marked for identification.)
17 ----
18 **Q. There was an article that you wrote**
19 **that I want to hand to you so that you remember that,**
20 **and I will give a copy to you. This is an October 25,**
21 **2017 article. We are going to mark it as Exhibit 3.**

Page 83

1 **Here is a copy and I will give you my copy.**
2 **I will ask you to take a look at the October 25, 2017**
3 **entitled, "Sessions threatens to quit over Chinese**
4 **dissident."**
5 **Do you see that?**
6 A. Yes.
7 **Q. And I will represent that the first**
8 **four pages are the article that I want to talk about**
9 **to you. The last half of this exhibit has to do with**
10 **an unrelated issue.**
11 **On Page 3 of 9, as you can see, they are**
12 **labeled in the upper, right corner of this Exhibit No.**
13 **3, Mr. Gertz, do you see that last paragraph beginning**
14 **with, "The State Department?"**
15 A. Um hum.
16 **Q. That paragraph reads that The State**
17 **Department blocked the FBI from arresting two Chinese**
18 **security officials for violating visa rules in meeting**
19 **with Mr. Guo this year." The Wall Street Journal had**
20 **reported that. Do you see that?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 84

1 **Q. And you report that meeting was part**
2 **of China's efforts to force Mr. Guo to return to**
3 **China, and included threats and intimidation?**
4 A. Yes.
5 **Q. When did you first learn about the**
6 **meeting, the visit by Chinese authorities to Mr. Guo?**
7 A. I don't recall.
8 **Q. What happened in that incident?**
9 A. As I recall, what I can say is that
10 China -- and this was in the Wall Street Journal, and
11 I am basing it on that. The Wall Street Journal
12 reported that Chinese officials showed up to the
13 United States for a meeting on cyber security in
14 Washington. And at some point, one or both of the
15 officials who were part of the ministry of public
16 security or ministry of state security broke off and
17 went to New York to try to coerce and intimidate Guo
18 into either remaining silent or returning to China.
19 **Q. Do you know when this occurred?**
20 A. I do not.
21 **Q. This article says this year.**

Page 85

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1 A. It was in the Wall Street Journal
2 article.
3 **Q. Right. So, Mr. Gertz, did Guo**
4 **discuss this with you, this visit by the Chinese**
5 **officials?**
6 A. I believe he did.
7 **Q. And what did he say?**
8 A. He explained that they were there to
9 threaten him and his family if he didn't go back to
10 China or if he didn't remain silent. I can't remember
11 the details.
12 **Q. And he let them into his home,**
13 **correct?**
14 A. I believe so.
15 **Q. They came into the Sherry Netherland**
16 **apartment?**
17 A. I am not sure.
18 **Q. Do you know how long the visit**
19 **lasted?**
20 A. I don't know.
21 **Q. Do you know if he tried to bargain**

Page 86

1 **with them?**
2 A. I don't know.
3 **Q. Do you know what the objective of the**
4 **visit was?**
5 A. I do not know.
6 **Q. Do you know if those men were meeting**
7 **with him regarding the release of held funds?**
8 A. I do not know.
9 **Q. Was Mr. Guo concerned about the**
10 **safety of his family after this visit?**
11 A. I don't know.
12 **Q. Are you aware of whether Mr. Guo has**
13 **tried to negotiate with security officials for the**
14 **Chinese Government?**
15 A. I don't know.
16 **Q. Are you aware of any other meetings**
17 **by Chinese security officials at the Sherry**
18 **Netherland?**
19 A. I don't know.
20 **Q. Are you aware of Mr. Guo's statements**
21 **that he has "absolute faith in General Secretary XI?"**

Page 87

1 A. I have never heard that.
2 **Q. Have you ever heard a recording of**
3 **him saying that?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. And how would you describe your**
6 **relationship with Mr. Guo today?**
7 A. Professional and friendly.
8 **Q. And when is the last time you spoke**
9 **with him?**
10 A. Probably last month.
11 **Q. And do you communicate with him over**
12 **text?**
13 A. Occasionally.
14 **Q. And sometimes over the phone?**
15 A. Yes.
16 **Q. What's your preferred method of**
17 **communication?**
18 A. Signal.
19 **Q. Signal. And when is the last time**
20 **you saw Mr. Guo in person?**
21 A. It would have been last month.

Page 88

1 **Q. And what was that for?**
2 A. I met him at his apartment when I was
3 in New York for a book event, book meeting event.
4 **Q. And how long did that meeting last?**
5 A. About an hour.
6 **Q. Was that meeting professional or**
7 **personal in nature?**
8 A. Both.
9 **Q. And what did you and Mr. Guo discuss?**
10 A. Events in Hong Kong mainly.
11 **Q. Did you discuss this litigation?**
12 A. No.
13 **Q. Have you ever discussed this**
14 **litigation with Mr. Guo?**
15 A. I have.
16 **Q. And what were the conversations that**
17 **you had with him about it?**
18 A. At least one occasion, I asked him
19 not to go through with the lawsuit.
20 **Q. And when was that?**
21 A. I can't remember exactly when, but it

Page 89

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1 would have been sometime after the lawsuit had become
2 public.
3 **Q. After it was filed?**
4 A. I don't know when exactly.
5 **Q. But it wasn't before the lawsuit was**
6 **filed, it was after the lawsuit was filed?**
7 A. It was after the word of the lawsuit
8 had become public.
9 **Q. And when you say you asked him not to**
10 **go through with it, why did you ask him that?**
11 A. Well, I was at one time friends with
12 Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller, and I felt that it was best
13 that they would find a way to settle whatever
14 differences they had.
15 **Q. Did you tell him that?**
16 A. I just asked him not to sue them.
17 **Q. He had already sued them though,**
18 **hadn't he?**
19 A. I don't know. Like I said, it was
20 after the suit became public. I didn't know about the
21 details of it.

Page 90

1 **Q. So you effectively were asking him to**
2 **drop the suit?**
3 A. I asked him not to sue them.
4 **Q. And what did he say?**
5 A. I can't remember, but he didn't say
6 yes or no. I don't remember what his response was.
7 **Q. Was this in person?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. And who was the translator?**
10 A. I don't recall.
11 **Q. Do you know if it was Ling Cho Hann?**
12 A. I don't remember.
13 **Q. I won't ask you to speculate. Since**
14 **that conversation about this litigation, have you had**
15 **other conversations with Mr. Guo about this case?**
16 A. No. There may have been two
17 occasions where I asked him not to sue.
18 **Q. Okay. What was the other one, do you**
19 **recall?**
20 A. I can't remember.
21 **Q. But at least on one occasion?**

Page 91

1 A. Yes.
2 **Q. Okay.**
3 **Do you recall ever apologizing to Mr. Guo**
4 **for introducing him to Mr. Waller and Ms. Wallop?**
5 A. He was very upset about the
6 arrangement between them going bad and expressed that
7 to me. And I felt bad. I did apologize and say, yes,
8 I am sorry that things did not work out.
9 **Q. Do you remember if you characterized**
10 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller in that conversation in any**
11 **particular way?**
12 A. I don't remember.
13 **Q. Do you know when that conversation**
14 **occurred?**
15 A. I do not.
16 **Q. When you say Mr. Guo was very upset,**
17 **what did he say to you?**
18 A. I can't recall exactly what he said.
19 I got the impression that he was upset and that he had
20 felt ripped off.
21 **Q. Did he use those words?**

Page 92

1 A. No.
2 **Q. Do you recall the words that he used?**
3 A. I do not.
4 **Q. And was this meeting in person as**
5 **well?**
6 A. Yes.
7 **Q. Did he seem angry to you?**
8 A. Not visibly, no. I just felt that he
9 was upset by it.
10 **Q. And do you recall who, if anyone, was**
11 **there for that conversation besides the two of you?**
12 A. I do not.
13 **Q. Do you recall if that was at his**
14 **apartment?**
15 A. I can't recall where it was.
16 **Q. And after you said that you were**
17 **sorry that it happened, what did he say?**
18 A. I can't remember.
19 **Q. Did you ever hear back from him that**
20 **he was not going to drop the lawsuit?**
21 A. No.

Page 93

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1 **Q. And has this lawsuit changed your**
2 **relationship with Mr. Guo?**
3 A. I don't know.
4 **Q. Do you notice the difference in how**
5 **the two of you interact?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. He continues to contact you?**
8 A. He sends me information about the
9 Hong Kong protests occasionally.
10 **Q. Okay. And when is the last time**
11 **Mr. Guo was an on the record source in one of your**
12 **articles or columns?**
13 A. It would have been in July of 2019.
14 **Q. And your book has some excerpts of**
15 **Mr. Guo, isn't that correct?**
16 A. Yes.
17 **Q. And has he read your book?**
18 A. I don't know.
19 **Q. Did you send him the chapters of it**
20 **before it was finished?**
21 A. No.

Page 94

1 **Q. Has he seen the sections, to your**
2 **knowledge, that describe him?**
3 A. Yes.
4 **Q. Did he see those after it was**
5 **published?**
6 A. I don't know.
7 **Q. How do you know that he's seen them?**
8 A. Has seen what?
9 **Q. The sections of your book that**
10 **discuss him?**
11 A. I'm not certain. I didn't say that I
12 did. I said I don't know.
13 **Q. I think I misunderstood. Did Mr. Guo**
14 **introduce you to any of his associates or friends,**
15 **other than Mr. Je?**
16 A. I think he may have had some guests,
17 some Chinese guests, at his place, but I can't recall
18 who they may have been.
19 MS. KROPF: When is a good time for a
20 break?
21 MS. LUETKEMEYER: We can take one in

Page 95

1 about two minutes. I am almost done with the
2 questioning.
3 **Q. Do you know or do you know of Donald**
4 **Chan?**
5 A. Donald.
6 **Q. Chan, C-H-A-N?**
7 A. Chan. I don't know.
8 **Q. So we have spoken of William Je, and**
9 **Evette Wong, he introduced you to her, didn't he?**
10 A. Yes.
11 **Q. We spoke briefly about what her role**
12 **was. Do you recall when you first met with Ms. Wong?**
13 A. When I did the first interview in
14 June or July of 2017.
15 **Q. At the restaurant?**
16 A. Yes.
17 **Q. And did you ever speak with her**
18 **independently outside of Mr. Guo?**
19 A. I may have, occasionally.
20 **Q. Did you communicate with her over**
21 **Signal?**

Page 96

1 A. Yes, I may have, occasionally.
2 **Q. Was she present in most of your**
3 **meetings with Guo?**
4 A. No.
5 MS. LUETKEMEYER: We can take a break
6 here. Off the record.
7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
8 record. The time is 1:13 p.m.
9 (Short Recess.)
10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
11 record at 1:28 p.m.
12 MS. CLINE: This is Joanna Cline. I
13 wanted to put on the record that Counsel have agreed
14 that all objections, except as to form, will be
15 reserved until the time of trial.
16 MS. KROPF: Also, on behalf of
17 Mr. Gertz, we will be designating the whole transcript
18 for now as confidential under the protective order.
19 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
20 **Q. Mr. Gertz, we spoke earlier about the**
21 **Rule of Law Foundation and the Rule of Law Society.**

Page 97

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1 **Do you recall that?**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. Remind me again what the difference**
 4 **is between the two?**
 5 A. The Rule of Law Society is a
 6 501(c)(4) organization and the Rule of Law Foundation
 7 is a 501(c)(3).
 8 **Q. And which one are you a director on?**
 9 A. The 501(c)(4) society.
 10 **Q. Okay. And do you remember the other**
 11 **directors of the 501(c)(4) society?**
 12 A. I do not.
 13 **Q. And do you all keep minutes of your**
 14 **meetings?**
 15 A. I don't know.
 16 **Q. Have you ever seen any minutes of**
 17 **meetings?**
 18 A. I don't recall.
 19 **Q. Do you recall who else was on the two**
 20 **conference call meetings you referenced earlier?**
 21 A. I do not recall.

Page 98

1 **Q. Did Mr. Bannon lead those meetings?**
 2 A. I think he was -- yes, he was there.
 3 **Q. We spoke at the beginning of the**
 4 **deposition about Mr. William Je. I just have a few**
 5 **clarifying questions about that.**
 6 **You said that payment to you was made by**
 7 **wire?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. And do you know if that was an ACH**
 10 **transfer?**
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 **Q. Do you know if it came from a bank in**
 13 **America?**
 14 A. I don't know.
 15 **Q. And do you have a record of the wire**
 16 **in your banking records?**
 17 A. I don't recall. I don't know.
 18 **Q. Have you seen any document?**
 19 A. I have not.
 20 **Q. How did you learn that the deposit**
 21 **had hit your bank account?**

Page 99

1 A. I think my wife told me.
 2 **Q. It was your shared bank account with**
 3 **your wife?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. And what bank is that?**
 6 A. Bank of America.
 7 **Q. And where does William Je live?**
 8 A. I think he lives either in New York,
 9 or Hong Kong, or both.
 10 **Q. And if we request the banking record**
 11 **that would show that transfer, would you be willing to**
 12 **provide that to us?**
 13 A. No.
 14 **Q. On what basis?**
 15 A. Privacy.
 16 MS. KROPF: It's also not in your
 17 deposition -- or in your subpoena.
 18 MS. LUETKEMEYER: Right. We would have
 19 to amend our subpoena for that and talk about it.
 20 **Q. Mr. Gertz, you said that you**
 21 **described Mr. Guo as a defector a couple times in this**

Page 100

1 **deposition. Do you remember that?**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. What's the difference between a**
 4 **defector and a dissident?**
 5 A. I don't think there is a definition
 6 of either one. A dissident could be a defector. A
 7 defector could be a dissident. It depends on the
 8 circumstances.
 9 I would use the term defector in regard to
 10 someone who has access to secrets, foreign secrets
 11 that would be of value.
 12 **Q. In your view, has Mr. Guo always been**
 13 **a defector since you met him?**
 14 A. Yes.
 15 **Q. Do you recall writing in July of 2017**
 16 **that Mr. Guo was not a defector?**
 17 A. No.
 18 **Q. And do you believe he is also a**
 19 **dissident?**
 20 A. Yes.
 21 **Q. So you believe it's possible to be**

Page 101

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1 both a dissident and a defector?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. We spoke briefly about the visit by
 4 the Chinese officials to Mr. Quo's apartment.
 5 Do you recall that discussion?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Have you listened to the audio or
 8 reviewed any video from that meeting?
 9 A. I don't believe so.
 10 Q. Are you aware that those recordings
 11 exist on the Internet?
 12 A. I am not certain. I am not aware of
 13 them.
 14 Q. Before the break, we were discussing
 15 a woman named Evette Wong.
 16 Do you remember that?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. How many times would you say you have
 19 met with Ms. Wong?
 20 A. Maybe ten. Not meet with her, but
 21 she would be present at a meeting that I was at.

Page 102

1 Q. And when you would communicate with
 2 her over Signal like we discussed earlier, would other
 3 people be on the message or just you and Ms. Wong?
 4 A. Just me and Ms. Wong.
 5 Q. And what would you all communicate
 6 about?
 7 A. Usually just about arranging for a
 8 meeting with Mr. Guo.
 9 Q. What was her role with respect to
 10 Mr. Guo?
 11 MS. CLINE: Objection; foundation, form.
 12 THE WITNESS: I don't really know. I
 13 know her as an assistant to Mr. Guo.
 14 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 15 Q. Would she help him with scheduling?
 16 A. I don't know.
 17 Q. When you said you were in touch with
 18 her regarding arranging a meeting with Mr. Guo,
 19 correct?
 20 A. Correct.
 21 Q. So would you reach out to her if you

Page 103

1 wanted to meet with him?
 2 A. Sometimes.
 3 Q. Would she ever reach out to you if
 4 she wanted to meet with you?
 5 A. I don't recall her doing that.
 6 Q. How would you normally set up a
 7 meeting or an interview with Mr. Guo?
 8 A. I would send him a text on Signal.
 9 Q. Just directly to him?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Would he occasionally have other
 12 people get back in touch with you?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Who would those people be?
 15 A. Mainly Evette Wong, or in the past,
 16 Ling Cho Hann.
 17 Q. Do you know what her duties for
 18 Mr. Guo involved?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Do you know anything about her
 21 background?

Page 104

1 A. I do not.
 2 Q. Do you know, is she Chinese?
 3 A. I believe she is Chinese, yes.
 4 Q. What is Golden Spring?
 5 A. I don't know.
 6 Q. You have never heard of an entity,
 7 Golden Spring?
 8 A. I have not.
 9 Q. Are you familiar with ACA Capital?
 10 A. I do not know what that is.
 11 Q. Are you familiar with Eastern Profit?
 12 A. I think that's the part of this suit
 13 here.
 14 Q. Yes. It's the plaintiff in this
 15 lawsuit.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. What do you know about Eastern
 18 Profit?
 19 A. I don't know anything about it.
 20 Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss Eastern
 21 Profit with you?

Page 105

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1 A. No.
2 **Q. Did he ever discuss any of his**
3 **corporations or affiliated entities with you?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. In the early fall of 2017, do you**
6 **recall an event at the Hudson Institute?**
7 A. Yes.
8 **Q. And what was that?**
9 A. It was to be a speech by Mr. Guo.
10 **Q. And what was the goal of that event?**
11 A. He was going to give a speech at one
12 of his first public events.
13 **Q. And what is the Hudson Institute?**
14 A. It's a think tank in Washington, D.C.
15 **Q. And whose idea was the event?**
16 A. I don't know.
17 **Q. Did you help organize it?**
18 A. No.
19 **Q. How did you first hear about it?**
20 A. Probably through Ling Cho.
21 **Q. Were you set to participate in the**

Page 106

1 **event?**
2 A. I believe I was to be a moderator on
3 a panel of some sort.
4 **Q. Do you recall who asked you to be a**
5 **moderator?**
6 A. I think it was Ling Cho.
7 **Q. And what happened with that event?**
8 A. It was cancelled.
9 **Q. Why?**
10 A. The ostensible reason was that they
11 weren't prepared for it, but it appears from all
12 outside appearances, that it was under pressure from
13 the Chinese Government.
14 **Q. When you say "outside appearances"**
15 **what leads you to believe that?**
16 A. Well, there is a report from the U.S.
17 China Commission, a Congressional report, which
18 addressed that issue. And the report states that the
19 Chinese Government pressured the Hudson Institution as
20 to cancel it by threatening to withhold visas from
21 some of the Hudson scholars.

Page 107

1 **Q. Did the Hudson Institute ever decide**
2 **it wasn't comfortable with Guo?**
3 A. I don't know.
4 **Q. Were you ever a part of those**
5 **conversations?**
6 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
7 THE WITNESS: No.
8 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
9 **Q. How did you learn that the event was**
10 **cancelled?**
11 A. I think Ling Cho told me.
12 **Q. How soon before the event did it get**
13 **cancelled?**
14 A. A number of hours.
15 **Q. Do you remember anything about any**
16 **alleged cyber attack?**
17 A. Yes. I believe that they were under
18 a cyber attack that they believe came from China as
19 part of the pressure campaign to halt the event.
20 **Q. The officials of the Hudson Institute**
21 **claimed a cyber attack had occurred?**

Page 108

1 A. They claimed that they had been
2 attacked by cyber from China.
3 **Q. Were you invited to that event by Ken**
4 **Weinstein?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Mr. Hann invited you to that event,**
7 **you said, correct?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. And do you remember if you have any**
10 **documents or e mails about that event or the purpose**
11 **of it?**
12 A. I do not.
13 **Q. Did you ever hear from anyone or have**
14 **any reason to believe that Hudson might have been**
15 **having second thoughts about hosting the event?**
16 A. I did not. I have no idea.
17 **Q. Do you believe the reason for the**
18 **cancellation as stated by the Hudson Institute?**
19 A. Could you clarify that?
20 **Q. Do you believe the stated reason for**
21 **the cancellation, the pressure campaign and the cyber**

Page 109

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1 **attack, was the real reason?**
 2 A. The question is not clear.
 3 **Q. I will rephrase it. The stated**
 4 **reason for the cancellation, that there had been a**
 5 **cyber attack, do you believe that to be the true**
 6 **reason it was cancelled?**
 7 A. I don't believe that was their stated
 8 reason for cancelling the event.
 9 **Q. What was the stated reason?**
 10 A. I believe they issued -- one of their
 11 spokesmen told me that there was some other -- there
 12 was a lack of preparation for the event.
 13 **Q. So you found later that it was a**
 14 **cyber attack or pressure?**
 15 A. I'm not sure of the timing. I can't
 16 speculate.
 17 **Q. Do you recall writing an article**
 18 **about the think tank cancelling the talk?**
 19 A. Yes.
 20 **Q. And was the Hudson Institute**
 21 **officials -- were they interviewed for that article?**

Page 110

1 A. The spokesman was quoted, I believe.
 2 **Q. And whose idea was it to have the**
 3 **discussion with you and Mr. Guo at the National Press**
 4 **Club just a few days later?**
 5 A. I believe it was Ling Cho Hann.
 6 **Q. And was that sort of in place of the**
 7 **Hudson Institute's event?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. Did you meet with Mr. Guo the same**
 10 **day as the Hudson Institute event?**
 11 A. It may have been the same day or the
 12 day after, around that, yes.
 13 **Q. So Mr. Ling Cho Hann had the idea to**
 14 **do a National Press Club event, you said?**
 15 A. I don't know.
 16 **Q. Do you know who organized that event?**
 17 A. I do not.
 18 **Q. Were you involved in booking and**
 19 **planning that event, inviting the media?**
 20 A. No.
 21 **Q. You were aware that you are listed as**

Page 111

1 **a host of that press conference?**
 2 A. I do not know.
 3 **Q. What was your role during that press**
 4 **conference?**
 5 A. I was a moderator for it, and there
 6 was a translator, and there was Mr. Guo.
 7 **Q. Do you remember who the translator**
 8 **was?**
 9 A. I think it may have been Wui Chungua
 10 (phonetic).
 11 **Q. The same man who was present during**
 12 **your first meeting?**
 13 A. Yes, yes.
 14 **Q. When you say you moderated, did you**
 15 **come with prepared questions for Mr. Guo?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. You just asked questions off the**
 18 **cuff?**
 19 A. I'm not even sure it was that. It
 20 was more an introducer of that, to make an
 21 introductory remark of some sort.

Page 112

1 **Q. Was this his first major public**
 2 **appearance?**
 3 A. I don't know if he had done others or
 4 not.
 5 **Q. And what did you view the purpose of**
 6 **that press conference to be?**
 7 A. I think it was so that Mr. Guo could
 8 announce his views about the Chinese Communist Party,
 9 and what he hoped to do.
 10 **Q. Did you believe that event was**
 11 **successful?**
 12 A. Yes.
 13 **Q. And was it around this time, do you**
 14 **recall, that you introduced Mr. Guo to Steve Bannon?**
 15 A. I do not recall the exact time, but
 16 it may have been after that, or it may have been
 17 around that time.
 18 **Q. How did Mr. Guo meet Bannon?**
 19 A. I met Steve Bannon after he left the
 20 White House. And he mentioned to me that he was
 21 familiar with Mr. Guo, and that he said he would

Page 113

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1 like to meet him. And I said, "Okay, I'll ask if he
2 wants to meet you." And they eventually met at the
3 Hay Adams Hotel.

4 **Q. How long had you known Mr. Bannon?**
5 A. I had known him a little bit when he
6 was before the White House, and a little bit while
7 he was at the White House, but I was not close, but we
8 shared the same views on China.

9 **Q. Which are what?**
10 A. That it's a nuclear armed Communist
11 dictatorship that poses a threat to the world.

12 **Q. And you said Mr. Bannon asked you to
13 make an introduction of him to Mr. Guo?**
14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. Have he ever met Mr. Guo before, to
16 your knowledge?**
17 A. I don't know.

18 **Q. Do you know if they had ever spoken
19 on the phone?**
20 A. I don't know.

21 **Q. So when Mr. Bannon told you he was**

Page 114

1 **interested in meeting Mr. Guo, was this in person?**
2 A. Yes.

3 **Q. Where was that?**
4 A. At his house on Capitol Hill.

5 **Q. Do you remember about when that would
6 be?**
7 A. I do not.

8 **Q. Before the Press Club visit in
9 October of 2017?**
10 A. I really can't recall.

11 **Q. Do you have any documents with
12 Mr. Bannon?**
13 A. No.

14 **Q. How would you typically communicate
15 with Mr. Bannon?**
16 A. Through text message or phone.

17 **Q. And when you say text message, would
18 that be Signal?**
19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. And tell me about that first meeting
21 when you introduced Mr. Guo to Mr. Bannon?**

Page 115

1 A. He came to the Hay Adams Hotel where
2 Guo was staying, and I think we had a lunch meeting
3 after that.

4 **Q. And who all was present for that
5 meeting?**
6 A. If my memory serves correct, it was
7 Ling Cho Hann and Yang Jain Lie, another dissident,
8 Chinese dissident.

9 **Q. I don't know how to spell that but
10 maybe I can get you to.**
11 A. Y-A-N-G, J-I-A-N, L-I-E.

12 **Q. And who is that dissident, what is
13 his role?**
14 A. He is a former imprisoned dissident
15 from China who now has an organization for dissidents,
16 Chinese dissidents.

17 **Q. And what is this organized called?**
18 A. I'm not sure.

19 **Q. Does he live here in Washington?**
20 A. I think it may be Massachusetts.

21 **Q. And why was he at the meeting?**

Page 116

1 A. I don't know.

2 **Q. Was he there already with Mr. Guo?**
3 A. He came with Ling Cho, I believe.

4 **Q. And what was the purpose of that
5 first introductory meeting?**
6 A. Just to meet Steve Bannon, for Guo to
7 meet Steve Bannon, former White House strategist.

8 **Q. When you first bought up the idea to
9 Mr. Guo of him meeting Steve Bannon, what did he say?**
10 A. He said he'd like to meet him.

11 **Q. So what was discussed at that first
12 meeting?**
13 A. I don't recall.

14 **Q. You don't recall anything about it?**
15 A. I don't recall. I just have no
16 recollection of what we talked about.

17 **Q. Did Mr. Bannon ask Mr. Guo questions
18 about himself, his background?**
19 A. I have no recollection of that.

20 **Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo being
21 interested in Mr. Bannon's role at the White House?**

Page 117

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1 A. No.
2 **Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo bringing up his**
3 **asylum application?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. Had Mr. Bannon ever brought up with**
6 **you the fact that Mr. Guo had a pending application**
7 **for asylum?**
8 A. I don't know.
9 **Q. Do you recall writing an article**
10 **about former Attorney General Jeff Sessions**
11 **threatening to quit over Mr. Guo?**
12 A. I do.
13 **Q. And what were the circumstances**
14 **surrounding that incident?**
15 A. I don't recall.
16 **Q. Did you ever discuss that incident**
17 **with Mr. Bannon?**
18 A. No.
19 **Q. Do you recall there being a second**
20 **meeting when Bannon visited Mr. Guo in New York City?**
21 A. I am not aware of it. I don't know.

Page 118

1 **Q. Were you present for that dinner?**
2 A. I don't know.
3 **Q. Have you ever been to Mr. Quo's home**
4 **when Mr. Bannon was also in attendance?**
5 A. Yes. I think there was a lunch
6 meeting after the October, 2018 press conference.
7 **Q. Now, I know about an October, 2017**
8 **press conference.**
9 A. No. This was a press conference in
10 2018 announcing the rule of law fund, and we had lunch
11 after at Mr. Quo's house.
12 **Q. Okay. I am familiar with that one.**
13 **Thank you.**
14 **Do you ever recall being at Mr. Quo's house**
15 **for a dinner with Mr. Bannon?**
16 A. I do not.
17 **Q. Do you know whether Mr. Guo was**
18 **paying Mr. Bannon?**
19 A. I do not.
20 **Q. Do you recall know whether Mr. Quo's**
21 **Rule of Law Society pays Mr. Bannon?**

Page 119

1 A. I do not know.
2 **Q. Have you ever heard of a contract**
3 **that Mr. Bannon is affiliated with Mr. Guo?**
4 A. I don't know.
5 **Q. What is the relationship between**
6 **Mr. Bannon and Mr. Guo today?**
7 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
8 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
9 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
10 **Q. Do you know the last time they have**
11 **spoken?**
12 A. I do not.
13 **Q. And after you introduced the two, did**
14 **you speak with Mr. Guo about his impressions of**
15 **Mr. Bannon?**
16 A. I don't recall.
17 **Q. Do you recall speaking with**
18 **Mr. Bannon about his impressions of Mr. Guo?**
19 A. I do not recall.
20 **Q. What do you think Mr. Guo brought to**
21 **the table in relation to Mr. Bannon?**

Page 120

1 A. I have no idea.
2 **Q. Why do you think he wanted to meet**
3 **him?**
4 A. I don't know.
5 **Q. You didn't ever ask him why he wanted**
6 **you to make the introduction?**
7 A. No.
8 **Q. Do you know if Mr. Bannon ever met**
9 **with Mr. Guo in the White House?**
10 A. I do not.
11 **Q. You write in your book about**
12 **Mr. Bannon's trip to Hong Kong and China three weeks**
13 **after departing the White House in mid September of**
14 **2017.**
15 **Do you recall that?**
16 A. Correct.
17 **Q. And what do you know about that trip?**
18 A. I believe that I asked Steve Bannon
19 what he discussed with Wang Qishan. And he said that
20 he discussed that Wang Quishan was interested in
21 globalism and populism.

Page 121

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1 **Q. Was there some discussion also of**
 2 **economic nationalism during that meeting?**
 3 A. I don't recall.
 4 **Q. And what else did Mr. Bannon say**
 5 **about that meeting?**
 6 A. I have no other recollection.
 7 **Q. Do you know how you learned of it?**
 8 A. I do not.
 9 **Q. Did you interview him when he**
 10 **returned?**
 11 A. I did not.
 12 **Q. When did you interview him?**
 13 A. I don't recall.
 14 **Q. So Mr. Bannon went on the record for**
 15 **your book though, correct?**
 16 A. We had discussions. I don't remember
 17 exactly the form, or place, or when they were.
 18 **Q. So you don't remember learning about**
 19 **his trip to China as it was happening?**
 20 A. No.
 21 **Q. Are you aware that Mr. Bannon gave a**

Page 122

1 **peace speech in Hong Kong to the state international**
 2 **security firm?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 **Q. And what do you know about that**
 5 **speech?**
 6 A. I don't know anything about it.
 7 **Q. Do you know who arranged for his**
 8 **appearance?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. Did you ever ask him about it?**
 11 A. No.
 12 **Q. Do you know the purpose of his trip?**
 13 A. No.
 14 **Q. When he went to China and Hong Kong,**
 15 **was that before or after you introduced him to**
 16 **Mr. Guo?**
 17 A. I do not know.
 18 **Q. If I represent to you that he**
 19 **traveled there in September of 2017, does that make in**
 20 **any more helpful to you?**
 21 A. I don't have a clear recollection.

Page 123

1 **Q. When you had lunch with Mr. Bannon**
 2 **and Mr. Guo, do you remember Mr. Bannon discussing his**
 3 **China visit with Mr. Guo?**
 4 A. I do not.
 5 **Q. Do you know who scheduled the meeting**
 6 **with Wang Qishan and Bannon?**
 7 A. I do not.
 8 **Q. Have you ever heard of John Thornton?**
 9 A. I don't know who he is.
 10 **Q. You appear to be the first journalist**
 11 **in June of 2017 to report that Mr. Quo's wife and**
 12 **daughter were given a 20 day visa to come to the U.S.**
 13 **that prior month in May, 2017. Do you recall that**
 14 **reporting?**
 15 A. I do not.
 16 **Q. I think it was in one of our earlier**
 17 **articles, which I don't want to re mark for you, but**
 18 **do you recall anything about the visas given to**
 19 **Mr. Quo's family?**
 20 A. I do not.
 21 **Q. Have you ever been told about**

Page 124

1 **potential imprisonment or persecution faced by Quo's**
 2 **family back in China?**
 3 A. I don't recall any discussion of
 4 that.
 5 **Q. You don't recall Mr. Guo ever telling**
 6 **you he was afraid for his family?**
 7 A. I think he may have said he was
 8 afraid for his family, but other than that, I have no
 9 recollection of any details.
 10 **Q. Have you ever spoken with any of his**
 11 **family members?**
 12 A. I have met his daughter.
 13 **Q. When was that?**
 14 A. I don't know. I don't remember.
 15 **Q. And where did you meet her?**
 16 A. At the apartment in New York.
 17 **Q. Did you speak with her?**
 18 A. No. It was just an introduction.
 19 **Q. Were you aware that Mr. Guo met with**
 20 **former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson in May of 2017?**
 21 A. I don't know. I don't know anything

Page 125

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1 about that.
2 **Q. You haven't seen the recording of**
3 **that, there is a video of that?**
4 A. I have not.
5 **Q. And when did you first meet French**
6 **Wallop?**
7 A. It was, January, I believe, January
8 of 2017.
9 **Q. French Wallop?**
10 A. Yes.
11 **Q. Okay. And that's when you first met**
12 **her in your life?**
13 A. Yes.
14 **Q. Okay. And when did you first meet**
15 **Mr. Waller, Michael Waller, who is also here?**
16 A. I have known Mike since, I believe,
17 he used to work at an affiliate publication of The
18 Washington Times many years ago.
19 **Q. And what was your first impression of**
20 **Ms. Wallop?**
21 A. Well, she said she knew my former

Page 126

1 editor, Oner Gaborkoff (phonetic), so I took that as
2 credit to her.
3 **Q. And how would you describe your**
4 **relationship with Mr. Waller?**
5 A. We were occasional friends when we
6 worked on a few policy oriented projects based on my
7 book, IWar, which called for reforming U.S. Government
8 information operations.
9 **Q. What kinds of projects were those?**
10 A. It was, basically, an idea to bring
11 about a better information capability for the U.S.
12 Government. Right now, the Voice Of America is poorly
13 run. We don't have the U.S. information agency that
14 we had during the Cold War. And so my book, IWar,
15 recommends trying to revitalize some of those
16 functions.
17 **Q. And how was Mr. Waller to help you in**
18 **that effort?**
19 A. We sought to collaborate to present
20 these idea to get either Congress or the
21 administration to develop some type of reform

Page 127

1 programs.
2 **Q. And do you remember about when that**
3 **was?**
4 A. I do not, other than sometime between
5 2017 and 2018.
6 **Q. Did you seek out Mr. Waller's help on**
7 **that effort?**
8 A. I believe I did.
9 **Q. And why him?**
10 A. I believe that he has good skills at
11 doing information.
12 If I may explain, the reason that I tried to
13 contact or put French Wallop in touch with Mr. Guo is
14 that, again, because I saw him as an extremely
15 valuable resource, I also saw him as extremely
16 scattered in his presentation.
17 His presentations would be on video and they
18 would be talking about a wide variety of topics. And
19 then in the middle of them, he would disclose really
20 valuable information about the inside workings of the
21 Chinese Government and Intelligence Service. And I

Page 128

1 felt that he needed a strategic communications person.
2 And because French Wallop had contacted me
3 when she represented a dissident Russian billionaire
4 named Miguel Kortokofski, who I interviewed, she
5 arranged the interview, I felt that she could provide
6 strategic communication support to Guo, Mr. Guo.
7 **Q. Did you understand Ms. Wallop to be**
8 **credible?**
9 A. To be credible in what sense?
10 **Q. A credible person you could recommend**
11 **for Mr. Guo to do business with?**
12 A. I really didn't know her, I'll be
13 honest to say I really didn't know. Like I said, I
14 was going on her reputation of having known Oner
15 Gaborkoff.
16 **Q. Did you find her to be honest in her**
17 **dealings with you?**
18 A. I guess I would say yes.
19 **Q. Did you find her to be sincere?**
20 A. Yes.
21 **Q. And when did you first learn of the**

Page 129

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1 **firm, Strategic Vision?**
 2 A. I can't recall, but it would have to
 3 have been based on news reports of this matter.
 4 **Q. Okay. So when you introduced Mr. Guo**
 5 **to French and Mike?**
 6 A. I didn't.
 7 **Q. You didn't introduce them?**
 8 A. No. I introduced them to Ling Cho
 9 Hann and Evette Wong, and then they made the
 10 introduction to Guo. My job was simply to make the
 11 connection, and then that was it.
 12 **Q. Okay. So when you introduced them to**
 13 **Ling Cho Hann and Ms. Wong, you weren't aware that**
 14 **Ms. Wallop's firm was called Strategic Vision?**
 15 A. Correct.
 16 **Q. You learned that later, the formal**
 17 **name of the firm?**
 18 A. Yes.
 19 **Q. Did you learn that once the lawsuit**
 20 **was filed?**
 21 A. I can't remember when.

Page 130

1 **Q. Okay. But as far as you were**
 2 **concerned, you were making an introduction of an**
 3 **individual?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. Or was it two individuals, Mr. Waller**
 6 **also?**
 7 A. Well, initially when I met French,
 8 she brought Mike in. And that was her decision, so I
 9 had no objection to it.
 10 So, again, I was -- my objective was to try
 11 and get Mr. Guo to focus his message so that it could
 12 be a more effective tool, and that I would benefit
 13 from that by getting information and news stories from
 14 that.
 15 **Q. And you had already known Mr. Waller**
 16 **for years?**
 17 A. Yes.
 18 **Q. Did her bringing Mr. Waller in give**
 19 **you confidence?**
 20 A. I had no objection to it.
 21 **Q. Did you know that they were business**

Page 131

1 **associates?**
 2 A. I didn't learn it until the first
 3 meeting with French on the subject.
 4 **Q. Do you find Mr. Waller to be**
 5 **credible?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. Do you find him to be honest?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. Do you find him to be sincere?**
 10 A. Yes.
 11 **Q. Do you remember the first time you**
 12 **introduced to Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller to Ling Cho?**
 13 A. I don't not remember the exact day or
 14 circumstances.
 15 **Q. Do you know if it was an in person**
 16 **meeting?**
 17 A. I think it may have been a phone
 18 connection given, the connection, and that they would
 19 connect them, but I honestly do not remember.
 20 **Q. And you have described the purpose of**
 21 **that introduction being for strategic communication**

Page 132

1 **assistance to Mr. Guo?**
 2 A. Yes. Again, I viewed Mr. Guo as
 3 having lots of various resources, but I really felt
 4 that what he lacked was someone that could provide him
 5 with the ability to project, in a coherent and
 6 effective way, his message, which I think is an
 7 important message.
 8 **Q. And did you tell him that you**
 9 **believed he lacked that ability?**
 10 A. I can't recall. I may have, but I
 11 can't recall a specific conversation about that, but I
 12 think that was the whole purpose of my contacting
 13 French Wallop.
 14 **Q. And did he ask you to help him find**
 15 **someone to aid him in communication?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. Do you remember if you spoke with**
 18 **Mr. Guo before or after you first brought up the idea**
 19 **to Ms. Wallop?**
 20 A. I may have raised the question. I
 21 may have told him that I had worked with French Wallop

Page 133

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1 in the Miguel Kortokofski issue, which was early
 2 there, and I said that I felt that if she could do for
 3 Miguel Kortokofski what she would do for Mr. Guo, that
 4 it would be beneficial to him.
 5 **Q. Did you understand that her services**
 6 **would include research?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss with you his**
 9 **goal of hiring someone to conduct research?**
 10 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
 11 THE WITNESS: No.
 12 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 13 **Q. Did you negotiate any compensation**
 14 **for your introduction?**
 15 A. No. I think, at one point, there was
 16 a suggestion that I would get a finder's fee. And my
 17 suggestion was, no, I am not interested in that, but
 18 if the collaboration may have involved some important
 19 information that could be useful to me as a reporter,
 20 that I would be welcome, I would welcome information
 21 that would be useful for news reporting.

Page 134

1 **Q. So your arrangement was that the**
 2 **fruits of the labor, if any, would flow to you**
 3 **exclusively as a reporter?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. Just that you would have access to**
 6 **that information?**
 7 A. No. It was, again, that I felt that
 8 if he had all of this valuable information and if it
 9 were packaged properly, it could be made public.
 10 So that rather than giving an hour and a
 11 half video, that he could talk about whatever, his
 12 personal food or his exercises, but then he could
 13 focus more on the substance of what he wanted to
 14 reveal.
 15 **Q. So your view is Ms. Wallop and**
 16 **Mr. Waller would help him with information he already**
 17 **had, packaging his story and his information?**
 18 A. Correct.
 19 **Q. Were you surprised -- would you be**
 20 **surprised to learn that he wanted them to conduct**
 21 **research on third parties?**

Page 135

1 A. Yes.
 2 **Q. Was that ever part of your**
 3 **discussions with him?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. Was that ever part of your**
 6 **discussions with Ms. Wallop?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. What about with Mr. Waller?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. Others in this case have testified**
 11 **that Mr. Guo communicated with them using What's Ap.**
 12 **Have you ever spoken with him or communicated with him**
 13 **using What's Ap?**
 14 A. No.
 15 **Q. You said, previously, it was just**
 16 **Signal?**
 17 A. Correct.
 18 **Q. Do you recall who it was who**
 19 **suggested you be given a finder's fee for the**
 20 **introduction?**
 21 A. It may have been French, but it was

Page 136

1 more of a suggestion rather than anything.
 2 Again, I said that I wasn't interested in any fee, but
 3 that I was more interested in getting the message out
 4 and getting information.
 5 **Q. Do you remember what you told Ling**
 6 **Cho Hann about the purpose of the first meeting with**
 7 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller?**
 8 A. To my recollection, it was what I had
 9 said, was we have seen from Mr. Guo a very powerful
 10 message, but, again, somewhat disjointed in its
 11 presentation, and that it was my hope that having a
 12 strategic communications professional or
 13 professionals, that it would help him to present his
 14 information in a much more powerful way.
 15 **Q. Did Ling Cho Hann agree?**
 16 A. I think he did.
 17 **Q. Did he ever mention to you that**
 18 **Mr. Guo needed research help?**
 19 A. He did not.
 20 **Q. Did Ms. Wong ever mention to you that**
 21 **Mr. Guo was looking for a research firm?**

Page 137

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1 A. No.
 2 **Q. Did you have any concerns introducing**
 3 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller to Mr. Guo?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. Do you believe that, as originally**
 6 **conceived, the project would be benefiting him**
 7 **personally?**
 8 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
 9 THE WITNESS: What project?
 10 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 11 **Q. The project of hiring Ms. Wallop and**
 12 **Mr. Waller, do you believe that was to be conveyed to**
 13 **Mr. Guo as a personal benefit?**
 14 A. I don't know.
 15 **Q. Did you envision that their efforts**
 16 **would help him obtain asylum?**
 17 A. I don't know.
 18 **Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo ever discussing**
 19 **with you if Ms. Wallop could be helpful in him seeking**
 20 **asylum?**
 21 A. I don't recall.

Page 138

1 **Q. Do you recall ever having a**
 2 **discussion about Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller's work**
 3 **being made public?**
 4 A. I do not.
 5 **Q. Did you ever see the contract?**
 6 A. No.
 7 **Q. When you had meetings with -- first**
 8 **of all, let's go back. Your very first meeting with**
 9 **Mr. Guo and Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller, were you all**
 10 **physically in the same space?**
 11 A. I never met together with Ms. Wallop,
 12 Mr. Waller, and Mr. Guo.
 13 **Q. Okay. So you made the introduction**
 14 **to Ling Cho Hann and Evette Wong, and then meetings**
 15 **occurred after that?**
 16 A. Yes.
 17 **Q. Okay. Were you ever on any phone**
 18 **calls with Mr. Guo, and Ms. Wallop, and Mr. Waller?**
 19 A. No.
 20 **Q. As he began negotiations and**
 21 **discussions with them, did he update you on the**

Page 139

1 **progress of those?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. Did he ever report to you about how**
 4 **the partnership was going?**
 5 A. No. I think, at one point, he asked
 6 me if he should do this contract. And, again, I had
 7 no knowledge about the contract. I believed that it
 8 was a strategic communications vehicle.
 9 And he asked me if he should do the
 10 contract. And my response to him was, I would do it
 11 maybe month to month or three months as a trial period
 12 to see how it goes.
 13 **Q. Did he show it to you when he asked**
 14 **you about it, did he send you a copy of what was**
 15 **proposed?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. Did he tell you how much the contract**
 18 **cost?**
 19 A. I don't believe so.
 20 **Q. Have you since learned the value of**
 21 **the contract?**

Page 140

1 A. Yes.
 2 **Q. And how did you learn that?**
 3 A. I can't remember.
 4 **Q. And what's your understanding of the**
 5 **value of the contract?**
 6 A. I think it's about a million dollars.
 7 **Q. And do you understand what the work**
 8 **is to be performed on the contract?**
 9 A. No.
 10 **Q. And when you first decided to**
 11 **introduce Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller to Ling Cho Hann**
 12 **and Ms. Wong, or subsequent introduction to Mr. Guo,**
 13 **was there a time line or deadline in place by Mr. Guo?**
 14 A. Not that I know of.
 15 **Q. And you didn't have any deadline in**
 16 **mind, in particular?**
 17 A. Not I had no knowledge of that.
 18 **Q. Was time of the essence?**
 19 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
 20 THE WITNESS: I have no idea.
 21 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:

Page 141

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1 **Q. You said earlier you hadn't learned**
2 **of the Eastern Profit until this lawsuit, correct?**
3 A. Correct.
4 **Q. How much do you know about the**
5 **contract's performance?**
6 A. I don't know anything.
7 **Q. Do you remember ever discussing with**
8 **Ms. Wallop Mr. Quo's need for research services on**
9 **third parties?**
10 A. I do not.
11 **Q. Did you ever remember seeing a list**
12 **of individuals who Mr. Guo wanted specific research**
13 **and surveillance on?**
14 A. No.
15 **Q. So do you have any knowledge of the**
16 **contract's performance after the contract was signed?**
17 A. At a certain point, I don't remember
18 when, Mr. Guo came to me with some material. And it
19 was a printout of some -- what appeared to be data,
20 and I had no idea what it was.
21 And he said that this has been what they had

Page 142

1 produced. And I expressed surprise since I was
2 unaware of this data, whatever research project, and
3 that he showed it to me, and I was like, well, what am
4 I supposed to do with that? I don't know.
5 **Q. And what did he say about it?**
6 A. He felt that it was not what he
7 wanted. I mean, I got the impression that he felt
8 that this wasn't what he had expected.
9 **Q. And what did he tell you he expected?**
10 A. He didn't say.
11 **Q. Was he asking you to communicate to**
12 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller about the material?**
13 A. No.
14 **Q. Just sharing with you what he had**
15 **received?**
16 A. Yes.
17 **Q. Do you remember when that was?**
18 A. I do not.
19 **Q. Where was that meeting, was that at**
20 **his apartment?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 143

1 **Q. Did you ever ask to see a copy of the**
2 **contract?**
3 A. No.
4 MS. LUETKEMEYER: We can take a break to
5 change the tape.
6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
7 record. This is the end of Media Unit No. 1. The
8 time is 2:06 p.m.
9 (Short Recess.)
10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
11 record. This is the beginning of Media Unit No. 2.
12 The time is 2:20 p.m.
13 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
14 **Q. Mr. Gertz, have you ever heard of an**
15 **entity called ASOG, in Texas?**
16 A. No.
17 **Q. It stands for Allied Special**
18 **Operations Group?**
19 A. I don't know it.
20 **Q. Have you ever heard of an individual**
21 **named Adam Craft?**

Page 144

1 A. No.
2 **Q. Has Mr. Guo ever asked you to review**
3 **his paperwork related to his asylum claim?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. Have you ever seen a draft of it?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. Whenever we speak earlier in the**
8 **deposition about Mr. Je, do you know what his company**
9 **name is?**
10 A. I do not.
11 **Q. And you described him as a financier,**
12 **do you remember that?**
13 A. A fund manager, financier, financial
14 specialist, is my understanding.
15 **Q. When you say financial specialist,**
16 **what do you mean?**
17 A. He is wealthy.
18 **Q. Is he an investor?**
19 A. I don't know.
20 **Q. And who is he to Mr. Guo?**
21 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.

Page 145

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1 THE WITNESS: My understanding is that
 2 they are friends, that they have no formal ties, and
 3 that Mr. Je is a supporter, in a political sense, of
 4 Mr. Guo.
 5 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 6 **Q. Is Mr. Je also a financial backer of**
 7 **Mr. Guo?**
 8 A. Not that I am aware of.
 9 **Q. Are you aware of him providing**
 10 **financial assistance to anyone else in the United**
 11 **States?**
 12 A. No.
 13 **Q. Does he provide financial assistance**
 14 **to the Rule of Law Society?**
 15 A. I don't know.
 16 **Q. Do you know the source of his funds**
 17 **that he paid to you?**
 18 A. I think it was a sovereign wealth
 19 fund of some sort in the Middle East.
 20 **Q. Did you ask him about that before he**
 21 **transferred the money?**

Page 146

1 A. My main thing was, yes, where did it
 2 come from. He said it was a sovereign wealth fund in
 3 the Middle East, I can't remember where, and that it
 4 was completely separate from Mr. Quo's funds.
 5 **Q. When did you ask him about that?**
 6 A. Around the time that he made the
 7 loan.
 8 **Q. Was it before or after he sent the**
 9 **money?**
 10 A. I think it was before.
 11 **Q. And why would you have asked him**
 12 **about whether or not it was separate from Mr. Guo?**
 13 A. I was just curious. He had asked for
 14 the bank transfer information. It involved an
 15 international transfer.
 16 **Q. So do you have an understanding that**
 17 **he put the money into your Bank of America account,**
 18 **but it came from an international fund?**
 19 A. As best as I can tell.
 20 **Q. And what does "sovereign wealth fund"**
 21 **mean?**

Page 147

1 A. I don't know.
 2 **Q. Did you do any research to see what**
 3 **it meant?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. Did you do any research or vetting of**
 6 **Mr. Je before you entered into this transaction with**
 7 **him?**
 8 A. No.
 9 **Q. Do you have any idea of how he makes**
 10 **his money, besides being a financier?**
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 **Q. You don't know what countries he**
 13 **invests in?**
 14 A. I do not.
 15 **Q. Do you have any reason to believe**
 16 **that funding may have come from Saudi Arabia?**
 17 A. I do not.
 18 **Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss the source**
 19 **of Mr. Je's wealth with you?**
 20 A. No.
 21 **Q. Have you ever visited Mr. Je at his**

Page 148

1 **home?**
 2 A. No.
 3 **Q. Do you know where all he keeps a**
 4 **residence?**
 5 A. I don't.
 6 **Q. And when is the last time you spoke**
 7 **with him?**
 8 A. I can't recall.
 9 **Q. What's your best guess?**
 10 A. I can't guess.
 11 **Q. Sometime this calendar year?**
 12 A. Yes, probably. I don't know, the
 13 last six months.
 14 **Q. Have you spoken with him in the last**
 15 **few weeks?**
 16 A. I can't recall.
 17 **Q. Is he aware of the change in your**
 18 **status at The Free Beacon?**
 19 A. Yes.
 20 **Q. And how did he become aware of that?**
 21 A. I think I told him.

Page 149

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1 **Q. So that would have had to be in the**
2 **last few weeks?**
3 A. Yes.
4 **Q. Was that over the phone?**
5 A. Yes.
6 **Q. And how did that conversation begin?**
7 A. Just that I was moving on from the
8 Free Beacon.
9 **Q. Was he ever contacted by The Free**
10 **Beacon?**
11 A. No.
12 **Q. Was he ever contacted by anyone else?**
13 A. I don't know.
14 **Q. And last Friday, there was an article**
15 **on Buzz Week published about your departure from The**
16 **Free Beacon.**
17 **Did you see that article?**
18 A. I saw it.
19 **Q. And did speak with the reporter,**
20 **Ms. Gray, for that article?**
21 A. No.

Page 150

1 **Q. Did you see the quote in that article**
2 **from Mr. Quo's Counsel?**
3 A. I did not.
4 **Q. You are not aware that that article**
5 **was updated with a quote from Mr. Guo?**
6 A. I didn't see it.
7 **Q. Was Mr. Je contacted for that**
8 **article?**
9 A. I don't know.
10 **Q. When you spoke with Mr. Je about the**
11 **change in your employment at The Free Beacon, what did**
12 **you tell him?**
13 A. That I was moving on.
14 **Q. And what was the reason for that?**
15 A. That we had a dispute over an
16 editorial matter.
17 **Q. Why did you contact him?**
18 A. Just to let him know that I was
19 moving on, and that was the reason.
20 **Q. And that his funding to you was the**
21 **basis for you moving on?**

Page 151

1 A. Yes.
2 **Q. And what did he say?**
3 A. I can't recall. I don't remember how
4 he responded.
5 **Q. This is in the last few weeks though,**
6 **right?**
7 A. Yes.
8 **Q. And you don't remember what he said**
9 **to you?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Did he express surprise that you were**
12 **being asked to leave because of his interaction with**
13 **you?**
14 A. I think he said to me, again, that
15 this was unfair because the money did not come from
16 Mr. Guo.
17 **Q. Did he offer to contact your editors**
18 **for you?**
19 A. I don't think so, no.
20 **Q. Did you ask him to do that?**
21 A. No.

Page 152

1 **Q. Did you ask him to send a letter?**
2 A. No.
3 **Q. Did you ask him to provide proof that**
4 **the money did not come from Mr. Guo?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. And why not?**
7 A. Like I said, I was ready to move on
8 from The Free Beacon.
9 **Q. How long did your conversation with**
10 **Mr. Je last?**
11 A. Very brief, five minutes.
12 **Q. Did he ask you if there was anything**
13 **he could do to help you?**
14 A. No.
15 **Q. Did he express any indication that he**
16 **would want his money back?**
17 A. No. I just indicated to him that
18 when I get the royalties, that I would continue to
19 work out the payment to him.
20 **Q. Have you made any payments to him so**
21 **far?**

Page 153

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1 A. No.
2 **Q. You expect royalties to come within**
3 **six months of publishing the book?**
4 A. Six months to a year.
5 **Q. And based on your agreement with him,**
6 **will you be paying him any interest?**
7 A. No.
8 **Q. Did he ever suggest that you pay him**
9 **interest?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Do you expect the royalties from your**
12 **book to exceed the amount of the financial support he**
13 **gave you?**
14 A. I hope it will.
15 **Q. Has this incident impacted your**
16 **promotional and book tour?**
17 A. Not so far.
18 **Q. You have had no appearances**
19 **cancelled?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. Have you appeared on any TV or radio**

Page 154

1 **shows since the Friday announcement by The Free**
2 **Beacon?**
3 A. I have not.
4 **Q. Have you cancelled any interviews on**
5 **your own because of it?**
6 A. No.
7 **Q. Do you have any upcoming meetings or**
8 **signings in the next few weeks?**
9 A. I haven't looked at the calendar, but
10 I probably do.
11 **Q. Did Mr. Je ask you if book sales**
12 **would be impacted by your departure from The Free**
13 **Beacon?**
14 A. No.
15 **Q. Did he express any concern about your**
16 **ability to pay him back?**
17 A. No.
18 **Q. Did he ask you for a specific date**
19 **that the money must be repaid?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. How confident are you that you can**

Page 155

1 **repay all of the money to Mr. Je?**
2 A. Very confident.
3 **Q. When do you think that will occur?**
4 A. I can't say.
5 **Q. If you do not make \$100,000 from your**
6 **book royalties, would you and your wife pay Mr. Je**
7 **back from your own funds?**
8 A. That would be a discussion we'd have,
9 if that were to come up.
10 **Q. Did you and Mr. Je ever discuss the**
11 **possibility that your royalties might not exceed his**
12 **loan?**
13 A. No.
14 **Q. Has Mr. Je contacted you since you**
15 **last spoke to him, in the last few weeks?**
16 A. No.
17 **Q. Do you have any written communication**
18 **with Mr. Je?**
19 A. No.
20 **Q. Just the e mail you referenced**
21 **earlier regarding the terms of this agreement?**

Page 156

1 A. That was in the April time frame,
2 April, yes, 2018.
3 **Q. And that's the only communication**
4 **that you have had with him?**
5 A. Correct.
6 **Q. Did your editors at The Free Beacon**
7 **see that communication?**
8 A. No.
9 **Q. Did they ask you for it?**
10 A. No.
11 **Q. Why did you choose not to show that**
12 **to them?**
13 A. They weren't interested in hearing or
14 seeing about anything.
15 **Q. Why do they believe Mr. Je was**
16 **connected to Mr. Guo?**
17 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
18 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
19 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
20 **Q. Do you know how they found out Mr. Je**
21 **was the source of the funding?**

Page 157

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1 A. I guess it would have been Friday
2 the Friday, or two or three Fridays ago.
3 **Q. Any idea why they waited to announce**
4 **it until this Friday?**
5 A. I do not know.
6 **Q. Did they tell you they were going to**
7 **make a public statement on their website?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. Did you have any input into what that**
10 **statement said?**
11 A. No.
12 **Q. Did you object to it?**
13 A. No.
14 **Q. Did they give you an advance copy of**
15 **what it would say?**
16 A. Yes.
17 **Q. And that was over e mail?**
18 A. Um hum.
19 **Q. Did you speak with Mr. Guo about this**
20 **incident with The Free Beacon?**
21 A. I did not.

Page 162

1 **Q. Do you know if he is aware of it?**
2 A. I do not.
3 **Q. Did The Free Beacon editors ask you**
4 **for your bank records?**
5 A. No.
6 **Q. Are you familiar with Guo Media?**
7 A. Yes.
8 **Q. And what is it?**
9 A. I believe it's the platform that
10 Mr. Guo uses for his presentations, and talks, and
11 speeches.
12 **Q. Like on You Tube, and things like**
13 **that?**
14 A. I believe it's a website.
15 **Q. Okay. And what's the purpose of it?**
16 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
17 THE WITNESS: It's a place for him to
18 give speeches and talks.
19 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
20 **Q. To get his message out?**
21 A. Yes.

Page 163

1 **Q. Did you ever give him permission to**
2 **publish or talk about you on Guo Media?**
3 A. I'm sorry?
4 **Q. Did you speak with Mr. Guo about him**
5 **using your name on Guo Media; did he ever ask for**
6 **permission to do so?**
7 A. No.
8 **Q. Are you aware that you have ever been**
9 **mentioned on Guo Media?**
10 A. I don't know.
11 **Q. How often do you, if ever, tune in to**
12 **Guo Media and look at the videos?**
13 A. Occasionally, if there is a video
14 that has been translated into English, if someone
15 tweets about it or something.
16 **Q. Occasionally, they will have**
17 **subtitles at the bottom in English?**
18 A. Yes.
19 **Q. Did you ever appear with Guo on one**
20 **of his videos?**
21 A. No.

Page 164

1 **Q. Did he ever ask you to?**
2 A. No.
3 **Q. Are you familiar are Ming Jing Media,**
4 **Mirror Media?**
5 A. I think it is a dissident Chinese
6 publication in New York, but I am not certain.
7 **Q. Do you know of any PR firms or social**
8 **media firms Mr. Guo has hired?**
9 A. I do not.
10 **Q. Do you know of any PR firms or social**
11 **media firms that the Rule of Law Foundation has hired?**
12 A. I do not.
13 **Q. What about the Rule of Law Society?**
14 A. I don't know.
15 **Q. Have you ever heard of the firm BLJ**
16 **Worldwide, a firm known as Brown, Lloyd, and James?**
17 A. I have not.
18 **Q. Has Mr. Guo ever talked to you about**
19 **his media plan?**
20 A. No.
21 **Q. Do you know of any other research**

Page 165

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1 to you?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 **Q. You said there have been two Rule of**
 4 **Law Society phone conferences, correct, that you can**
 5 **recall?**
 6 A. Yes.
 7 **Q. And you said there were maybe two or**
 8 **three other people on those calls beside you and**
 9 **Mr. Bannon?**
 10 A. Yes.
 11 **Q. How long did those calls**
 12 **approximately last?**
 13 A. Maybe 20 minutes.
 14 **Q. Do you recall who did the bulk of the**
 15 **talking?**
 16 A. I do not.
 17 **Q. And is there an e mail chain or a**
 18 **list serve where you can all communicate with one**
 19 **another?**
 20 A. I don't recall how the communication
 21 is. It might be an e mail. It might be a text. I

Page 170

1 don't know.
 2 **Q. You just receive a call in number and**
 3 **you call it?**
 4 A. Yes.
 5 **Q. And you don't have any inclination of**
 6 **the other two members of that society?**
 7 A. I don't.
 8 **Q. You were on the phone with them**
 9 **twice?**
 10 A. It would have been twice, it would
 11 have been once.
 12 **Q. Was Kyle Bass one of the other**
 13 **members of that society?**
 14 A. No.
 15 **Q. He is a member of the foundation, to**
 16 **your knowledge?**
 17 A. I believe it's the foundation.
 18 **Q. Okay. But the society has two**
 19 **unnamed members you can't recall, you and Mr. Bannon,**
 20 **correct?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 171

1 **Q. Do you know if those are American**
 2 **citizens?**
 3 A. Yes. Yes, I mean I'm trying to
 4 remember. I honestly can't recall and I don't want to
 5 speculate.
 6 **Q. Do you recall if they are men or**
 7 **women?**
 8 A. I think they are women.
 9 **Q. Do you know if one of them is named**
 10 **Karen Mitchello?**
 11 A. Yes.
 12 **Q. Do you know, is Evette Wong one of**
 13 **them?**
 14 A. No.
 15 **Q. Have you ever met Karen Mitchello in**
 16 **person?**
 17 A. Yes.
 18 **Q. And Who is Karen Mitchello?**
 19 A. I believe she is an assistant to
 20 someone in Guo Media perhaps.
 21 **Q. And where did you meet her?**

Page 172

1 A. I met her at the Rule of Law Building
 2 in New York. They have a building for the Rule of Law
 3 Society meetings.
 4 **Q. And so the meetings are at a**
 5 **building, but they are on the phone?**
 6 A. Well, they are held there for people
 7 that are there, or they are on the phone. That's how
 8 they do it. So people that are in the building are
 9 there, and people who call in.
 10 **Q. Did you call in or were you present**
 11 **at the building?**
 12 A. I think I called in. I can't really
 13 remember. I remember being in the building, but I
 14 don't remember being in for a meeting. It's just not
 15 clear to me.
 16 **Q. When you were in the building, that's**
 17 **when you met Karen Mitchello?**
 18 A. Yes.
 19 **Q. Do you know whether she is also**
 20 **involved in Mr. Quo's other businesses?**
 21 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.

Page 173

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1 in this case?
2 A. No.
3 Q. Have you had a conversation with
4 Mr. Je about paying for your lawyer in this case?
5 A. No.
6 Q. Do you know what year Mr. Guo was
7 born?
8 A. I do not.
9 Q. Are you aware there is some dispute
10 about his actual birth date?
11 A. I am not aware.
12 Q. Have you ever talked to him about his
13 early years in China?
14 A. No.
15 Q. You spoke very briefly about you
16 meeting Mr. Quo's daughter?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Where does she live?
19 A. I don't know.
20 Q. Did you speak with her when you met
21 her at his house?

Page 178

1 A. Just an introduction.
2 Q. Did Mr. Guo ever provide you with any
3 other documents that Strategic Vision, Ms. Wallop, or
4 Mr. Waller have produced to him?
5 A. No.
6 Q. Just that one packet that we
7 discussed?
8 A. Which packet? He didn't give it to
9 me. He showed it to me.
10 Q. Did he ever show you any other
11 documents?
12 A. No.
13 Q. So he showed it to you, then he took
14 it back?
15 A. He showed it in front of me, yes.
16 Q. Did you ever discuss those documents
17 with anyone else?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Did you ever use them in your
20 reporting?
21 A. No.

Page 179

1 Q. Did you contact Mr. Hann in the last
2 week and ask him to reach out to Mr. Waller and
3 Ms. Wallop about this deposition?
4 A. No.
5 Q. Would you be surprised to know that
6 he says that he talked to you about it on Sunday?
7 A. He called me on Sunday and asked me
8 if I needed help. And I said I don't need help, I had
9 a lawyer.
10 Q. Did he tell you he would be
11 communicating with Mr. Waller and Ms. Wallop about it?
12 A. No.
13 Q. So it would be surprising for you to
14 hear about that?
15 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.
16 Q. Have you ever heard of Celestial
17 Holdings?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Just one second. Did you review the
20 subpoena for documents that we sent you before this
21 deposition?

Page 180

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And how did you conduct a search for
3 responsive documents?
4 A. I searched for e mail and text
5 messages.
6 Q. And the e mail from Ms. Wallop that
7 you produced is the only e mail you had?
8 A. Yes.
9 MS. KROPF: The only e mail he has
10 responsive to the request that we negotiated out of
11 the five categories.
12 MS. LUETKEMEYER: Correct. In the
13 revised letter that we sent, yes.
14 Q. Have you discussed today's deposition
15 with anyone else besides your Counsel and the people
16 that we discussed at the beginning of the meeting?
17 A. No.
18 Q. About how much have you been paid in
19 speaking fees or honoraria since 2017?
20 A. I have no idea.
21 Q. Can you estimate?

Page 181

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<p>1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the 2 record at 2:53 p.m., and this concludes today's 3 testimony of Bill Gertz. The total number of media 4 units used was two. 5 (The deposition concluded at 2:53 p.m.) 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>Page 186</p>	
<p>1 CERTIFICATION OF NOTARY 2 I, Jackie Smith, the officer before whom the 3 foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that 4 witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing 5 deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of 6 said witness was taken by me stenographically and 7 thereafter reduced to typewriting; that said 8 deposition is a true record of the testimony given by 9 said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related 10 to, or employed by any of the parties to the action in 11 which this deposition is taken; and further, that I am 12 not a relative or employee of any attorney employed 13 by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise 14 interested in the outcome of the action. 15 16 _____ 17 Jackie Smith 18 Notary Public 19 My Commission Expires: 3-30-2020 20 21</p> <p>Page 187</p>	