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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY,
joint with the
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: JASON GALANIS

Friday, February 23, 2024

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held at Federal Prison Camp, 1001 Willow Street, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama, commencing at 9:55 a.m. Central Standard Time.

Present: Representative Biggs.

1

2 Appearances:

3

4

5 For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

6

7 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

8 [REDACTED], CHIEF COUNSEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

9 [REDACTED], GENERAL COUNSEL

10 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

11 [REDACTED], MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

12

13 For the COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY:

14

15 [REDACTED], GENERAL COUNSEL

16 [REDACTED], SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER

17 [REDACTED], MINORITY OVERSIGHT COUNSEL

18

19 For JASON GALANIS:

20

21 MARK PAOLETTA

22 SCHAERR JAFFE LLP

23 1717 K Street NW

24 Suite 900

25 Washington, D.C. 20006

1 NICHOLAS WISE

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2 Mr. [REDACTED] We'll go on the record.

3 This is a transcribed interview of Jason Galanis. Chairman Comer and Jordan
4 have requested this interview as part of the committee's investigation into the Biden
5 Family's influence peddling and other business activity.

6 Would the witness please state your name for the record.

7 Mr. Galanis. Jason W. Galanis.

8 Mr. [REDACTED] On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability
9 and the Committee on the Judiciary, I want to thank Mr. Galanis for appearing here
10 today.

11 My name is [REDACTED], and I am chief counsel of investigations with
12 Chairman Comer's staff. I will now ask everyone else from the majority and minority to
13 introduce themselves as well.

14 Mr. Biggs. Andy Biggs from Arizona's Fifth Congressional district.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], Chairman Comer's staff.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], Chairman Comer's staff.

17 Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Jordan's staff.

18 Ms. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] with House Judiciary Committee, Ranking Member
19 Nadler's staff.

20 Mr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] with the House Oversight Committee, Ranking
21 Member Raskin's staff.

22 Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with House Oversight Committee, Ranking Member
23 Raskin's staff.

24 Mr. Wise. Nicholas Wise with the staff, for Mr. Galanis.

25 Mr. Paoletta. Mark Paoletta with Schaerr Jaffe, representing Mr. Galanis.

1 Mr. [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff.

2 Mr. [REDACTED]: I'd like to go over a few ground rules and guidelines that we will
3 follow during the interview that have been previously discussed with your lawyer.

4 First, our questioning today will occur in rounds. The majority will ask questions
5 for up to 1 hour, and then the minority staff will have an opportunity to ask questions for
6 an equal period of time if they so choose. The rounds will continue until there are no
7 more questions.

8 Typically, we take a short break at the end of each hour, but if you would like to
9 take a break apart from that to confer with counsel, or for any reason, please just let us
10 know.

11 As you can see, there is an official reporter taking down everything we say to
12 make a written record, so we ask that you give verbal responses to all questions.

13 Do you understand everything so far?

14 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]: To ensure the court reporter can make a clear record, we'll do
16 our best to limit the number of people directing questions at you during any given hour to
17 just those people on the staff whose turn it is.

18 It's also important that we don't talk over one another or interrupt each other if
19 we can help it, and that goes for everybody present at today's interview.

20 We encourage witnesses who appear before the committees to freely consult
21 with counsel, who have already identified themselves.

22 Do you understand everything so far?

23 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

24 Mr. [REDACTED]: We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and
25 truthful manner possible, so we will take our time. If you have any questions or you do

1 not understand one of our questions, please just let us know.

2 If you honestly don't know the answer to a question or you do not remember, it is
3 best not to guess. Please just give us your best recollection, and it's okay to tell us if you
4 learned something from someone else. Just indicate how you came to know the
5 information.

6 If there are things you don't know or can't remember, just say so, and please
7 inform us who, to the best of your knowledge, might be able to provide a more complete
8 answer to the question.

9 You should also understand, although this interview is not under oath, that by law
10 you are required to answer questions from Congress truthfully.

11 Do you understand this?

12 Mr. Galanis. I do.

13 Mr. [REDACTED] This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff
14 during an interview.

15 Do you understand that?

16 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

17 Mr. [REDACTED]. Witnesses that knowingly provide false testimony could be
18 subject to criminal prosecution for making false statements.

19 Do you understand this?

20 Mr. Galanis. I do.

21 Mr. [REDACTED]. Furthermore, you cannot tell half-truths or exclude information
22 necessary to make the statements accurate. You are required to provide all information
23 that will make your response truthful. A deliberate failure to disclose information can
24 constitute a false statement.

25 Do you understand this?

1 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

2 Mr. [REDACTED]. Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful answers
3 to today's questions?

4 Mr. Galanis. No.

5 Mr. [REDACTED]. Additionally, if you choose to confer with your attorney in a
6 sidebar or if there are any interruptions or interjections from your attorney or the
7 minority, the majority's time will be paused for the duration of those interruptions.

8 That is the end of my preamble. Is there anything the minority would like to
9 add?

10 Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Galanis, thank you for being here today.

11 Mr. [REDACTED]. Is there anything that the witness would like to say to begin
12 before the majority's first hour begins?

13 Mr. Paoletta. Yes.

14 Mr. Galanis. I have an opening statement, and if I could benefit from reading it.

15 My name is Jason Galanis. I was a business partner of Hunter Biden and Devon
16 Archer, among others, during the years of 2012 to 2015. Our business included the
17 acquisition of an 85-year-old Wall Street firm, Burnham and Company, the \$1.5 billion
18 surviving division of Drexel, Burnham, Lambert, and, combining that with other
19 businesses in insurance and wealth management we owned and acquired, with total
20 audited assets, over \$17 billion.

21 Our objective was to build a diversified private equity platform, which would be
22 anchored by a globally known Wall Street brand together with a globally known political
23 name.

24 Our goal, that is, Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, and myself, was to make billions,
25 not millions.

1 As a backdrop, in early 2014, when Russia invaded Crimea and the Burisma board
2 appointments occurred, Archer had recently been told by Chris Heinz that Heinz would be
3 exiting their Rosemont partnership, which included the \$2 billion Rosemont Realty, the
4 company funded by Mikhail Shishkhanov and Yelena Baturina.

5 This would leave Archer and Hunter with no sizeable Rosemont business through
6 which to conduct their international business transactions. Burnham and Hunter were
7 the designated replacements for the loss of Rosemont Realty and Heinz.

8 In 2013, my business partner in California and I had already acquired a \$1.4 billion
9 life insurance company separate from Burnham. Against my partner's advice to stay
10 away from Hunter, I agreed to become equity partners with Hunter and Devon in building
11 the Burnham Group.

12 The entire value add of Hunter Biden to our business was his family name and his
13 access to his father, Vice President Joe Biden. Because of this access, I agreed to
14 contribute equity ownership to them, Hunter and Devon, for no out-of-pocket cost to
15 them in exchange for their, quote, relationship capital.

16 As part of the evolving and deepening partnership, Hunter served as vice chairman
17 to Burnham and brought strategic relationships to the venture, including from
18 Kazakhstan, Russia, and China. Burnham was the focal point for integrating a, quote,
19 Biden family office into a large-scale financial company with international influence.

20 We undertook multiple steps to accomplish this goal, including the acquisition of
21 Hunter Biden's companies RSP Investments and Rosemont Seneca Advisors managed by
22 Eric Schwerin.

23 In 2014, I agreed with Hunter and Devon that the Burnham and Company
24 enterprise would be significantly enhanced by forming a partnership with Harvest Fund
25 Management, a \$300 billion Chinese financial services company closely connected to the

1 Chinese Communist Party. Harvest had already agreed to be a founding partner of a
2 newly established fund called BHR.

3 The partners wanted to expand this Chinese relationship through Burnham and
4 did so through a series of investment structures intended to gain Chinese financial
5 support. This effort was led by Hunter Biden's contact with Henry Zhao, the Harvest
6 chairman.

7 Mr. Zhao was interested in this partnership because of the game-changing value
8 add of the Biden family, including Joe Biden, who was to be a member of the Burnham
9 Harvest team Post-Vice Presidency, providing political access to the United States and
10 around the world.

11 My lawyer has provided to the committee a draft of an email dated August 23,
12 2014, from Hunter Biden that reflects this understanding. It states, quote, "Michael,
13 please also remind Henry of our conversation about a board seat for a certain relation of
14 mine. Devon and I golfed with that relation earlier last week, and we discussed this very
15 idea again. And, as always, he remains very, very keen on the opportunity," end quote.

16 While this section of the email was struck from the final version, it was drafted
17 with an understanding of what had transpired regarding this effort. Devon Archer
18 forwarded this email to me with the words, quote, "FYI, example of lean-in on Henry from
19 Hunter. This is email drafted for him to send to Henry," end quote.

20 The words "lean-in" were used often by Devon and Hunter in our business
21 dealings as a term for access to Vice President Biden's political influence.

22 As Devon Archer, as mentioned as a direct party to the conversation with the Vice
23 President on the golf course, it is clear from his email that Devon believed that this was
24 an accurate representation of that conversation.

25 I'm certain that the phrase "a certain relation of mine" refers to Vice President

1 Biden, and Devon told me about this conversation on the golf course shortly after it
2 happened. And it was one of many conversations that I understood the Vice President
3 had been expressing his willingness to join the Harvest board after his Vice Presidency.

4 Additionally, Mr. Zhao regularly sought reassurance about what he termed the,
5 quote, "intangible goods" that Vice President Biden serving on the Harvest board would
6 bring to the business plan. He wanted assurances so that he would, quote, "not lose
7 face."

8 To provide Mr. Zhao a summary of the Burnham Harvest partnership, I worked
9 with Hunter, Devon, and a number of people to create a presentation for Harvest
10 confirming the mutual benefits intended. In my opinion, there was no other reason for
11 this massive Chinese enterprise to have been interested in doing business with Burnham
12 other than the Biden name.

13 Further to that, I recall being with Hunter Biden and Devon Archer at the
14 Peninsula Bar in New York where Hunter took a call from his father. He told his father
15 things were going well with Henry and Harvest and that he might need a little help getting
16 across the finish line.

17 Hunter did not put the call on speaker, as we were at this bar, but I'm certain that
18 Hunter was discussing our business efforts on the Burnham Harvest partnership and that
19 the Vice President was aware of these efforts.

20 It was not the only time I've heard Hunter call his father regarding business
21 matters. I was present when Hunter called his father on a cell phone and put the call on
22 speaker. Present for the call were Yelena Baturina, an investor in Rosemont projects;
23 her husband Yuri, and the former mayor of Moscow; and Devon Archer.

24 This call took place on May 4, 2014, during a gathering hosted by Ukrainian
25 associate of Ms. Baturina and a business partner of ours at Romanoff, a restaurant in

1 Brooklyn, New York.

2 I previously met Ms. Baturina in February 2014 when Devon Archer asked me to
3 help open her a U.S. bank account. She had invested at least \$105 million from
4 Rosemont Realty by that time, which was a Devon Archer investment vehicle. She was
5 having trouble opening a U.S. bank account based on reports of her ties to criminal
6 figures in Russia and corruption allegations related to her politician husband.

7 Yelena provided me confidential information about her finances and about her
8 background, as well as a copy of her Russian passport. Our efforts were to help her
9 open a bank account, done with the understanding that she would provide more funding
10 to our new projects.

11 In February, we arranged her to visit the Burnham's lawyers at Skadden, Arps
12 offices in New York to sign papers to open such an account. Given the compliance red
13 flags raised by various banks, I was unable to get her into the U.S. financial system, the
14 access that she had wanted.

15 During the May 4th party, we were told to go to an area of the restaurant to
16 gather because Hunter was going to call his father. Hunter called his father, said,
17 "Hello," and "Hold on, Pops," then put the call on speaker phone and said, "I'm here with
18 our friends I told you were coming to town, and we wanted to say hello."

19 The Vice President said, "Hello," and some pleasantries, "Hope you had safe
20 travels," and seemed like he wanted to bring the call to an end by saying, "Okay, you be
21 good to my boy." Hunter responded by saying, "Everything is good, and we're moving
22 ahead."

23 The Vice President said something about being very helpful or being helpful, and
24 Hunter ended the call by saying that he was going to call his father later.

25 I recall being stunned by this call, to actually hear the Vice President's voice on the

1 phone. It was clear to me that this was a prearranged call with his father meant to
2 impress the Russian investors that Hunter had access to his father and all the power and
3 prestige of that position.

4 Before this call, Hunter sat next to Yelena at a table at this party, and I heard them
5 speaking on business matters generally.

6 A few days after this May 4th party, an email my lawyer provided to this
7 committee shows that Devon had confirmed Ms. Baturina was committed to a, quote,
8 hard order of 10 to \$20 million in a Burnham investment banking client.

9 Burnham also reached an agreement with a Ukrainian oligarch, Mykola
10 Zlochevsky, for a \$120 million investment into a new Burnham entity. The financial
11 arrangement documented by the U.S. and Ukrainian lawyers laid out a 25 percent profit
12 participation for the Burnham partners.

13 The Burnham partners were not required to put up 25% of the capital. Instead,
14 Burnham was putting up the relationship capital of the Biden name in foreign markets like
15 Kazakhstan and Mexico and elsewhere where oil concessions were sought from
16 government.

17 In an effort to build this financial platform, I engaged in unlawful conduct. Our
18 companies were entrusted with \$11 billion of union members' pension fund money,
19 whose trust I betrayed. I pleaded guilty, and I had 8 years in Federal custody to reflect
20 on my actions, and I'm profoundly sorry for my role in these actions.

21 Subsequent to 16 months in the infamous maximum security Metropolitan
22 Correctional Center, MCC, in 2017, I was sent to Terminal Island Federal Prison. After 6
23 years of good behavior, my custody level was lowered, and I was moved to a minimum
24 custody Federal Prison Camp in Pensacola, Florida, to serve the remainder of my
25 sentence.

1 I accepted that I committed these crimes, and I deserved a lengthy sentence for
2 my conduct, even offering from the time of my plea to provide prosecutors at the U.S.
3 Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York with any information that would
4 assist in the thorough disclosure of the fraudulent conduct of all parties. The offer was
5 rejected.

6 Especially because I was not asking for any reduction in charges on my sentence,
7 my attorney at the time told me that the rejection was highly irregular.

8 As I reviewed the facts, I realized the prosecutors in the SDNY, Southern District of
9 New York, had gone lightly on Devon Archer and had not indicted Hunter Biden at all,
10 despite the then available documentations that we were partners; we were involved in
11 the decisionmaking that involved illegal self-dealing; and that all of us had financially
12 benefited from these schemes.

13 In fact, Hunter Biden and Devon's company, Rosemont Seneca Bohai, received
14 \$15 million of the Tribal bond fraudulent scheme to be invested in the Burnham Group.

15 I believe the SDNY's prosecution strategy was intended to protect Hunter Biden
16 and, ultimately, Vice President Biden.

17 Based on my concerns regarding this unequal treatment, I submitted a petition for
18 commutation with the Office of Pardon Attorney at the Department of Justice in
19 December 2020. That set forth facts about Hunter Biden and Devon Archer's role and
20 implicated them in these illegal acts.

21 I filed this request after the 2020 election, and I knew, if this was not granted, I
22 could face the wrath of the incoming Biden administration, including the Department of
23 Justice.

24 On February 4, 2023, I applied for CARES Act home confinement and went through
25 a lengthy approval process with the warden and other officials. I was approved by the

1 Pensacola warden and his staff and referred onward to California for placement.

2 Finally, on June 9, 2023, the Bureau of Prisons California staff confirmed their
3 approval of my home confinement in an email to FPC Pensacola staff.

4 On June 12th, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability announced that
5 they were issuing a subpoena to Devon Archer relating to its inquiry into Joe Biden's
6 business dealings, which would, undoubtedly, in my mind expose the dealings of Hunter
7 Biden, Devon Archer, and me.

8 On June 13th, one day after the committee announced it would subpoena Devon
9 Archer, my home confinement approval was reversed. I understand from a former
10 high-ranking Bureau of Prisons official that the SDNY prosecutors aggressively weighed in
11 with the Bureau of Prisons staff to oppose my release. As a result of this DOJ
12 intervention, I was denied home confinement.

13 I formally appealed the reversal. With each appeal stage, the BOP reason for my
14 denial changed. For example, first, it was that there was too much time left on my
15 sentence. This is not a valid reason for the denial.

16 Next, it was that the CARES Act expired on May 10, 2023. This rationale is
17 contrived and is contradicted by the approval on June 9th, a date after the purported
18 May 10th expiration. Moreover, the BOP policy is that all CARES Act applications
19 submitted before May 10th were to be processed, which I witnessed firsthand with fellow
20 inmates being released well into late summer. I was being treated differently.

21 During this period, beginning in January 2023, I was sexually assaulted by a
22 member of the prison staff of Pensacola. He persisted in sexually harassing me for many
23 months thereafter, including lewd comments and attempts to get me alone where there
24 were no cameras.

25 At the time, I had hoped to receive home confinement, which would remove me

1 from danger. My judgment was clouded, and this was influenced by the shame I felt for
2 not being able to prevent the attacks.

3 I was well aware, as are all inmates, that the Bureau of Prisons has a horrible
4 record on these matters. I believe that my disclosure would have made things worse for
5 me. Unfortunately, the sexual harassment continued until early August, when the
6 prison correctional officer's comments became more threatening.

7 I feared for my safety, and I decided to seek counseling from Chaplain Dixon the
8 next day on August 10, 2023. Chaplain was visibly upset by the events and asked to
9 bring in the warden -- and she asked to bring in the warden. I agreed, and I sat with
10 Warden Salisbury for more than 30 minutes.

11 She determined there was merit and opened a PREA investigation that
12 immediately led to 2 hours of evaluation by the head of medical and the head of
13 psychology departments. Further debriefing -- and after further debriefings, I was
14 immediately escorted to a vehicle, and I was driven by senior staff several hours to FPC
15 Montgomery.

16 I believe that, based on the events I've described, much of which is memorialized
17 in writing, that I've been the victim of a pattern of retribution by the Department of
18 Justice in order to prevent my home confinement, which would have allowed full and free
19 access to congressional investigators.

20 From the experiences I've had in the criminal justice system, I believe I am putting
21 myself at grave risk within the BOP for providing information into these matters
22 concerning the President and his son.

23 I've been treated professionally at FPC Montgomery. I want to thank case
24 manager coordinator Anthony Barnes and Warden Randy Keyes for their help in
25 facilitating access to my attorney prior to this interview.

1 Thank you.

2 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you, Mr. Galanis.

3 The time reads 10:15. The majority's hour will begin now.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

6 Q Your opening statement provided a great amount of detail, and some of our
7 questions today are going to maybe repeat some of the information that you relayed
8 already. I ask that you just bear with us, and we will surely get to new information.

9 I'd like to just start off with some background, and if you could just tell me a little
10 bit about your educational background, where you went to college.

11 A I grew up in New York -- in Connecticut and went to high school in -- part of
12 high school in Greenwich, Connecticut. I graduated high school in private school in
13 California and attended UC Santa Barbara, transferring to UC San Diego.

14 Q Did you receive a degree?

15 A I did not.

16 Q Moving on to your professional background, what was your first job after
17 your time in college?

18 A It started during college. It was a business that I started in college, and it
19 was in finance.

20 Q Can you kind of just briefly walk us through some of your -- the positions
21 that you've held regarding finance or business up until that 2013 timeframe?

22 A Continuity, principally all finance for the first 8 to 10 years of my career was
23 principally in distressed debt. What that meant was investing in financial assets, and
24 that business involved employing about 250 people in a consumer finance business that
25 was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

1 I followed that consumer finance business, which was a credit card operation, the
2 reason for being in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with investments in other electronic
3 financial services business, including other credit card processing businesses.

4 I'll characterize most of my business career as in investing rather than operating.
5 So that meant to me acquiring companies or acquiring financial assets.

6 Q And you are going to be a lot more versed in some of these terms that we're
7 going to walk through, and so I ask that you just bear with us and maybe define things as
8 we go along if there is a term of art or any kind of technical language regarding some of
9 this work.

10 A I will do so.

11 Q So you covered this in your opening statement, but I would like to just place
12 on the record that we are conducting this interview at a Federal facility in Montgomery,
13 Alabama. Is that correct?

14 A Yes, it is.

15 Q And how long have you been at this facility?

16 A I arrived on August 10th of 2023.

17 Q And we can get into more detail, but, generally, why are you currently
18 incarcerated?

19 A I'm serving a 16-year, approximately 16-year sentence in connection with a
20 case or cases that I pled guilty -- pleaded guilty to in originally 2017.

21 Q So did you -- you did not face a trial?

22 A I did not face a trial.

23 Q And I believe the case that you're referencing is sometimes referred to the
24 Wakpamni Tribal bond matter. Is that correct?

25 A That is the name that's been attached to it, yes.

1 Q Were there other -- were there trials that occurred in this matter?

2 A There were other codefendants that were indicted along with me that
3 proceeded to trial.

4 Q Were you called as a witness to testify in those?

5 A Yes -- well, it was denied. I was asked to be a witness by one of the
6 defendants, and the court denied that request, as I understand it. I did not testify at
7 trial. So I was not permitted to testify at trial.

8 Q Okay.

9 You are currently projected to be released from confinement in October of 2029.
10 Is that correct?

11 A Not precisely, no. I've got the benefit of the First Step Act. So my official
12 release date is 1 year earlier than that. I've earned that good time, so to speak, and I
13 have other good time that's also built up. So I would expect that I would be released in
14 about 24 months from now.

15 Q How do you accumulate that kind of time?

16 A I think the layperson explanation would be good behavior, and good
17 behavior in a First Step context includes programming, and programming is specifically to
18 change your thinking about your conduct and to generally try to, I suppose, help us with a
19 second chance in life and think about our actions differently, which 8 years of this sort of
20 thing has helped.

21 Q I'm going to turn it over to Representative Biggs who will ask a few questions
22 about the CARES Act that you mentioned.

23 Mr. Biggs. Thank you.

24 So, first of all, I thank Warden Reid (ph) and Case Service Manager Barnes (ph) for
25 facilitating this interview today.

1 I appreciate all the staff from the two committees being here, your attorneys, and
2 the reporters for being here, and also you for your willingness to answer questions.

3 I want to make clear for the record, though, you and I have never met or spoken
4 prior to today. Is that right?

5 Mr. Galanis. No, Congressman.

6 Mr. Biggs. So that's right?

7 Mr. Galanis. That's correct, yes. I beg your pardon. I'll try to be more precise.

8 Mr. Biggs. That's all right.

9 Mr. Galanis. We met 10 minutes ago for a moment.

10 Mr. Biggs. Okay. So you've answered the question of when you were
11 sentenced, the length of sentence, where you started. But I want to go through briefly
12 the stuff you had stated in your opening statement about home confinement, and I just
13 want to make sure everybody understands.

14 When did you apply for home confinement?

15 Mr. Galanis. February 4, 2023.

16 Mr. Biggs. Okay. And then there was a home study done of a place in San
17 Diego that you were hoping to go to?

18 Mr. Galanis. That's right. The U.S. Probation Office approved what they call a
19 re-entry plan, which included an apartment in San Diego, California.

20 Mr. Biggs. And that was fully approved at that point?

21 Mr. Galanis. Yes, it was.

22 Mr. Biggs. And later the approval was rescinded?

23 Mr. Galanis. Correct.

24 Mr. Biggs. And who rescinded the application or the approval to go to home
25 confinement?

1 Mr. Galanis. As an inmate, my interaction with staff is with something called a
2 unit team. The unit team, the officials that I deal with, they had gotten an email from
3 California, from another BOP official that indicated -- well, they indicated to me they were
4 surprised to have the approval reversed.

5 And so my communication, what I was told, was it was BOP informing another
6 local BOP staff that they had changed their mind.

7 Mr. Biggs. So your understanding was that it came from -- it must have
8 ultimately came from the headquarters of the BOP to a local?

9 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

10 Mr. Biggs. Okay.

11 At some point you became aware that Devon Archer was going to be interviewed
12 as part of an investigation into Hunter Biden and the Biden Family. Is that right?

13 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

14 Mr. Biggs. And I want to make clear on this, too. The announcement of
15 that -- that Devon Archer interview took place on May 12th of 2023, and your application,
16 which had already been approved, was rescinded when?

17 Mr. Galanis. It was several days after, a day or two after.

18 Mr. Paoletta. I think what his testimony was, Congressman, was it was June 12th
19 that the announcement that the Oversight Committee would be subpoenaing -- issuing a
20 subpoena for Devon Archer. It was June 13th that the BOP denied.

21 Mr. Biggs. Thanks for clarifying that. I had noted May, so thank you. And
22 you're right; he did say June.

23 Critical to this is had you ever implicated Archer, Devon Archer or Hunter Biden in
24 any of the relations to the crimes that you had been ultimately convicted of or other
25 crimes?

1 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

2 Mr. Biggs. To whom did you implicate those?

3 Mr. Galanis. I had, in 2017 -- well, three instances: In 2017, to the SDNY
4 through my lawyers; in 2018, to the SEC, United States Securities and Exchange
5 Commission, who visited me in California; and, lastly, in 2020, in a commutation request
6 that I made referenced in my opening statement.

7 Mr. Biggs. And I read the commutation application that you had made, and it
8 laid that out as well in there.

9 So you've talked about the incident that resulted in your transfer from Pensacola
10 to here, and you worked with the chaplain and the warden there. The chaplain -- the
11 warden said something to you, I believe, as he was putting you in the vehicle to send you
12 to Montgomery from Pensacola. What did that Pensacola warden say?

13 Mr. Galanis. The warden's job was to keep me safe. The safest place for me
14 would be at home, and, in lieu of that, I was going to Montgomery.

15 Mr. Biggs. And, even testifying here today, you have legitimate concerns about
16 possible retaliation?

17 Mr. Galanis. I think -- yes, as a ward of the Bureau of Prisons, I think I have
18 concerns. I don't have any concerns with FPC Montgomery, specifically, but I could
19 imagine some people with some influence could make my life extraordinarily difficult and
20 upended.

21 There are mechanisms for retribution against inmates, including solitary
22 confinement and other procedures that they use and could be leveraged against me.

23 Mr. Biggs. And I appreciate your recognition that FPC Montgomery, with the
24 current warden, has treated you professionally and well, and so the concerns aren't
25 necessarily with him or his team.

1 But I do think, and I want to state this for the record, I believe that the incidents
2 that you've indicated to us predicate further congressional investigation into the
3 application under the CARES Act and the incidents that took place in Pensacola.

4 And I will work with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, particularly since I
5 chair the Subcommittee on Crime, which has jurisdiction over the BOP, to get to the
6 bottom of those things, including the CARES Act, and the incident in Pensacola.

7 So I appreciate your willingness to testify today. I know what you have to say is
8 incredibly valuable, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.

9 And I'll yield back to [REDACTED].

10 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you, sir.

11 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

12 Q I'd like to just introduce a few of the people that we're going to be talking
13 about today. How did you first come to meet Hunter Biden?

14 A Through Devon Archer.

15 Q And how did you know Devon Archer?

16 A Mutual friends, business acquaintances, and then what culminated in a
17 financial transaction with a mining company.

18 Q When was the financial transaction with the mining company?

19 A 2011. And I think the transaction -- Devon Archer became a director. I
20 don't know if he started in '11 or '12, but he became a director of that public company
21 and engaged in some additional transactions for which he was paid a fee.

22 Q Did you begin working regularly then with Mr. Archer?

23 A I did.

24 Q And it was through Mr. Archer that you became acquainted with Mr. Biden?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Do you know when that was?

2 A In 2013. Toward the end of 2013, Devon Archer had suggested,
3 encouraged verbally and in an email that it would be a good idea to leverage Hunter more
4 and include him in more business deals, compensate him.

5 So that was the timeframe, and I think early 2014 was when it became formalized.

6 Q What was the value that Hunter Biden brought to the table, according to
7 Mr. Archer?

8 A Well, it was -- the term he used at the time was "the Biden lift." "Biden lift"
9 that we talked about was access. Access meant to us at the time, being in the business
10 of acquiring other businesses, to persuade third-parties to do business with us.

11 Contextually, what was happening, and I alluded to this in my opening statement,
12 but just to unpack it a little bit more, there was an existing business, Rosemont Realty. I
13 had no affiliation with that business. I had no affiliation with Chris Heinz.

14 But that business was a business with Chris Heinz and Devon Archer. It was, in
15 part, funded by foreign money, Russian money. It seemed to evidence to me that they
16 had capability of raising significant amounts of money.

17 Rosemont Realty was disclosed to me to be a \$2 billion business, but in early 2014,
18 it suffered significant setbacks, both externally and internally, that the partners made a
19 decision to wind that business up. And I think what that meant was selling it.

20 And the headwinds that they encountered were, as I said, external and internal.
21 The external was the Russian invasion of Ukraine through Crimea. That presented a lot
22 of strain. And the discussions I had with Devon, and later Hunter, was about Chris Heinz
23 wanting to distance himself from the Burisma transaction. So that also was an impetus
24 to wind up the Rosemont Realty business, and at that time, that resulted in looking for
25 another business to replace that.

1 Mr. [REDACTED]. Can you just go back to the Biden lift real quick. You talked
2 about leveraging Hunter Biden and inducing companies to gain investment. Can you
3 talk about -- can you just spell it out for us what the Biden lift did to induce companies to
4 want to be able to do these transactions? What was it? What was the Biden lift?

5 Mr. Galanis. I think it's situation specific. Foreign investors would have a view
6 of political access to the most powerful, admired country in the world, leadership in the
7 most powerful, admired country in the world.

8 In a domestic context, it was, for example, things like the union pension funds.
9 This particular circumstance was a business plan that included acquiring what ended up
10 being two union pension fund managers, investment managers, and that was a different
11 sort of influence. It was a stamp of credibility.

12 So I think it depended on who the counterparty was, the party on the other side of
13 the table that was looking to be achieved, but succinctly, what I would say is that it lent
14 credibility to any venture or prospective partner, acquisition target, and it meant
15 that we -- it strongly demonstrated access to the halls of power.

16 So, just adding to the union side, the union side of our business, domestic side of
17 the business is Hunter had mentioned -- well, more than mentioned. Part of our
18 business plan was to use the family's contacts with the unions that historically had been
19 developed through I guess political relationships by his father. That manifested itself
20 later, which you would see in emails where Eric Schwerin was reaching out for, for
21 example, a Chicago treasurer, reaching out for other union-related contacts.

22 That's the kind of access and influence, sort of as an example of the kind of access
23 that that would provide. In other words, contacts we wouldn't be able to get on our
24 own but for the Biden lift.

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q What was your understanding of Eric Schwerin's role or services he rendered
2 to either Hunter Biden or Joe Biden?

3 A What I was told by Hunter and by Devon is that he ran the family's finances.
4 What I saw was that, but he was also responsible for Hunter's broker dealer, which is
5 called RSP Investments, an SEC registered broker dealer in Washington, D.C. So I
6 understood him to be the managing partner of that business as well.

7 Q So, in addition to bookkeeping for the family, he was also an active business
8 participant in these ventures?

9 A Yes. He had incentives that would -- he had outside incentives, yes, to my
10 understanding.

11 Q You mentioned that Mr. Heinz was seeking to distance himself from I believe
12 you said the Rosemont entities, in part because of the Burisma transaction. Is your
13 understanding that that occurred in the early months of 2014?

14 A Yes. It would have been shortly after the media got a hold of it also. It
15 was a more aggressive unwind and to the point that -- where we, a partner and I in
16 California, were encouraged to go to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to review the books of
17 Rosemont Realty for a possible acquisition ourselves. But that's how serious the
18 disposition process had gotten where they were separating from Heinz and Archer.

19 Q Did anybody ever tell you or did you ever learn why there was discomfort
20 with -- by Mr. Heinz with the Burisma transaction -- Burisma developments?

21 A No. The inference -- this was documented in the emails, but the inference
22 was that Heinz was risk-averse, very high net worth, big family name. So he
23 had -- Devon expressed it in an email something to the effect that Hunter was willing to
24 take risks that -- or something of the substance of Hunter was willing to take risks that
25 Heinz was not willing to take risks on.

1 Q And you said big family name. Mr. Heinz is the stepson of former Secretary
2 John Kerry?

3 A Yes, but I meant more than that. He is and what I meant was they are a
4 very high net worth family on their own, the Heinz family, and that's also what I meant.
5 He did not have the same money motivations that Hunter, Devon, and myself did.

6 Q And I think you said in your opening statement that part of those money
7 motivations was making billions and not millions. Is that correct?

8 A Yeah, that's right. I think that, just to unpack that a little bit, the objective
9 in our business was to make our enterprise worth billions of dollars. We were successful
10 in building up \$17 billion worth of assets. Our ambition was to build that business into a
11 multibillion dollar exit or sale for each of the founding partners.

12 Mr. [REDACTED]. I'd like to introduce as exhibit 1 your petition for commutation
13 of sentence.

14 [Galanis Exhibit No. 1
15 was marked for identification.]

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q And this document was submitted, it looks like, on December 8th, 2020. Is
18 that correct?

19 A Yes, that's what I remember. It does say that. Yes, it does say that.

20 Q And, on the first page, I just want to draw your attention to the small print at
21 the top. This reads: "The submission of any material, false information, is punishable
22 by up to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$250,000." And that is
23 pursuant to 18 U.S.C., Sections 1001 and 3571. Is that correct?

24 A Yes, that's what it says.

25 Q Okay. I'd like to spend some time walking through this document. You

1 provided two rather lengthy addenda or expanded responses to this document. Is that
2 correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. You did describe some of this in your opening statement, but I'd like
5 to just understand what the Burnham entity was. And you say in this application that
6 Burnham was a valuable 80-year-old brand that could serve as an alternative brand to
7 Rosemont.

8 I'm on -- right after page 6. This is the fourth paragraph.

9 When did you first learn about Burnham? How did you come to know about
10 Burnham?

11 A As an active acquirer of businesses, I would have, in the normal course of
12 business, referrals from business intermediaries. A business intermediary named John
13 Moran who was in the business of selling or brokering broker dealers had introduced the
14 business to me. I believe it was 2013.

15 Q And we're going to be using the phrase broker dealer a lot. Can you explain
16 what a broker dealer is?

17 A Yes. So it is a term for an SEC-registered financial services firm that
18 principally deals in securities.

19 Q You state in the same paragraph, "We undertook a series of transactions to
20 acquire control of Burnham, first by raising capital from Kazakhstan and China," end
21 quote.

22 A Oh, okay, right. Yes.

23 Q What was the source of capital from Kazakhstan?

24 A I have refreshed my recollection by reading some emails. It was a \$500,000
25 investment from an individual whose name escapes me now, but it is in my papers, but it

1 was an individual investor that was introduced by Devon Archer.

2 Q Do you know the name Nirlin Kusanauf (ph)?

3 A That sounds right.

4 Q Do you know what Mr. Archer's connection with Mr. Kusanauf (ph) was?

5 A I don't remember. No, I don't remember what the relationship was.

6 Q And the capital that was sourced from China, are we talking about -- are you
7 describing the Harvest entity there?

8 A I am not.

9 Q What is the entity that you are referencing with regard to China?

10 A Again, top of mind, I don't remember the entity's name. It was \$2.5
11 million.

12 Q Okay.

13 A There is some email documentation on it that refer to that. I don't
14 remember what the name of that person was.

15 Q But, through these two injections of capital, you were able to obtain control
16 of the Burnham entity?

17 A Yes. Qualify. Conditional control, entered into an acquisition agreement
18 that provided day-to-day control. Devon essentially was the New York party. I lived in
19 California. He lived in New York. He took responsibility for that business.

20 We had regulatory approval that was required for two components of that
21 business, one from the SEC and FINRA. And, secondarily, an asset management
22 business within Burnham that required separate approval from a public board of
23 directors.

24 So we had conditional day-to-day control subject to shares being transferred.
25 After, ultimately, there was a full vetting by regulators.

1 Q So was there a full vetting by regulators?

2 A There were submissions to the regulators. There were change of control of
3 some of the entities. And, yes, I do believe it was closed later in 2015, so it took some
4 time, operated under the management agreement, this mid-ground stasis of
5 management control, but not -- ownership control happened in 2015. That's my
6 recollection.

7 Q When were the transactions the first transactions from China and
8 Kazakhstan conducted?

9 A My recollection is 2013.

10 Q Okay.

11 A There would have been a lot of email traffic and paperwork on that,
12 paper-based transaction. So I would defer to those, but that's my recollection, rough
13 timeframe.

14 Q Okay.

15 The petition then reads: "Then we increased the Burnham regulator capital base
16 and combined Burnham with other non-U.S. financial companies we had acquired and
17 intended to acquire."

18 What is "regulatory capital base"?

19 A So as a regulated business, regulated by the SEC, Burnham was required to
20 furnish -- required to have equity capital, which is referred to as regulatory capital, that
21 provides assurances to, I suppose, the investing public, to clients, to whomever is doing
22 business with this regulated entity, that this entity is solvent, and it has the financial
23 wherewithal to undertake the transactions in a safe and sound manner with the clients.

24 Q So what did Burnham do?

25 A Burnham had several divisions, but it is a traditional Wall Street firm, as one

1 might think of Wall Street firm. Its primary business, I suppose, is a stock broker. It's a
2 securities business. It had high net worth clients, medium net worth clients for which it
3 conducted securities trades, transactions, provided investment advice.

4 Burnham also had a division called Burnham Asset Management, and Burnham
5 Asset Management was in the business of managing money by way of several public
6 mutual funds. Those were Burnham branded mutual funds. Its highest profile one was
7 a Burnham financial services mutual fund that invested in U.S. banks, for example.

8 Altogether, I believe Burnham had about a billion and a half dollars of client
9 money across these different individual accounts and mutual fund accounts.

10 Q Did Burnham at this time have a broker dealer?

11 A Yes. Burnham Securities was the broker dealer.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Yes.

14 Q And, at some point, it was raised to your attention that Burnham would
15 acquire or wrap up certain Rosemont entities. Is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q What entities are we speaking about, specifically? I know there are a lot of
18 different Rosemont entities.

19 A Yes. The ones that made any sense to Burnham as a financial business
20 were ones other than the lobbying -- I suppose the advisory Washington, D.C., lobbying
21 business, which were the financial businesses, which also provided advisory but in a
22 financial context.

23 And that business was RSP Investments, I think is the legal name of it. That was
24 also a broker dealer registered with the SEC, to my recollection, and a business called
25 Rosemont Seneca Advisors. And those were businesses that were owned by Hunter and

1 run by Eric Schwerin.

2 Q When you say "owned by Hunter," were there any other individuals who had
3 equity in any of these entities to your knowledge?

4 A I thought Eric did, but I can't say at this moment.

5 Q Okay.

6 Why was RSP Investments of interest to Burnham if they had a broker dealer?

7 A There was only one reason, and that reason was the Biden lift.

8 Q When was it first raised to you that the Biden lift was something that
9 Burnham was actually interested in?

10 A I think I would answer it in this way: We were opportunistic investors in
11 the private equity business. So there was a process, and what I would say is there
12 were -- the first introduction of doing business with Hunter was in 2013. The first
13 instances of combining businesses together was in early 2014, in the second quarter of
14 2014.

15 And that theme became to have consolidated around a transaction with the
16 Chinese to sponsor or -- that's a term we use in the business -- to back, financially back
17 the combination of these businesses into one larger Burnham business. That
18 conversation, though, that process proceeded over the course of the next year.

19 Q When you say "the Chinese," who are you specifically talking about?

20 A Right, excuse me. So not the original Chinese that invested in Burnham.
21 This would have been the Chinese that came together in a partnership. I think that was
22 approved in China in early 2014 to create something called BHR, which is Bohai Harvest
23 Rosemont. And that was a separate business, but one of the constituent parts, the
24 founding partners of that business, the H was Harvest. And Harvest was the intended
25 financial sponsor, partner, big brother in this amalgamation of businesses.

1 Q What was Henry Zhao's role in Harvest?

2 A He was described as chairman to me. I don't know if technically that was
3 his title or not.

4 Q Chairman?

5 A He was described as the head, the decisionmaker. There were layers of
6 people to get to him, including some Western people originally from Deutsche Bank and
7 some others. But, ultimately, Henry was the decisionmaker, as it was described to me.

8 Q Is Henry based in China?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Do you know if he's a Chinese citizen?

11 A I don't know. I assume so.

12 Q Do you know anything about Henry Zhao's past and his background?

13 A Not enough to be credible.

14 Q And, just so I understand, you mentioned the entity BHR, which is Bohai
15 Harvest Rosemont. So the three entities being -- does each letter correspond to a
16 different entity? B, H, and R?

17 A It does. I didn't find that company with them, but, yes, that's my
18 understanding.

19 Q And so the B is Bohai, correct?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Did you have any business dealings with Bohai?

22 A Well, Bohai was a separate government fund, to my understanding. I had
23 no dealings with Bohai or Jonathan Li.

24 Q Okay.

25 And then Rosemont is the Rosemont entity, correct?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you know which Rosemont entity originally entered into the BHR
3 transaction?

4 A A limited liability company that was named Rosemont Senica Bohai, LLC.

5 But, to answer your question precisely, that's what I understood the ownership
6 was originally taken in. I don't know if that's what they originally -- you asked a specific
7 question, whether or not it was what they entered into. That's where the ownership
8 ended up.

9 Q And the H is Harvest, correct?

10 A In BHR?

11 Q Yes.

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay.

14 So, when we interviewed Eric Schwerin, he informed us both of the BHR matter,
15 but he also said that there was potentially another deal that was happening with the
16 Harvest entity. Does that accurately reflect your understanding of your interactions
17 with Harvest, the separate deal apart from BHR?

18 A Yes, that's correct.

1

2 [10:54 a.m.]

3 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

4 Q Okay.

5 A And was described that way by Hunter in emails that I have since seen,
6 refreshed, that that was -- there were two buckets of relationships. BHR, he wanted to
7 focus only on BHR and the Burnham Harvest relationship.

8 So they were identified by us internally, him in emails also, that identified those as
9 two separate sort of buckets of dealing with the Chinese.

10 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

11 Q I think you described Bohai as another Chinese Government fund.

12 Was the other in that Harvest?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And could you describe a little bit about where Harvest Group -- so
15 it's your understanding that Harvest Group was a Chinese Government fund?

16 A No, I wouldn't testify to that. I don't -- I don't know. I don't know the
17 lineage. So I can't say that. I only -- what I was told at the time is that they were
18 extremely well-connected, that they had permissions to -- from the party to be able to
19 grow their business.

20 Obviously, as a Westerner, not practicing in China, my assumption was you would
21 require those kinds of permissions. And they were enormous for that market, so -- I
22 assume, with millions of customer account, to my understanding, so I assume that they
23 were well-connected.

24 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

25 Q And I just -- to go up a paragraph in this petition, you said, "My partners and

1 I sought to use political influence, an influence derived from conflicted non-arm's-length
2 relationship and self-dealing."

3 What political influence were you seeking?

4 A Well, I mean, there was more than one instance. So I don't know how to
5 answer. Is there a more specific question to respond to?

6 Q With your --

7 A I'll give you an example.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Harvest was an important prospective partner from my point of view,
10 selfishly, looking after my own interests, as delineated from other partners' interest in the
11 business. Harvest would have been additive to my ambitions to also grow the business.

12 Harvest made very clear that, but for the Biden participation, that Harvest wasn't
13 going to invest in the business as I had wanted them to and as the other partners wanted
14 them to. That was -- I would go -- it was explicit and implied in a number of emails, as
15 well.

16 So that was the kind of influence they sought, and it was the kind of influence we
17 were attempting to use to induce this investment in this anchor investor, this stamp of
18 credibility, this institutional credibility to our small, growing business.

19 Mr. Biggs. Can I ask a question?

20 Mr. [REDACTED]. Of course.

21 Mr. Biggs. With regard to that, how did you project the Biden participation to
22 Harvest, you or others in your business?

23 Mr. Galanis. Congressman, it was portrayed by three people who had the most
24 direct contact -- Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, and Bulgar -- in different ways. I'll try to
25 be specific in at least two instances.

1 In one instance, the -- a proposal was made for Henry on behalf of Harvest
2 presumably to acquire RSP Investments directly. A business, to give you scale, was a
3 \$2.5 million a year business versus a \$300 billion Chinese national conglomerate, a
4 relevant rounding error to their business, except for the obvious ownership lineage.

5 Other sort of instances where things intersected I read into my opening
6 statement, which were intersections with Joe Biden and promises of participating on a
7 Harvest board of directors post-Vice Presidency.

8 Mr. Biggs. Did that happen during the formation of BHR or any other time
9 Harvest was looking at investing with y'all, this promise of potentially of Joe Biden coming
10 on?

11 Mr. Galanis. Well, the -- I want to delineate between BHR and Harvest --

12 Mr. Biggs. Sure.

13 Mr. Galanis. -- to be precise. So Harvest, I can speak directly to Harvest. That
14 was a transaction I was intimately involved in at all steps, and I described in my opening
15 statement the conversations in and around joining this board and that as a material
16 inducement to Harvest making an investment in the Burnham Group.

17 That obviously had a lot of impact, and the chair -- I call him Chairman
18 Zhao -- Henry Zhao wanted reassurances that that was going to happen. They described
19 that as wanting to make sure he didn't have any relationship damage and didn't lose face,
20 should that not happen.

21 Mr. Biggs. Sure.

22 Mr. Galanis. So he wanted continual reassurance that the father was going to
23 be, the father, Joe Biden, was going to be involved with Harvest.

24 In terms of other influence on BHR, I can't speak to it other than emails that I have
25 seen and been provided by Devon Archer, particularly. In the early days, there was an

1 email from Jonathan Li. I think it was to Devon and Hunter. It was requesting --

2 Mr. [REDACTED]. Jonathan Li of Bohai?

3 Mr. Galanis. Bohai, the "B" in the BHR.

4 It was requesting the partners' political muscle, was the quote. Political muscle
5 was Hunter's access to his father, and that was what was requested prior to having gotten
6 Chinese approval to form BHR.

7 Mr. Biggs. So I'm going to ask just one last question on this note. I'll give it
8 back to [REDACTED].

9 But you mentioned in your opening statement various times when maybe
10 then-Vice President Joe Biden was making contacts one way or the other.

11 Can you tell us if anything of that nature happened with regard to Harvest's,
12 Chairman Zhao's -- he was concerned about lost face, which is really important to him.
13 But is there anything that you recall where Vice President -- then-Vice President Biden
14 might have had contact that you're aware of with either Chairman Zhao or somebody else
15 from Harvest on the Chinese side?

16 Mr. Galanis. Congressman, I can't say I recall specifically Henry Zhao and the
17 Vice President being connected directly. I didn't go to the China trips with them.

18 I do remember meetings with the other founding partner that was told about,
19 Jonathan Li. And the -- I do remember meetings that I assisted with setting up with the
20 Ambassador to China and the Bohai Harvest Group at the U.S. Embassy, those sorts of
21 meetings.

22 So there were attempts to connect government to this business, but I -- to answer
23 your question precisely, I don't have any information on Joe Biden and Henry Zhao
24 speaking directly.

25 Mr. Biggs. I said there'd be one question. I just have a followup, and then I

1 know [REDACTED] going to cover this anyway.

2 But how many China trips are you referring to, and who went on those China
3 trips?

4 Mr. Galanis. These are not trips I attended.

5 Mr. Biggs. Right, yeah.

6 Mr. Galanis. So how many? I would be estimating, and I don't know if that's --

7 Mr. Biggs. More than five?

8 Mr. Galanis. I, yeah, I don't -- I don't know. I think it'd be a mistake for me to
9 say how many.

10 Mr. Biggs. And are you uncomfortable saying who went and the purpose of
11 those trips?

12 Mr. Galanis. Definitely not comment about the purpose of the trips since I don't
13 know. Devon was there on a regular basis. James Bulgar was living there. So he was
14 the representative sort of on the ground there.

15 But, no, I don't -- I can't add any more color. I wasn't there.

16 Mr. Biggs. Thank you.

17 [REDACTED]

18 Mr. [REDACTED]. I want to introduce an email as exhibit 2. Pass that around.

19 [Galanis Exhibit No. 2

20 was marked for identification.]

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q It's an email chain. I'll give you a minute to review.

23 This is an email chain involving several people. We've introduced most of them.
24 But who is James Bulgar?

25 A The -- one of the Founders of Thornton Group. My understanding, it's a

1 financial advisory firm based in China.

2 Q So I'd like to read an email that I believe James Bulgar wrote to Devon
3 Archer. It's dated July 21st, 2014, at 9:43 p.m. It's the bottom third of the page:
4 "Okay. So that's one of the three you mentioned which Revere in the last PPT. You get
5 the email? Copy Lin or anything to Henry, please. Lin told me Henry is keen to get the
6 info on Burnham. After our call today, Henry likes the, quote, 'creative idea,' quote, you
7 came up with. Just have to get this in a coherent form for Lindsay for her analytical
8 mind, but Henry understands the intangible goods that come with a partnership. So
9 good read at this point."

10 It's unclear from this. Are you copied on this email?

11 A I -- it was forwarded to me, I believe.

12 Q It was forwarded to you?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q By whom?

15 A Devon Archer.

16 Q Was that kind of standard? Would Devon Archer sometimes send you
17 emails that were between him and other individuals that you weren't originally on?

18 A He sent me quite a number of emails including emails, internal emails and
19 restricted emails, that had admonishments not to distribute, for example, without
20 permission of Bank of China.

21 So, notwithstanding the admonishment not to distribute without prior written
22 permission from Bank of China, he forwarded those emails to me and many, many dozens
23 of other internal emails at BHR and other communications.

24 Q So --

25 A Yeah, it was our -- there was a deliberate means for that. I represented a

1 significant amount of headline risk, as we called it. So to keep me out of email chains
2 was by design. Headline risk meant -- and I had enough profile and past media attention
3 on financial dealings that was adverse, that we didn't want to attach it to the businesses.

4 So these emails, instead of me being on them, were forwarded to me usually
5 contemporaneously with them being published.

6 Q Who is the Lin referenced in this email?

7 A Michael Lin, but I don't remember.

8 Q Okay. And Lindsay, do you know who that is?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who is that?

11 A Lindsay was the -- it was Lindsay Wright was the I want to say president, but
12 I can't be certain of that. A senior official at Harvest, Western. I believe she was a
13 senior asset manager at Deutsch Bank before that. And Deutsch Bank had acquired a
14 20-percent interest in Harvest. So there was that overlap. I think she was a
15 representative of Deutsch Bank.

16 Q Okay. So James Bulgar writes --

17 A Yeah, she was a very senior person. And she was the, as described here,
18 her analytical mind is the inference. She was a very disciplined, button-down Western
19 sort of banker, asset management type with a lot of authority at the business.

20 Q Okay. James Bulgar writes to Devon Archer that Henry likes the, quote,
21 "creative idea," quote that you, Devon Archer, came up with.

22 What is the creative idea in July 2014 that is being referenced here, if you know?

23 A My recollection was the creative idea was Joe Biden's board -- board seat,
24 paid board seat post-Vice Presidency.

25 Q Board seat on --

1 A Harvest, the Chinese company.

2 Q So Joe Biden was going to sit on the board of Harvest when he left the Vice
3 Presidency?

4 A That was the proposal that was subsequently discussed. I mentioned it in
5 my opening statement.

6 And, to answer your question, sorry, yes, yes, that was -- that was the
7 understanding. And that's what this was referencing, to my recollection.

8 Q I believe you also mentioned in your opening statement intangible goods,
9 and that is also in this email.

10 Quote, "Henry understands the intangible goods that come with the partnership,"
11 quote.

12 Is that in the same vein?

13 A It is.

14 Q Okay. Did Devon Archer ever communicate to you that he understood the
15 creative idea and the intangible goods to be Joe Biden eventually sitting on the board of
16 Harvest?

17 A Yes, that's my recollection.

18 Q And I -- I want to be clear. I keep saying the board. Is that the board of
19 directors? Is that, like, a board of advisors, if you know?

20 A I don't know.

21 Q Okay.

22 A I suspect it was board of advisors. That would have been the ceremonial
23 role that we -- that's the role that we had discussed. If it was something more than that,
24 I wasn't part of that --

25 Q Okay.

1 A -- discussion.

2 Q So, by July of 2014, it has been broached that Joe Biden would sit on a board
3 of a Chinese entity.

4 How does -- what is your understanding of that connection to Burnham?

5 A I'm not sure I understand the question.

6 Q Would Burnham receive anything in connection with Harvest because of Joe
7 Biden being promised to sit on the board?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What was your understanding of that, what that would be?

10 A Harvest was to be -- was to become an investor in Burnham. So it was to
11 receive money. The original proposal was \$18 million. There were different numbers
12 discussed based on the ongoing negotiations. And so that was -- they were connected,
13 inextricably connected, events or proposals.

14 Q Okay.

15 A I think there are emails that confirm that.

16 Q I'll show you one more email.

17 Mr. [REDACTED]. This will be exhibit 3.

18 [Galanis Exhibit No. 3

19 was marked for identification.]

20 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

21 Q I want to be clear about what this document is. This appears to be Devon
22 Archer sending to you on August 23rd, 2014, so about the next month after the last email,
23 an email -- he's forwarding you an email from Michael Leonard to James Bulgar. Is that
24 correct?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And who's Michael Leonard?

2 A I don't know him. I can see his title on the footer here. He's a Vice
3 President of Operations at Thornton, but I don't know the man.

4 Q Okay. And what he is sending you appears to be a draft email. Is that
5 correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And it is drafted as an email from Hunter Biden. Is that correct?

8 A Yes, that is correct. It's Michael drafting something for -- that's to be under
9 the signature for being sent by Hunter Biden.

10 Q So Michael, who is part of the Thornton Group. Is that correct?

11 A That's right.

12 Q Which has partnered with Hunter Biden and in the BHR transaction?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Is drafting an email that -- for Hunter Biden to send eventually. Is that
15 correct?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Okay. I will read the third paragraph of the forwarded email: "Michael,
18 please also remind Henry of our conversation about a board seat for a certain relation of
19 mine. Devon and I golfed with that relation earlier last week, and we discussed this very
20 idea again. And, as always, he remains very, very keen on the opportunity."

21 Just to be clear, and I think you did make reference to this in your opening
22 statement, the certain relation is Joe Biden. Is that correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Did Devon ever say that he had golfed with the Vice President before?

25 A Yeah. Quite proud of it.

1 Q Around this time, do you mention -- do you remember Devon ever raising
2 that this conversation had happened?

3 A Yeah.

4 Mr. [REDACTED] I think we're out of time.

5 Mr. [REDACTED] Off the record.

6 [Recess.]

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

9 Q Mr. Galanis, good morning.

10 A Good morning.

11 Q You spoke in your opening statement about your criminal history. I'm
12 going to ask you some questions about that.

13 And I'll start, if I could, by referring back to exhibit 1, which is -- -- your petition for
14 commutation.

15 A Yes.

16 Q And I'm looking specifically at page 4, which enumerates the instances of
17 your criminal record, and there is an arrest listed here for defrauding an innkeeper in
18 February of 2001.

19 Do you see that?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Could you describe the circumstances for us?

22 A Yeah, so the -- it was an outstanding bill at a luxury hotel that was on the
23 order of -- well, that was in dispute. I didn't pay it. They filed a referral for anything
24 over \$400. This was far more than \$400, and it was -- it was then -- it was then paid and
25 dismissed.

1 Q And then, further down page 4, there is a conviction listed for attempted tax
2 evasion. And that appears to have been in May of 2010.

3 Do you see that?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Okay. For the tax years 2003 to 2007?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And you were sentenced to 5 years of probation.

8 A That's correct.

9 Q And you paid just under \$2 million in restitution, it appears.

10 A Correct.

11 Q You spoke about your guilty plea and the criminal action brought by the U.S.
12 Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

13 In addition to that, you've previously been charged with securities fraud by the
14 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, correct?

15 A A civil case by the Securities and Exchange Commission, correct.

16 Q Okay. And, in 2005, as I understand, the SEC charged you with accounting
17 fraud, correct?

18 A That was part of the same investigation, correct.

19 Q And that was in connection with your involvement with Penthouse
20 magazine?

21 A That's correct.

22 Mr. [REDACTED] So we'll mark this as exhibit 4.

23 [Galanis Exhibit No. 4

24 was marked for identification.]

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q So this is the SEC's press release in connection with that action in 2007. It
2 alleges -- or I'm sorry. It describes the SEC's allegations that Penthouse, Charles Samel,
3 the former director and executive vice president of Penthouse, and yourself engaged in
4 accounting fraud and financial reporting violations at Penthouse in connection with the
5 company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ending March 31st, 2003.

6 Is that an accurate summary of the allegations against you in that case?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And the SEC also alleged that you and Mr. Samel prepared and filed the false
9 10-Q and did so knowingly or recklessly, disregarding that the CEO of Penthouse,
10 Mr. Guccione, had not seen or approved it, that Penthouse's auditor had not performed
11 its required overview of the Form 10-Q, and that it would be improper to include a \$1
12 million payment as revenue for that quarter.

13 Is that also an accurate description of the charges against you?

14 A That is accurate.

15 Q Okay. And you settled those charges in 2007, right?

16 A I did.

17 Q And a Federal court entered a permanent injunction against you, ordering
18 you not to violate section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And am I correct that, in order to enter an injunction, a court has to make a
21 determination that the defendant is at least reasonably likely to make the same violation
22 again?

23 A I have no idea.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I'm not a lawyer.

1 Q I'll represent to you that it does.

2 The court also ordered you to pay a penalty of \$60,000.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And barred you from serving as an officer or director of a public
5 company for 5 years?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Okay. I'll turn then to the criminal case against you, which you described
8 briefly in your opening.

9 And, in that case, you were charged by both the Department of Justice and the
10 Securities and Exchange Commission for fraud and manipulating the securities markets.
11 Is that not correct?

12 A Yes. That's a summary, sure.

13 Q And you ultimately pled guilty, as you mentioned, to those charges.

14 A Yes, I did.

15 Q And the charges in that case consisted of three separate fraudulent
16 schemes. Is that right?

17 A I don't know if I'd characterize it as that but --

18 Mr. [REDACTED] Okay. So we'll mark this as exhibit 5.

19 [Galanis Exhibit No. 5

20 was marked for identification.]

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q So exhibit 5 is a press release in the Department of Justice. For the record,
23 it is titled, "Jason Galanis Pleads Guilty in Manhattan Federal Court to Multiple Fraudulent
24 Schemes," dated January 31st, 2020.

25 Do you see that?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And then I'll refer you to the second page of this press release, if I could.

3 And I'm looking at the portion of this page that appears under the heading of "The
4 Gerova Scheme."

5 A Yes.

6 Q And I'll just read the first paragraph into the record to keep things moving:
7 "From 2009 to 2011, Galanis, along with his co-conspirators, John Galanis, Gary Hirst,
8 Derek Galanis, Ymer Shahini, and Gavin Hamels, engaged in a scheme to defraud the
9 shareholders of Gerova and the investing public by affecting securities transactions in
10 Gerova's stock for the purpose of conferring millions of dollars of undisclosed
11 remuneration to Galanis and his co-conspirators without adequate disclosure of Galanis'
12 role in directing the transactions or the benefits received by Galanis and his
13 co-conspirators."

14 Did I read that correctly?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And is that an accurate summary of the charges against you with
17 respect to the Gerova scheme?

18 A Yes, I think -- I did not adequately disclose my role in the transactions.
19 That's correct.

20 Q The press release goes on to identify a second scheme under the heading
21 "The scheme to defraud clients of investment Firm-1."

22 And, again, I'll read the first paragraph.

23 From 2007 to -- I'm sorry. Are you with me on the third page?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. "From 2007 to 2010, Galanis, along with an investment advisor

1 identified in the information as CC-2, participated in a scheme to defraud the clients of
2 CC-2's investment advisory firm, identified in the information as Investment Firm-1.
3 Oftentimes, in exchange for compensation from Galanis, CC-2 caused Investment Firm-1
4 clients to invest in notes entities associated with Galanis. When obligations owed by
5 entities associated with Galanis became due, CC-2 used client funds to purchase either
6 notes issued by other entities associated with Galanis or publicly traded shares held by
7 such entities."

8 Did I read that correctly?

9 A You did.

10 Q And is that --

11 A I believe CC-2 was indicted in a separate indictment.

12 Q And does the language I just read accurately summarize the charges against
13 you with respect to this second scheme?

14 A For purposes of today, yes, but this is the DOJ's portrayal of it. It's not
15 what I allocuted to specifically before the court, and I would just reference what I
16 allocuted before the court is more official than a press release of the DOJ.

17 Q Sure. Is that --

18 A I accept that it's materially accurate.

19 Q Okay. And you pled guilty to this scheme, as well.

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q And then the third scheme, which you've already spoken about briefly, the
22 Tribal bond scheme, and that appears under the next heading on the same page and,
23 again, I'll just read the first paragraph into the record: "From March 2014 through April
24 2016, Galanis, along with his coconspirators, Gary Hirst, John Galanis, Hugh Dunkerley,
25 Michelle Morton, Devon Archer, and Bevan Cooney, engaged in a fraudulent scheme to

1 misappropriate the proceeds of bonds issued by the Wakpamni Lake Community
2 Corporation, WLCC, a Native American Tribal entity, and to use funds in the accounts of
3 clients of asset management firms controlled by Galanis and his codefendants to
4 purchase the Tribal bonds, which the clients were then unable to redeem or sell because
5 the bonds were illiquid and lacked a ready secondary market."

6 Did I read that paragraph correctly?

7 A You read it correctly.

8 Q And is that an accurate summary of the Department of Justice's charges
9 against you with respect to the bond scheme?

10 A It is the -- an accurate description of the charges against me.

11 Q It is inaccurate?

12 A It's -- no, it is an accurate --

13 Q It is an accurate.

14 A It's accurate, excuse me.

15 Q Thank you.

16 A It is accurate. It is, again, not -- it does not incorporate what I allocuted
17 before the court --

18 Q But it is again --

19 A -- in terms --

20 Q I'm sorry.

21 A -- in connection with my plea agreement.

22 Q But it is, again, materially accurate.

23 A I would say it's -- right, it's materially accurate.

24 Q Okay. Just with respect to the Tribal bond scheme, some of the particulars,
25 that, as I understand, involved, as reflected in your guilty -- guilty plea, three counts of

1 conspiracy to commit securities fraud. And that was in connection with the scheme to
2 misappropriate the proceeds of the bond offering issued by the Wakpamni Lake
3 Community Corporation. Is that right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And, as part of your fraudulent scheme, you and your co-conspirators
6 induced the Wakpamni Lake Community Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Oglala
7 Sioux Tribe, to issue over \$60 million in Tribal bonds.

8 A Yes.

9 Q And then, as part of that scheme, you directed that more than \$43 million of
10 those funds be invested in fake Native American Tribal bonds that were then diverted to
11 you through entities under your control. Is that correct?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. What's inaccurate there?

14 A I -- I don't know what -- how you're delineating \$60 million and \$43 million in
15 fake bonds. I'm not clear on what you're saying, what you're reading from.

16 Q Would it be fair to say that your scheme involved lying to the Tribe about the
17 use of the proceeds of the bonds that they sold?

18 A I would say that that is a component of my plea agreement. I will -- yes.

19 Q So my characterization is accurate.

20 A What you just said, yes.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Your numbers, I think, are not accurate.

23 Q Okay.

24 A But they're -- a material amount of money but the -- to delineate, the Tribe
25 was unharmed. They were nonrecourse bonds. The Tribe suffered no losses. I think

1 that is a mischaracterization.

2 The parties that I harmed with my actions were the union pension funds, and I am
3 very regretful for what I did to them and betrayed their trust. I am -- don't believe that
4 the Tribe was similarly situated, and they had a net gain and were up to a point a reliable
5 partner in the scheme.

6 Q All right.

7 A But they -- excuse me.

8 But they -- they definitely were a sympathetic figure, but they had no economic
9 losses. The economic losses were all foisted on my clients at the union pension funds,
10 and that was a grave error of judgment on my part.

11 Q And am I correct, though, that the Tribe was told that the proceeds of the
12 offering would be used for economic development but, in fact, were used for different
13 purposes?

14 A You would be inaccurate in saying that.

15 Q How so?

16 A The Tribe was promised a variety of things in writing, including economic
17 development.

18 I believe \$2 million of the closing proceeds went to build a community center; that
19 was first new building on that reservation in over 35 years. So we were proud of it.
20 They were proud of the community center. They were proud of new infrastructure.

21 The Tribe also received a series of payments. Likewise, in December of 2015, the
22 Tribe through their council at Greenberg Traurig had negotiated a settlement agreement,
23 subsequent to my Gerova indictment, for which they were paid for \$250,000 for two
24 separate settlement agreements. So they received another \$500,000.

25 So the Tribe, at the end of the day, was not responsible based on the doctrine of

1 sovereign immunity for the nonrecourse bonds. They did not have to pay any of the
2 money back.

3 The only harmed party -- and this is very regrettable -- were the union pension
4 funds that bought the bonds. The Tribe actually made out several million dollars ahead,
5 albeit their long-term expectation was to earn more money over time.

6 Q So we're still in agreement, though, Mr. Galanis, correct, that the schemes to
7 which you pled guilty were all schemes involving intentional fraud under the securities
8 laws.

9 A Right. I --

10 Q Yes?

11 A I pleaded to that.

12 Q Okay.

13 A And I -- it's been 8 years of reflecting on exactly that.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And there's no -- there's no erosion of that. If anything, there's even more
16 acceptance of my responsibility in that.

17 Q And these were, in essence, crimes of dishonesty.

18 Would you agree with that?

19 A Yes, fundamentally.

20 Q So what you pled to, in essence, was either lying yourself or orchestrating a
21 conspiracy to lie to the various parties at issue in these three schemes.

22 A If I could, they're much more complicated than you're portraying them.

23 These are --

24 Q I --

25 A I'm going to answer the question.

- 1 Q It's a yes or not.
- 2 A I'm going to answer the question.
- 3 Q Please do, yeah.
- 4 A So the way I would answer the question is these were complicated financial
5 transactions between multiple third parties.
- 6 Q But you pled guilty to fraud.
- 7 A I did, and I answered that.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 A And I accept that.
- 10 Q Okay.
- 11 A But what I'm conveying to you, if you want a more fulsome answer, which --
- 12 Q I think you --
- 13 A You may not.
- 14 Q It goes beyond the scope of my question.
- 15 A It sounds like you don't want a more fulsome --
- 16 Q So I think we'll --
- 17 A -- answer, which is okay.
- 18 Q Yeah. The -- you pled guilty to the Tribal Bond Scheme in 2017. Am I
19 correct about that?
- 20 A Could you repeat yourself?
- 21 Q Sure you. You initially pled guilty to the Tribal Bond Scheme in 2017,
22 correct?
- 23 A That's correct.
- 24 Q And that was during the Trump administration.
- 25 A Okay.

1 Q Would you disagree with me?

2 A I wouldn't disagree with you. I was looking at you with what relevance that
3 has to my pleading guilty.

4 Q And you, again, pled guilty to the three schemes that we've been talking
5 about in 2020, correct?

6 A I did with the -- it's exactly the same case rolled into one based on an order
7 of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals that remanded my case back to District Court to be
8 combined for Sixth Amendment issues and other procedural errors.

9 And it resulted in the very same cases being combined into a single case, which is
10 why I had some difficulty when you first asked me about three cases versus one. It
11 was -- my recollection was it was one. I understand what you've now read into the
12 record.

13 Q Thank you.

14 And the second time you pled to these three schemes in 2020 was also during the
15 Trump administration, right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And the court ultimately sentenced you to 189 months in Federal prison for
18 these crimes, right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Three years supervised release.

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And the court also ordered you to forfeit over \$80 million that you
23 received through your fraud, correct?

24 A No.

25 Q That's not correct.

1 A Ordered restitution of \$80 million.

2 Q Okay.

3 A It didn't -- I did not receive \$80 million --

4 Q Okay.

5 A -- through my fraud, which is what you said.

6 Q And your interest in properties in New York and Los Angeles?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Okay. And, when you entered your guilty plea in 2020, you were
9 represented by counsel, correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And there was an instance after your arrest in which your bail was
12 revoked by the district court.

13 Am I correct about that?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q Okay. And the grounds that the district court gave for the revocation of
16 your bail was a finding that you continued to engage in the fraudulent bond scheme
17 post-arrest.

18 Am I correct about that?

19 A I don't know what the ruling was.

20 Q Okay.

21 A But I was remanded.

22 Q But that is public record, and there is an opinion from the U.S. Court of
23 Appeals for the Second Circuit, affirming the trial judge's finding with respect to your bail.

24 A The conclusion of the court, to my recollection, was that I wrote a letter to
25 the Tribe and their lawyers whilst I was on bail but prior to being indicted for the

1 Wakpamni case. And that was, in hindsight, regrettable, inappropriate. If anything, I
2 would have, should have only copied the -- their lawyers instead of the Tribe.

3 Q I'd like to turn now, if I could, to the allegations you've made today with
4 respect to the Biden family and Burnham.

5 Did you make these claims at any point during your prosecution?

6 A During my -- I testified already that I did make these claims and attempted to
7 bring them to the attention of the Southern District of New York. So I did testify to that
8 already last hour.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And the SEC in 2018.

11 In 2018, the SEC from the Southern District of New York took what I understood to
12 be an extraordinary step and visited Federal prison in California, three senior lawyers,
13 investigators and lawyers. And, at that meeting, I also raised these very allegations.

14 The SEC's comment to me is that they were very interested in that and that they
15 would be back, as that was another matter.

16 [Discussion off the record.]

17 Mr. Galanis. The allegation I'm specifically referencing to is the ones that you
18 just mentioned --

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q Right.

21 A -- alluding to, which were the allegations about the President and his son
22 and regarding our business dealings.

23 Q And, Mr. Galanis, I just want to make sure we're clear today on the record as
24 to what it is you're alleging.

25 So you've said that you brought information to the Securities and Exchange

1 Commission and to the Department of Justice.

2 Is it your claim today that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of
3 New York and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission were engaged in a conspiracy
4 to bury evidence favorable to you?

5 A I would be speculating of what they were -- all I can tell you hays -- how they
6 reacted, how my lawyer portrayed it, and what I observed with the SEC and the feedback
7 that we got from those channels. And that's all I -- I can't portray anything beyond that.
8 It would be speculating.

9 Q Is it your contention that the two agencies independently decided to ignore
10 evidence that you were putting forth?

11 A I don't have any way of knowing that.

12 [Discussion off the record.]

13 Mr. Galani. There is a little clarification. In the response, when the SEC
14 ultimately did not come back, the only -- I wouldn't portray this as what you just
15 characterized. I think you asked me as a conspiracy. So I'm not portraying that.

16 What I am saying is there was a discussion was relayed to me through my lawyer
17 that the SEC's furtherance of what they said to be interested in following up was shut
18 down by the Southern District of New York prosecutors.

19 Mr. Paoletta. I think you should read this. This is from your time, from the
20 commutation.

21 Mr. Galani. So this is specifically from the commutation. They is how I
22 portrayed it, three -- commutation request from 3 and a half years ago, which is, I had
23 attempted through counsel to proffer this information in 2015 and 2016 about a
24 pay-for-play for foreign nationals being conducted by Archer and Biden.

25 The SDNY was not interested. Defense counsel remarked that he had never seen

1 the SDNY reject information about criminal conduct, especially paper-based information
2 that could be corroborated independently from my statements.

3 My point in making that, later in 2018, I proffered to senior New York SEC lawyers
4 visiting me in FCI Terminal Island about Russian money laundering using Rosemont
5 entities, including meetings I attended in Zurich and in New York with Russians Yuznikov
6 (ph) and Baturina.

7 The U.S. Attorney office took the unusual step to quash the scheduled follow-up
8 by the SEC, citing Brady concerns. My information of Rosemont was not followed up.

9 That's what I put in writing 3 and a half years ago. I put it under penalty,
10 knowing penalty, and I stand by that statement.

11 I think I added, additional to that, just to get this back to the 2020 timeline, my
12 testimony did lead to the SEC to file additional fraud suit against an unindicted
13 co-conspirator in 2019.

14 The SEC introduced a materially different theory of the crimes that the SDNY did
15 at trial, including naming a 2019 -- in 2019, the unindicted co-conspirator as the
16 co-mastermind and, quote, "largest beneficiary" of the bond fraud.

17 This was a new theory of the case that I pleaded to in January 2017. So that's a
18 more fulsome answer to your question.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q And, Mr. Galanis, you chose to plead guilty in your criminal case rather than
21 go to trial, correct?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Okay. And that was a decision that you made voluntarily.

24 A Yes.

25 Q And you were represented by counsel when you made that decision.

1 A Well, no, and that was the basis of the litigation at the Second Circuit Court
2 of Appeals that remanded the case and vacated my convictions. So --

3 Q But, as we spoke about earlier, you were --

4 A I was denied -- I was denied counsel --

5 Q -- in 2020 --

6 A -- which resulted in me -- resulted in the litigation at the Second Circuit.

7 Q But, when you entered your plea in 2020, you were represented by
8 counsel --

9 A Yes, I was.

10 Q -- correct? Okay.

11 So my question then is, why plead guilty and forego the opportunity to go to trial
12 and put this information before the court, rather than plead guilty if it was, as you've
13 described, potentially exculpatory and could have kept you out of prison?

14 A I had the benefit or burden of codefendants going to trial and witnessing
15 what happened at trial in terms of what I perceived to be the suppression of information,
16 the exclusion under the rules, purportedly under the rules, of material information.

17 I witnessed, I believe, watched in real time the carving out of other culpable
18 parties from that process.

19 So my decision to plead guilty, one, was consistent with the order of the Second
20 Circuit, which was to have a remand and be presented a joint plea offer that I was
21 originally.

22 And, secondarily, I thought it was futile at that point because I had already seen
23 what the court was going allow in, in terms of the political overtones and other
24 participants.

25 [Discussion off the record.]

1 Mr. Galanis. So, just to add to the clarity, you asked me about my having
2 pleaded guilty. And implicit and explicit in that, pleading guilty, was acceptance of
3 responsibility, which I have accepted and have spent 8 years reflecting on.

4 The -- but what I'm commenting on about other parties is that they were
5 peculiarly not indicted. So I found that -- I don't think I would have -- well, I'll leave it at
6 that.

7 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

8 Q I'm looking, if I could refer back to your petition, exhibit 1, at your response
9 No. 7 and the second paragraph, first sentence, "Detailed below, Judge Ronnie Abrams
10 went to extraordinary and inappropriate lengths to protect the Biden interests."

11 Do you see that sentence?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And does it remain your view that Judge Abrams went to extraordinary
14 lengths to protect the Biden interests? That's a yes or no.

15 A Well, I'll answer it how I believe it needs to be answered.

16 But I believe that my answer to that is it's -- yes and that Judge Sullivan at the
17 Second Circuit had his -- expressed some views about how she conducted that trial, as
18 well.

19 Q And so look further down the page. There is an indentation. The
20 paragraph starts "Abuse of Discretion Ruling. Judge Abrams was not impartial."

21 Do you see that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. Did you make a motion or an application for Judge Abrams to recuse
24 herself from your trial?

25 A I didn't have a trial.

1 Q I'm sorry. To recuse herself from presiding over your criminal case.

2 A I don't know what the lawyer filed. I don't think so, but I was relieved
3 when my cases were remanded by the Second Circuit, in part, because Judge Abrams had
4 not provided me counsel for Wakpamni, that as an accommodation the cases were
5 consolidated under Judge Castel.

6 Q Okay. So you're not certain, as you sit here, whether you made any
7 application -- you're not certain, as you sit here, whether you made any application for
8 Judge Abrams to recuse herself.

9 A I don't know if I testified to that. So what I said is, in my 2020 resentencing,
10 I was not before Judge Abrams.

11 Q Right.

12 A So it didn't require me making a motion that that was something that was
13 handled between the courts.

14 But, prior to -- prior to that, I had made motions to be appointed counsel before
15 Judge Abrams in 2017. I was denied. My codefendants were appointed counsel at
16 Cahill Gordon, a global white shoe law firm. I was not. Ultimately, that was what
17 resulted in Sixth Amendment violation that was found by the Second Circuit.

18 So I don't think that my experience before the court, before the Abrams court was
19 favorable. And I think that the Second Circuit saw that in the same way that I'm
20 describing it.

21 Q I don't think the reading of the Second Circuit's opinion that you're referring
22 to would bear that out, but we can put that aside for the moment.

23 A I'm dealing with the Second Circuit opinion relative to my ineffective
24 assistance of counsel that was precipitated by --

25 Q I understand, sir.

1 But, just back to my point about your petition, if I'm reading it correctly, a pillar of
2 your argument is that Judge Abrams was fundamentally unfair. She was biased against
3 you, in your words, not impartial. That being the case, if in your view this was a
4 fundamental part of your defense and something that was potentially exculpatory, could
5 have kept you out of prison, why would you not have pursued a recusal motion at the
6 time?

7 A A codefendant did, and that 455 motion was denied by Judge Abrams,
8 notwithstanding the fact that she had recused herself from other cases with political
9 overtones. So there was no point in my having done the same thing.

10 With the resources that would have had to have been approved by the courts,
11 because it was a court-appointed attorney, I would have not gotten approval to pursue
12 those nor would that attorney have filed that for me because that attorney was relying on
13 their paycheck from the very court that they were criticizing.

14 Q And who was -- I'm sorry.

15 A Absolutely a double bind could not pursue that.

16 Q And who is the codefendant who filed the recusal motion?

17 A John Galanis.

18 Q And John Galanis is --

19 A My father.

20 Q -- your father.

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And Judge Abrams denied his motion, as you said.

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And the Second Circuit affirmed that denial. Is that not right?

25 A I don't think there was a Second Circuit motion.

1 Q I'll represent to you that the Second Circuit did affirm that denial.

2 A If you say so. I haven't seen that.

3 Q John Galanis is your father, correct?

4 A I just answered that, yes.

5 Q And your father has his own history of violations of the securities laws and
6 commission of intentional fraud.

7 A Yes.

8 Q Is that correct?

9 A Very well-known, very well-known to all of my associates, as well.

10 Q Okay. To the point that your brother, Derek Galanis --

11 A Yes.

12 Q -- authored add book entitled, "Greed and Fear: The Galanis Crime
13 Family." Is that right?

14 A Did he author it? Yes, he did --

15 Q Yes.

16 A -- is my understanding.

17 Q And I'm getting the title correct.

18 A I have no idea.

19 Q Okay. I'll note for the record that the Amazon description of this book
20 notes that, at the time your father was sentenced in the mid-1980s, it was reportedly the
21 longest white collar sentence any defendant had ever received. Is that right?

22 A Are you asking me if it's right that's on Amazon? Amazon says that?

23 Q No, sir. Just the characterization of the sentence that your father received,
24 is it accurate to your understanding?

25 A I don't know.

1 Q Okay. Sir, you filed your petition for commutation in early December of
2 2020. Is that right?

3 A Yes, December 8th, I believe it says on the commutation.

4 Q And that was at a time when Donald Trump was still in office.

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. And did DOJ act on your petition?

7 A No.

8 Q So, to be clear, then, the Trump DOJ did not act on your petition, even
9 though you were claiming to have damaging, indeed, potentially incriminating
10 information about the Biden family. Is that right?

11 A That's right.

12 Q And this was at a time when Donald Trump was attempting to remain in the
13 White House by contesting the legitimacy of the 2020 Presidential election, right?

14 A I was incarcerated in the BOP. So I'm aware of all of this by way of the
15 news that we get in the -- limited news we get in the BOP. So --

16 Q My chronology is --

17 A Yes.

18 Q To your understanding, my chronology is correct.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. Mr. Galanis, if I could, I'd like to refer back to a document that my
21 majority colleagues showed you in the previous round. That's exhibit 3, which I believe
22 you described as a draft email forwarded by Devon Archer to yourself.

23 A I don't have exhibit numbers on it, but I think this is the email you're talking
24 about.

25 Q Mr. Galanis, where did you obtain this email?

1 A I don't understand what you mean.

2 Q What -- did -- did you provide this email to --

3 Mr. Paoletta. I provided the email, yeah.

4 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. And where did the email come from?

5 Mr. Paoletta. I was able to -- he's been incarcerated. I've been able to interact
6 with individuals who have access to Mr. Galanis' email, and they were provided to me.

7 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. And who are those individuals?

8 Mr. Paoletta. Family members.

9 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. And from what source was this email taken?

10 Mr. Paoletta. I believe it's from his -- from Mr. Galanis' laptop or email account.

11 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. A laptop that has not been in Mr. Galanis' possession since
12 he's been incarcerated.

13 Mr. Paoletta. Correct.

14 Mr. [REDACTED]. Is that correct?

15 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

16 Q Just turning back to exhibit 3, Mr. Galanis, I believe you were asked about
17 Michael Leonard, whose name appears in the email that you described as a draft.

18 And, if I understood correctly, you said that you don't know him?

19 A I do not.

20 Q Okay. So do you have any understanding as to why Michael Leonard would
21 be drafting an email for Hunter Biden?

22 A I'd be speculating. I don't know him.

23 Q Okay. You have no firsthand knowledge as to what role --

24 A I think Devon --

25 Q -- Michael Leonard played, if any?

1 A -- Devon said -- I don't know why Michael Leonard would have been director.

2 I know what Devon said.

3 Devon said in his email to me that this is an example of the lean-in on Henry from

4 Hunter Biden. And this email is drafted for him, Hunter, to send to Henry.

5 So this was in the interest, I'm supposing, of saving time.

1

2 [12:00 p.m.]

3 BY [REDACTED]:

4 Q Okay, but given that you don't know Michael, you don't have any firsthand
5 knowledge surrounding the creation of this email?

6 A No, just the content, as much as I already testified.

7 Q And just what you say Devon told you?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Which is secondhand hearsay information?

10 A You're portraying it that way. Okay.

11 Q And I'll also note that this draft email from Mr. Leonard does not anywhere
12 identify Joe Biden, right?

13 A That's right. It alludes to a family member of mine, and my testimony was
14 that that certain relation of mine, as mentioned a couple of times, and the specific golf
15 event is an indication of Joe Biden. And, in fact, there are pictures. You know, Devon
16 sent me a picture of Devon golfing with Joe Biden and Hunter Biden, and that's what this
17 comment references.

18 So I saw visual evidence of what this email is talking about.

19 Q But the email itself makes no reference to Joe Biden at all, correct?

20 A It says certain relation of mine. That's correct.

21 This will be exhibit 6.

22 [Galanis Exhibit No. 6

23 was marked for identification.]

24 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

25 Q So just starting at the bottom of this email thread, this is an email, for the

1 record, that we obtained through the documents that your counsel provided to our
2 majority colleagues, which were, in turn, provided to us.

3 The email at the bottom of the thread appears to be an email from Hunter Biden
4 to Michael Lin. And if I'm reading it correctly, the text in the body of this email is
5 identical to the draft that we were discussing in exhibit 3, with the notable exception that
6 it does not contain the paragraph referring to a board seat for a certain relation of mine.

7 Do you read that email the same way?

8 A Yes. I mean, the email speaks for itself. It says what it says. The only
9 observation I would offer is that Devon, when he emailed -- sent this email to me, didn't
10 dispute the content of the unredacted email.

11 Q Okay.

12 A But I acknowledge that the paragraph was redacted from the final that was
13 sent with the caveat that a first party witness to it, Devon, who was there golfing, didn't
14 suggest that that paragraph was inaccurate.

15 Q But if the email in exhibit 6 that I just referred to you is what it purports to
16 be, an email that Hunter Biden actually did send to Michael Lin, and it omits the
17 paragraph in exhibit 3, is it not a fair inference that Hunter Biden did not want to make
18 any reference to a board seat for a relation of his?

19 A I think both your question and my answer would be speculating as to what
20 Hunter Biden intended by cutting that out.

21 Q But you would agree that, ultimately, to the extent that this is, in fact, an
22 email that Hunter Biden sent, it does not contain any suggestion with respect to a board
23 seat for any relation of his?

24 A In reading the email, that's correct.

25 Q There was an issue that came up during the prior round that I just wanted to

1 clarify. There was significant discussion of a Henry Zhao. And when Congressman
2 Biggs was questioning you, there were a couple of references to a Chairman Zhao I just
3 want to make sure the record is clear in distinguishing between those two individuals.

4 Do you understand them to be two different people?

5 A I think I testified that I wasn't exactly sure of what his title was, that he was
6 referred to as chairman, and in China that's typically the person that's got the most
7 control.

8 Q Right.

9 A So I believe they're the same person, if that's what you're asking.

10 Q Do you have firsthand knowledge that they are, in fact, the same person?

11 A Firsthand knowledge? Have I met Henry Zhao? No, I have not.

12 Mr. Paoletta. The person you're referring to is Henry Zhao?

13 Mr. Galanis. Yes.

14 Mr. Paoletta. Whatever his title is. I think he was chairman of the Harvest
15 Global Investments during this time. He's been chairman of Harvest Management
16 Group.

17 So I think he was -- so it is the same person, Henry Zhao. He called him
18 chairman, at least in Jason's view. Whether that was of the investment group or of the
19 management, I guess this is after, you know, '15 when he becomes chairman of the
20 management group.

21 Mr. Galanis. There is one Henry in all our discussions amongst the partners, and
22 there was one ultimate decision-maker, which was that same Henry, if that helps.

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

24 Q Okay. Thank you.

25 There was also reference in the prior round to Yelena Baturina and her interaction

1 with Devon Archer and others. I want to show you -- bear with me for one moment.

2 So Mr. Galanis, what I've just handed you is a copy of excerpts from the
3 transcribed interview of Devon Archer before the committee last July. And if I could
4 point you to page 58, and starting on line 16, there is a discussion of a \$3 million payment
5 from Ms. Baturina. It ultimately went to Rosemont Seneca Bohai.

6 And if you continue reading through the eighth and ninth lines of page 59,
7 Mr. Archer explains that the 3.5 million was a Rosemont Realty component of a 118
8 million, 120 million investment.

9 Do you see that?

10 A I do. On line 8 and 9 --

11 Q Yes.

12 A -- page 59? Yes.

13 Q And then skipping ahead to page 61, the first three lines on that page,
14 Mr. Archer responds and responds to additional questioning, "Yeah, and I would -- the
15 scope -- Yelena Baturina, just to get -- is a total Rosemont Realty -- she's a Rosemont
16 Realty -- so whether it was, like, an accounting that was owed or not.

17 Do you see that?

18 A I do.

19 Q Okay.

20 And then on the same page, lines 12 through 15, Mr. Archer notes, "Hunter met
21 Yelena once, at that same Lake Como meeting. But there was no -- he was not involved.
22 I think we put him on the advisory board for a minute. And he was really -- Rosemont
23 Realty was completely out of his, kind of, portfolio.

24 Do you see that?

25 A Yes.

1 Q So it appears that Mr. Archer made clear that his interactions with
2 Ms. Baturina were tied to Rosemont Realty, and then, in turn, that Hunter was not
3 involved with Rosemont Realty. Do you have a different understanding?

4 A I think he also testified that Hunter had some tangential interest and was
5 paid some fees from Rosemont Realty.

6 I also remember his RSP Investments due diligence documents that he provided
7 us, which were his internal accounts, had payments from Rosemont Realty to Hunter.

8 So I would say materially accurate to say that he was not a core partner of
9 Rosemont Realty. That's an accurate statement. It would be inaccurate to say he was
10 completely detached.

11 Having said that, this portrayal -- this is a narrow portrayal that she was involved
12 in Rosemont Realty. That's materially accurate, but it's not complete in the sense that
13 she was then sought as a confirmed investor in Burnham entities, was solicited for other
14 money and other Burnham-related projects, and was expected to roll over her proceeds
15 once the Rosemont Realty firm was sold to the Chinese and she got her money back with
16 a claimed 20 percent rate of return that she was going to roll those profits over.

17 She also promised me directly an investment out of the 50 to the \$90 million that
18 she was going to transfer to one of the bank accounts that she had promised that she was
19 going to invest a portion of that in our joint businesses.

20 So when I'm responding to your question of whether or not this is material, this is
21 accurate, I think that's what you asked me.

22 Q Yes.

23 A It's accurate but utterly incomplete in terms of the scope of the relationship
24 with Yelena and the cross investments.

25 Q But, again, no reason to believe that Mr. Archer was being untruthful here?

1 A I don't have a basis for impugning his testimony.

2 I made this statement that -- about Lake Como. That may or may not be true.

3 But it says it's the only time that Hunter met her. That is absolutely not true.

4 May 4th they met in Brooklyn with her husband and had the conversations I
5 already testified, but Archer describes in what you just had me read the only meeting
6 being a meeting at a lake resort in Italy, and that's not accurate.

7 I believe they -- it was relayed -- I was first party to the New York meeting. I
8 believe that there were meetings in D.C., or a meeting in D.C. as well. So I don't know
9 that -- and now, going back over this, you ask me if the statement is completely accurate.
10 The statement about meeting Yelena once is not an accurate statement.

11 Q So you're disputing Mr. Archer's testimony?

12 A I'm disputing that line of his testimony.

13 Q So you believe that Mr. Archer was being untruthful?

14 A I'm not in a position to say that. I was not there. I don't know what the
15 scope of this interview was.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]: And with that, we'll go off the record.

17 [Recess.]

18 Mr. [REDACTED]: We can go back on the record.

19 [Galanis Exhibit No. 7

20 was marked for identification.]

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q Mr. Galanis, I want to start off just by briefly going over what was just
23 handed to you as a marked exhibit 7. This is the -- an excerpt of the transcribed
24 interview the Oversight Committee conducted with Devon Archer on July 31st, 2023. To
25 be clear, this is not a full transcript, correct?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q It starts on page 2 and then it goes to page 57 and --

3 A These appear to be selected pages of a larger document.

4 Q These are cherry-picked pages from the document, right?

5 A They seem to be selective.

6 Q It doesn't say anywhere -- it doesn't have any of the context of the larger
7 interview, correct?

8 A It does not.

9 Q It doesn't say that Devon Archer actually told the committee that Hunter
10 Biden and Joe Biden had actually met with Ms. Baturina at Cafe Milano in Washington,
11 D.C.? I don't think that's included in here.

12 A It is not in what was provided a moment ago.

13 Q So Mr. Archer actually testified that there were multiple occasions in which
14 Hunter Biden had met Ms. Baturina. Isn't that correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q There was I think he testified to the Lake Como meeting and the meeting at
17 Cafe Milano in Georgetown. Are you aware of any other meetings in which Ms. Baturina
18 was present and Hunter Biden was present?

19 A The May 4th meeting that I testified to already. Other than that, there was
20 none that I participated in.

21 Q So maybe we can talk about that May 4th meeting. It's my understanding
22 that this was a party of some sort. Is that correct?

23 A Yes. It was a celebration for a one-year-old, and it was explained to me
24 that in Russian culture that's a date to be celebrated. So it was an adult party for a
25 one-year-old daughter. Not a kid's party. The one-year-old was there. The

1 one-year-old was the guest of honor, so to speak.

2 [Galanis Exhibit No. 8
3 was marked for identification.]

4 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

5 Q We will introduce exhibit 8.

6 You know, actually, before we do that, I want to go back to exhibit 7. This
7 document actually doesn't reflect the limited scope that we were prevented by Devon
8 Archer's attorney from diving into many interactions with Ms. Baturina, does it?

9 A No, it does not. I had mentioned that I thought it was limited by scope, and
10 that's what I think was -- were the terms of that.

11 Q Now I want to look at exhibit 8. This is an email --

12 Mr. Paoletta. And just, for the record, I think when her name came up, Devon
13 Archer's lawyer specifically objected to having anymore discussions about Yelena
14 Baturina.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]. That's correct. Thank you.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q This is an email from Hunter Biden's laptop. It is from Katie Dodge, whom I
18 believe was Hunter Biden's assistant. It's to Hunter Biden with Eric Schwerin copied.
19 It's dated May 2nd, 2014.

20 Do you see the entry marked Sunday, May 4?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And at 4:00 P.M., can you read for the record what that says?

23 A It says, "Sunday, May 4." First line, "Travel to New York." Second line,
24 "4:00 P.M., birthday party at Romanoff Restaurant, 2670 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn,
25 New York," and a zip code. And it looks like --

1 Q That's good.

2 A "Remain overnight." Okay. I didn't know what that meant. And then
3 "drive back to D.C."

4 Q So this is the party that you were describing. Is that correct?

5 A Yes, it is.

6 Q Had you ever been to Romanoff Restaurant before?

7 A Not prior to that, no.

8 Q Okay.

9 And I know that you talked about this in your opening statement, but I just want
10 to talk about what happened during that meeting. Can you kind of walk us through just
11 how you ended up there, who was present, and the events of that day?

12 A Sure. A slightly open-ended question, so let me give you context.

13 Q Sure.

14 A The reason for me being there at all was that I was already interacting with
15 Yelena, and I think it was a couple of months before, nearabout, that she had provided
16 me all of her confidential financial information, her passport information, her sources of
17 income, and those sorts of personal things that she entrusted to me to go open her one
18 or more U.S. financial institution bank accounts, into which she was going to transfer
19 money and from which I testified that we expected some amount of that money to be
20 invested in our businesses. So I had an interaction with her.

21 And so the basis of being there and with her in that respect and talking to her at
22 all there was that I already had a preliminary relationship with her.

23 Then secondarily, I was invited because I'm in business with these people. So I
24 think the host of the party invited me and sent me an invitation, an electronic invitation.

25 Q That was Alexander Karvlarski?

1 A Yes.

2 Q How did you know him?

3 A I was introduced to him by Devon.

4 Q Had you recently met him?

5 A I mean, if by recently, within a couple of years before then, yes.

6 Q Okay.

7 A It was not a longstanding relationship.

8 Q What did you understand Mr. Karvlarski's relationship with Ms. Baturina to
9 be?

10 A Well, he speaks Russian. I don't know if I -- they seemed very close. I
11 mean, I remember instances where they left my apartment and went shopping together
12 for hours. They dined together. I went and met them at a Greek restaurant in
13 Midtown Manhattan on another occasion, and they were having drinks together, so I
14 spent an hour and a half with them.

15 So there was some element of personal relationship. Alex was living full-time -- I
16 think he was Ukrainian, grew up in Moscow. I don't know if they knew each other there,
17 but he was living full-time in New York. So he was able to be a host for her in New York.

18 Q You alluded to this, but what was the work that you were doing for
19 Ms. Baturina that precipitated this get-together?

20 A Well, I described the bank account. So what I characterize the work as,
21 getting her access. My role was helping to get her access to the U.S. financial system.

22 Her access prior to -- in prior periods, she invested money in a private equity fund.
23 At that time, private equity funds were not required to report suspicious activity and
24 money laundering.

25 As of 3 days ago, the Treasury Department now requires all private equity firms to

1 report suspicious activity of money laundering and politically expose people. So that's a
2 new policy of this administration. But it was not a policy back then.

3 So she had access only by way of a workaround, and I was charged with trying to
4 get her direct access.

5 Q What about her husband, Mr. Luzhkov?

6 A So in my efforts to get her bank accounts, there were at least six banks that I
7 tried, two of which we had immediate direct working relationships with and others I had
8 relationships with at a senior level, at a CEO level, as an HSBC affiliate and was
9 unsuccessful. Barclays unsuccessful, Julius Baer unsuccessful, UBS unsuccessful. Banc
10 of California ultimately was rejected on antimoney laundering grounds.

11 But turning to your question about her husband -- sorry. Was there something
12 specific about her -- about him?

13 Q Just if you had done any work for him specifically or if it was mostly
14 Ms. Baturina.

15 A It was focused on her. I had only met him one time. It was that May 4th,
16 and hadn't done anything for him.

17 Q And what was your understanding of why Ms. Baturina wanted access to the
18 U.S. market?

19 A The conversations were what we would call in my former life in finance,
20 flight capital. And what flight capital means is high net worth, international people,
21 moving capital from high risk jurisdictions where there is a risk of government
22 confiscation of wealth, especially politically exposed people, to get it to what they
23 deemed to be safe jurisdiction.

24 And the U.S. is deemed as a place that is less likely to confiscate your wealth, and I
25 think that changed for them for the Russians, in particular, after the invasion of Crimea.

1 I think it was limiting her exposure and risk management were the discussions we had.

2 Q And prior to --

3 A I testified earlier the sort of scope and scale of what we had talked about
4 initially was transferring between 50 and 90 million into the initial account. I expected it
5 to be more later. I didn't have expectations of more investment but did have sort of a
6 success fee expectation from that money.

7 Q And forgive me, you might have explained this, but what was going to be
8 done with that? And how were people going to be paid based on the success of that
9 endeavor?

10 A Sure. So two opportunities to earn with high net worth. You get paid a
11 fee for service or you have them coinvest in your business, and you make money with
12 them in building a larger business with the expectation of selling that business
13 for -- appreciated business for money later.

14 And the same way that she sold her Inteco business for \$1.4 billion to other
15 Russians. She built it from ostensibly nothing, some government contracts that she'd
16 gotten from her husband, and sold that business for over a billion dollars.

17 Our ambition in earning money with her was to have her invest with us, use that
18 money to build a bigger Burnham, and ultimately to have that long-term Burnham
19 franchise, possibly to sell it, possibly to take it public.

20 The analogies we used internally, some of which have sort of worn out in the 8
21 years since, 9 years since would have been Guggenheim as an example, Arias Capital as
22 an example, Arias Management, Apollo as an example.

23 Each of those businesses has increased their assets from 8 years ago to today by a
24 factor of, in rough terms, 5 to 10 times. And each of those businesses, at least two of
25 them that are public, are worth -- I don't know their market cap today. They're probably

1 north of \$100 billion.

2 That was the ambition, to build a business from 17 billion into something that
3 could be 100, 200, \$300 billion asset management firm. And the fuel for that were
4 relationships, access to relationships, and capital.

5 Q What did Hunter Biden have to gain from that kind of investment?

6 A A billion dollars.

7 Q How?

8 A He owned equity in the business.

9 Q In Burnham?

10 A Burnham.

11 Q And maybe it would be helpful -- do you recognize this document, sir?

12 A Yes.

13 [Galanis Exhibit No. 9

14 was marked for identification.]

15 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

16 Q What is this document?

17 A This is a presentation about Burnham, prepared over the course of a number
18 of months with an outside consulting firm called Teneo, and this presentation was
19 specifically addressed to Harvest Group to update Harvest on the progress that Burnham
20 was making in building its business.

21 Q And what year was this?

22 A This document was 2015.

23 Q And there's an earlier one, correct, a 2014 presentation?

24 A There are iterations of this, yes.

25 Q Okay. Do they speak of roughly the same thing? We can introduce the

1 other one if --

2 A No, the subject is the same. Burnham and the business transactions
3 undertaken by Burnham and its partners.

4 Mr. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], did we mark this?

5 Mr. [REDACTED]: This is exhibit 9.

6 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

7 Q Go to page 4.

8 A They are not numbered so -- leadership team? Okay, yeah.

9 Q So this lists three individuals, Devon Archer, Hunter Biden, and Jason
10 Sugarman as the executive management team. What were these individuals
11 responsible for doing? What was Hunter Biden, specifically, responsible for doing, as
12 presented or as presented in this slide deck?

13 A Well, specific to the slide deck, he's characterized as leadership, so a position
14 of authority. He's further characterized in his bio that he included in here as vice
15 chairman of Burnham. In his bio, it's disclosed that Burnham acquired his Washington
16 advisory firm.

17 So this describes his role at the top at a board level and the combination of his
18 business with Burnham.

19 Q So this reflects what we were just talking about, how if Ms. Baturina made
20 Burnham wealthy, Hunter Biden would profit as well?

21 A Yes.

22 Mr. [REDACTED]: Sorry to interrupt. We can't hear you very well down here.

23 Mr. [REDACTED]: I'll speak up.

24 Mr. Galanis. The expectation of profit I delineated between earning fees and
25 earning equity appreciation, to earn equity appreciation you have to own equity. So

1 equity is an evolving power struggle into who owns what and who contributed what
2 value, and that is an endless debate in Wall Street.

3 Relative value, who contributed what, what was that actually worth in economic
4 terms, there was a perpetual debate between the partners of who brought what and
5 what was it worth.

6 So Hunter would advocate that he was bringing something valuable. His right
7 hand, Eric, had advocated that they brought something valuable as well, and they thought
8 they should be paid for that, both in equity and money at various points along this
9 continuum.

10 But this continuum started, in terms of equity grants, in April of 2014 or
11 nearabouts, which was a delivery of some millions of dollars of shares represented on a
12 scale of \$4 million at the time, and a trading price, I believe, 3.6, \$4 million of shares of a
13 company called Wealth Assurance Holdings, which was a public company in Bermuda.

14 And that public company owned the Wealth Assurance subsidiary, which was a
15 \$1.4 billion insurer, life insurer. As this describes, it became a 6 or \$5.4 billion insurer
16 after a subsequent acquisition.

17 Those shares were delivered to Devon for Devon and Hunter. The same sort of
18 arrangement that he had, that he testified to, as a handshake with RSB and RH -- excuse
19 me, the Chinese joint venture. But I delivered those shares initially to Morgan Stanley,
20 and they got rerouted to Deutsche Bank. I think they were not depositable.

21 So that's how it started. There was other equity along the way, equity earn-in.
22 Example, when we were faced with problems getting Burnham change of control
23 approved, I entered into a transaction with Devon Archer to buy me out of Burnham. I
24 think there are some emails in and around that, but he bought my 40 percent stake.

25 I gave him the money to buy me out. So it was a sham transaction to mislead

1 the public board of directors at the Burnham asset management level. So it was
2 another example where Devon and Archer got more shares as a result of I call it a
3 structured transaction, kindly call it a structured transaction, but a contrived transaction.

4 And then -- yeah, Burnham was not prepared to approve the change of control of
5 the mutual fund businesses to an entity that I had an interest in. My interest in the cap
6 table that was circulated was 40 percent.

7 So we entered into I guess a sham transaction, which was to make it -- Devon
8 asked if I would be willing to do it. I conceded or said I'd be happy to, or something to
9 that effect. Concede is the wrong word. He didn't have to talk me into it. I willingly
10 agreed to enter into that, lent him the \$600,000. He's never paid me that back.

11 But they got more shares, more control. This is part of the arm wrestle control
12 amongst the partners, as I would expect almost any business has some dynamic of that.
13 Sometimes healthy, sometimes not.

14 But the continuum of that was Devon, for example, negotiating -- he proposed in
15 an email that Hunter's broker dealer and Burnham be valued at \$20 million for purposes
16 of what their relative contribution was to this Harvest recapitalized venture was.

17 So in other words, they were trying to inflate the value of their entity so they
18 would get still more shares. And that was, again, sort of not frowned upon. It's just
19 sort of the dynamic of a Wall Street transaction of trying to accomplish the best financial
20 result.

21 Q The committee has identified payments from -- or a payment from
22 Ms. Baturina to the Rosemont Seneca Bohai account in February of 2014. Do you have
23 any knowledge about what that could have been?

24 Mr. [REDACTED]: Just to clarify that question, the money goes -- it's \$3.5 million,
25 and the money goes from Baturina to Rosemont Seneca Thornton, in which Rosemont

1 Seneca Partners was a beneficial entity of Rosemont Seneca Thornton. And then
2 \$2 million of that money from Rosemont Seneca Thornton gets sent over to the entity
3 you've been discussing earlier today, Rosemont Seneca Bohai.

4 Mr. Galanis. So I will answer that I don't but with a little more context than sort
5 of commenting on my last response, which was there was an arm wrestle all the time for
6 sort of influence, power, percentages, cash. I didn't know about that. That would be
7 standard operating procedure for them to try to silo different activities to advantage
8 themselves. So I didn't see that transaction.

9 At the time, there was a -- I think we called it an ask, an open ask of Yelena to
10 invest in our businesses. So now, having reviewed some of this in hindsight, I'm not
11 happy that there was money that went behind my back when we were actively seeking
12 investment capital for our business. They did that on the side, undisclosed to me.

13 At the very same time, we were still seeking money from Yelena, the same
14 targeted investor, for our joint business. So looking at it now, I don't like it, but it was
15 sort of par for the course and sort of the conduct amongst the Wall Street firm.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q Around that same time, there were -- this has been alluded to earlier.
18 There was a meeting at Cafe Milano with Ms. Baturina. Do you know anything about
19 that meeting?

20 A I don't know, no. I don't know, no.

21 Q And then also around this time, you were attempting to open up accounts
22 for Ms. Baturina to move her money out of Russia. Is that correct.

23 A That's correct.

24 Q So now in May of 2014, May 4th, you have this get-together via invitation of
25 Mr. Karvlarski, and Ms. Baturina, Mr. Luzhkov, Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, and yourself

1 are there. Is that correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Can you describe what -- you were sitting in a club. Is that what -- Rasmuse
4 or?

5 A Ostensibly, a restaurant but it's more -- it's at least -- it's a banquet hall.
6 We'll go with banquet hall. Yeah, it's at least as much a club as it is a restaurant but
7 somewhere in between, event hall.

8 Q Okay. And what was -- I think you said that you heard that Hunter and
9 Yelena were speaking generally about business?

10 A Yeah, I mean, it was at the table. I was there. But to be clear, to give sort
11 of a little context to the setting, it was a party, and it was an over-the-top Russian party,
12 which was catered. The catering in this instance were four-foot towers of food on every
13 table and pretty elaborate, meant to impress, elaborate.

14 But the tables were set up in such a way that we weren't able to sit like this across
15 the table. We had mountains of lobster and other food in between.

16 So Hunter and Yelena were sitting here. I was sitting here. So naturally, one
17 had to have their back to me. So that's the context of this sort of celebration.

18 Q This is a birthday party for --

19 A A one-year-old.

20 Q A one-year-old.

21 Were there other one-year-olds there?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. So this is mostly just a small gathering of people? How many
24 people?

25 A I wouldn't characterize it as small. I mean, I don't know much about these

1 events. I'd sort of say a hundred people maybe.

2 Q So kind of --

3 A A hundred and fifty people, on that scale.

4 Q So this is like -- this would be a loud setting?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Yeah. Especially and it ramped up over time later. There was a DJ, and it
8 got loud. And there was entertainment later, which was also interesting, colorful, but
9 that was later.

10 Q But your understanding at this point in the day's event is that there was
11 general conversation happening between Hunter and Yelena about --

12 A Yes.

13 Q At what point did Hunter make a phone call to Joe Biden?

14 A The call couldn't happen where we were sitting. We moved to a table
15 three tables away that wasn't immediately next to the dance floor. They weren't
16 dancing, but it wasn't immediately next to a dance floor, a little more privacy.

17 That didn't seem to work for Hunter. Too many people still around. And Yuri
18 was being bothered by guests constantly wanting selfies with him, which he seemed to
19 love. So he was hamming that up. So we needed to get away from the rest of the
20 guests.

21 So there was an entry hallway, I guess, breezeway. I don't know what you would
22 characterize it says. And so it was suggested I think by Hunter to walk into that hallway.
23 So we did. And the we was me, Devon, Hunter, Yuri and Yelena.

24 Q And Hunter called his father at that point?

25 A Hunter proceeded to make a phone call, and, yes, his father was on the

1 other end of the line. He initially just called and then put it on speaker.

2 Q What was said during that call?

3 A If you don't mind, do you want me to refer to it?

4 Q Sure.

5 A So the way the call happened, it was, I'm here with my friends -- with our
6 friends that I told you were coming to town, and we wanted to say hello.

7 So I testified -- well, in my opening statement -- about there being some
8 pleasantries and hellos and safe travels, that when the call sort of -- it was a short call, so I
9 don't know if I would say it was a couple minutes, a minute and a half. He said, okay,
10 you be good to my boy. And Hunter responded by saying, everything is good and we're
11 moving ahead. And the Vice President said something about being helpful.

12 Q Did you understand or did you have any kind of inkling about what Hunter
13 Biden meant by we're moving ahead?

14 A As I testified, I know what I was doing with her. I'm not sure -- I would be
15 speculating to know all the things that -- as I testified, they all -- they, Hunter and Devon,
16 were trying to do things on the side I've now since years later learned. This \$3.5 million
17 payment I wasn't aware of.

18 So there were things that we were doing together and things that they
19 were -- other things they were trying to do on the side. So I don't know what else they
20 would have proposed.

21 I know what flowed through Burnham because I was first party to all of the
22 Burnham activities and negotiations over money.

23 Q This is a few months before it was brought to your attention that Joe Biden
24 would -- had expressed interest in sitting on the board of Harvest, correct?

25 A Can you repeat the question?

1 Q This was months before Joe Biden had communicated to Devon Archer on a
2 golf course?

3 A Oh, yes. Sorry, yes. That was summer. This was May 4th.

4 Q And my Democratic colleagues raised the email that we discussed in draft
5 form with you in the last hour. Was there any kind of phone call regarding the board
6 position involving Hunter Biden and his father?

7 A Between whom?

8 Q Was there a phone call between Hunter Biden and his father regarding
9 moving forward with Henry Zhao?

10 A Yes. So, yes, the Peninsula call. So yes.

11 Q And that call was not on speaker phone?

12 A No, it was not.

13 Q But it's your understanding that he was talking -- Hunter Biden was talking to
14 his father about that?

15 A Yes. I mean, I have the context of the before and after. I mean,
16 particularly the after because it was an inbound call. So the after we talked about what
17 the plan was.

18 I mean, specifically what we were -- what I overheard was looking for help to get it
19 over the finish line, and the it was the Harvest investment into Burnham. What we -- to
20 contextualize that, what was going on around that time also, we had been soliciting
21 Harvest, including providing them this half a million dollar document and updating
22 Harvest. The addressee is Harvest in this document. Soliciting them for money but
23 hadn't yet finished getting that investment or persuaded the action to be taken. So we
24 needed a bigger push.

25 Q You brought up in your opening statement an effort to create under

1 Burnham an entity with Burisma. Is that correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Particularly, the owner of Burisma, Mykola Zlochevsky. Is that correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What was that entity called?

6 A Burnham Energy Security Partners, or something to that effect.

7 Q And what did you understand that to be?

8 A It was an opportunity to have Mykola, Zlochevsky, MZ, fund the Burnham
9 entity, to provide \$120 million for an energy-specific investment vehicle in which the
10 Burnham partners would have a 25 percent interest, basically at no cost.

11 Mykola would put up all the money. We, Burnham, would put up the investment
12 banking expertise and the political connects and influence in foreign countries where we
13 were seeking oil and gas leases.

14 Same model as Mykola had in Ukraine in terms of using his government
15 relationships. This was to use government relationships, for example, in Mexico, with
16 Vuk Jeremic, who was on the board of PEMEX and in other jurisdictions like in Kazakhstan
17 where Devon had some relationships with the government there.

18 Q And who is Vuk Jeremic?

19 A He was the Serbian foreign minister and the president of one of the UN
20 sessions. He's a politician from Serbia.

21 Q And what was your understanding of Hunter Biden and Devon Archer's
22 connection to Mr. Jeremic?

23 A Well, they were supporting his bid for general secretary. I went to a
24 fundraiser with them. There was an offer made and accepted for Jeremic to join the
25 board of Burnham for \$120,000 a year. And there is an email to that effect, sort of

1 directing one of the employees to put Jeremic on the payroll.

2 And Jeremic had provided his diplomatic passport to us, so we had the
3 documentation to support that board role, and he was supposed to assist us with
4 Burnham Energy Partners in Mexico because he was the only non-Mexican on the
5 state-owned oil company called PEMEX.

6 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

7 Q You talked about a fundraiser for Jeremic. Where was that at?

8 A Tavern on the Green.

9 Q Say that again.

10 A Tavern on the Green in Manhattan, in Central Park.

11 Q In New York?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And who else did the fundraiser?

14 A I don't remember. I tagged along. I'm not sure.

15 Q Was Hunter Biden there?

16 A No.

17 Q Was Devon Archer there?

18 A Yes.

19 [Galanis Exhibit No. 10

20 was marked for identification.]

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q I'll mark this as exhibit 10.

23 Do you recognize this email?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So this is an email chain. The most recent email in the chain is dated

1 August 25th, 2015, at 5:55. It's from Devon Archer to yourself, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And it looks like Devon Archer is responding to an email in which you,
4 yourself, are responding to a particular question. The question being what -- several
5 questions. The questions are: What mechanism shall be foreseen for protection of
6 the lead investor? Why the lead investor will be 75 percent shareholder of BSSF? Is
7 that a requirement? Who is the founder in BAM UK and in BSSF?

8 Did I read that right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Can you read your response to this?

11 A Immediately below that?

12 Q Immediately below, yes.

13 A The whole thing?

14 Q Because you're quoting an earlier email. Is that correct?

15 A Yes. It looks like I copied and pasted, or what have you, yeah.

16 In its entirety -- you would like me to read it in its entirety now?

17 Q Please.

18 A Okay. "Compound unrelated question above, but okay. 75 percent is
19 probably a bit of a misnomer, perhaps. It's really 25 percent carried interest of BES U.K.
20 in the fund. As to protection, same as funds all around the world, but enhanced as
21 required by their client. No reinventing, just copying the smartest money in the world
22 and delivering the same rights they receive in funds. At the end of the day, the other
23 nonlegal protection is the relationship cover of DA and HB."

24 "I'd brush back, too, by saying we want and expect to coinvest on a pari passu
25 basis, so protections for all. Also should say to them that what protections does DA

1 have operating in the Ukraine and Eastern Ukraine. Come on. The real risk is Ukraine,
2 not a fund. And the qualitative risk is reputation risk of being there at all, and you've
3 proven yourself."

4 "My advice is to remind that we all have risk. Don't let them wax on about risk.
5 Their risk is nominal, as they are in-country actors, and the gas ain't going outside the
6 Ukraine by Star Trek teleporter. Moreover, their risk is mitigated by the royalty arb, so
7 they can't carry on about risk in isolation. It's a whole picture of risk assessment."

8 Q What is the status at this point in August 25th, 2015, of the Burnham energy
9 deal? Has it been created?

10 A I think the lawyers were instructed to document a term sheet after we
11 answered some questions about who was funding it and where Hunter would sit in this.
12 And then a term sheet was created amongst the parties between the lawyers.

13 Beyond that, I'm not sure what happened. I was out of the picture by end of
14 September. So it wouldn't have concluded by then.

15 Q So the sentence, "At the end of the day, the other nonlegal protection is the
16 relationship cover of DA and HB," that's Devon Archer and Hunter Biden?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What does that mean?

19 A That's the protection in Ukraine.

20 Q What is the protection in Ukraine?

21 A The founder had legal problems, as described to me. I've never been to
22 Ukraine, so I've never met with those people there. But had significant legal problems,
23 allegations of fraud, corruption, oil and gas leases having been granted to a former
24 minister that was in a position to influence those grants.

25 Q This is Mykola Zlochevsky?

1 A Correct. That's the person who is the subject of these discussions or
2 negotiations for the \$120 million investment. So the same person.

3 So this was a way to go from \$83,000 a month to \$120 million in one move with a
4 25 percent upside participation without having to put any money up. So this was a
5 financial structure to accomplish much better economics for the founding partners.

6 Q So through this entity, I think you just said, it is Hunter Biden, Devon Archer
7 would move from receiving a salary of a million dollars a year?

8 A Essentially, a board fee, but yes.

9 Q A board fee?

10 A An accessibility fee.

11 Q To holding equity in an entity with Zlochevsky. Is that correct?

12 A Yes. And an entity that was funded with \$120 million of his money and was
13 pursuing something called a production in sharing agreement, which was an agreement
14 to take over a project I believe from Shell in the Eastern Ukraine.

15 So it was understood to be -- I'm not an oil and gas person. It was understood to
16 be a very large oil and gas concession that this \$120 million would help develop. In
17 addition, the venture would go -- this venture would be responsible for leading all
18 Burisma international expansions beyond Ukraine.

19 Q Did Devon Archer or Hunter Biden ever explain to you why they were in
20 Ukraine to begin with?

21 A No. I think the discussion was we're opportunistic investors, and it seemed
22 to be an opportunity. I think our collective view, expressed view, not implicit but
23 explicit was foreign markets were more wild west, more open season, that we each had a
24 motivation for that, pursuing that.

25 My own was I had headline risk, so I had to play a reduced role in America.

1 Outside of America, with all of these people, whether it was Yelena or otherwise, I could
2 be more forward leaning, in the front. So that was my motivation.

3 The other partners' motivation was they had more influence. Devon and Hunter,
4 and Hunter in particular, had influence to currency to spend, relationship capital.

5 We each had something to gain by doing these international investments, one of
6 which was Ukraine.

7 I think what I was trying to convey also was my background is well-known. My
8 father's background is well-known. I've been in national financial media for most of my
9 career. I wouldn't portray any of it as particularly favorable. So all known. So
10 international transactions, including in Ukraine, made me look comparatively great.

11 And there was an explicit set of conversations in the vein of don't say it, but
12 occasionally Devon would say it, which was, for example, Devon said to a royal family
13 member in a Middle East country in writing that part of what he's bringing to the table, to
14 this prince was his series of contacts, one of which was VPOTUS, and that Ukraine was in
15 VPOTUS' portfolio.

16 And in this email, that was an example of Devon trying to show other influential
17 people in a royal family that he had direct access to the Vice President, and the Vice
18 President had domain over certain aspects of -- among Ukraine, in particular, since we're
19 on that topic.

1

2 [1:11 p.m.]

3

BY MR. [REDACTED]

4

Q The reference to DA and HB, "At the end of the day, the other nonlegal

5

protection is the relationship cover of DA and HB," what did that relate to?

6

A Political cover --

7

Q Okay.

8

A -- in Ukraine, both defensive and offensive.

9

Defensive was to try to resolve or deflect continuing legal problems for Mykola.

10

Offensive would be to try to make sure the production-sharing agreement would get

11

approved by the various ministries that needed to have it approved, which is embedded

12

in this production-sharing agreement that was the attachment to this email. It required

13

government approvals.

14

So the cover was another tool brought to bear in the development of this equity

15

value.

16

Q Was it your understanding that Zlochevsky placed Hunter Biden on his board

17

for protection?

18

A Yes.

19

Q And was that related to you by Hunter Biden or Devon Archer?

20

A By Devon in that manner.

21

Q Uh-huh.

22

A Hunter Biden was a little more circumspect about it but Devon for sure.

23

Q Did Hunter Biden ever --

24

A Let me be more specific in that regard. Mykola, I talked to his, one of his

25

right hands. If the UK money was ultimately to be released, we were supposed to get \$5

1 million of that as an investment, not as a grant or a fee but as an investment. That went
2 nowhere. We didn't get that.

3 But that's the kind of very specific conversation they had about the political help
4 that would have resulted in financial gain.

5 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

6 Q Who is we in that situation? If -- I'm sorry. Let me rephrase that?

7 A The Burnham partners which I would characterize as myself, Devon, Hunter
8 Biden, and Jason Sugarman to a degree.

9 Q So if the funds that were frozen in the UK were unfrozen, it was
10 contemplated that Burnham would receive a portion of those funds.

11 A \$5 million.

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

13 Q But that never occurred.

14 A No.

15 Q The funds were unfrozen.

16 A They were, and he welshed on it.

17 Q Okay. Who welshed on it?

18 A My understanding, what I think Alex described to me as Mykola was still
19 fighting battles --

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A -- and wasn't comfortable investing in the U.S.

22 Q Okay.

23 A I think he had a travel ban. So there was already a problem with the U.S.
24 anyway. A UK-friendly country was my recollection, and it was just not where he was
25 going keep his money, his flight capital safe.

1 Q Okay. Did you ever have any communications with Hunter Biden about his
2 role on Burisma?

3 A I mean, we certainly had encrypted texts, Signal texts. Did we talk about, I
4 mean, the subject? Yes, but I can't identify specifics.

5 Q He wasn't put on the board for his expertise in international energy markets,
6 right?

7 A I mean, he didn't have any. He was a lawyer.

8 Q Right.

9 A He's not a Ukrainian lawyer. I mean, I know that the media line was
10 corporate governance. And as a lawyer, I suppose makes sense but it's sort of -- sorry.
11 I'm wandering off your question. But, no, he didn't have any energy experience.

12 Q The only value that he's providing is that he's the son of the Vice President,
13 correct?

14 A Yes. I think that's reflected. Burnham wasn't providing -- Burnham
15 Energy Partners as a startup affiliate of Burnham had zero energy expertise. The only
16 thing we brought to this party was the political relationship of Biden and then how that
17 manifested itself, either Mexico or Kazakhstan, for example, for starting off.

18 Q Now was it a perceived political influence, or was it actual?

19 A I don't know how to answer that question. I mean, it's -- it was real in the
20 sense it caused people to do things that they otherwise wouldn't have done. So it's real.
21 I don't know how to answer that.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Yeah, I mean, real-world example, Harvest, I mean, that was happening
24 because of it. So I was first party to it and was first party to this discussion about the
25 board, the directorship or advisory directorship. So I saw it in action. First party, saw

1 it in action.

2 In terms of more globally how it was utilized in other markets, I wasn't first party
3 to a lot of those transactions. So I can't say.

4 I mean, I'll just remind. Inbound emails like Jonathan Li, a very influential person
5 in China, asking for political muscle, overtly asking for political muscle to Hunter Biden
6 and Devon.

7 So it was an expectation of third parties and very apparently an expectation of
8 third parties. They said it. But my firsthand and experience then was really only
9 related to the Harvest. I suppose the Elena but I wouldn't -- didn't result in what I
10 wanted to get out of Elena.

11 [Discussion off the record.]

12 Mr. Galanis. The -- it wasn't an overt act, I guess, but we were at a Valor Group
13 which was a second insurance company that we acquired. It's listed in this. It's about
14 a 5-billion-dollar insurance company. It was domiciled in Lichtenstein which is a country
15 right next to Switzerland, a small country, Monaco-sized country. Known for taking
16 offshore deposits from all over the world.

17 We proudly on one of these pages took over an office building, branded it Valor
18 on the building to impress clients. We had a ribbon cutting at this. And at that ribbon
19 cutting the -- was it the Prime Minister of Lichtenstein showed up. It's on the patio.

20 And amongst the conversations was a greeting -- he stayed for an hour -- but
21 conversation with he, Devon, and myself. Hunter was not there. But there were
22 conversations about Hunter and about whether Devon could set up a call with Vice
23 President Biden and at least a hello with the Prime Minister, and Devon said that he
24 would do that.

25 So it was another sort of overt thing of what was, you know, sort of delivered to

1 the partnership.

2 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

3 Q One of the things that was said during the Devon Archer transcribed
4 interview was that at the Lake Cuomo meeting was not only Elena Baturina but also
5 Mykola Zlochevsky and Vadym Pozharsky, both from Burisma.

6 Do you know of any connection between or relationship between Burisma
7 executives and Ms. Baturina?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay.

10 A The only nexus I would think of would be Hunter Biden. I can't
11 think -- there's no business dealings between them that I was aware of or ever heard of or
12 it was ever proposed.

13 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

14 Q You said earlier that Alex Kularski was good friends -- I don't want to
15 characterize but Alex Kularski went shopping and went eating with Elena Baturina, right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Are you aware of Alex Kularski's involvement with Hunter Biden and Devon
18 Archer sitting on Burisma board?

19 A Are you asking me if Alex sat on the board or --

20 Q Or are you just aware of Alex Kularski's involvement?

21 A Alex was a finder. And a finder, what that meant in our business, was
22 entitled to a finder's fee. So he was entitled to some percentage of the income that was
23 generated from these relationships that he perceived he introduced or cultivated or
24 realized into an actual payment.

25 So, yes, I think he had something called Tri Global or something like that, I think.

1 But he was -- he had expectations of money from that relationship.

2 Q So is it possible that Alex Kularski was the connection between Burisma and
3 Elena Baturina?

4 A Yes, could be. I'm speculating but it could be he was -- he spoke the
5 language on both sides. Mykola didn't speak any English. So it was easy for -- an easy
6 thing for Alex to ask as an intermediary. His English is very good, yeah.

7 Q I want to --

8 A I think -- this was -- sort of elaborate a little bit more to on sort of the Elena
9 relationship with Alex. I had said that she was at my apartment in New York, and they
10 left to go shopping on one trip. She was there a couple of times.

11 One time related to her construction business. And she wanted to supply
12 construction services, some technology to Jason Sugarman's father-in-law business which
13 was building a sports stadium, professional sports team.

14 She also was there to buy my apartment. She made an offer. That was highly
15 favorable to me because a lot of that happened after I was already initially arrested,
16 Gerova, out on bail. She agreed to pay \$13 million for my apartment. That would have
17 netted a meaningful amount of money to me. It would have been an inflow to me at
18 that moment, spending millions of dollars of outflow and trying to stem the tide.

19 So it was -- the relationship with -- we tried to finish that deal. But I think at the
20 end of the day with her, the apartment didn't -- we didn't close the deal with her, I
21 suppose. I don't know where else I'm going with the -- with the interactions with her.

22 But I think it was a relatively -- I wouldn't say a close relationship. With a Russian
23 is not -- that would be a mischaracterization but I had meaningful financial discussions
24 with her. I never heard anything come up about her and Burisma.

25 Q I just want to go back. You talked about a meeting at an Ambassador's

1 place in China or U.S. Ambassador. Do you remember talking about that earlier?

2 A I do.

3 Q Could you describe that meeting? Who was there? Where was it?

4 A I wasn't there.

5 Q Okay.

6 A My -- so back up. A dear friend of mine, who's recently passed, has been
7 friends with Max Baucus, ex-Senator Max Baucus who became U.S. Ambassador to China.
8 The Ambassador was solicited to set up a meeting at the Embassy for BHR.

9 And the point of the meeting was to show -- this was what was said between
10 everybody. I was helpful in setting that meeting up. Bevan Cooney was a meeting in
11 that. He was from Montana where Max Baucus was from and had a longer relationship
12 with the intermediary, the lawyer who set the meeting up.

13 Ambassador Baucus agreed to the meeting based on the relationships. I
14 remember there was an email saying that it's very highly unusual to host a financial
15 company at the U.S. Embassy but back cas was doing it for them on the basis was
16 relationship.

17 So the point was to project power and political influence to the Chinese.

18 Q Do you know who all was in attendance? Did you ever hear who
19 information attendance?

20 A I got my information through Devon. So I -- no, I don't know. I don't
21 know. There was a circulation list, I think, but I don't remember. I didn't attend.

22 Q And BHR, this is the company where Hunter Biden sat on the Chinese board,
23 BHR. This is the same BHR, right?

24 A Yes, it's the same company that he sat on the board and that owned an
25 equity interest in, as well.

1 Ms. [REDACTED]: Okay. I'm out of time.

2 We can go off the record.

3 [Recess.]

4 Mr. [REDACTED]: On the record.

5 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

6 Q Mr. Galanis, I have a few additional questions for you about the documents
7 that you've been shown today.

8 My majority colleagues and ourselves have shown you several, and I'll make the
9 observation that there's no reference in any of them to Joe Biden. Would you agree?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And, likewise, none of the documents that you've been shown today, the
12 several documents, reflect Joe Biden taking any official action.

13 Would you also agree with that?

14 A Business action, not official action, if that's what you mean, yes,
15 distinguished, yes.

16 Q Just going back to your guilty plea which we spoke about earlier, you
17 mentioned, if I recall correctly, that at the time -- at the time you pled guilty, you made an
18 allocution before the court. Is that correct?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And the claims that you've made today in your opening statement
21 and throughout your testimony with respect to conversations involving Joe Biden and
22 alleged influence peddling were not contained in your allocution. Is that correct?

23 A I'm getting out my allocution, summary of it. So I'm looking at the
24 commutation request that was filed in 2020, and, obviously, I wrote it. So this is what
25 I -- this is what I allocuted to.

1 "From March 2014 to April 2016, in Manhattan, and elsewhere, I agreed with
2 others to committee securities fraud. Specifically, I agreed with others to withhold
3 material information related to conflicts of interest in connection with the purchase and
4 sale of securities. And from March 2014 to 2016, to agree with others to engage in
5 deceptive, manipulative business transactions in connection with an investment advisor."

6 That's what I allocuted to. It's no reference other than the conflicts of interest
7 that are inherent in what the partners were doing.

8 Q Okay. But to your knowledge, your allocution did not include any detail
9 that you gave to the court with respect to the allegations you're making today, specifically
10 the conversations with Joe Biden that you've described, as well as the alleged influence
11 peddling you've described throughout your testimony today.

12 A I am not a criminal lawyer. But having been through the criminal system
13 now for 8 years, that's not a place that you would, to my understanding, that you would
14 provide testimony in an allocution.

15 I don't think the rules of criminal procedure, if that's what applies, would allow to
16 you provide testimony in front of a judge, when you're pleading guilty. That is a
17 sacrosanct hearing for a specific purpose of knowing and voluntarily pleading guilty,
18 which I did.

19 And it's not an opportunity for any other testimony, good or bad for others or
20 good or bad for me. It's a narrow hearing with specific rules in our justice system.

21 Q Well, I appreciate that's your understanding.

22 So just to make sure the record is clear, at the time you allocuted before the
23 court, you did not make the representations that we have been discussing today, correct?

24 A Again, I'll be absolutely clear. I was not allowed to do such a thing as -- in
25 that hearing.

1 But what I would say further to testimony earlier, when you did ask me about this,
2 why I would not have brought this up, and I think you characterized it would have been
3 exculpatory for me. You said that. I didn't say that.

4 I don't think anything here is exculpatory for me. I think I pleaded guilty because
5 I'm guilty. I took responsibility because that was the right thing to do.

6 I think that to make a very firm point to you that testifying about all of this
7 information, one, I did try to do with SDNY. But it had nothing to do with exculpatory
8 for me. I wasn't trying to get any benefit. It was inculpatory to Hunter and to Devon,
9 and that is something that I did try to do through legal channels, both with the SEC and
10 the SDNY, and was rebuffed.

11 And I didn't offer any -- you suggested a conspiracy theory. I didn't suggest that.
12 I just said that those are statements of fact as to what actually happened. I stand by
13 that testimony.

14 Q So the only document that we've seen today in which those representations
15 are contained, apart from your opening statement, is your 2020 petition for
16 commutation.

17 A Of the seven to ten exhibits, I think that's the only document of those seven
18 to ten exhibits, yes.

19 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

20 Q Just a few more questions.

21 Are you currently seeking a reduction in your sentence?

22 A No.

23 Q Have you discussed the possibility of a reduction in your sentence with
24 anyone at all connected to Congress prior to today's transcribed interview?

25 A No, and they have no legal mechanism to do any such thing.

1 Q Have you considered whether you're going to seek a pardon at any point in
2 time in the future?

3 A Certainly the opposite of that position with the administration that's in
4 charge.

5 Q If there's a different administration, would you consider it?

6 A I've got 24 months left, and I'll be able to get on with my life. So --

7 Q So --

8 A I don't know what's to come, at least speculate what's to come.

9 Q If Donald Trump were elected President, would you consider it?

10 A That's an election that hasn't happened yet.

11 [Discussion off the record.]

12 Right. I mean, for clarification, reduction in sentence as distinguished from
13 home confinement. I am seeking home confinement. That's what my 24-month
14 release date would be. And any advances on that, also I'm seeking that but not a
15 reduction in my sentence.

16 Q Fair.

17 A There's no mechanism, no legal mechanism for that that I'm pursuing right
18 now.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q Mr. Galanis, have you discussed with anyone the concept of appearing at
21 today's interview affecting the prospects of your receiving a home sentence?

22 A Extensively. And extensively to the extent that it might hamper and harm
23 my ability to -- the track that I'm on with 8 years' worth of good behavior is a good track.
24 I've learned a lot, moved on with my life, and this just brings back a lot of issues in a
25 potentially very perilous way for me. So I've discussed it in the negative, not necessarily

1 in the positive.

2 Q Have you discussed with anyone the possibility of receiving favorable
3 treatment with respect to your sentence or your confinement from a Trump
4 administration if Donald Trump is reelected?

5 A No.

6 Q Is it your hope that that will happen if there is a second Trump
7 administration?

8 A I mean, there's always hope in wanting to go home. I think I told you my
9 track right now is to continue my good behavior and be released to home confinement.

10 Q Have you discussed with anyone the possibility of seeking a pardon at any
11 future point in time?

12 A No.

13 Q Is it your intention to seek a pardon at any point in time?

14 Mr. Paoletta. Yeah, I don't know why this is relevant to the testimony. He's
15 here to talk about what he knows, about the -- your inquiry into the President's actions
16 with his son or questions about that. That's what he's -- that's what he's here to talk
17 about.

18 Mr. [REDACTED]: Well, I --

19 Mr. Paoletta. It's all things you're looking at, right?

20 Mr. [REDACTED]: So I think it's relevant in the political context of which this
21 transcribed interview arises, as well as the fact that the minority staff has not had the
22 benefit of any communication with yourself regarding preparations for the scope of
23 today's transcribed interview. So that's why --

24 Mr. Paoletta. I think you reached out to me -- right. I think you reached out to
25 me twice in early January, I think, December and maybe January?

1 Mr. [REDACTED]. Twice.

2 Mr. Paoletta. Twice. I think the last communication would probably be January
3 2nd or 3rd?

4 Mr. [REDACTED]. And both communication --

5 Mr. Paoletta. Today's what? February 23rd?

6 Mr. [REDACTED]. Both communications went unanswered.

7 Mr. Paoletta. Yes, I was just getting retained. But I don't think you had any
8 other outreach to me to communicate. Is that correct?

9 Mr. [REDACTED]. Those were the two attempts that we made.

10 Mr. Paoletta. Okay. So the last time was in the first week of January. Okay.
11 Before this had been scheduled.

12 Mr. [REDACTED]. After --

13 Mr. Paoletta. When this interview had been scheduled.

14 Mr. Paoletta. Well, after the transcribed interview request had been sent out by
15 the majority staff.

16 Mr. Galanis, how were you introduced to your attorney representing you here
17 today?

18 Mr. Pellegrini. Again, that's not relevant to this discussion. Don't answer that.

19 Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Galanis, is your counsel today being paid for representing you?

20 Mr. Paoletta. Has that been asked at any other question -- any other deposition
21 or interview? I don't think it's relevant. Again, why is that relevant to what he's
22 talking about today?

23 Mr. [REDACTED]. Are you instructing the witness not to answer my question?

24 Mr. Paoletta. It's not relevant. I think it's not relevant to this discussion.

25 Mr. [REDACTED]. So you are instructing him not to answer my question.

1 Mr. Paoletta. Yeah.

2 Mr. [REDACTED]: Okay.

3 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

4 Q I have one quick follow-up question.

5 You stated in the previous hour something to the effect that Devon Archer had
6 previously sent an email to a Saudi royal family member, where he touted his connections
7 to Joe Biden. To confirm, that email you described has not been made part of the
8 record here today.

9 A I don't know.

10 Q It has not --

11 A Oh, you mean as an exhibit?

12 Q As an exhibit --

13 A It has not --

14 Q -- it has not been presented to you. It has not been --

15 A It has not been presented to me during --

16 Q -- passed around this table.

17 A -- the course of this interview, no.

18 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

19 Q We have not seen that email is my question.

20 A I don't know.

21 Q So you described it, but we have not seen a physical email matching the
22 description that you gave.

23 A Okay.

24 Q Is that correct?

25 A I can't speak to what you've seen or not seen. So I want to be precise.

1 You're a lawyer.

2 Q Yes.

3 A I want to be precise with a lawyer.

4 Q And I appreciate that. It has not been introduced as an exhibit at today's
5 transcribed interview.

6 A I have not -- no, neither side has presented that to me. That's correct.

7 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you.

8 [Recess.]

9 Mr. [REDACTED]. We'll go on the record.

10 BY [REDACTED]:

11 Q Mr. Galanis, I want to go back to exhibit 1 which is your petition for
12 computation. And you make reference in this document -- I think, in the course of
13 today, you've made reference to the use of the Rosemont Seneca Bohai entity with
14 regard to the Wakpamni-Burnham matter.

15 What is your understanding of what that entity was?

16 A The -- it was a partnership between Devon Archer and Hunter Biden. It was
17 specifically initiated to hold a 20 percent interest in the general partner of BHR funds.

18 My understanding was the 30 percent discussed, that's 10 percent Thornton, 20
19 percent Hunter and Devon. That 20 percent was split 50-50 and that RSB was used as a
20 common entity, owned 50-50 on a handshake deal between Devon and Hunter, splitting
21 those shares.

22 Then it was also used to conduct other business. I mean, I am aware that Devon
23 did testify he used it as a business investment vehicle, which is to my firsthand knowledge
24 was accurate. It's where the \$15 million from Wakpamni was wired. It was where it
25 was directed to be wired. It was not my decision to wire it there. It was the proposal

1 from Devon and Hunter.

2 So it was an active business entity beyond just owning the Chinese. I am aware
3 of now that other monies came through there, including the Burisma money. I don't
4 think I knew that at the time, but I do know though that now, and that RSB was to be an
5 active investor and was an active investor then in subsequent transactions within the plan
6 that was disclosed and described to Harvest in the document.

7 I don't know what exhibit number this was that we introduced earlier -- was
8 introduced earlier.

9 Q This is the Burnham slide dec.

10 A Burnham slide dec prepared by Teneo for Burnham.

11 But RSB was used to capitalize Burnham Securities, Bonwick Securities with what's
12 described as net capital. Regulatory capital is the discussion we had earlier. And that
13 came by way of a delivery by RSB of bonds, securities, to these two regulated securities
14 entities.

15 In addition, some 9 months after the initial \$15 million of money went into this
16 account, RSB was used to acquire a Bermuda insurance company. And that's also
17 described in this disclosure document presentation.

18 So it was not a one and done. It wasn't a special purpose vehicle that only
19 owned the RS -- the shares in the Chinese entity, BHR shares. It wasn't a single entity to
20 use for Wakpamni. It was an all-encompassing vehicle, 50-50 vehicle between Hunter
21 and Devon, and we transacted business through it.

22 Q You say in this response which, again, technically page 7, third paragraph
23 from the bottom, "There were various conflicts of interest including that Burnham was an
24 affiliate of a manager, yet acted as a, quote, independent -- as the, quote,
25 independent" --

1 A Yes.

2 Q -- "investment banker and, further, that the Burnham Group did receive
3 bond proceeds (funneled/launched back through Rosemont Seneca Bohai)."

4 A Yes.

5 Q How were you aware of that?

6 A I was a participant in it.

7 Q Do you believe that because of Hunter Biden's connection to Rosemont
8 Seneca Bohai, he was implicated in the Wakpamni-Burnham case?

9 A I didn't understand the question. I'm sorry.

10 Q Was Rosemont Seneca Bohai implicated in the Wakpamni-Burnham case?
11 Was it involved in the matter?

12 A It was in discovery and was -- no, I don't think -- well, yes, the
13 account -- the -- I don't know exactly how to answer that as a nonlawyer. Was it
14 implicated as a participant? It was -- I don't know. I wasn't at trial. I pleaded and
15 began to serve my sentence.

16 It was my understanding from other codefendants is that any testimony of any
17 nature that would lead to a political figure or family of a political figure was strictly barred
18 by the presiding judge.

19 Q Who told you that?

20 A My father's a codefendant. I've actually read some transcripts also. So I
21 would have seen it with my own eyes, as well.

22 Q Who is Hares Youssef?

23 A He's a Syrian national that grew up in Ukraine. He's a minister in the
24 Ukrainian Yanukovich government. He's now a Paris-based investor, and he is a dear
25 friend and confidant of an fellow -- well, Ukrainian named Dmytro Firtash.

1 Q And who is Dmytro Firtash?

2 A He's a Ukrainian oligarch who I understand made most of his money from
3 Gazprom Russian oil trades into Ukraine and is under house arrest on \$150 million bail,
4 facing extradition from the United States DOJ.

5 Q Are you aware of any financial interactions between Hares Youssef --

6 Mr. [REDACTED]. Gentlemen, I'm sorry to interrupt. It's hard to hear you down
7 here.

8 Mr. [REDACTED]. Sorry. Sorry.

9 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

10 Q Any financial interactions between Hares Youssef and Hunter Biden or any of
11 his entities affiliated with him?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Can you describe those?

14 A So as described by Hares to me directly and Devon, Dmytro wired \$5 million
15 or \$5.5 million -- I don't recall exactly the amount -- as a success fee for Hunter to
16 influence or attempt to quash the indictment Dmytro was facing in I believe Indiana.

17 Q Do you know what he was -- what the nature of the indictment was against
18 Dmytro Firtash?

19 A Foreign corrupt practices act and sort of underlying crime of bribery related
20 to a mining transaction in India.

21 Q So 5.5 or \$5.5 million was transferred to Hunter Biden by Mr. Youssef?

22 A Let me be absolutely precise.

23 Q Please.

24 A It was delivered to Hunter Biden's law firm where he was of counsel, Boies
25 Schiller, and for purposes of paying Hunter Biden to advocate for resolving these legal

1 issues that he had had hanging over his head.

2 Q Do you know if Hunter Biden was able to do what was -- what was expected
3 for him to do for that five to \$5.5 million?

4 A Hares told me that he was very unhappy with the performance, that he did
5 not deliver what he promised to deliver.

6 Mr. Paoletta. How many times did he tell you this?

7 Mr. Galani. At least three times. Hares would have told me that on at least
8 three occasions, bellyaching about it.

9 Just to be clear also, I also -- well, I did transfer to Hares \$5 million of securities
10 and cash. So I had a working relationship with him is why I say that on some basis of, I
11 suppose, trust, exchanging millions of dollars with him.

12 So I had a different relationship than a passing relationship with him in that sense.
13 And we would confide in one another, both about the Hunter sort of fiasco with Dmytro,
14 which was embarrassing to Hares, and my ongoing legal travails, some of which resulted
15 in some arm wrestling on who was going to get what after I was weakened, the initial
16 indictment.

17 So there was a intimate set of business conversations with Hares that I engaged in
18 including the subject you're asking about.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q Do you know what the -- what happened to the 5 or the \$5.5 million, if that
21 was ever subsequently transferred?

22 A I know -- I don't know the whole five. I know \$3 million of it was
23 transferred to a company that I had set up with some partners including Devon, but it was
24 a company called Mbloom which was a venture capital firm. Almost \$300,000 of that
25 got kicked back to RSB which was Rosemont Seneca Bohai.

1 Hares had some objectives that I don't know if he got Dmytro's permission or not
2 but to invest this \$3 million into a technology venture.

3 Q Just to be clear, money was originally paid to Boies Schiller. And then it
4 was subsequently transferred from Boies Schiller. \$3 million of that was transferred to
5 Mbloom?

6 A That's correct.

7 Mr. [REDACTED]. And then \$300,000 of that worked into Rosemont Seneca Bohai,
8 the same Rosemont Seneca Bohai that Devon Archer and Hunter Biden were 50-50
9 owners in.

10 Mr. Galanis. That's correct.

11 [Discussion off the record.]

12 Mr. Galanis. Right. Just to make sure that my testimony is -- I need to qualify it
13 a little bit. I didn't initiate a wire from Boies Schiller. I don't know what account it may
14 have bounced through. I know where it ended up. I know what the parties
15 were -- what their intent -- what their intentions were. But I can't say, you know, point
16 to point who wired to who.

17 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

18 Q You know where it ended up because being Mbloom, is that --

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And I know what Hares was doing. He had a -- he had a technology
22 transaction he wanted built out and Mbloom was in a position to be able to offer those
23 technology services. So he agreed to invest.

24 Q And just so I'm clear, Mbloom was an entity that was your entity.

25 A I was a partner in -- I was a founder.

1 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

2 Q Switching gears, I want to bring you back to -- I think you said this in your
3 opening statement, the words "material inducement." And it was in reference to
4 Chairman Zhao, Henry Zhao, and Harvest and the representations that were made to
5 Harvest Group.

6 A material inducement was the board position of Joe Biden after he left the Vice
7 Presidency, and there would be an investment from Harvest Group into Burnham. I
8 don't know that we ever talked about the amount of money that Harvest Group was
9 going to put into Burnham. So what was that dollar figure?

10 A We touched on it. It was \$18 million. We've then talked about a
11 12-million-dollar round. In other words, we were talking back and forth. It sort of
12 depended. If we could get a larger valuation, we would take more money at that more
13 favorable price. If the press was less favorable, we'd take less money.

14 The point was less the money and more the Chinese participation. The
15 exchange, the quid pro quo, if you would, was if they invest in us, our financial platform
16 gets bigger, more solidified. They get the benefit of Vice President Biden when he exits
17 office to sit on their board. Both parties get something in the exchange. Now that was
18 what intended.

19 The amount of money was helpful, but I think I recall even writing emails
20 that -- saying it wasn't as relevant as sort of the other exchanges.

21 I don't know if that was responsive to what you asked.

22 I think, though, it's relevant. Again, I think there was a intangible goods
23 comment that I testified to, but there was something's relevant that was in writing at the
24 time, going back, at the time meaning 2015, from an independent party, meaning, in
25 other words, not a partner, not anybody with an axe to grind, which was a senior

1 consultant at Teneo, named Ginter.

2 And Ginter had conveyed to a series of recipients, one of which was me, a
3 conversation he had with Hunter. Hunter had just left.

4 Mr. Paoletta. So, just for the record, right, this document was produced. It's
5 June 24th, 2015, from Ginter to Sebastian at Burnham. The subject is punch list
6 lines -- punch list items and there's a -- start there.

7 Mr. Galanis. So if I could, I'm going to read this paragraph. It sort of speaks to
8 the exchange.

9 "On the valuation slide, I know there's been some concern over the delayed
10 memo. During yesterday's meeting, Hunter -- during yesterday's meeting, Hunter Biden
11 underlined the value of being cautiously conservative in valuation, as Henry believes in
12 this first and foremost as an access vehicle with potential for future growth."

13 So that sort of underscores what the exchange was and the expectations were.
14 It was the money was relevant, but it wasn't hundreds of millions of dollars. Whether it
15 was \$12 million or \$18 million was less relevant. The access -- access vehicle and that
16 was a captured in real time by a third-party consultant and relayed to everybody, just to
17 underscore the point what his -- what Hunter Biden had conveyed to this consultant at
18 Teneo and at that time.

19 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

20 Q And there was a pitch that was made from Burnham, pitching Harvest, right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q When was that pitch made?

23 A I believe it -- well, there were -- there were a series of meetings. So there
24 was one in New York. I think that was a preliminary one before the Teneo document
25 sort of coalesced everything. And there were meetings in China.

1 I was not a party to them. I had -- I went off the grid, so to speak, September
2 24th of 2015. So I don't know what happened in those meetings, what pitches
3 happened around that time.

4 Q Were you at some of the earlier pitch meetings?

5 A Not pitch -- not with Harvest, no.

6 Q Not with Harvest. Do you know if Hunter Biden attended any of those
7 pitch meetings?

8 A I think he did, yeah. I think he was in the New York meeting, yeah.

9 Q New York meeting?

10 A Sugarman was there, and Andrew Godfrey was there. He was our CEO that
11 we hired. I was in California.

12 Yeah, there was an email that Hunter Biden confirmed that they had met in
13 New York.

14 Q "They" meaning who?

15 A Hunter, Henry, Sugarman, and Godfrey.

16 Q And Henry, this is Henry Zhao?

17 A It is.

18 Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Galanis, we're close to the end of our questions. But I do
19 want to return to briefly some of the things you mentioned towards the end of your
20 opening statement?

21 As Mr. Biggs stated, if the committee pursues an investigation of those events that
22 you described and your treatment at the Pensacola facility, it would be helpful to the
23 committees to know the name of the individual who harmed you.

24 Do you wish at this time to name that individual?

25 Mr. Paoletta. I actually think that what we'd prefer to do -- and I appreciate the

1 question and I appreciate the committee's interest and Mr. Biggs's interest in looking into
2 this.

3 But I think we'd prefer to provide the name of the correctional officer in an
4 investigative setting so it's not on a transcript that's going to get released to the world.
5 The committee can go and interview people or ask for information with respect to this
6 individual.

7 But I think I'd rather have us, you know, us provide that information outside of
8 this.

9 Mr. [REDACTED]: So is this a correctional officer --

10 Mr. Paoletta. Yes.

11 Mr. [REDACTED]: -- or a former correctional officer?

12 Mr. Paoletta. No, he is still --

13 Mr. [REDACTED]: Currently employed?

14 Mr. Galanis. He has had multiple complaints against him including from staff.
15 He's been moved to different facilities, and he is still on the payroll.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]: Okay.

17 Mr. Galanis. Okay.

18 Mr. [REDACTED]: Why?

19 Mr. Paoletta. And are you aware of any --

20 Mr. Galanis. It's -- I'm heartened by the interest that Congress and Biggs
21 showed. I'm thankful that the committee staff is prepared to at least consider looking
22 into it.

23 It is -- the position that we're put in, in being the ward of the Federal Government,
24 is very vulnerable and we're powerless to do anything.

25 So if I had any outcome that helps restore some power to victims of this, this is a

1 way to do it. This is -- it's a great byproduct of this process, and I really appreciate the
2 interest.

3 Why they haven't gotten rid of him is endemic to the whole problem of why only
4 recently they even started prosecuting these out-and-out rapists. So I can't answer
5 except for a broken culture and that hopefully Director Peters will fix maybe with some
6 encouragement with from Congress.

7 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay.

8 Mr. Paoletta. And I think, again, maybe just the conduct and the attacks, right,
9 that their answer was to take you out of Pensacola immediately.

10 Mr. Galanis. I was thankful to Warden Saulsberry for removing me, although it
11 was a whirlwind shock to be ripped out of where you live, lose all your positions, and
12 literally stuffed in a car and taken somewhere else.

13 As I thought about it on a 3-hour, 3-1/2 hour ride up here, I was thankful that she
14 took it seriously enough to take action, immediate action, not sluff it off or try to put it
15 under the carpet.

16 As an inmate, you witness things being sluffed under the carpet. You witness
17 victims not being believed. I was in a position where I told her. She asked me why I
18 didn't tell the prior warden. I said I didn't think he would believe me. He was a he.
19 Warden Saulsberry is a she.

20 I thought she would -- I just couldn't take it anymore. And I also thought, as I
21 told her, that I thought she would take it more seriously, and she did. So and I hope
22 they'll do something about it.

23 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. Thank you.

24 Mr. Galanis. It's still a problem that needs to be rooted out.

25 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you. Go off the record.

1 [Recess.]

2 Mr. [REDACTED]: Back on the record.

3 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

4 Q We can go back on the record, and we just have one brief question.

5 We want to refer you to exhibits 3 and 6. Three is the draft email, and six is the
6 actual email that was transmitted regarding the involvement of Joe Biden.

7 And you know, some of the witnesses and some of the people that we've spoken
8 to during this course of this investigation have indicated that there was a real protocol,
9 that when it came to Joe Biden, you just didn't mention it overtly.

10 And I wanted to ask you whether you had any experience in your communications
11 with Devon Archer or Hunter Biden where that type of protocol was related to you.

12 A I think internally we would speak openly. Externally, protocol, I guess
13 that's not the term we used but, you know, convention and sort of our practice. The
14 practice was a term we repeated, half jokingly but quite seriously, which was, "Say it,
15 forget it." "Write it, regret it."

16 And that was important, you e -- emails later, you live with them forever. So it
17 applied to hypersensitive things like the Vice President and to other financial
18 machinations, strategies, what have you.

19 So, yeah, that was a protocol. That was a way of doing business, in addition to
20 encrypted transactions, encrypted communications and what have you but --

21 Q Okay.

22 A -- yeah.

23 Q Thank you.

24 A The other thing I wanted to mention in terms of convention --

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A -- I mentioned headline risk relative to me. I mentioned why emails were
2 forwarded in real time but forwarded, as opposed to being part of a larger group. That
3 wasn't always the case but depending on the types of communications.

4 But I think this was practiced before I came on the scene, and what I wanted to
5 make sure was clear was it didn't start with me. Rosemont realty in a way was a fiction,
6 used to raise money from oligarchs.

7 And what I mean by that is Rosemont realty was formed by rebranding, renaming
8 a company created, owned by, and sold to Devon and Chris Heinz's group, the sort of the
9 Rosemont group, by a guy named Eddie Gilbert. And Eddie was a two-time Federal
10 felon, served time in Federal prison in the United States, fled to Brazil, extradited, all that
11 good stuff.

12 But the working group had already had a protocol how you deal with high-profile
13 issues, how do you whitewash it, how do you turn it into something else which included
14 my participation, my background. My father's background was well-known. He had
15 been litigated. The SEC was a known case and what have you.

16 So I guess my point is they had protocols in communications. They had protocols
17 in how to rebrand things and sort of clean them up and prop them up, including Gilbert's
18 company.

19 So not their first approach to the same strategies they'd employed with Burnham
20 in the way they configured me and the partnership.

21 Mr. Paoletta. One more thing. Jason, Mr. Galanis, made a reference to a email
22 that hadn't been provided. I will provide it to the committee.

23 But this is the email you were referencing, right.

24 Mr. Galanis. That's it, yes.

25 Mr. Paoletta. Why don't you read the relevant part? Give a little background

1 to the --

2 Mr. Galanis. Okay. This -- okay. So this is an email to a -- from Devon to a
3 Khaled bin Alwaleed described as his royal highness. I don't know where he sits in the
4 Middle East, whatever Middle East, in the royal family that he's in.

5 But it's a recap. "It's a pleasure to meet you." It goes on recap. "I think there
6 a reason we went today." Named a few. Talked about common college, a reference to
7 Yale, favorite vacation spot, pizza. Geography's mentioned.

8 "A. Ukraine, where I sit on the board of the largest independent gas producer,
9 and it sits within the VPOTUS, Biden's, portfolio."

10 I mean, that speaks for itself as to how Devon portrayed things. Normally, "Say
11 it, and regret it." You know, it would have applied. He obviously erred in putting this
12 in, but this was a conversation about the VP's portfolio that was had privately on a regular
13 basis.

14 This is just an example where that private conversation came out in the open.
15 He talked about Syria and where Vuk Jeremic sits on their board of directors at Burnham,
16 and there's also a former foreign minister.

17 "And the former foreign minister was 67th President of the United Nations
18 General Assembly. And Kazakhstan, where I sit on the board of a sovereign wealth fund,
19 a fellow Islamic country." And he says, "And, finally, Greece where my partner from Los
20 Angeles has the nickname The Greek." That's a reference to me.

21 So I guess my point is that is where a misstep of protocol where referencing the
22 portfolio.

23 Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

24 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you. We'll go off the record.

25 [Recess.]

1 Mr. [REDACTED]. Back on.

2 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

3 Q Mr. Galanis, just a few follow-up questions.

4 My majority colleague asked you just now with -- about a in his word protocol
5 with respect to the use of Joe Biden's name in communications, and you provided two
6 quotes. "Say it, and forget it." "Write it, don't repeat it."

7 A "Write it, regret it."

8 Q "Write it. Regret it." That's my poor penmanship.

9 Were those two quotes developed specifically with respect to references to Joe
10 Biden, or was that just a general precept?

11 A It applied to that. That was probably the most sensitive issue we had.
12 But as I testified a moment ago, there were other sensitive things that that applied to, as
13 well.

14 Q But that motto wasn't specifically developed for Joe Biden.

15 A I wouldn't say it was developed for Joe Biden.

16 Q Okay. And, again, with respect to a protocol, was there an explicit
17 understanding not to use Joe Biden's name in communications? Did anyone tell you not
18 to do that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And who did that?

21 A Hunter and Devon.

22 Q Okay. When?

23 A Regularly.

24 Q Regularly. Can you point to a specific instance in which that happened?

25 A No.

1 Q Okay. And then just quickly with respect to the email that we un -- what
2 you described as an email and you read from your attorney's computer monitor, that
3 email, as I heard it, relayed by you, does not describe Joe Biden taking any official action
4 on behalf anyone, correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Okay. And that email is written in Devon's words and no one else's,
7 correct?

8 A That's all I testified to. It's in relation to how the Vice President was used in
9 a business context and what the expectations were in a business context, not -- I didn't
10 speak to an official action.

11 Q And to your knowledge, Joe Biden had no awareness of that email.

12 A I don't have -- I'd be speculating. I don't have --

13 Q You don't have any knowledge.

14 A I don't have any reason to know one way or the another.

15 Mr. [REDACTED]: We're good. Thank you.

16 Gentleman, we're good.

17 Mr. [REDACTED]: Go off the record.

18 [Whereupon, at 2:37 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date

ERRATA SHEET

Witness Name	Jason Galanis
Date of Interview	February 23, 2024

PAGE	LINE	CORRECTION
8	14	No comma after “assets”
9	15	Add quotes around “relationship capital”
9	20	Add quotes around “Biden family office”
11	9	Strike comma after “Archer” & change “as” to “is”
11	9	After “Archer”, change “as” to “is”
14	14-15	Add quotes around “hard order” & “\$10-20 million”
15	23	Change “Yore” to “York”
35	8	Change “.” after “Qualify” to “,” Change “,” after “control” to “.” Capitalize “E” in “entered”
64	23	Change “council” to “counsel”
71	2	Change “hays” to “is”
81	22	Change “director” to “drafting”
94	7,16	(Staff Q) Change “Karvlaski” to “Kotlarsky”
95	15	Change “expose” to “exposed”
95	24	Change “as” to “at”
101	23	Add comma after “result of”
104	13	(Staff Q) Change “Karvlarski” to “Kotlarsky”
106	20	Change “says” to “as”
109	24	Change “connects” to “connections”
114	25	Change “in” to “and”
122	13,14,17 20	(Staff Q) change “Kularski” to “Kotlarsky”
123	4	(Staff Q) change “Kularski” to “Kotlarsky”
125	5	Change “back cas” to “Baucus”
125	5	Change “basis was relationship” to “basis of the relationship”
132	18	Change “Pellegrini” to “Paoletta”

133	3	Change “note” to “not”
142	12	Add “was” before “intended”
142	13	After “amount”, change “was” to “of”
150	14	Change “there was a reason we went today” to “there was a reason we met today”

Submitted by Mark Paoletta, Counsel to Mr. Jason Galanis
February 29, 2024