

1 NO. DC-19-08591

2 CAO DAI TAY NINH TEMPLES ) IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
3 OF TEXAS, QUAN BUI, and )  
4 LUONG XUAN DUONG, )  
5 Plaintiffs, )  
6 VS. )  
7 RENG PHUOC DANG, HIEN VAN ) 298TH COUNTY, TEXAS  
8 PHAM, DUNG QUOC NGUYEN, )  
9 CANH QUANG TRAN, CAODAI )  
TOA THANH TAY NINH, )  
10 Defendants. ) DALLAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT

11 -----

12 ORAL DEPOSITION OF  
13 CANH TRAN  
14 NOVEMBER 15, 2019  
15 VOLUME 1  
16 -----

17 ORAL DEPOSITION OF CANH TRAN, produced as a witness  
18 at the instance of the Plaintiffs, and duly sworn, was  
19 taken in the above-styled and numbered cause on  
20 November 15, 2019, from 10:05 a.m. to 11:42 a.m., before  
21 Vicki Humphrey, CSR in and for the State of Texas,  
22 reported by machine shorthand, at the offices of the  
23 Bartlett Law Firm, 4627 North Central Expressway, Suite  
24 100, Dallas, Texas 75205, pursuant to the Texas Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure.

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RENG PHUOC DANG  
MINH MINHDAO LE  
LUONG DUONG

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

10:04AM 2 THE REPORTER: Agreements on the record?

10:04AM 3 MS. BARTLETT: This deposition -- we do  
10:04AM 4 want to do it by the Rules? Is that okay? By the Texas  
10:04AM 5 Rules?

10:04AM 6 MR. TURNER: Please.

10:04AM 7 MS. BARTLETT: Okay.

10:04AM 8 MR. TURNER: How long do y'all want to read  
10:04AM 9 and sign?

10:04AM 10 MS. BARTLETT: At least like 30 days maybe.  
10:04AM 11 We'll try to do it as soon as possible, but 30 days.

10:04AM 12 MR. TURNER: Okay.

10:04AM 13 CANH TRAN,  
10:04AM 14 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10:04AM 15 EXAMINATION

10:05AM 16 BY MR. TURNER:

10:05AM 17 Q. So could you please state your full name for  
10:05AM 18 the record?

10:05AM 19 A. My name is Canh Tran, C-a-n-h T-r-a-n. My rank  
10:05AM 20 in the religion is priest.

10:05AM 21 Q. So have you ever had your deposition taken  
10:05AM 22 before today?

10:05AM 23 A. Never. First time.

10:05AM 24 Q. Let me just say a couple of things. One, as  
10:05AM 25 you can see, the woman to your right and to my left is

10:06AM 1 the court reporter. And somehow, when she clicks on  
10:06AM 2 those keys, what we say comes out ultimately into a  
10:06AM 3 transcript. So it's important that I allow you the  
10:06AM 4 opportunity to fully answer the question before I ask my  
10:06AM 5 next question. It's, likewise, important that you allow  
10:06AM 6 me to fully ask my question before you answer. Is that  
10:06AM 7 okay?

10:06AM 8 A. Yeah.

10:06AM 9 Q. And also, things such as huh-uhs and uh-huhs  
10:06AM 10 are difficult. Ms. Bartlett and I may end up arguing at  
10:06AM 11 some point what that meant. So if you could answer  
10:06AM 12 audibly out loud either yes or no.

10:06AM 13 A. (Witness nods.) Yes.

10:06AM 14 Q. And no head shakes either.

10:06AM 15 A. I understand.

10:06AM 16 Q. Okay. Thank you.

10:06AM 17 And so I do not anticipate we'll be here  
10:06AM 18 terribly long, but if you do need to take a break, then  
10:06AM 19 that would be fine.

10:06AM 20 If you want to ask your counsel a question,  
10:06AM 21 you need to answer the question first that's being  
10:06AM 22 posed, and then if you want to ask something you can  
10:06AM 23 please feel free to do so. Okay?

10:07AM 24 A. Yes, I understand.

10:07AM 25 Q. So you have just said that your title is

10:07AM 1 priest. And you're a priest for whom?

10:07AM 2 A. Sorry?

10:07AM 3 Q. And you are a priest for whom?

10:07AM 4 A. Priest for the Cao Dai religion in Vietnam. In

10:07AM 5 Vietnam, we have a religion called Cao Dai, Caodai-ism

10:07AM 6 and --

10:07AM 7 Q. Caodai-ism.

10:07AM 8 A. Ism. That's the religion in Vietnam. That's

10:07AM 9 the headquarter. The picture I sent you, the Holy See.

10:07AM 10 And our religion have about three million for laws in --

10:07AM 11 mostly in Vietnam. I am the priest of the religion.

10:07AM 12 Q. So where do you currently live?

10:07AM 13 A. I live in California right now.

10:07AM 14 Q. And in Westminster?

10:07AM 15 A. Yes, in Westminster, California.

10:07AM 16 Q. Is that in Orange County?

10:08AM 17 A. Yes.

10:08AM 18 Q. And how long have you lived in Orange County?

10:08AM 19 A. I live in Orange ever since I retire in 2006.

10:08AM 20 Q. And since you have been in Orange County, have

10:08AM 21 you been a priest for Cao Dai?

10:08AM 22 A. No. I've been priest for Cao Dai later on

10:08AM 23 starting in 2007.

10:08AM 24 Q. So there's a -- there is a Caodai Missionary --

10:08AM 25 A. Overseas.

10:08AM 1 Q. Caodai Overseas Missionary, Inc.

10:08AM 2 A. Yeah.

10:08AM 3 Q. Correct?

10:08AM 4 A. Uh-huh.

10:08AM 5 Q. And are you an officer?

10:08AM 6 A. Yeah. I am the president of the Caodai  
10:08AM 7 Overseas Missionary.

10:08AM 8 Q. And how is it related to the Cao Dai Temple in  
10:08AM 9 Vietnam?

10:08AM 10 A. It's related to because I am a representative  
10:09AM 11 of Caodai Overseas appointed by Vietnam. And when I  
10:09AM 12 come to the U. S., I have to register for activities.  
10:09AM 13 When I want to register, I have to come -- I have to  
10:09AM 14 have a name of the -- to register. The name that I  
10:09AM 15 choose is Caodai Overseas Missionary.

10:09AM 16 Q. And you were appointed by -- so let me start  
10:09AM 17 that question over.

10:09AM 18 So if we want to refer to the Vietnam Cao  
10:09AM 19 Dai, how should we refer to it?

10:09AM 20 A. Say it again.

10:09AM 21 Q. If we want to refer to the Cao Dai in Vietnam  
10:09AM 22 and not confuse it with Caodai Overseas Missionary,  
10:09AM 23 Inc., how would we refer --

10:10AM 24 A. You can refer to the Cao Dai Tay Ninh Holy See.

10:10AM 25 COURT REPORTER: Cao Dai what?

10:10AM 1 THE DEPONENT: Tay Ninh. That's the place.  
10:10AM 2 T-a-y- N-i-h [sic]. That's the place that -- the  
10:10AM 3 province in Vietnam.

10:10AM 4 COURT REPORTER: What?

10:10AM 5 THE DEPONENT: Province.

10:10AM 6 MR. TURNER: In Vietnam.

10:10AM 7 A. We call it Tay Ninh Holy See. Holy See. Like  
10:10AM 8 Holy See in Vatican. So you call -- usually you call it  
10:10AM 9 Cao Dai Tay Ninh Holy See.

10:10AM 10 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Okay. So I --

10:10AM 11 MS. BARTLETT: Holy See is S-e-e. Holy  
10:10AM 12 See.

10:10AM 13 A. Holy See.

10:10AM 14 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) I tend to be overly simplistic  
10:10AM 15 about life in general. So is it okay if I just say Tay  
10:10AM 16 Ninh?

10:10AM 17 A. Yeah.

10:10AM 18 Q. And that would be shorter and easier.

10:10AM 19 A. Uh-huh.

10:11AM 20 Q. And then for the Caodai Overseas Missionary,  
10:11AM 21 Inc., can I just call it Caodai Overseas?

10:11AM 22 A. Yes.

10:11AM 23 Q. And we'll understand what we're talking about?

10:11AM 24 A. Yes. That's easy.

10:11AM 25 Q. All right. So how was Caodai Overseas related



10:11AM 1 to Tay Ninh?

10:11AM 2 A. Yeah. Tay Ninh is my boss.

10:11AM 3 Q. Okay.

10:11AM 4 A. So we are under the management and supervision  
10:11AM 5 of Tay Ninh.

10:11AM 6 Q. So at some point, you were appointed as the  
10:11AM 7 acting chairperson of Caodai Overseas, correct?

10:11AM 8 A. Yes.

10:11AM 9 Q. I'm sorry. My chair is sneaking so loudly.

10:11AM 10 (Exhibit 1 marked.)

10:11AM 11 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So let me hand you what's been  
10:11AM 12 marked as Exhibit 1. Is this the document that appoints  
10:12AM 13 you as the acting chairperson?

10:12AM 14 A. No. This is the -- the first thing is to  
10:12AM 15 appoint me as the student priest. You start with the  
10:12AM 16 student priest because -- before you become a priest.  
10:12AM 17 So at that time, I start with the student priest. And  
10:12AM 18 this is the first -- the first one here. And let's see.  
10:12AM 19 And this one appoint me as the representative of Tay  
10:12AM 20 Ninh Overseas.

10:12AM 21 Q. Okay.

10:12AM 22 A. Yeah. Mostly it said that. And this is the  
10:13AM 23 official appointment, what you call order or letter.

10:13AM 24 Q. Yeah, from Tay Ninh.

10:13AM 25 A. From Tay Ninh, yeah.

10:13AM 1 COURT REPORTER: Can you wait for him to  
10:13AM 2 finish too because I'm struggling, so if you'd just wait  
10:13AM 3 for him to finish his question.

10:13AM 4 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So is your job as priest or  
10:13AM 5 your role as priest, is it a paid position?

10:13AM 6 A. No. All --

10:13AM 7 Q. And so -- go ahead.

10:13AM 8 A. All the dignitaries in Cao Dai work for free.

10:13AM 9 Q. Okay.

10:13AM 10 A. Nobody has any -- get any salary. That's the  
10:13AM 11 rule, yeah.

10:13AM 12 Q. Yeah. I was the president of our synagogue for  
10:13AM 13 two years and it actually cost me money. So I think I  
10:13AM 14 understand. I think I understand what you're saying.

10:13AM 15 A. Yeah, you work for God.

10:13AM 16 Q. So what is -- what is it that you -- what are  
10:13AM 17 your job duties, for lack of a better description?

10:14AM 18 A. My job easy. My job is to spread Cao Dai, the  
10:14AM 19 religion, to the world, to the world, to let people know  
10:14AM 20 that there is a new religion called Caodai-ism from  
10:14AM 21 Vietnam.

10:14AM 22 So my job is to go and spread it and to  
10:14AM 23 help many people to know in order for them to do  
10:14AM 24 research on Cao Dai to write English book for Cao Dai.  
10:14AM 25 Because right now, we don't have many English books on

10:14AM 1 our religion.

10:14AM 2 So my job is to go and spread it by going  
10:14AM 3 to international conference seminar workshop, going to  
10:14AM 4 the university to talk to the student in order to let  
10:15AM 5 them know that we have a new religion called Cao Dai in  
10:15AM 6 Southeast Asia.

10:15AM 7 Q. So is the Cao Dai Tay Ninh Temples of Texas, is  
10:15AM 8 that part of either what we've been calling Tay Ninh or  
10:15AM 9 part of what we've been calling Caodai Overseas?

10:15AM 10 A. No.

10:15AM 11 Q. Okay. So -- and let me also, just to clarify,  
10:15AM 12 when we're referring to the word "overseas," we're  
10:15AM 13 referring to places other than Vietnam. Is that --  
10:15AM 14 would that be fair?

10:15AM 15 A. Yeah, correct.

10:15AM 16 Q. Okay. Because normally when we're sitting in  
10:15AM 17 the United States and we say overseas we're referring  
10:15AM 18 to, you know, England or --

10:15AM 19 A. Yeah, outside Vietnam.

10:15AM 20 Q. So in this context, when we say overseas, it's  
10:15AM 21 something other than Vietnam, correct?

10:15AM 22 A. Yeah.

10:15AM 23 Q. So if you'll look back at Exhibit 1.

10:15AM 24 A. Yeah.

10:15AM 25 Q. And I'm going to read from the second page,

10:16AM 1 which is part of the certified translation, where it  
10:16AM 2 says "directive".

10:16AM 3                   So it says, The role of guiding overseas  
10:16AM 4 clergy members, functionaries and adherents of both  
10:16AM 5 sexes towards the Tay Ninh Holy See and bring  
10:16AM 6 information on the -- I'm going to say this wrong --  
10:16AM 7 sacerdotal council's religious operation to overseas  
10:16AM 8 church members so that they would strictly follow our  
10:16AM 9 religious law and strengthen the church's foundation  
10:16AM 10 while complying with the host country's laws.

10:16AM 11                   So would you agree that that is one of the  
10:16AM 12 objectives of yours?

10:17AM 13           A.    Yes.

10:17AM 14           Q.    Okay.

10:17AM 15           A.    But may I explain?

10:17AM 16           Q.    Sure.

10:17AM 17           A.    When you say it's stated here the guiding of  
10:17AM 18 the member, functionary, adherent, all these member,  
10:17AM 19 functionary, adherent must be affiliated with Tay Ninh,  
10:17AM 20 with Caodai Overseas. It's not any Cao Dai member.

10:17AM 21           Q.    I see. So it's not -- you're not -- so you're  
10:17AM 22 not trying to have Cao Dai members unaffiliated with  
10:17AM 23 either Tay Ninh or Cao Dai to convert, for lack of a  
10:17AM 24 better term, to Tay Ninh or Cao Dai.

10:17AM 25           A.    Yes. I would like to explain a little bit

10:18AM 1 more.

10:18AM 2 Q. Okay. Please.

10:18AM 3 A. In Vietnam, we have the --

10:18AM 4 COURT REPORTER: We have the what?

5 A. Tay Ninh --

6 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Tay Ninh.

7 A. -- Holy See.

8 Q. Holy See.

9 A. In Cao Dai.

10 COURT REPORTER: Holy See?

11 MR. TURNER: S-e-e.

12 THE DEPONENT: Holy See.

13 MS. BARTLETT: Holy See, S-e-e.

14 THE DEPONENT: Help me out here.

10:18AM 15 A. That in Tay Ninh. Besides we have different

10:18AM 16 branch of Cao Dai, different denomination of Cao Dai.

10:18AM 17 Okay? We don't have to be one Tay Ninh Holy See Cao

10:18AM 18 Dai. We have many more in Vietnam.

10:18AM 19 Same thing here oversea. We have -- Cao

10:18AM 20 Dai Tay Ninh is one part. We have many Cao Dai,

10:18AM 21 different denomination, different branch oversea. So

10:19AM 22 you understand it.

10:19AM 23 So when you say Tay Ninh, we belong to Tay

10:19AM 24 Ninh. If you don't belong to Tay Ninh, fine. You are

10:19AM 25 Cao Dai, but still --

10:19AM 1 MR. TURNER: If you don't belong to Tay  
10:19AM 2 Ninh or Cao Dai Overseas, that's fine was the last thing  
10:19AM 3 he said.

10:19AM 4 MS. BARTLETT: I think that's about right,  
10:19AM 5 yeah. Cao Dai, just not Tay Ninh. Cao Dai.

10:19AM 6 A. We have many branch, many branch in Vietnam and  
10:19AM 7 overseas, and they don't belong to us. That's fine.  
10:19AM 8 That's okay. Like Christianity. You have many branch.  
10:19AM 9 Protestants and -- everybody work together. That's  
10:19AM 10 fine.

10:19AM 11 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) But -- and I want to quibble  
10:20AM 12 for a second about the last thing you said because  
10:20AM 13 Christianity, and Jews too for that matter, they have  
10:20AM 14 what they're called proselytizers, people that want to  
10:20AM 15 convert people.

10:20AM 16 MS. BARTLETT: Just a quick objection to  
10:20AM 17 testimony of counsel.

10:20AM 18 A. Oh, okay. Sorry.

10:20AM 19 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So, for instance, the -- there  
10:20AM 20 will be -- I'm not picking on any particular religion  
10:20AM 21 until I get to Jews, because when you're Jewish you can  
10:20AM 22 pick on your own. But the Baptist, for instance, may  
10:20AM 23 try to convert people who are Catholic and vice versa to  
10:20AM 24 come from Baptism to Catholicism, from Catholicism to  
10:20AM 25 Baptism. And Jews, there's Chabad and they try to

10:20AM 1 convert reformed Jews to become more adherent.

10:20AM 2 So what you're saying is that you do not do  
10:20AM 3 that.

10:20AM 4 A. No, I don't think so.

10:20AM 5 Q. Okay. So --

10:20AM 6 A. Exactly. We consider them as brother and  
10:20AM 7 sister.

10:20AM 8 COURT REPORTER: I didn't understand. Can  
10:20AM 9 we go off just a second?

10:20AM 10 (Off the record from 10:20 to 10:30.)

10:30AM 11 (Videotaping begins at this point.)

10:30AM 12 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So let me do a little bit of  
10:30AM 13 housekeeping as well.

10:30AM 14 (Exhibit 2 marked.)

10:30AM 15 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So I'm going to hand you, sir,  
10:30AM 16 Exhibit 2. And I'll represent to you that these were  
10:30AM 17 answers to limited scope interrogatories for the  
10:30AM 18 purposes of this deposition, and they were produced  
10:30AM 19 informally. And have you had an opportunity to review  
10:30AM 20 those?

10:30AM 21 A. Yeah, I see this.

10:30AM 22 Q. Okay. And so because it's not signed, because  
10:30AM 23 it was informal, I just want to confirm that these are  
10:30AM 24 your true and accurate answers to the interrogatories.

10:30AM 25 A. Yeah, it is.

10:30AM 1 Q. Okay. And then it will be the same for the  
10:31AM 2 request for production.

10:31AM 3 MS. BARTLETT: And if you don't mind, just  
10:31AM 4 to -- the reason they're produced informally is because  
10:31AM 5 we're waiting on a judge's signature on an order for  
10:31AM 6 limited discovery. Is that accurate?

10:31AM 7 MR. TURNER: That's absolutely accurate.  
10:31AM 8 (Exhibit 3 marked.)

10:31AM 9 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) And so I'll hand you  
10:31AM 10 Exhibit 3, and it will be the same for limited responses  
10:31AM 11 to request for production of documents. Are those true  
10:31AM 12 and accurate?

10:31AM 13 A. Yes. Yeah.

10:31AM 14 Q. Okay. Thank you. So the current entity is  
10:32AM 15 Caodai Overseas Missionary, Inc., and it's C-a-o-d-a-i,  
10:32AM 16 which is one word, correct?

10:32AM 17 A. Two words.

10:32AM 18 Q. Okay. Has it been written as one word before?

10:32AM 19 A. Yes, because the -- because in English we call  
10:32AM 20 it Caodai-ism, one word.

10:32AM 21 Q. Was there ever an entity that was a one word  
10:32AM 22 entity?

10:32AM 23 A. No. It depend on the writer. When you write  
10:32AM 24 the book, sometimes you write Cao Dai two words or you  
10:32AM 25 write Caodai one word. It doesn't make any -- same --



10:32AM 1 same thing.

10:32AM 2 Q. Okay. So the current, and as I understand it,  
10:32AM 3 only legal entity that is now a party to this suit is  
10:32AM 4 two words, C-a --

10:32AM 5 A. -- o D-a-i.

10:32AM 6 Q. And then the second word will be D-a-i,  
10:33AM 7 correct?

10:33AM 8 A. Yeah.

10:33AM 9 Q. Okay. Thank you. And it's still functioning  
10:33AM 10 and operational and -- correct?

10:33AM 11 A. Yes, same thing. Yes.

10:33AM 12 Q. Okay. So when was the last time that you were  
10:33AM 13 in Texas prior to coming for this deposition?

10:33AM 14 A. Last time I've been to Texas, long, long time  
10:33AM 15 ago. First time, as far as I remember, in 1997. The  
10:33AM 16 second time, 2003 in November -- in October, sorry,  
10:33AM 17 2003. And I have picture of my two visit in Texas since  
10:33AM 18 2003. After that, no more. I've never been to Texas  
10:33AM 19 after 2003.

10:34AM 20 MS. BARTLETT: I'll show them to him. And  
10:34AM 21 again, because we're kind of stymied on our formal  
10:34AM 22 discovery, this is something that will be produced.

10:34AM 23 MR. TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

10:34AM 24 A. The second time we went to visit exactly the  
10:34AM 25 Cao Dai Temple of Texas.

10:34AM 1 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Okay. That was in 2003?

10:34AM 2 A. Yeah, 2003. You can see the photo where we all  
10:34AM 3 been there, and then you see the sign for the Cao Dai  
10:34AM 4 Temple of Texas. We've been visiting with high  
10:34AM 5 dignitaries called archbishop.

10:34AM 6 Q. Archbishop?

10:35AM 7 A. Archbishop. You got it. From Vietnam. This  
10:35AM 8 archbishop from Vietnam came to the U.S. and he want to  
10:35AM 9 visit all the Cao Dai Temple. And I was the guide to  
10:35AM 10 take the archbishop to go around some temple in the  
10:35AM 11 United States. And one was a temple -- is the Cao Dai  
10:35AM 12 Temple in Texas. We were very friendly with the leader  
10:35AM 13 of the Cao Dai Temple of Texas at that time.

10:35AM 14 Q. So back to the -- what you had said a few  
10:35AM 15 minutes ago about going to talk to college students and  
10:35AM 16 the like about Cao Dai to try to get them interested.  
10:35AM 17 Do you remember that?

10:35AM 18 A. (Witness nods.)

10:36AM 19 Q. That would be yes for the record?

10:36AM 20 A. Yes, yes.

10:36AM 21 Q. Thank you. The -- do you -- do you get any  
10:36AM 22 sort of benefit as the priest, the overseas priest for  
10:36AM 23 people that come into Cao Dai?

10:36AM 24 A. The main goal of my job, main purpose of my job  
10:36AM 25 is to give information to -- mostly to everybody to know

10:36AM 1 that there is a new religion in Vietnam. You can call  
10:36AM 2 it spread, but I don't --

10:36AM 3 COURT REPORTER: Call it what?

10:36AM 4 THE DEPONENT: Spread.

10:36AM 5 MS. BARTLETT: Spread.

10:36AM 6 MR. TURNER: Spread.

10:36AM 7 A. Spread. But I don't think it's -- you know, I  
10:36AM 8 want to spread, I want to gather a new member, no. Just  
10:36AM 9 giving information to -- mostly to researcher, to  
10:37AM 10 student in the department of religious today to know  
10:37AM 11 another -- if they want to do papers, write textbooks,  
10:37AM 12 write texts they can choose our religion. And my goal  
10:37AM 13 is that -- is to let them know how to do that.

10:37AM 14 I usually go to international religious  
10:37AM 15 conference or seminar of worship. I used to go to  
10:37AM 16 university to the department of religious study to do a  
10:37AM 17 worship, to explain about our religion.

10:37AM 18 And all these activity you can find on my  
10:38AM 19 website. You can find all of my activities on my  
10:38AM 20 website. I list anywhere I went.

10:38AM 21 And the result that right now I have three  
10:38AM 22 universities teaching Cao Dai. The first university is  
10:38AM 23 University of Dhaka, Bangledash. Dhaka, D-h-r --  
10:38AM 24 D-h-a-k-a. That's the capital of Bangladesh. The  
10:38AM 25 second university is the University of Vietnam, Austria.

10:38AM 1 And the third university is the University of Missouri  
10:38AM 2 in Columbia, Missouri.

10:38AM 3 MS. WALTERS: Missouri.

10:38AM 4 A. You got it?

10:38AM 5 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Missouri. My son lives in --  
10:39AM 6 at Fort Leonard Wood and he called it misery as well.

10:39AM 7 MS. BARTLETT: All of us who have lived  
10:39AM 8 there called it misery.

10:39AM 9 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) He was there for boot camp and  
10:39AM 10 that's what they call it is lost in the woods, misery.

10:39AM 11 So -- but the question was really not so  
10:39AM 12 much what is it that you do to spread the word. The  
10:39AM 13 question was really more: Is there any sort of benefit  
10:39AM 14 that Caodai Overseas receives from getting new  
10:39AM 15 adherents?

10:39AM 16 A. Sorry?

10:39AM 17 MS. BARTLETT: I'm going to object to form.

10:39AM 18 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So what the question really  
10:39AM 19 is: Does the Caodai Overseas receive any sort of a  
10:39AM 20 benefit from the Holy See for getting new members or  
10:39AM 21 adherents?

10:39AM 22 A. No --

10:39AM 23 MS. BARTLETT: Objection, form.

10:39AM 24 A. -- sir. No, sir.

10:39AM 25 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So they don't give you

10:39AM 1 additional praise. They don't --

10:40AM 2 A. Zero.

10:40AM 3 Q. Well, I'm not talking about money. It can --  
10:40AM 4 it could be money, but I'm really focusing on, do they  
10:40AM 5 give you acknowledgments, do they give you praise or  
10:40AM 6 things like that?

10:40AM 7 A. You say acknowledgment or praise. Yes,  
10:40AM 8 sometimes.

10:40AM 9 Q. Okay.

10:40AM 10 A. Sometime. Because -- why? Because let's  
10:40AM 11 suppose I went to -- I took the -- my boss to Japan, to  
10:40AM 12 Taiwan, to Korea to attend conference --

10:40AM 13 COURT REPORTER: To what conference?

10:40AM 14 A. To attend international conference. Then when  
10:40AM 15 I come back, yeah, a little praise. That's all.

10:40AM 16 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So there are two temples --  
10:41AM 17 two Cao Dai temples in Texas; is that correct?

10:41AM 18 MS. BARTLETT: I don't think he heard you.

10:41AM 19 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) There are two Cao Dai temples  
10:41AM 20 in Texas; is that correct?

10:41AM 21 A. As far as I know, yes.

10:41AM 22 MR. TURNER: I think I'm on probably --

10:41AM 23 COURT REPORTER: 4.

10:41AM 24 (Exhibit 4 marked.)

10:41AM 25 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Okay. So I'm handing you

10:42AM 1 Exhibit 8 -- I'm sorry. I've handed you Exhibit 4. And  
10:42AM 2 have you seen this before?

10:42AM 3 A. I think this one may be on my website.

10:42AM 4 Q. Correct.

10:42AM 5 COURT REPORTER: You said may be on your  
10:42AM 6 website?

10:42AM 7 THE DEPONENT: Yeah, on my website a long  
10:42AM 8 time ago.

10:42AM 9 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So on -- part of Exhibit 4 is  
10:42AM 10 highlighted in the middle. It states that in addition  
10:42AM 11 to overseas missionary affairs and a lawsuit to reclaim  
10:42AM 12 the religious land in Phnom Penh -- that's P-h-n-o-m  
10:43AM 13 P-e-n-h -- the Caodai Overseas Missionary has also  
10:43AM 14 organized four high level conferences in the states of  
10:43AM 15 Louisiana, Texas, California, and Washington, D.C.

10:43AM 16 So I want to ask you specifically about the  
10:43AM 17 high level conferences in the State of Texas. So can  
10:43AM 18 you tell me first, in the last ten years how many  
10:43AM 19 conferences have been held in the State of Texas?

10:43AM 20 A. Last ten year?

10:43AM 21 Q. Yes, sir.

10:43AM 22 A. None.

10:43AM 23 Q. Okay. That's a short series of questions then.

10:43AM 24 A. May I explain --

10:43AM 25 Q. Please.

10:43AM 1 A. -- little bit? When we went to Louisiana or  
10:43AM 2 Texas, it was not under the Caodai Overseas Missionary.  
10:44AM 3 It is only a reunion of Cao Dai member. We -- every  
10:44AM 4 year or every two or three years we have a reunion. And  
10:44AM 5 at that time, Texas invite us to come to the reunion.  
10:44AM 6 And that's it.

10:44AM 7 It's not really a conference. It is not.  
10:44AM 8 It was not a conference. And I went there as an  
10:44AM 9 attendee, a participant. That's all.

10:44AM 10 (Exhibit 5 marked.)

10:44AM 11 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) All right. So I'll hand you  
10:44AM 12 Exhibit 5. And this is also from your website; is that  
10:45AM 13 correct?

10:45AM 14 A. Yes.

10:45AM 15 Q. Okay. So the -- if you look at the State of  
10:45AM 16 Texas --

10:45AM 17 A. Yes.

10:45AM 18 Q. -- it has -- it references to Houston and to  
10:45AM 19 Dallas, right?

10:45AM 20 A. Yeah. We have Houston and we have Dallas.

10:45AM 21 Q. And is that where the two Cao Dai temples are  
10:45AM 22 located?

10:45AM 23 A. No.

10:45AM 24 Q. Okay. Where are --

10:45AM 25 A. This map --

10:45AM 1 Q. Yes.

10:45AM 2 A. -- is to show that we do have Cao Dai member,  
10:45AM 3 Cao Dai adherent, Cao Dai --

10:45AM 4 Q. Adherents.

10:45AM 5 A. -- adherents in these -- in the whole United  
10:45AM 6 States, where they are. Does not mean that they all  
10:45AM 7 affiliated with Tay Ninh, with the Holy See.

10:45AM 8 Q. With the Holy See. So why do you have an  
10:46AM 9 actual notation of Houston and Dallas if --

10:46AM 10 A. Because in Houston we have Cao Dai member.

10:46AM 11 Q. Okay.

10:46AM 12 A. In Dallas we have a lot of Cao Dai member,  
10:46AM 13 yeah. But you -- we just say all -- we are all Cao Dai.  
10:46AM 14 We don't care about you Tay Ninh or you somewhere else.

10:46AM 15 Q. Yeah, Tay Ninh Holy See.

10:46AM 16 A. Yeah, we don't care that you belong to Holy See  
10:46AM 17 or not. Okay? We just say that we have Cao Dai member  
10:46AM 18 here, here, here. This is my way when I draw this one  
10:46AM 19 to make presentation, okay, to my boss, to everybody. I  
10:46AM 20 say that we Cao Dai. We have -- we are present in these  
10:46AM 21 state.

10:46AM 22 Q. But is there a -- but there are two temples in  
10:47AM 23 Texas, correct?

10:47AM 24 A. Yeah, they have temple in Texas.

10:47AM 25 Q. That are in -- the temples are in Houston and



10:47AM 1 in Dallas, correct?

10:47AM 2 A. Yes, yes.

10:47AM 3 Q. Okay.

10:47AM 4 A. We have temple in Houston.

10:47AM 5 Q. But this Exhibit 4 -- 5 -- I can't read my own  
10:47AM 6 writing.

10:47AM 7 MS. WALTERS: It's 5.

10:47AM 8 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) But your testimony is, is  
10:47AM 9 those designations are not for the temples, but they're  
10:47AM 10 just for members, right?

10:47AM 11 A. Say it again.

10:47AM 12 Q. Your testimony, though, is that the designation  
10:47AM 13 of Houston and Dallas on Exhibit 5 is not to designate  
10:47AM 14 where the temple is located.

10:47AM 15 A. They have temple.

10:47AM 16 Q. Okay.

10:47AM 17 A. They have temple. I call it --

10:47AM 18 COURT REPORTER: Pardon me?

10:47AM 19 THE DEPONENT: I have temple, I call  
10:47AM 20 temple.

10:47AM 21 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So do you over -- do you  
10:47AM 22 oversee, to use that term again, do you oversee the  
10:47AM 23 temple in Houston?

10:47AM 24 A. No, sir.

10:47AM 25 Q. Does the Caodai Overseas Missionary, Inc.

10:48AM 1 oversee the temples in either Houston or Dallas?

10:48AM 2 A. No, sir.

10:48AM 3 Q. Who, if anybody, does the temple in Dallas  
10:48AM 4 report to?

10:48AM 5 A. I don't get the question.

10:48AM 6 Q. Who, if anybody, does the temple in Dallas  
10:48AM 7 report to? Do they report directly back to Vietnam?

10:48AM 8 A. No, sir. As far as I know, they are  
10:48AM 9 independent.

10:48AM 10 Q. Okay.

10:48AM 11 A. They don't do any branch or anything in Vietnam  
10:48AM 12 and that -- that's okay. That's good as long as they  
10:48AM 13 are Cao Dai. They are what you call independent.

10:48AM 14 Q. Do you have any communication with the Dallas  
10:49AM 15 temple?

10:49AM 16 A. No, sir.

10:49AM 17 Q. Okay. Do you have any communication with the  
10:49AM 18 Houston temple?

10:49AM 19 A. No, sir.

10:49AM 20 MR. TURNER: We could probably take a  
10:49AM 21 five-minute break if that's all right with y'all.

10:49AM 22 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah.

10:49AM 23 (Off the record from 10:49 to 11:14.)

11:14AM 24 (Exhibit 6 marked.)

11:14AM 25 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Sir, I've handed you

11:14AM 1 Exhibit 6, and I believe this is also from your website;  
11:14AM 2 is that correct?

11:14AM 3 A. Yes.

11:14AM 4 Q. Okay. So the highlighted part that I'm sure is  
11:14AM 5 going to be difficult to read is translated that the  
11:14AM 6 temple in Boston is known to have about 30 families who  
11:15AM 7 practice their faith under the guidance of student  
11:15AM 8 priest Le Huong -- and I don't know how to pronounce the  
11:15AM 9 last word. And it's L-e, second word H-u-o-n-g, and  
11:15AM 10 then the third word is M-u-o-i -- residing in Dallas,  
11:15AM 11 Texas.

11:15AM 12 So in order to become ordained -- first  
11:15AM 13 off, let me just ask, this is -- this is on your  
11:15AM 14 website?

11:15AM 15 A. Yeah. And then can I explain?

11:15AM 16 Q. So what was the purpose of putting that the 30  
11:15AM 17 families in Dallas, et cetera, what was the purpose of  
11:15AM 18 putting that on your website? What were you trying to  
11:15AM 19 accomplish?

11:15AM 20 COURT REPORTER: Sorry?

11:15AM 21 A. Okay. Can I -- I want to explain it.

11:15AM 22 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Please.

11:16AM 23 A. The list you see on, I can call sub --  
11:16AM 24 sub-dignitaries --

11:16AM 25 Q. Sub-dignitaries.

11:16AM 1 A. -- sub-dignitaries from Boston, they went to  
11:16AM 2 Vietnam. They submit their petition to be affiliated  
11:16AM 3 with the Holy See.

11:16AM 4 Q. Okay.

11:16AM 5 A. Okay? When they came back, when they --  
11:16AM 6 explain more. When the chief of the, I can call the  
11:16AM 7 congregation, of Boston went Vietnam, he submit by  
11:16AM 8 himself that he want to be affiliated with the Holy See.  
11:16AM 9 When he came back to Boston, everybody in Boston  
11:17AM 10 objected because he did it by himself. He did not do on  
11:17AM 11 behalf of the whole congregation. Okay?

11:17AM 12 Q. Okay.

11:17AM 13 A. The other, like the one you see it, it's  
11:17AM 14 approven [sic].

11:17AM 15 Q. Yeah, Exhibit 1.

11:17AM 16 A. Yeah, it's approven [sic]. But they don't --  
11:17AM 17 these people don't accept it. They did not accept it.

11:17AM 18 Q. The congregants did not accept it.

11:17AM 19 A. Yeah, they did not accept. They said okay.  
11:17AM 20 The president did something wrong. The whole  
11:17AM 21 congregation don't like it. No, we don't want to be  
11:17AM 22 affiliated with Vietnam. Okay?

11:17AM 23 So after we put out, nothing happen because  
11:17AM 24 they say, hey, the --

11:17AM 25 COURT REPORTER: The what?

11:17AM 1 MR. TURNER: President was wrong.

11:18AM 2 A. The president was wrong, the president of  
11:18AM 3 congregation in Boston. All right? And that -- we know  
11:18AM 4 at the time there they belong -- they associate with  
11:18AM 5 the -- the -- they call the deaconess, the -- when  
11:18AM 6 translated student priest.

11:18AM 7 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Student priest. He associated  
11:18AM 8 with the student priest.

11:18AM 9 A. Deacon. He translate to deacon. Okay? So we  
11:18AM 10 knew at that time they are affiliated. That's fine.  
11:18AM 11 But they don't -- up to now, we have nothing in Boston.  
11:18AM 12 This -- this piece of paper void.

11:18AM 13 Q. Okay.

11:18AM 14 A. Gone.

11:18AM 15 Q. But in order to become ordained in the United  
11:19AM 16 States in Cao Dai, do you not -- don't you, Mr. Tran,  
11:19AM 17 have to make that recommendation?

11:19AM 18 A. Yes and no.

11:19AM 19 Q. Okay. So which part is yes and which part is  
11:19AM 20 no?

11:19AM 21 A. Yes, sometime they request my comments or  
11:19AM 22 suggestion and no, sometimes they go directly to  
11:19AM 23 Vietnam.

11:19AM 24 Q. Okay. So let's focus that down then on, are  
11:19AM 25 there any deacons or student priests in Texas who you

11:19AM 1 have recommended?

11:19AM 2 A. No.

11:19AM 3 Q. Okay. So let me hand you -- oh, you had said  
11:19AM 4 something -- you reminded me of something.

11:19AM 5 Now, weren't you at one time not affiliated  
11:20AM 6 with the Holy See?

11:20AM 7 A. Yes, sir, before -- I think it's before 2006.

11:20AM 8 Q. Okay. And in that time period, you had -- you  
11:20AM 9 actually had a legal entity that you had formed; is that  
11:20AM 10 correct?

11:20AM 11 A. Yes.

11:20AM 12 Q. And was it evicted by the Holy See?

11:20AM 13 A. No, it's nothing -- repeat your question.

11:20AM 14 Q. Was it -- so how did you go from being  
11:20AM 15 nonaffiliated to affiliated?

11:20AM 16 A. I'd like to try to explain short.

11:20AM 17 Q. Okay. Thank you.

11:20AM 18 A. Nonaffiliated because at that time I was, like  
11:20AM 19 most of the people, anticommunist. Anticommunist.

11:21AM 20 MS. BARTLETT: Anticommunist.

11:21AM 21 A. I was refugee.

11:21AM 22 MR. TURNER: A refugee.

11:21AM 23 A. I was the last one on top of the helicopter on  
11:21AM 24 the U.S. Ambassador to come here. My father, who was an  
11:21AM 25 archbishop in Cao Dai --

11:21AM 1 MS. BARTLETT: Archbishop.

11:21AM 2 MR. TURNER: Archbishop.

11:21AM 3 A. -- was taken by the communists and executed  
11:21AM 4 right in '75. Everybody knows. I was at that time,  
11:21AM 5 like most of the refugee, anticommunist.

11:21AM 6 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) Yes.

11:21AM 7 A. Okay? Why I changed my heart. At that time,  
11:21AM 8 we get together and our policy is to try to let -- to  
11:21AM 9 ask the communist government to change their policy  
11:22AM 10 toward religion because at that time they confiscated  
11:22AM 11 all of our property in Vietnam, in Tay Ninh. All the  
11:22AM 12 property confiscated except the temple. Then they told  
11:22AM 13 us, this is -- I want you to do this, this, this. As  
11:22AM 14 a --

11:22AM 15 COURT REPORTER: As a what?

11:22AM 16 THE DEPONENT: Victor.

11:22AM 17 MR. TURNER: The victor. To the victor  
11:22AM 18 goes the spoils.

11:22AM 19 THE DEPONENT: Victor.

11:22AM 20 MR. TURNER: V-i-c-t-o-r.

11:22AM 21 A. Uh-huh, v-i-c-t-o-r. Okay. They -- they can  
11:22AM 22 do anything.

11:22AM 23 Now -- so our policy or goal when we come  
11:22AM 24 the Caodai Overseas Missionary at that time, we form a  
11:22AM 25 group in 1998 and we want to send our requests or

11:22AM 1 demands to the government usually to change the policy  
11:23AM 2 to our religion and to return all the property that they  
11:23AM 3 confiscated. Okay?

11:23AM 4 In -- let me see the -- in 1998, okay, I  
11:23AM 5 went straight to the U.N. in New York. I saw the U.N.  
11:23AM 6 Ambassador. We call U.N. special reporter for human  
11:23AM 7 rights and religious freedom and belief. His name  
11:23AM 8 Ambassador Abdelfattah Amor.

11:23AM 9 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) I don't know who he is. I  
11:23AM 10 know Nikki Haley, but I don't know who that one is.

11:23AM 11 A. Okay. I have to explain to you to understand  
11:24AM 12 why I change.

11:24AM 13 Mr. Amor at that time went to Vietnam to  
11:24AM 14 investigate about freedom of religion. When -- I met  
11:24AM 15 with him before he went, and when he return he called  
11:24AM 16 me. Okay? Because I explain to him this -- what our  
11:24AM 17 problem in Vietnam. Everything's there. So when he  
11:24AM 18 come back, he told me something that changed my  
11:24AM 19 position. He said, Mr. Tran, don't use the policy of  
11:24AM 20 confrontation --

11:24AM 21 MR. TURNER: Don't use the policy of  
11:24AM 22 confrontation.

11:24AM 23 A. -- but use the policy of dialogue. Okay? At  
11:24AM 24 that time, I said, how can I -- a small guy in the U.S.,  
11:25AM 25 how can I dialogue with the Vietnamese government? No



11:25AM 1 way.

11:25AM 2 But somehow, some way, to make story short,  
11:25AM 3 I did -- the Vietnamese government's religious affair  
11:25AM 4 committees in Vietnam, in Hanoi, invite me to meet with  
11:25AM 5 them. The first thing they said, forget the past. Go  
11:25AM 6 from here to the future. It was back in, I think, 2004  
11:25AM 7 or 2005 at that time.

11:25AM 8 Why they say forget the past? Because I  
11:25AM 9 make claim about where is my father? You execute my  
11:25AM 10 father. We don't know where you bury and nobody told us  
11:26AM 11 where he is at that time. Okay? I was angry and I  
11:26AM 12 said --

11:26AM 13 MS. BARTLETT: Angry.

11:26AM 14 MR. TURNER: Angry.

11:26AM 15 A. Angry. I said, okay. Now, forget the past. I  
11:26AM 16 agree. Go from the -- from now to the future. This is  
11:26AM 17 my demand -- my request. One, two, three, four, five.  
11:26AM 18 The government said, slow down. We agree with you, but  
11:26AM 19 it will take time.

11:26AM 20 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So what were your five  
11:26AM 21 requests?

11:26AM 22 A. Oh, I don't remember exactly. Mostly, the  
11:26AM 23 first three requests is return all of our properties.

11:26AM 24 Q. And that was my next question. Did they  
11:26AM 25 return -- did the Vietnamese --

11:26AM 1 A. Yes, sir.

11:26AM 2 Q. -- government return the confiscated  
11:26AM 3 properties?

11:26AM 4 A. Up to today, they return 90 percent of all the  
11:27AM 5 properties.

11:27AM 6 Q. Of all of whose properties?

11:27AM 7 A. All the property of the Holy See.

11:27AM 8 Q. Of the Holy See.

11:27AM 9 A. Yeah, Holy See.

11:27AM 10 Q. But those who were not part of the Holy See,  
11:27AM 11 those properties have not been returned, correct?

11:27AM 12 A. No.

11:27AM 13 Q. All right.

11:27AM 14 A. They -- I say 90 percent because 10 percent is  
11:27AM 15 what at the school. We have school, the primary school  
11:27AM 16 and secondary school. Okay? And the policy of the  
11:27AM 17 Vietnamese government, school is for the government.

11:27AM 18 Q. Yeah, public education.

11:27AM 19 A. Yeah.

11:27AM 20 Q. Right.

11:27AM 21 A. That's why I say 90 percent.

11:27AM 22 Q. Okay.

11:27AM 23 A. That's why -- so when I come back, okay, I  
11:27AM 24 decide, okay, in order to talk to the government, you  
11:28AM 25 cannot do anything from outside, from overseas. You

11:28AM 1 have to be inside, talk directly to the government. If  
11:28AM 2 I'm not inside, how can I talk with the government?

11:28AM 3 So I come back, request to be affiliated  
11:28AM 4 with the management council. The management council at  
11:28AM 5 that time, all the dignitaries, they were all friends of  
11:28AM 6 my father. They all know me. Okay? I say, okay, I  
11:28AM 7 will help. I come back and help to spread Cao Dai to  
11:28AM 8 the world. That's all. But I can be inside. I can  
11:28AM 9 talk to the government official and little by little we  
11:28AM 10 bring up our requests. Not only that, but there are  
11:29AM 11 many things still.

11:29AM 12 At the end up to today, yes, we did have  
11:29AM 13 some result. That means the properties were returned.  
11:29AM 14 The policy to our -- of religion lessened a little bit,  
11:29AM 15 but still, still everything we do we must get  
11:29AM 16 permission.

11:29AM 17 Now, if people ask me do you have freedom  
11:29AM 18 of religion in Cao Dai, I say yes, but freedom of  
11:29AM 19 religion with permission.

11:29AM 20 Q. Right.

11:29AM 21 A. Or freedom of religion with strings attached.

11:29AM 22 Q. Right. And so those that are Cao Dai that are  
11:29AM 23 not affiliated with the Holy See have freedom of  
11:29AM 24 religion without the strings attached. Would that be a  
11:30AM 25 fair statement?

11:30AM 1 A. Say it again.

11:30AM 2 Q. Those adherents to Cao Dai that are not  
11:30AM 3 affiliated with the Holy See have freedom of religion  
11:30AM 4 but without the strings attached and without the  
11:30AM 5 permission from the communist government, correct?

11:30AM 6 A. If I understand -- try to understand. All of  
11:30AM 7 the -- say it again. All of the religion --

11:30AM 8 Q. So those that are not affiliated --

11:30AM 9 A. Not affiliated with --

11:30AM 10 Q. -- with the Holy See.

11:30AM 11 A. Right.

11:30AM 12 Q. They do have -- they also have freedom of  
11:30AM 13 religion, correct?

11:30AM 14 A. Sure.

11:30AM 15 Q. But they have their freedom of religion without  
11:30AM 16 the same strings attached that those who are adherents  
11:30AM 17 or affiliated with Holy See do. That was even a worse  
11:30AM 18 question.

11:31AM 19 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah. Object to form.

11:31AM 20 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) I went backwards.

11:31AM 21 A. I understand your question.

11:31AM 22 Q. Okay.

11:31AM 23 A. For these people who don't agree in Vietnam --  
11:31AM 24 I'm talking about many -- we do have many Cao Dai member  
11:31AM 25 who don't agree with the Holy See because they don't

11:31AM 1 want to be like string attached.

11:31AM 2 Q. Right. Right.

11:31AM 3 A. Okay? I understand.

11:31AM 4 Q. Okay.

11:31AM 5 A. We do have -- we do have member and to us we  
11:31AM 6 say that, hey, freedom of speech, freedom of -- what you  
11:31AM 7 call freedom of mind, freedom of -- you know, you can --  
11:31AM 8 you can express any way you want it. You don't have to  
11:31AM 9 be -- you have to be -- to be affiliated with Holy See.  
11:32AM 10 All right? But you have to understand that. You live  
11:32AM 11 in the country. The country has its law.

11:32AM 12 Us, we live in Vietnam. We have to follow  
11:32AM 13 the law of Vietnam.

11:32AM 14 Like I live in the United States. I have  
11:32AM 15 to follow the law of the United States.

11:32AM 16 Q. Right.

11:32AM 17 A. If you don't follow the law of the country, you  
11:32AM 18 will be in trouble. Us too.

11:32AM 19 Let's suppose I have a conference in Taiwan  
11:32AM 20 or in Korea. In order for my boss, the dignitary, the  
11:32AM 21 management council to go overseas, to go to -- to attend  
11:32AM 22 a conference in Korea or in Japan, we need to request  
11:32AM 23 permission from the Vietnamese government to approve to  
11:32AM 24 let us go abroad.

11:33AM 25 Q. So -- so those that are affiliated with the

11:33AM 1 Holy See, they -- would you say that you are required to  
11:33AM 2 follow all of the Vietnamese laws?

11:33AM 3 A. Yes.

11:33AM 4 Q. Okay.

11:33AM 5 A. We have to follow every law from Vietnam.

11:33AM 6 Q. Okay.

11:33AM 7 A. Because if not, we will be in trouble.

11:33AM 8 Q. Okay.

11:33AM 9 MS. BARTLETT: I'm going to -- I'm going to  
11:33AM 10 start objecting to --

11:33AM 11 MR. TURNER: Okay.

11:33AM 12 MS. BARTLETT: I feel like we're getting a  
11:33AM 13 little far afield from the jurisdictional questions.

11:33AM 14 MR. TURNER: Okay. Let me roll back to the  
11:33AM 15 jurisdiction then.

11:33AM 16 (Exhibit 7 marked.)

11:33AM 17 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) So there's Exhibit 7. And I  
11:33AM 18 think Exhibit 7 came off of your -- from your magazine.

11:33AM 19 A. Yeah. This is before when I went back to  
11:33AM 20 Vietnam.

11:33AM 21 Q. Okay. I'm sorry, when was that?

11:33AM 22 A. When I -- be 2006.

11:33AM 23 Q. Okay. So this --

11:34AM 24 A. There's a whole group here disband in 2006.

11:34AM 25 Q. Okay. So what my question is: If you look at

11:34AM 1 the first column --

11:34AM 2 A. Yes.

11:34AM 3 Q. -- and you'll see Massachusetts, New Jersey,  
11:34AM 4 then there's Texas, and then you go down to number 12  
11:34AM 5 and there's another Texas. Okay. See where I am?

11:34AM 6 A. Yeah.

11:34AM 7 Q. So what is -- what is Exhibit 7 and really as  
11:34AM 8 it relates to the two from Texas?

11:34AM 9 A. Okay. From Texas?

11:34AM 10 Q. Right. Number 3 and number 12.

11:34AM 11 A. At that time before -- and I told you in 1998  
11:34AM 12 we form -- we get together. We form Caodai Overseas  
11:34AM 13 Missionary. These are member of the Caodai Overseas  
11:34AM 14 Missionary. This list say that they are members of the  
11:35AM 15 Caodai Overseas Missionary.

11:35AM 16 Up to 2006 when I came back to Vietnam, the  
11:35AM 17 whole group disband, and all of them -- mostly all of  
11:35AM 18 them are against me.

11:35AM 19 Q. Got you.

11:35AM 20 A. Because I come back to Vietnam.

11:35AM 21 Q. All right. So let me ask, where it says on the  
11:35AM 22 fifth column and it's Thanh Pho -- it's T-h-a-n-h and  
11:35AM 23 then P-h-o. See where I am?

11:35AM 24 A. The fifth column?

11:35AM 25 Q. Well, the TT was technically the first. So

11:35AM 1 that's why it's a little misleading. But you see where  
11:35AM 2 it says Thanh Pho?

11:35AM 3 A. Here? City, which city.

11:36AM 4 Q. Okay. That was my question.

11:36AM 5 A. That's city and that's state.

11:36AM 6 Q. Okay. So there are actually temples in those  
11:36AM 7 cities; do you know? And at least -- we know there's  
11:36AM 8 one in Dallas. Is there one in San Antonio?

11:36AM 9 A. Yes, sir.

11:36AM 10 Q. Okay. And you don't have any connection to it,  
11:36AM 11 do you?

11:36AM 12 A. Right now --

11:36AM 13 COURT REPORTER: Right now what?

11:36AM 14 THE DEPONENT: Right now, except a few.

11:36AM 15 MR. TURNER: Except a few.

11:36AM 16 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) But my question was: Do you  
11:36AM 17 have any connection to the temple in San Antonio?

11:36AM 18 A. No.

11:36AM 19 Q. Okay. So let me ask you lastly --

11:36AM 20 A. I don't even know if they still exist.

11:36AM 21 Q. So Mr. Dang is here with us today.

11:36AM 22 A. Uh-huh.

11:36AM 23 Q. Right?

11:36AM 24 A. Yeah.

11:36AM 25 Q. Okay. And so when was the last time you saw



11:36AM 1 him before today?

11:36AM 2 A. Today.

11:36AM 3 Q. Okay. So is today the first time you've ever  
11:36AM 4 met him?

11:36AM 5 A. Yeah, I saw him today.

11:36AM 6 Q. I'm sorry. So today's the --

11:36AM 7 A. Yeah, today.

11:36AM 8 Q. Hang on. Let me get my question out so the  
11:37AM 9 record's clear.

11:37AM 10 Was today the first time you've met Mr.  
11:37AM 11 Dang?

11:37AM 12 A. Yes, sir.

11:37AM 13 Q. Have you talked to Mr. Dang before today?

11:37AM 14 A. Before today, yes, sir.

11:37AM 15 Q. Okay. And when was the last time?

11:37AM 16 A. Last time I remember that -- because of  
11:37AM 17 lawsuit. I talk to him because we need to have a  
11:37AM 18 common -- a common lawyer.

11:37AM 19 Q. Okay. And I don't -- I don't want to ask you  
11:37AM 20 about anything with your lawyer.

11:37AM 21 A. Yeah. I just talk about lawyer.

11:37AM 22 Q. Okay.

11:37AM 23 A. Lawsuit.

11:37AM 24 Q. Had you talked -- had you had communications  
11:37AM 25 with Mr. Dang in 2019 prior to the lawsuit being filed?

11:37AM 1 A. No, sir.

11:37AM 2 MR. TURNER: Okay. I don't think I have  
11:37AM 3 anything further.

11:37AM 4 MS. BARTLETT: You want to go off the  
11:37AM 5 record?

11:38AM 6 MR. TURNER: Yeah, just for another minute.

11:41AM 7 (Off the record from 11:38 to 11:41.)

11:41AM 8 Q. (BY MR. TURNER) I just have a couple of  
11:41AM 9 follow-up questions just to clarify.

11:42AM 10 When I asked if you had any communications  
11:42AM 11 with Mr. Dang prior to the lawsuit, of course I'm  
11:42AM 12 referring to the lawsuit that we're here about today,  
11:42AM 13 correct?

11:42AM 14 A. Yes.

11:42AM 15 Q. So did you have any communications with Mr.  
11:42AM 16 Dang in 2018?

11:42AM 17 A. No, sir.

11:42AM 18 Q. Okay. No communications at all in 2018.

11:42AM 19 A. Not at all.

11:42AM 20 MR. TURNER: Okay. Thank you. I'll pass  
11:42AM 21 the witness. Thank you for your time, sir.

11:42AM 22 MS. BARTLETT: Reserve.

23 (Deposition concluded at 11:42 a.m.)

24

25

1 CHANGES AND SIGNATURE

2 WITNESS NAME: CANH TRAN

3 DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2019

4 PAGE LINE CHANGE REASON

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1 I, CANH TRAN, have read the foregoing  
2 deposition and hereby affix my signature that same is  
3 true and correct, except as noted above.

4

5

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\_\_\_\_\_  
CANH TRAN

7

8

9 THE STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_)

10 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)

11

12 Before me, \_\_\_\_\_, on this day  
13 personally appeared CANH TRAN, known to me (or proved to  
14 me under oath or through \_\_\_\_\_)  
15 (description of identity card or other document) to be  
16 the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing  
17 instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the  
18 same for the purposes and consideration therein  
19 expressed.

20 Given under my hand and seal of office this

21 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

22

23

24

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
THE STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSION EXPIRES: \_\_\_\_\_

25

1 NO. DC-19-08591

2 CAO DAI TAY NINH TEMPLES ) IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
 3 OF TEXAS, QUAN BUI, and )  
 4 LUONG XUAN DUONG, )  
 5 Plaintiffs, )  
 6 VS. )  
 7 RENG PHUOC DANG, HIEN VAN ) 298TH COUNTY, TEXAS  
 8 PHAM, DUNG QUOC NGUYEN, )  
 9 CANH QUANG TRAN, CAODAI )  
 10 OVERSEAS MISSIONARY, )  
 11 INC., TAM THANH NGUYEN, and )  
 12 DAI DAO TAM KY PHO DO (CAO )  
 13 DAI TOA THANH TAY NINH, )  
 14 Defendants. ) DALLAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT

11 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION  
 12 DEPOSITION OF CANH TRAN  
 13 NOVEMBER 15, 2019  
 14 I, Vicki Humphrey, Certified Shorthand Reporter in  
 15 and for the State of Texas, hereby certify to the  
 16 following:

17 That the witness, CANH TRAN, was duly sworn by the  
 18 officer and that the transcript of the oral deposition  
 19 is a true record of the testimony given by the witness;

20 That the deposition transcript was submitted on  
 21 ^ DATE, 2019 to the witness or to the attorney for the  
 22 witness for examination, signature and return to me by  
 23 ^ DATE2, 2019;

24 That the amount of time used by each party at the  
 25 deposition is as follows:

Brian Turner - 00 HOURS:59 MINUTES  
 Rhonda Bartlett - 00 HOURS:00 MINUTE(S)

1 That pursuant to information given to the  
2 Deposition officer at the time said testimony was taken,  
3 the following includes counsel for all parties of  
4 record:

5 Brian Turner, Attorney for Plaintiffs  
6 Rhonda Bartlett, Attorney for Defendants  
7 TAM THANH NGUYEN, and DAI DAO TAM KY  
8 PHO DO (CAO DAI TOA THANH TAY NINH

8 I further certify that I am neither counsel for,  
9 related to, nor employed by any of the parties or  
10 attorneys in the action in which this proceeding was  
11 taken, and further that I am not financially or  
12 otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

13 Further certification requirements pursuant to Rule  
14 203 of TRCP will be certified to after they have  
15 occurred.

16 Certified to by me this ^ day day of December,  
17 2019.

18  
19 *Vicki Humphrey*

20 -----  
21 Vicki Humphrey, Texas CSR 99  
22 Expiration Date: 12-31-2020  
23 GOODENOUGH & ASSOCIATES  
24 Firm No. 400  
25 2012 Franklin Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76011  
(817) 261-9095

The original deposition was/was not returned to the deposition officer on or before \_\_\_\_\_;

If returned, the original deposition was delivered to BRIAN TURNER , Custodial Attorney;

That the deposition was delivered in accordance with Rule 203.3, and that a copy of this certificate was served on all parties shown herein on and filed with the Clerk.

Certified to by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Vicki Humphrey, Texas CSR 994  
Expiration Date: 12-31-2020  
GOODENOUGH & ASSOCIATES  
Firm No. 400  
2012 Franklin Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76011  
(817) 261-9095