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INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROCESS
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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AFILIAS DOMAINS NO. 3 LTD.,)	
)	
Claimant,)	
)	
vs.)	ICDR Case No.
)	01-18-0004-
INTERNET CORPORATION FOR)	2702
ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

VOLUME III
ARBITRATION
AUGUST 5, 2020

BALINDA DUNLAP, CSR 10710, RPR, CRR, RMR
465534



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INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROCESS
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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AFILIAS DOMAINS NO. 3 LTD.,)
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 Claimant,)
)
 vs.) ICDR Case No.
) 01-18-0004-
 INTERNET CORPORATION FOR) 2702
 ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS,)
)
 Respondent.)
)

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020
ARBITRATION HEARING HELD BEFORE

PIERRE BIENVENU
RICHARD CHERNICK
CATHERINE KESSEDJIAN

VOLUME III (Pages 424-586)

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REPORTER: BALINDA DUNLAP, CSR 10710, RPR, CRR, RMR

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1 CALIFORNIA, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 5, 2020

2 ---o0o---

3 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Let me begin by
4 wishing everyone welcome to Day 3 of this hearing.
5 We are a few minutes past the hour, and that's
6 because of me. I had a problem joining the
7 meeting.

8 Are there any preliminary matters that
9 anyone would wish to raise before we continue with
10 the cross-examination of Ms. Eisner?

11 MR. ALI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is Arif
12 here. Good morning and good evening to everyone.

13 The matter we would like to raise is one
14 regarding which I just sent a message literally a
15 couple minutes ago, so I apologize for the
16 tardiness, but it is the matter of three documents
17 we would like to add to the record, one of which I
18 mentioned yesterday, mainly the Board resolution
19 associated with the admission -- the Board's
20 acceptance of the CCWG and its report and
21 transmittal to the NTIA.

22 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Mr. Ali, sorry to
23 cut you off. Is this something you have had
24 occasion to discuss with your friends opposite?

25 MR. ALI: Yes. We transmitted the

1 documents with a request that the parties agree to
2 have the documents admitted to the record by
3 agreement.

4 Amici responded that they objected -- can
5 you hear me?

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes.

7 MR. ALI: And Mr. LeVee sent a message
8 this morning saying that ICANN endorses and
9 supports the Amici's position objecting to the
10 admission of the documents.

11 My proposal, sir, is that we address this
12 matter perhaps after Ms. Eisner's testimony, and
13 indeed we can do so at the end of the day if it is
14 not too much of an imposition on Professor
15 Kessedjian, so that we don't take up time and keep
16 Ms. Eisner waiting.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Let's do that. In
18 the meantime, we'll have occasion to read your
19 email message.

20 Any other preliminary matter?

21 MR. LeVEE: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for
22 cutting you off. I just wanted to say we have a
23 written response that we are preparing this
24 morning, and we will send that as well. So the
25 Panel can either decide during the break on its own

1 or it can take a hearing at a convenient time.

2 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: That's helpful.
3 Thank you for mentioning this. Let's push it off
4 to the end of the day.

5 In the meantime, we will have occasion to
6 read the parties' written submissions on the point.

7 MR. LeVEE: Thank you so much.

8 MR. ALI: Mr. Chairman, we haven't made a
9 written submission. We were proposing oral
10 argument just to deal with the matter very promptly
11 in the context of the hearings.

12 But if Mr. LeVee is preparing a written
13 response, then I suppose we should make a formal
14 written application to the Panel, which you could
15 then respond or he puts in his position and then we
16 respond.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Let's let Mr. LeVee
18 put in his position and let us look at the request
19 and the objection to the request, and rest assured
20 that you'll have occasion to address us before a
21 decision is made; is that all right?

22 MR. LeVEE: It is. The reason that I
23 indicated that we would have a written response is
24 that Mr. Ali sent me a several-paragraph statement
25 yesterday. I thought he was sending me -- I have

1 been standing here, so I don't have my laptop in
2 front of me. So I did not appreciate that he had
3 only sent a request. Yesterday he sent a fairly
4 thorough request, and if he forwards that to the
5 Panel, I was planning to respond to that.

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. Why don't you
7 look at what he sent us and let us look at the
8 request before we, perhaps, make more of something
9 that can be dealt with summarily.

10 MR. LeVEE: Thank you.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Good with you,
12 Mr. Ali?

13 MR. ALI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I went mute
14 and dark. Yes, excellent.

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Any other
16 preliminary matters?

17 MR. LeVEE: No.

18 MR. ALI: Nothing from claimant.

19 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: JD, please bring
20 back Ms. Eisner.

21 Ms. Eisner, good morning. This is Pierre
22 Bienvenu, Chairman of the Panel. How are you?

23 THE WITNESS: I am doing very well today.
24 How are you?

25 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Excellent.

1 Ms. Eisner, you will be testifying under the same
2 solemn -- not solid, for the stenographer -- solemn
3 affirmation as yesterday?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.

6 Mr. Litwin, you are prepared to continue
7 your cross-examination?

8 MR. LITWIN: Yes.

9 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Please proceed.

10 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Cont'd)

12 BY MR. LITWIN

13 Q. Good morning, Ms. Eisner. Can you hear me
14 okay?

15 A. Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

16 Q. I can. I just wanted to set the stage on
17 where we left off yesterday. We had just
18 established, and I just would ask if you recollect
19 that the IOT had not held any meetings during the
20 months of July, August and September 2008?

21 Do you recall that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that the IOT's meeting on October 9,
24 2018, was the committee's first meeting in nearly
25 four months, correct?

1 A. Yes. There is a likelihood that we
2 were -- we had times that we convened but did not
3 have a quorum. So there might have been a request
4 to continue items on list or take matters through
5 with emails.

6 So we had likely had times when people had
7 talked, but there was no decisional discussion or
8 anything, and they were not treated as regular
9 meetings because they were not a quorum.

10 Q. So if there were a nonquorum meeting or an
11 email discussion among IOT members, those emails
12 and transcripts would have been posted to the IOT's
13 Wiki page, correct?

14 A. So the emails would have been on the
15 probably available mailing list. We would not have
16 continued with the meeting -- we would never have
17 convened a meeting for discussion if it was not a
18 quorum. So there wouldn't be transcripts of that.

19 Q. Okay. So the first substantive meeting
20 where you discussed the proposed interim rules in
21 detail would have been -- the first one after June
22 2018 would have been on October 9; is that correct?

23 A. Based on your representation of the status
24 of the Wiki page, yes.

25 Q. Okay. So were you aware that there were

1 only six other people in addition to yourself that
2 participated on October 9, 2018?

3 A. I don't recall the exact attendee list,
4 but I know that we had very small numbers of
5 attendees, so that would not surprise me.

6 Q. Okay. And two of the people who attended
7 on October 9 were Kate Wallace of Jones Day and
8 Elizabeth Le of ICANN's in-house legal department,
9 correct?

10 A. If they were listed among the attendees,
11 yes.

12 Q. And also Mr. McAuley, David McAuley, who
13 was the chair of the IOT, attended that meeting,
14 correct?

15 A. Again, if he was recorded as an attendee,
16 yes.

17 Q. So if you accept my representation that
18 there were seven participants, including yourself,
19 by my count, that is four participants who were
20 either ICANN lawyers or -- well, let me just ask
21 this before I do that.

22 Mr. McAuley was employed by VeriSign as of
23 October 9, 2018, correct?

24 A. As far as I am aware.

25 Q. So going back to my question, by my math,

1 there were seven attendees, four of whom were
2 either ICANN lawyers or an employee of VeriSign; is
3 that right?

4 A. If you're referring to Liz, me and Kate
5 from ICANN and then David, yeah.

6 Q. So I'd like to direct your attention to
7 Tab 3 of your binder, and this is the transcript as
8 it appears on the IOT Wiki page for the October 9,
9 2018, meeting.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Can you please turn to Page 14 of that
12 transcript?

13 A. With your unique numbers?

14 Q. Yes, my unique numbers. It is Page 13 of
15 the transcript, but Page 14 as we have marked it.

16 A. Thanks so much.

17 Q. So you'll see in the middle of the page
18 that a gentleman named Bernard Turcotte is
19 speaking?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Who is Mr. Turcotte?

22 A. He is a contractor that in this instance
23 that was employed by ICANN to help facilitate the
24 work of the IOT.

25 Q. So it's someone who was facilitating the

1 work of the IOT; he was not a member of the IOT,
2 correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Now, is it fair to say that during this
5 October 9 meeting, Mr. Turcotte was reading the
6 text of various rules to the attending IOT members?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, on Page 14 he's reading the text of
9 what was then the current draft of Rule 7,
10 consolidation, intervention and joinder, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. As Mr. Turcotte reads, Rule 7 provides
13 that, quote, "Requests for consolidation and
14 intervention or participation as an amicus are
15 committed to the reasonable discussion of the" --
16 it says "properties officer," but I am assuming
17 that's "procedures officer"?

18 A. Yes. Just so you know and the Panel
19 knows, we were using an automated transcription
20 service. So you will see random items in the
21 transcript that you have to kind of piece together.

22 Q. Yeah, we'll come to that later. I had to
23 go back to the audio recording to make sense of it.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. But thank you for pointing that out.

1 So that's what Rule 7 provided as of
2 October 9, that participation as an amicus was
3 committed to the reasonable discretion of the
4 procedures officer, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So if we turn to Page 15, which is the
7 next page, and look towards the bottom of the page,
8 it is the second-to-last paragraph, Mr. Turcotte
9 continues, and I quote, "If the procedures officer
10 determines in his or her discretion that the
11 proposed amicus has a material interest relevant to
12 the dispute, he or she shall allow the
13 participation by the amicus curiae."

14 That is also what Rule 7 provided as of
15 October 9, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Now, that was a general rule, and there
18 was one exception that the IOT had provided for,
19 and that's what comes next, that if the IRP
20 concerned a review of a decision made by what is
21 quoted here, an underlying proceeding, the
22 participants in that underlying proceeding would be
23 deemed to have a material interest, and therefore,
24 would have a right to participate, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Now, as you look at Page 15, Rule 7 also
2 provided that the scope of amicus participation was
3 committed to the discretion of the IRP Panel.
4 That's at the very bottom of the page, continuing
5 on to the next page, yeah, Page 16, where
6 Mr. Turcotte quotes, "The IRP Panel may request
7 briefing in the discretion of the IRP Panel and
8 subject to such deadlines and page limits and other
9 procedural rules as the IRP Panel may specify in
10 its discretion."

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, looking down the page, you'll
14 see that Mr. McAuley responds first. You see where
15 he starts speaking?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And he says here that he has his hand up
18 because "I want to participate as a participant
19 here." So he's distinguishing his role between
20 being a participant and Chair of the IRP -- of IOT,
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. He goes on, he says, "I do have a concern
24 about this, and what I believe is that on joinder
25 intervention, whatever we are going to call it,

1 it's essential that a person or entity have a right
2 to join an IRP if they feel that a significant --
3 if they claim that a significant interest they have
4 relates to the subject of an IRP and that
5 adjudicating the IRP in their absence would impair
6 or impede their ability to protect that."

7 Do you see where he says that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So what Mr. McAuley is proposing here is
10 to amend Rule 7 to provide that if an entity
11 believes that it has a significant interest to
12 protect and that interest relates to the subject of
13 an IRP, then that IRP would have a right to
14 participate in the IRP; is that what you
15 understood?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, Mr. McAuley goes on to say on Page 16
18 that "It's important to provide this right to
19 participate," quote, "especially given the finality
20 of these kinds of proceedings. It's my view that
21 intervention, whatever term we are using, needs to
22 capture that."

23 Do you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So essentially Mr. McAuley is saying if

1 you have a significant interest and that interest
2 is relevant to an IRP, and given the Panel's
3 authority to issue final and binding decisions that
4 affect that interest, you need to be able to
5 participate in the IRP; is that fair?

6 A. That's my understanding of what he was
7 saying, yes.

8 Q. Okay. And Mr. McAuley concludes that he
9 would propose specific language on the, quote,
10 "List," and that's the LISTSERV, "the group email
11 for the entire IOT committee," correct?

12 A. Correct, the publicly-available list,
13 yeah.

14 Q. In fact, Mr. McAuley did send an email to
15 the IOT list on October 11, 2018, the next day,
16 with his proposed language.

17 Do you recall that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. If you turn to Tab 4 in your
20 binder, that is Mr. McAuley's email from October
21 11, 2018.

22 Do you recall reviewing that?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. Okay. If you could turn to Page 5 in that
25 exhibit, which is an attachment to his email,

1 you'll see that Mr. McAuley has inserted what I'll
2 characterize as a redline. I suppose this was
3 probably Track Changes --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- into the draft of Rule 7? What he
6 writes here is that, "In addition, any person,
7 group or entity shall have a right to intervene as
8 a claimant where, one, that person, group or entity
9 claims a significant interest relating to the
10 subjects of the Independent Review Process."

11 And if you skip down a couple of lines, he
12 says, "Because that entity's absence might impair
13 or impede that person, group or entity's ability to
14 protect that interest."

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So this is essentially in written form
18 what Mr. McAuley was proposing the day before, on
19 October 9, correct?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Or two days before, sorry. Yeah, two days
22 before, on October 9.

23 And what he's proposing here essentially
24 is to broaden claimant standing; is that your
25 understanding?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And the IOT discussed Mr. McAuley's
3 proposal during its meeting later that day on
4 October 11; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Turning to the next tab in your
7 binder, Tab 5, you'll see that's the transcript
8 from October 11, 2018; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. I'll represent to you that in
11 addition to yourself, there were five other
12 attendees at that meeting. Again, they included
13 Kate Wallace and Liz Le of ICANN's legal
14 department, and Mr. McAuley of VeriSign; is that
15 correct?

16 A. I don't know. I would ask -- are you
17 taking the attendees off of the recording that
18 would appear from the electronic meeting room or
19 based on the transcript? Because sometimes you
20 might have attendees who would not speak during the
21 meeting.

22 Q. I will represent to you that I get the
23 participant list from -- there's a page for each
24 IOT meeting, and it lists who attended it. Is
25 that --

1 A. If you take it from there, yes.

2 Q. Okay. And that listing on the Wiki page
3 indicates that you and Kate Wallace of Jones Day
4 and Elizabeth Le of ICANN's legal department
5 attended that meeting and Mr. McAuley attended, but
6 there were only six attendees in that meeting.

7 So do you have any reason to believe that
8 that listing is inaccurate in any way?

9 A. Do you have the names of the other people?
10 I don't have any reason to believe that what was
11 recorded on the page is incorrect.

12 Q. Okay. That's fair enough.

13 Now, during the October meeting, you
14 responded to Mr. McAuley's proposal.

15 Do you recall that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And is it fair to say that in general,
18 your primary concern was that Mr. McAuley was
19 proposing to significantly expand claimant
20 standing; is that right?

21 A. I would have to look specifically when I
22 said that I know that was a very large part of my
23 concern. I received the text within a short amount
24 of time before the meeting. So I probably had
25 highlighted my biggest concern that I wanted to

1 raise on this. I believe I also took time to go
2 back to more specifically look at the language.

3 Q. Fair enough. And do you recall that your
4 proposal was essentially to move some of what
5 Mr. McAuley was proposing from claimant standing
6 down to the amicus participation standing of Rule
7 7?

8 I can direct you to Pages 14 and 15 of the
9 transcript, if that will help.

10 A. Great. Thank you.

11 Q. That's our 14 and 15, just to be clear.

12 A. Yes.

13 So my concerns were both regarding the
14 significant interest test and the confusion between
15 claimant versus amicus status.

16 Q. Could you explain what you mean by
17 confusion between claimant and amicus?

18 A. Sure. So one of the issues that we had
19 long -- as a lasting issue, including when we were
20 drafting the new bylaws as well as in the
21 discussions in the IOT, that because the IOT is
22 such a narrow process, that it is really about
23 someone coming to ICANN and saying, "You violated
24 your bylaws or you violated your articles in doing
25 something." It is a very unique set of persons or

1 entities that would serve as claimant status. And
2 that the IRP is not about adjudicating all of the
3 rights -- all of the issues or disputes that might
4 be amongst ICANN and the claimant or between other
5 people who have interest in the proceeding.

6 So here what I saw was the suggestion that
7 McAuley had raised that because someone might have
8 an interest in the proceeding, they should be a
9 claimant, which would also technically mean under
10 the bylaws that they would be asserting that ICANN
11 violated its bylaws or its articles, but that might
12 not always be the case for someone who has an
13 interest in a proceeding.

14 I think it is very important to be clear
15 and narrow in what you mean about who is a claimant
16 for the purposes of an efficient IRP.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. What Mr. McAuley said is creating
19 confusion between those lines.

20 Q. Right. So Rule 7 is entitled
21 "Consolidation, Intervention and Participation As
22 an Amicus," right?

23 A. I believe so, yes.

24 Q. Well, you can refer back to Tab 4 on Page
25 4 just to refresh your recollection on that.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So what -- if I understand you correctly,
3 Mr. McAuley had proposed to broaden the
4 intervention rules, and your suggestion was rather
5 you should look to broadening the participation as
6 an amicus rule; is that right?

7 A. I don't believe it was a broadening of the
8 amicus rule. I think it was a consideration of
9 whether or not there might be other parties that
10 might be appropriate to consider -- deem having a
11 material interest as opposed to leave it up to a
12 briefing matter as to whether or not they had a
13 material interest, but it wasn't necessarily a
14 broadening of the amicus rule.

15 Because that would have been -- if we had
16 taken, for example, his significant interest test
17 and made that the test for amicus as opposed to
18 material interest, that would have been a
19 broadening, but that's not anything from the ICANN
20 side we were considering or supporting.

21 Q. Okay. Well, if we can look back at Page
22 14 of your -- of the October 11 transcript, which
23 is Tab 5, what you say there is, "So I think we can
24 move that down either to amicus. So I think we can
25 put some things into the amicus section that cover

1 this type of interest in a proceeding."

2 So you were essentially saying, "I hear
3 what you're saying about entities with a
4 significant interest. Let's look at moving that
5 down to the amicus section"; is that fair?

6 A. I think it's more I hear what you're
7 saying about the need for having a full and final
8 adjudication -- having parties that are necessary
9 to -- not necessary, but having parties that could
10 be impacted by an IRP decision having the
11 opportunity to participate in some way, shape or
12 form within the IRP so that they are also going to
13 abide by the standing -- the binding decision
14 that's coming out of the IRP Panel.

15 Because that is one of the significant
16 changes to the IRP that happened throughout this
17 whole process, is that no longer was it just an
18 advisory declaration that the Panel was issuing,
19 but they are now binding precedent across ICANN.
20 So it binds people, even those who are not part of
21 the process.

22 Q. Okay. So let's look at how Mr. McAuley
23 responded to you, and I am going to refer to the
24 second full paragraph on Page 15, that's our 15, of
25 the October 11 transcript.

1 As you helpfully previewed a few minutes
2 ago, sometimes the transcript's a little rough. So
3 I will represent to you that I listened to the
4 audio recording, and I am going to read to you what
5 I heard on the audio recording, and I'd like your
6 reaction as to whether or not that's a reasonable
7 and fair and accurate representation of what you
8 recall Mr. McAuley said here.

9 As I heard it, Mr. McAuley said, "But if
10 it was moved to an amicus thing, I would like to
11 look at the language you came up with. You can
12 tell between this and Rule 8 where I'm coming from
13 is a competitive situation where members of
14 contracted party houses or others who have
15 contracts with ICANN or others that have contracts
16 that are affected by ICANN have to be able to
17 protect their interest in competitive situations.
18 So I used language that largely followed U.S.
19 rules -- U.S. Federal Rules of Procedure, but these
20 rules are fairly -- I think, at least in common-law
21 countries, fairly routinely accepted that someone
22 has an interest can defend themselves because they
23 can't look for the defendant to make their argument
24 for them."

25 Is that a fair representation of what

1 Mr. McAuley said?

2 A. Yes, I believe so.

3 Q. Now, you proposed that instead of
4 Mr. McAuley's -- strike that.

5 Now, you responded to Mr. McAuley, and you
6 noted that time was of the essence, and I am
7 referring you to the top of Page 16, that's our 16
8 in the October 11th transcript, where you state,
9 "From the ICANN org side, we are getting very
10 nervous that we are on the precipice of having IRPs
11 filed for which we don't have an adequate set of
12 procedures to meet the bylaws."

13 Now, as we discussed yesterday, Afilias
14 had sent a draft of its IRP request to ICANN the
15 day before, on October 10th.

16 Do you recall that conversation?

17 A. I recall the conversation, yes.

18 Q. Yeah. And now you're telling the IOT on
19 October 11th that ICANN was, quote, "On the
20 precipice of having an IRP filed."

21 Was that a reference to Afilias's
22 forthcoming IRP?

23 A. No, it was not. I had -- if you go back
24 into the record of the IOT proceedings, back in May
25 of 2018, I had introduced to the IOT the idea of

1 bringing forth a set of interim rules, because we
2 were nervous then, too, that we could be subject to
3 an IRP because we could be subject to an IRP over
4 anything.

5 And at this point, we were -- when you sit
6 here in October, we were two years out from the
7 passage of the new ICANN bylaws after the IANA
8 transition. Even in May we were a year and a half
9 out, and we were well-aware from the ICANN side
10 that there would be great confusion if an IRP was
11 filed under the supplementary procedures that did
12 not align with the new bylaws.

13 So this concern was part of the genesis of
14 even introducing that idea of an interim
15 supplementary procedure note in May.

16 By this point, we had already -- we had
17 been working with the IOT to get a set of interim
18 procedures finalized and had it on our board agenda
19 for that end of October meeting, and it was
20 becoming very clear that if we weren't going to
21 have a set coming out of the IOT, we then had an
22 even longer delay.

23 So we had been -- from my side with ICANN,
24 I had been working with a sense of urgency about
25 this since at least May of 2018.

1 Q. Okay. Now, you state on October 11th that
2 ICANN was on the precipice.

3 "Precipice" means right at the edge; is
4 that fair?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And let's just look at what the status was
7 of IRPs and accountability mechanisms on October
8 11th. The .WEB contention set was on hold because
9 there were two accountability mechanisms pending as
10 of October 11th, 2018; is that correct?

11 A. I know that the .WEB contention set was on
12 hold. I don't recall the number of accountability
13 proceedings around it.

14 Q. So I will represent to you that Afilias's
15 CEP was still pending, correct, do you understand
16 that?

17 A. Based on the conversation, yes, yes.

18 Q. Were you also aware that Afilias had a
19 reconsideration request pending at that time
20 concerning .WEB?

21 A. I probably was. I don't recall that
22 today, but I probably was at the time.

23 Q. Now, on October 11th, ICANN emailed
24 Afilias to request times for a CEP conference
25 between November 1st and November 16th.

1 Are you aware of that?

2 A. No, I don't recall that.

3 Q. And we know from -- well, I will represent
4 to you that at the start of the next conference
5 that we had with ICANN in CEP, which was on
6 November 13th, ICANN terminated the CEP.

7 Are you aware that ICANN terminated the
8 CEP on November 13th?

9 A. Only based on your representation
10 yesterday and today.

11 Q. Now, ICANN had also scheduled a special
12 Board meeting on November 6 to consider Afilias's
13 reconsideration request.

14 Were you aware of that?

15 A. I don't have specific recollection about
16 that, but we do have specific time limits within
17 which the Board must consider a reconsideration
18 request. So that is actually a normal thing to
19 happen as a reconsideration request is hitting the
20 end of that deadline.

21 Q. In fact, on November 6th, ICANN rejected
22 and denied Afilias' reconsideration request.

23 Are you aware of that?

24 A. I am aware that Afilias' reconsideration
25 request was denied.

1 Q. So on --

2 A. I don't remember the specific date.

3 Q. So on October 11th, as you are
4 representing to the IOT that ICANN is on the
5 precipice of having an IRP filed, ICANN is getting
6 ready to remove over the next few weeks the only
7 two accountability mechanisms that were keeping the
8 .WEB contention set on hold; is that fair to say?

9 A. I wasn't involved in the discussions
10 around the reconsideration or the CEP.

11 Q. And ICANN also knew that Afilias was ready
12 to file its IRP because it had a copy of its draft
13 IRP request which it had gotten the day before; is
14 that right?

15 A. There might have been people aware at
16 ICANN, but that was not the basis of my
17 participation in the IOT.

18 Q. So you were under pressure to get the
19 interim rules adopted by the Board at the October
20 25 Board meeting; is that fair to say?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And --

23 A. I felt pressure to do that based on the
24 totality of not having supplementary procedures in
25 place for two years.

1 Q. Now, the Board was scheduled to meet on --
2 next in mid-January 2019.

3 Are you aware of that?

4 A. I'm aware that the Board has regularly
5 scheduled meetings, and then at that time our
6 practice would be to identify if there's any need
7 for a meeting in between those regularly-scheduled
8 meetings, but at that point we were not -- it was
9 not our practice to have monthly or bimonthly
10 meetings scheduled outside of the ICANN meeting or
11 org workshop session.

12 Q. So I'll represent to you that if you go to
13 ICANN's website and look at the page for Board
14 meetings for 2018, it shows that the last regular
15 Board meeting was on October 25th, 2018.

16 Do you recall that being the case for
17 2018?

18 A. So in terms of regular -- if it was a
19 meeting titled "Regular," that has a particular
20 meaning within ICANN as opposed to "Special."

21 So "regular" reflects the times when the
22 Board is expected to come together face-to-face and
23 revisit that in today's world, but then "special"
24 would be the meetings that are convened by
25 teleconference.

1 So "special" doesn't mean extraordinary in
2 any case, it just is kind of an external
3 designation as to whether or not it happened by
4 teleconference or in a face-to-face setting.

5 Q. Right. So --

6 A. So the October 2018 meeting, the last one.

7 Q. It was regular?

8 A. Yes. So that would be the last
9 face-to-face meeting scheduled for the Board.

10 Q. Then there was the November 6 special
11 meeting, correct?

12 A. Yes. That meeting would have been
13 designated as special, yes.

14 Q. Then the next regular ICANN Board meeting,
15 the next face-to-face Board meeting, as I can tell
16 from ICANN's website, occurred on January 19, 2019?

17 A. That date makes sense to me because that
18 would align when we hold our workshops for the
19 Board.

20 Q. Now, if the Board wanted to take up
21 approval of the interim rules, could it have
22 scheduled a special meeting between October 25th
23 and January 19th?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Now --

1 A. If it was prepared to do it on October
2 25th or 26th, whatever the date was.

3 Q. But the October 25th date was the one that
4 you felt the pressure to get the interim rules
5 before the Board on, correct?

6 A. That was the date that we had been working
7 to. I believe we had a version that had come out
8 of the IOT at the end of September, and it was
9 prepared. We had briefed it for the Board. It was
10 already on the Board's agenda. We were trying to
11 keep it on the Board's agenda for that date even
12 when we had late edits coming in, as you see here.

13 Q. And that's because ICANN was getting ready
14 to terminate CEP and deny Afilias' reconsideration
15 request as early as November 6th, and it was
16 reasonable to believe that after that Afilias would
17 file pretty quickly, right?

18 A. If ICANN had an intention to terminate the
19 CEP, that was never communicated to me.

20 Q. In fact, that's what happened, Afilias
21 filed its IRP request on November 14th, correct?

22 A. Based on our conversations about when the
23 CEP terminated, I accept your representation, and
24 yes, Afilias filed, as far as I recall, on November
25 14th.

1 Q. And, in fact, the very next IRP to be
2 filed after this one wouldn't be filed for more
3 than another year, in December of 2019; isn't that
4 right?

5 A. As far as I recall, yes, but people can
6 file an IRP on any day.

7 Q. Okay. So now I would like to return to
8 the October 11th transcript, which is Tab 5 in your
9 binder. And on Page 16 you write, "I will come
10 back on list with some proposals about how to
11 integrate some of these ideas into the set of
12 interim rules," which I assume is a reference to
13 the ideas regarding Rule 7 that you had been
14 discussing, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. I'd like to direct your attention
17 to Tab 6 in your binder. This is a copy of an
18 email that you sent to Mr. McAuley on October 12,
19 2018, the day after the IOT meeting we had just
20 reviewed.

21 Starting at the top of your email, you
22 write, "I sat down with this and tried to develop
23 some language, but realized that this is really
24 tricky definitional issue. Without being extremely
25 careful, we would be granting anyone who said they

1 have an interest in the case the right to
2 participate, which takes away from the discretion
3 of the Panel on a much broader basis than is
4 currently allowed."

5 Is it fair to say that you were concerned
6 that granting anyone who says they have an interest
7 in an IRP a right to participate would take away
8 from the IRP Panel's discretion in a pretty
9 significant way?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You proceed to write, "As I was thinking
12 through all this, I realized that giving this
13 participation as of right based on significant
14 interest is broader than what the IOT discussed in
15 the outcomes of the public comment. As I
16 understand, we agreed as an IOT, and we have
17 reflected in the rules, that those who participate
18 in underlying panels should have the ability to
19 participate as of right (either as a claimant,
20 where we've identified that they meet the material
21 harm threshold, or as an amicus, also reflected in
22 there). We do not have comments on nor agree as an
23 IOT, from what I can tell, that having an interest
24 that might be impaired by or is similar to that
25 which is under discussion should give right to

1 participation."

2 So to summarize, is it fair to say that
3 you were concerned that granting broader amicus
4 participation as of right went beyond the scope of
5 the IOT's discussion of the public comments?

6 A. It was -- so just no. I think my
7 statement here is that allowing someone to just put
8 up their hand and say "I have an interest" and then
9 making that sufficient to participate as of right
10 as an amicus was an inappropriate threshold for the
11 IRP and that it would impair the Panel's
12 discretion.

13 Q. Right. And what you specifically say here
14 is that, "As I understand, we agreed as an IOT and
15 reflect in the rules that those who participate in
16 underlying Panels should have the ability to
17 participate as of right," correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you go on to say that, "We did not
20 have comments on, nor agree as an IOT on anything
21 else," correct?

22 A. Well, that we didn't agree that other
23 people with different interests would have the
24 ability to participate as of right. We had very --
25 we have a lot of discussion about this within the

1 IOT as we are going over the public comment.

2 And what was coming out of the IOT is
3 that -- based on the public comment was that there
4 was a need to allow people who did not fit into a
5 claimant category but could state a material
6 interest in the proceedings should be -- should be
7 able to have the opportunity to come in and ask to
8 participate in the proceeding.

9 And we had already started using that tool
10 of identifying if there was anyone who might come
11 in as of right -- as a matter of reducing the level
12 of briefing and streamlining the IRP proceedings.
13 Again, thinking back to that idea that IRPs are now
14 binding.

15 So when -- like in this situation, we'll
16 just talk about the situation at hand, there are
17 other parties to this that would be impaired by --
18 or might not be impaired, but would have -- they
19 would expect to have some visibility into the
20 proceedings when the outcome of the Panel
21 declaration could impact their expectation on a
22 contract right.

23 That's a little bit different than the
24 very broad discussion that McAuley was bringing in,
25 where he said anyone who has a -- who is just a

1 contracted party should be able to come in at any
2 time to an IRP.

3 For looking at that, what he was
4 suggesting was so much broader than how you
5 consider a normal type of interest passer or where
6 you might have reason to draw a line about coming
7 into an IRP either as a claimant or as an amicus.

8 Q. Okay. So moving on in your email, you
9 then write, "I don't have an objection to
10 continuing this conversation for the final set of
11 rules, but think that from the principles laid out
12 for the interim set, this inclusion goes far
13 beyond."

14 Just to break there, what you're saying
15 there is, "Look, we are in the home stretch. We
16 are trying to get this done by October 25th. We
17 have principles laid out that govern how we are
18 supposed to adopt rules. Why don't we just take up
19 this discussion when we are working on the final
20 rules?"

21 Is that fair?

22 A. Basically. If you want to change the
23 standard or make it really broader than you've ever
24 discussed, this is not the time to do it, and we
25 would have to reserve that conversation for when we

1 were back and having fulsome conversations about
2 where there were any major revisions that need to
3 happen.

4 Q. Right. Because what you say here is that,
5 "Working on it for too short a time frame also
6 increases the possibility that we make it too broad
7 and make it very difficult to tailor in the final
8 rule," right? That was your basic concern, that it
9 would overly complicate the IRP, as you have
10 testified here today; is that fair?

11 A. Yes. If we went, for example, to a
12 significant interest test, that would be a very
13 hard test to move back from in a final rule set.
14 So we didn't want to go -- things like that, going
15 too far, where you could then create new
16 expectations for how people would participate and
17 then moving back is a really difficult way to go.

18 So if you start narrower, you still have
19 the ability to radically change the rule in the
20 future, but it doesn't make sense to start off too
21 broad when you think you might need to pull it
22 back.

23 Q. Then you go on to say, "Finally, depending
24 on the scope of the final rule, we propose we'd
25 have to see how significant change it is from what

1 was posted from comment previously." And that's
2 because if it's a significant change, you would
3 have to go back out for a second public
4 consultation; is that right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And that's, in fact, what you did in June
7 of 2018 with Rule 4, correct?

8 A. Yes. Because that's an issue that there
9 hadn't been any identified trends and public
10 comment on, and one of the proposals was very
11 different from what you saw in the posted for
12 public comment, and there hadn't been significant
13 agreement in the community and the public comment
14 forum about how that should proceed.

15 Q. Now, you close your October email, October
16 12 email by writing, "The rules" -- in your view,
17 that, "The rules are broad enough, and in
18 particular, the amicus rules are quite broad as
19 well."

20 So is it fair to say that in considering
21 Mr. McAuley's concerns, as he discussed them on
22 October 9 in his email of October 11 and at the IOT
23 meeting on October 11, that the rules were probably
24 good enough for the interim; is that a fair
25 representation of what you were saying there?

1 A. Yes. I was prepared to recommend to the
2 Board that they move along with that version.

3 Q. Now, I'll represent to you that October
4 12th was a Friday. And do you recall that
5 Mr. McAuley initially responded to you that he
6 looked at your email over the weekend?

7 A. I recall he responded in some way, shape
8 or form.

9 Q. And then on Monday, October 15th, he wrote
10 back to you saying he had some concerns about what
11 you had written and wanted to discuss your October
12 12th email on your 1:00 p.m. call.

13 Do you recall that?

14 A. I don't recall that.

15 Q. Did you have a regular standing call with
16 Mr. McAuley?

17 A. No, I did not.

18 Q. Do you recall having a telephone call with
19 Mr. McAuley on October 15th, 2018?

20 A. I don't recall specifically having that
21 call.

22 Q. Between the time that you sent your
23 October 12 email -- actually, let me do this: If
24 you turn to Tab 7 in your binder, you'll see a copy
25 of an email that you sent on Tuesday, October 16,

1 2018.

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Between the time that you -- that you sent
5 your email on Friday, October 12th, and your
6 sending of this email, Tab 7 on October 18 at 11:00
7 a.m., did you speak with Mr. McAuley by phone?

8 A. I don't recall if I did.

9 Q. Do you recall around this period of time,
10 when you were drafting Rule 7, having a telephone
11 conversation with Mr. McAuley?

12 A. I really don't recall that.

13 Q. Do you recall ever discussing with
14 Mr. McAuley the various concerns that you
15 identified in your October 12 email?

16 A. Discussing orally?

17 Q. Yes, orally.

18 A. I don't recall.

19 Q. Okay. Well, let's take a look at your
20 October 16 email.

21 In this email, what you have done here
22 is -- is it fair to say -- to propose specific
23 modifications to Rule 7's amicus participation
24 provisions; is that right?

25 A. I proposed modifications to those who

1 could participate as of right, though not changing
2 the basic premise that any party could apply for an
3 amicus to the Panel.

4 Q. Okay. Just specifically you added -- or
5 you proposed adding two categories of amicus who
6 would be deemed to have a material interest in the
7 IRP; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. The first category relates to an
10 application arising out of ICANN's new gTLD program
11 so that any member of a contention set for a
12 particular new gTLD would have the right to
13 participate as an amicus in an IRP that concerned
14 that gTLD and the resolution of that contention
15 set; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So, for example, this IRP concerns
18 Afilias' application for .WEB, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. So any member of the .WEB contention set
21 would have a right to participate in this IRP as of
22 right; is that correct?

23 A. As an amicus?

24 Q. As an amicus, yes.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that's because all of the members of
2 the .WEB contention set would be deemed to have a
3 material interest in the outcome of this IRP,
4 correct?

5 A. Under this rule, yes.

6 Q. And the procedures officer would have no
7 discretion to request their -- to reject their
8 request to participate as an amicus curiae in this
9 IRP, correct?

10 A. Correct. So --

11 Q. Please.

12 A. The Panel would self-discretion about the
13 terms of how they would participate.

14 Q. So if all of the members of the contention
15 set had applied to appear here and participate as
16 amicus curiae, we could have had five more amici in
17 this IRP, correct?

18 A. If that's the number who applied for .WEB.

19 Q. I will represent to you there were seven
20 applicants, two of which are already in the IRP,
21 Afilias and NU DOT CO, and then there were five
22 others. So we would have had five others?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. That would seem to cure your concerns on
25 October 12th that this was pretty tricky to draft

1 and, quote, "Granting anyone that says they have an
2 interest in the case the right to participate takes
3 away from the discretion of the Panel on a much
4 broader basis and could complicate the IRP"; isn't
5 that right?

6 A. I don't think so. So if you look back at
7 the genesis of some of the concerns around the
8 updating of the IRP and then the history of the use
9 of ICANN's accountability mechanisms, we had
10 become -- within ICANN, I think if you look both at
11 the reconsideration level and at the IRP level, the
12 one that has become a surety within ICANN was when
13 someone lost an application or the right to operate
14 a new gTLD through a process, be it the 2012
15 process or our previous processes, that those
16 losers, in quotes, I am not trying to be
17 deprecating at all, would then use ICANN's
18 accountability processes to try to challenge that.

19 We knew that that was a very typical and
20 expected use case for the IRP. So when you step
21 back and you think about it, if you have a
22 contention set, for example, in this case, as I
23 understand it, there were a smaller number of
24 people who got to the final auction of last resort.
25 So those who had previously dropped out likely

1 wouldn't come in any way.

2 Contention sets could be small, they could
3 be large. Typically within a contention set, you
4 wouldn't have all seven people coming, but you
5 could. And they might each have an interest in
6 making sure that they got to see how this run if
7 they were all in active contention at the time that
8 ICANN took whatever action that's been complained
9 about.

10 So if you look at the expectations for how
11 we thought the IRP would be run, on the other hand,
12 would you really want to have a process, as a
13 claimant in the process, to have to consider the
14 briefing of seven different entities to come in
15 where the question could just be what right -- how
16 should these people participate and leave that to
17 the discretion of the Panel instead of barging on
18 the proceedings in seven different, possibly
19 somewhat unique, but very similar situations of
20 requesting amicus status?

21 So I think you can look at it either way.
22 And really based on the use cases that we knew
23 existed for an IRP, this seemed to be a way to
24 actually streamline the proceedings.

25 Q. Okay. Now, looking at the next change

1 that you propose, that's for any person, group or
2 entity who is not in the IRP but whose actions are
3 significantly referred to in the briefings before
4 the Panel, they would also have a right to
5 participate as an amicus, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Now, the IRP rules are supposed to be
8 based on norms of international arbitration. Can
9 you refer me to a norm of international arbitration
10 that would grant an entity a right to participate
11 in an arbitration solely because the pleadings or
12 briefings before the arbitrator significantly
13 referred to actions taken by that entity?

14 A. I think this is where the IRP is unique
15 when you consider it alongside arbitration. So
16 typically you would not have a private arbitration
17 outcome that becomes binding across an organization
18 like ICANN to guide future decisions and possibly
19 impact past decisions that go broader than just the
20 dispute between two parties.

21 This is really the crux of what makes some
22 of the development of the rule set for the
23 supplemental rules difficult and where some of the
24 confusion that we see about issues of intervention
25 and that continued change of -- maybe from a

1 claimant, maybe from a joinder.

2 The IRP -- one of the things that we
3 wanted to do, one of the things the community asked
4 us to do with it was to make it a binding process
5 and to make it look more like international
6 arbitration. That's exactly why we had the
7 language in there about the international
8 arbitration norms.

9 But you can't look at the IRP as it's been
10 designed and suggest that only international
11 arbitration norms should apply. If that's the
12 case, we wouldn't need to have detailed
13 supplemental rules that we have, and we would just
14 pick a set of international arbitration rules to
15 apply and go with it.

16 But it's always been clear that some
17 modification to those international arbitration
18 norms needed to be in place to better reflect the
19 purpose and the intent and the import of the IRP
20 within the ICANN process.

21 Q. Okay. So I think I understand. Let me
22 try and just summarize here.

23 So the IRP was supposed to move more
24 towards what international arbitration looks like,
25 right, and that's why you have the language about

1 norms of international arbitration, right, that's
2 what you're saying?

3 A. The big way that the IRP was supposed to
4 move more like international arbitration is it was
5 supposed to become binding.

6 In the past, IRP declarations were not
7 binding on ICANN, and that's very different from a
8 normal arbitrable proceeding, where the Panel has
9 come to a decision and the parties are expected to
10 abide by it and not just take it as advisory.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. That was a big accountability gap that the
13 community said, "We want this closed." So what --
14 how do you make that closed? You say that it is
15 more like arbitration because you expect the
16 binding nature to be there.

17 Q. So --

18 A. They didn't expect it to become
19 arbitration, but they expected it to be final like
20 arbitrations are final.

21 Q. Got it. Not only final and binding, but
22 because of sort of the unique nature of ICANN and
23 the IRP process, it can be final and binding on a
24 really broad stroke, including the rights of third
25 parties, right?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Now, where did you get this language from
3 that you were proposing here about entities whose
4 actions were significantly referred to in the
5 briefings before the Panel?

6 A. I was thinking about past cases we have
7 had, IRPs where we have had mention of other
8 parties, for example, the .AFRICA IRP talks a lot
9 about the actions of some of the other parties to
10 the contention set. I was thinking about how this
11 could present and what would make sense in terms of
12 allowing an IRP to move forward and not get bogged
13 down in briefing just about who can be there as an
14 amicus and who can't.

15 Q. Well, let me ask you this: Let's assume
16 that there is an IRP that contains a lengthy
17 discussion of a prior IRP, and therefore, in that
18 discussion of the prior IRP, the claimant has a
19 lengthy discussion of what the prior claimant in
20 that prior IRP had done. So its briefings before
21 the Panel contain a relatively significant
22 description of actions taken by that other claimant
23 in the prior IRP.

24 Under this language, wouldn't that other
25 entity that participated in a different IRP have a

1 right to participate in this -- in the new IRP?

2 A. If they chose to, yes. And also, you
3 know, depending on how their actions were being
4 characterized and if it would result in language in
5 a Panel declaration that would impact them or
6 recast their actions in the future, that could be
7 fully appropriate.

8 But if it is just a recounting of facts
9 like in the facts section, when you are trying to
10 suggest that one situation is like another, that's
11 just a fully factual recounting of what happened,
12 why would they want to come in? They are not
13 required to. This isn't an intervention where you
14 pull them in. It is an opportunity for someone to
15 come in and preserve their right.

16 So if there is significant discussion,
17 even if it is someone fully outside of a process,
18 but for some reason they are recounting how they
19 did something and it is not correct, that party, if
20 they got on notice about it, should have the
21 ability to come in and clear their name or get
22 something clarified within the process without
23 having to fight about coming to do that.

24 Q. Well, what about a competitor? A
25 competitor may want to intervene in an IRP just to

1 disrupt it. And if they have a procedural hook
2 that removes all discretion of the procedures
3 panelists, doesn't that give them a pretty good
4 opportunity just to come in and muck up the
5 process?

6 A. Well, first, you have to consider what
7 mucking up the process means. Is it making -- is
8 it giving one party the ability to cast however
9 they wish the actions of another? If this is a
10 competitive situation, the competitor wouldn't be
11 able to come into the IRP under this rule, and
12 their actions have been significantly discussed
13 within the papers.

14 So it is not like someone just looking,
15 oh, Afiliias is doing this, I am a competitor, I
16 want to come in, then they have to go through all
17 the normal -- the normal briefings to document how
18 they have a material interest to come in as an
19 amicus, as opposed to saying, "Afiliias keeps
20 talking about me. Can you hear me and what I think
21 about this?" That's the difference here.

22 Q. Okay. I get that.

23 Now, the Sidley firm had been advising the
24 IOT on the drafting of these rules, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you show these edits that you made
2 here in your October 16 email to anyone at the
3 Sidley firm?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did anyone provide you with advice or
6 language about how to change Rule 7 between the
7 time you sent your October 12 letter to Mr. --
8 email to Mr. McAuley and the time that you sent
9 these edits on October 16?

10 A. There may have been privileged
11 interactions internal at ICANN.

12 Q. Okay. Did you speak with anybody within
13 ICANN? Without revealing the substance of those
14 communications, did you speak with anybody at ICANN
15 about edits to Rule 7 between October 12 and
16 October 16?

17 A. Likely, yes.

18 Q. Who?

19 A. Most likely Liz Le, who I was working with
20 on the IOT.

21 Q. Anyone else?

22 A. Not that I recall.

23 Q. Now, in your October 16 email you also
24 included a proposed footnote that is also
25 underlined. I think as you were stating earlier,

1 this is where you provided that the IRP Panel
2 should have discretion to determine the proper
3 scope of amicus participation, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you recall that Mr. McAuley proposed
6 amending this footnote to provide that Amici should
7 be allowed to, quote, "Participate broadly in the
8 IRP"?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you revised the final version of Rule
11 7 to reflect Mr. McAuley's proposal, correct?

12 A. I'd have to look at the final text that
13 was approved to see what I proposed.

14 Q. Sure. It is in the -- well, we don't need
15 to do that now. That's fine.

16 A. I do believe that Mr. McAuley was
17 proposing to remove some discretion of the Panel
18 about the terms of that broad participation. If I
19 included the word "broad" in the final topic, it
20 was solely the discretion of the Panel, but
21 encouraging broad participation. I think there's a
22 difference, if I recall what Mr. McAuley proposed
23 and how that was reflected in the Rule 7 that was
24 approved.

25 Q. Okay. Now, the full set of the interim

1 supplementary rules were sent to the entire
2 membership of the IOT on Friday, October 19th,
3 correct?

4 A. I believe that's right, yes.

5 Q. And the cover note, which is Tab 8 in your
6 binder, if you want to refer to it, states that,
7 "If comments are not received by midnight on
8 Sunday, October 21st, the interim rules would be
9 deemed approved by the committee"; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And turning to Tab 9 in your binder, in
12 fact, Mr. Turcotte reports on Sunday, October 21st,
13 that there had been no comments received, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, there was no requirement that any
16 member reply with their assent to the proposed
17 rules, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. So there was no way to confirm whether any
20 member of the IOT had even looked at the draft over
21 the weekend, correct?

22 A. There was no way to confirm by the record,
23 but this was also in the middle of an ICANN
24 meeting, where by the Saturday most people were on
25 site and active in meetings. So there was hallway

1 conversation. There were reminders as people were
2 passing each other, "Did you look at this?" "Can
3 you make sure you check it?" So this wasn't a
4 normal weekend, right. It wasn't a normal Friday
5 to Sunday time frame.

6 This was a time when most of the people
7 who are active on the IOT, including those who
8 hadn't necessarily been quite active, would be
9 typically in meetings, on their email, talking to
10 people, interacting face-to-face with people in the
11 IOT. So there was --

12 Q. I'm sorry, I cut you -- but there was no
13 record and you can't point to any document to
14 confirm that any other member of the IOT, other
15 than you and Mr. McAuley, had seen the proposed
16 changes to Rule 7 by the time it was deemed
17 approved by the IOT on Sunday, October 21st; isn't
18 that right?

19 A. There's no record, but there was -- there
20 were additional issues relating to the time for
21 filing issues that made it clear that other members
22 of the IOT were looking at the rule set because
23 they were approved and were having discussions
24 about that in other channels, but not on this list,
25 but not about the amicus.

1 Q. So those other communications about the
2 time for filing Rule 4, were they posted to the
3 IOT's LISTSERV?

4 A. I don't believe so. There was a member of
5 the IOT who was coordinating off IOT list a time in
6 writing and a time back -- I don't -- to the extent
7 I might have any of those records, they were only
8 forwarded to me because they weren't on
9 publicly-available lists -- where they were trying
10 to impact the Board consideration regarding the
11 time for filing issue and having that conversation.

12 Q. And that was Mr. Hutton, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And Mr. Hutton was one of the few non-ICANN
15 lawyers or VeriSign employees who attended the
16 October 9 and October 11 IOT meetings, correct?

17 A. He was one of the attendees, yes.

18 Q. Yeah. And did you hear from any of the
19 other members of the IOT over the weekend between
20 October 19 and October 21st that confirmed that
21 they had, in fact, read the interim rules that were
22 circulated?

23 A. I don't recall specific conversations that
24 I had.

25 Q. Now, the ICANN Board voted to adopt the

1 interim rules on October 25th, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Did you attend that Board meeting?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In preparation for Board meetings, is it
6 customary for ICANN legal to draft resolutions for
7 the Board's consideration?

8 A. Yes, or other members of the organization.

9 Q. And on October 25th the Board considered a
10 draft resolution adopting the interim rules; is
11 that correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Did you draft those resolution?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. I would direct your attention to Tab 10 in
16 your binder, which is a copy -- a full copy of the
17 October 25 Board resolution, and there were quite a
18 few things on the agenda. So I would direct your
19 attention to Page 57. This is where the discussion
20 of the interim supplementary rules start.

21 If you turn to Page 60, that's the
22 rationale for the resolutions that were adopted; is
23 that right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. So this is the explanation for why the

1 Board voted to adopt the interim rules; is that
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Turning to Page 62, the resolution
5 reflected the principles that we mentioned earlier
6 about the adoption on how the IOT went about
7 adopting the supplementary rules; is that right?

8 A. I don't recall that we really discussed
9 that, but yes, they reflect that principle.

10 Q. And, in fact, I direct your attention to
11 the first page in the document behind Tab 11, which
12 is the final set of rules that were adopted on
13 October 25th. Those principles are reflected in
14 the last paragraph on Page 1, going on to Page 2;
15 is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. I just want to go through these
18 with you.

19 In drafting the interim supplementary
20 procedures, what the principles state is that the
21 IOT applied the following principles: "One, remain
22 as close as possible to the current supplementary
23 procedures for the updated supplementary procedures
24 posted for public comment on 28 November of 2016,"
25 correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. So that first principle was to remain as
3 close as possible to the rules that were already in
4 effect or the draft rules that had been posted for
5 comment in 2016; is that right?

6 A. Right, the first of three principles, yes.

7 Q. Yes. We are going to go through all of
8 them, I promise.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. The second principle is, "Two, to the
11 extent that public comments received in response to
12 the draft that was posted in 2016 and reflect clear
13 movement away from either the current supplementary
14 procedures or the draft," the public comment draft,
15 "that the IOT should reflect that movement," so I
16 think as you said, trend, "unless doing so would
17 require significant drafting that should be
18 properly deferred for broader consideration."

19 Is that a fair summary of what that second
20 principle is?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So in short, the IOT should reflect the
23 changes that the public suggests unless doing so
24 would require significant drafting; is that right?

25 A. Correct, and unless -- yes. We don't

1 necessarily have a significant drafting task, but
2 that's what's there.

3 Q. And is that because if one comment
4 suggested something and the IOT thought it was a
5 good idea but it required significant drafting, the
6 rest of the community should have an opportunity to
7 see what that is; is that right?

8 A. And also, if you reflect back, these
9 principles were initially put in in May, when the
10 interim supplementary procedures were initially
11 proposed. So there it was -- there were some
12 situations where it wasn't clear that we had -- if
13 we were to approve a rule set in May, say, for
14 example, the IOT looked at the rule set that was
15 produced in May as the interim set, that would
16 reflect for the IOT why some of those trends that
17 had been reflected in public comment might not be
18 incorporated.

19 Here we do have some of the passage of
20 time as well, where there had been significant work
21 towards embodying those trends and language and
22 significant agreement amongst the IOT to reflect
23 those trends.

24 Q. So --

25 A. Go on.

1 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt
2 you. Have you completed your answer?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. Okay. Now, you recall that when the draft
5 IRP rules were posted for public comment in 2016,
6 there was a page devoted to that on the ICANN
7 website, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And on that -- and I am reading from it
10 right now. I don't have a copy in your binder, but
11 I will represent I am reading to you. It says,
12 "Next Steps. If significant changes are required
13 as a result of the public consultation, the IOT may
14 opt out" -- sorry -- "the IOT may opt to have a
15 further public comment period on these changes. If
16 there are no significant changes, the rule will be
17 included in the updated supplementary procedures."

18 Do you recall that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So I think that it is fair to say that
21 what you told the community in 2016 and what you
22 reflect here in Principle 2 is that we are going to
23 take the public comments unless it's a significant
24 change, and if it's a significant change, like
25 there was in Rule 4, we are going to go back out

1 for a second public comment; is that right?

2 A. I think so. What we do -- when we take
3 public comment, if it requires significant change,
4 particularly significant change that is not
5 expected or supported by public comment, we would
6 take it back out for public comment, and that's
7 what the community should expect.

8 Q. Okay. Looking at Principle 3, it says,
9 "Three, take no action that would materially expand
10 on any part of the supplementary procedures that
11 the IRP-IOT has not clearly agreed upon or that
12 represents a significant change from what was
13 posted for comment and would, therefore, require
14 further public consultation."

15 So that's basically what we just talked
16 about, correct?

17 A. Right, right.

18 Q. Just to refresh your recollection, that's
19 also what you were talking about in your October 12
20 email that the IOT would need to consider whether
21 the changes to Rule 7 that Mr. McAuley was
22 proposing was a significant change than what had
23 been posted for public comment, right?

24 A. Right, particularly in that significant
25 interest test that he was introducing.

1 Q. Now, is it fair to say that when the Board
2 adopts a resolution and it includes a rationale for
3 that conclusion, that the Board has reviewed and
4 agrees with everything that's in the resolution and
5 the rationales?

6 A. Yes, each Board member has the opportunity
7 to either abstain or vote against.

8 Q. So would you say, as someone who attends
9 Board meetings and someone who has drafted
10 resolutions and rationales, that these resolutions
11 and rationales that were adopted on October 25th
12 reflect the fact that the Board believed that the
13 IOT had followed these procedures, correct?

14 A. Yes. And then further in the rationale it
15 also identified the Board's understanding of the
16 continued conversation and how things might have
17 changed over the time leading up to the Board
18 meeting.

19 Q. Okay. I'd like to direct your attention
20 to the document behind Tab 12 in your binder, and
21 this is, I will represent to you, a redline that we
22 ran some time ago when we were in front of the
23 Panel on Phase I.

24 And this redline is the current version of
25 Rule 7 that was adopted on the 25th of October 2018

1 against the version that went out for public
2 comment in November of 2016. And I would just ask
3 you to review the four pages of this document.

4 And I would ask that whether or not --
5 given the changes reflected in this redline, this
6 is a significant change, isn't it?

7 A. If you mean "significant" in terms of
8 volume of words, yes, but I don't think that it is
9 significant in terms of between what was posted,
10 particularly as it relates to the consolidation and
11 intervention.

12 And the changes there really are
13 reflecting some of the other specifics that were
14 raised through public comment about how to make
15 sure we were doing it correctly, and then the
16 addition of the amicus part also comes out of
17 public comments.

18 So while there's clearly two and a half
19 additional pages here, I won't say there's not --
20 there's -- volume alone doesn't mean that it is a
21 significant change.

22 Q. Well, if you look at the bottom of Page 2
23 and the top of Page 3, which is "Participation as
24 an Amicus Curiae" -- I know it is called a redline,
25 but this is a blue line. It is all blue, right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And what you had told the community in
3 2016, that if significant changes are required as a
4 result of the public consultation, the IOT may opt
5 to have a further public comment period on these
6 changes.

7 So is it fair to say that you opted not to
8 have a further public comment on these changes?

9 A. There clearly was not a further public
10 comment on these changes because there were
11 multiple comments that asked us to consider
12 including an amicus section, and that's what the
13 IOT delivered.

14 If we put things back out for public
15 comment once there's a change that clearly reflects
16 a trend for public comment, we would be in a
17 never-ending loop of not getting our work
18 completed.

19 I think when we look back at the IOT's
20 expectations of this and the community's
21 expectations of this, we didn't hear -- even after
22 the Board approved it, we heard no concerns from
23 the IOT that the Board had approved the rules in
24 this form, and we also didn't hear from the
25 community other than Afilias of a concern that the

1 Board had approved the rule in this form.

2 We have a very vocal community that will
3 stand up and raise their hand and raise issues
4 regarding that if they had concerns.

5 MR. LITWIN: Mr. Chairman, I know we have
6 been going for about an hour and a half now. I
7 probably have about another 10 or 15 minutes for
8 Ms. Eisner. Would you like to take a break now or
9 would you like for me to finish my
10 cross-examination?

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: I think we should
12 take a break now. How long did you say you still
13 have?

14 MR. LITWIN: I think 10 or 15 minutes at
15 most.

16 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. Very well.
17 So that means that you're going beyond your
18 estimate, at least as reflected in the agenda.

19 MR. LITWIN: That is possible,
20 Mr. Chairman. I do expect that future witnesses
21 will go quite a bit faster than anticipated.

22 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Very well. I am not
23 reproaching you. I am just observing that will be
24 the case.

25 So we will take our first 15-minute break.

1 Ms. Eisner, as I instructed you yesterday,
2 you are not to discuss your evidence during the
3 break. You are aware of that?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am. Thank you.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Mr. Wallach, any
6 sense, as we stand now, of the length of your
7 redirect?

8 MR. WALLACH: It will not be long. I
9 would not expect it to be more than 10 or 15
10 minutes.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Very well. So we
12 will resume in 15 minutes. Thank you all.

13 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Ms. Eisner, you are
16 under the same solemn affirmation.

17 And, Mr. Litwin, please continue with your
18 cross.

19 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Q. Ms. Eisner, I'd like to switch topics and
21 ask you a few questions about Rule 4 of the
22 supplementary rules.

23 Before the interim rules came into effect
24 on October 25th, 2018, the deadline to file an IRP
25 had been set in ICANN's bylaws; is that right?

1 A. Before October 1st, 2016, the deadlines
2 had been set in ICANN's bylaws.

3 Q. Before October 2016 the bylaws required a
4 claimant to file within 30 days of the posting of
5 the minutes of a Board meeting, correct?

6 A. Yes, I believe that's right.

7 Q. And those bylaws, I think, as you've
8 anticipated my question, were replaced in 2016, and
9 the new bylaws didn't have a timing provision in
10 it; is that right?

11 A. Correct. The accountability group that
12 came up with the recommendations on the IRP
13 reserved that matter for the IOT to decide.

14 Q. So I just want to go through the timetable
15 here with you.

16 Are you aware that ICANN maintains in this
17 IRP that the relevant ICANN action here was the
18 ICANN Board's decision to defer consideration of
19 Afilias' complaints about how the .WEB contention
20 set had been resolved; are you aware of that?

21 A. I have read the papers, but that's the
22 extent to which I am aware of it.

23 Q. Okay. Now, that decision to defer
24 consideration, according to ICANN, took place on
25 November 3rd, 2016; are you aware of that?

1 A. Only from the papers.

2 Q. Okay. Now, I'll represent to you that
3 ICANN did not disclose the fact that that Board
4 workshop on November 3rd, 2016, was occurring and
5 did not disclose any decision that was taken during
6 that November 3rd meeting.

7 Are you aware of that?

8 A. I am not aware of that.

9 Q. Okay. Now, let's just consider the date
10 of November 13, 2016. I think as you just
11 testified the then-current bylaws did not have any
12 deadline in it for filing an IRP, correct?

13 A. On November 13th, 2016?

14 Q. Correct?

15 MR. BIENVENU: You said 13. Did you mean
16 to say 3rd?

17 MR. LITWIN: I'm sorry, November 3rd.
18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Q. As of November 3rd, 2016, the then-current
20 bylaws did not have a deadline in it for the filing
21 of an IRP; is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And the supplementary rules for the IRP
24 that were in effect on November 3rd, 2016, didn't
25 have a deadline for filing either; is that correct?

1 A. I believe that's correct. I would have to
2 go back and refer to them, but I believe the bylaws
3 at the time specified, but the supplementary
4 procedures did not.

5 Q. So let's fast-forward to 2018. Afilias
6 initiated its CEP on June 18, 2018; is that right?

7 A. That's right, based on your
8 representation.

9 Q. As of that date, June 18, 2018, there was
10 still no deadline to file an IRP because neither
11 the bylaws nor the supplementary rules that were in
12 effect had a timing provision in it; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, in October of 2018, Afilias was still
15 in CEP with ICANN; is that correct?

16 A. Based on our discussions today, yes.

17 Q. And on October 10, as I have represented
18 to you, Afilias had sent a draft IRP request to
19 ICANN to enable ICANN to respond to the merits of
20 its claim in the context of that CEP.

21 Do you remember that discussion?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Now, at the same time within the IOT, is
24 it fair to say that the committee was debating the
25 substance of the interim rules?

1 A. "At the same time" being that November
2 3rd, 2016, up through --

3 Q. During October 2018.

4 A. During October 2018, yes, the committee
5 was debating the substance of a few different rules
6 that are reflected in the exhibits that you
7 presented.

8 Q. And one of them was, in fact, Rule 4, the
9 timing provisions, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In fact, Mr. Huty objected, I will say
12 strenuously --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- to the adoption of those rules?

15 I always think of A Few Good Men when I
16 say that.

17 Those draft rules weren't finalized until
18 October 19th, correct?

19 A. If we consider what was sent in the email,
20 yes, that's correct.

21 Q. And they were first deemed approved by the
22 IOT on Sunday, October 21st, correct?

23 A. Yes, I think so.

24 Q. And they were first sent to the Board on
25 Monday, October 22nd, correct?

1 A. So let's back up for a second. In terms
2 of deemed approved, I believe that we had had a set
3 at the end of September that had been pretty well
4 gone through, recognizing that there were a few
5 minor changes that might have happened a couple
6 other places. There was -- and then there was a
7 discussion of Rule 7. We will set that aside.

8 So in the other form -- I have to go back
9 and recall, but I think that one of the only areas
10 where there was any change on the time for filing
11 issue -- if we're discussing that part -- had to do
12 with the fact that we agreed at some point and
13 finalized language on a footnote that would confirm
14 that if there was a future change in a deadline for
15 time for filing, that ICANN would work to make sure
16 no one was prejudiced by that.

17 But I think that the language otherwise in
18 Rule 4 had remained pretty steady up to that point
19 and there had been final readings through the IOT
20 on that.

21 Q. And the Board voted on the interim rules,
22 including the text of Rule 4, on October 25th,
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that's the first time that the

1 time-bar rules in Rule 4 came into effect, correct?

2 A. It is the first time that a time for
3 filing had been specified and came into effect for
4 the IRPs after October 1st, 2016.

5 Q. And then the ICANN Board rejected Afiliias'
6 reconsideration request on November 6th, correct?

7 A. Based on your representation, yes.

8 Q. And then ICANN terminated CEP on November
9 13th, correct?

10 A. Again, based on our discussion, yes.

11 Q. And then Afiliias filed its IRP the next
12 day, on November 14th, correct?

13 A. I believe that's correct.

14 Q. But ICANN's Board was going to work to
15 make sure no one would be prejudiced by the
16 adoption of Rule 4; is that what you said?

17 A. The footnote that was included in the Rule
18 4 was about the change between the -- we are
19 putting the interim rules into effect.

20 And then if in the future a discussion
21 where people were suggesting that there should be
22 basically no statute of limitations on the ability
23 to challenge an act of ICANN, if that were to be
24 the predominant view, and what the Board put into
25 effect that there would be some sort of stopgap

1 measure put in so that anyone who was not able to
2 file under the interim rules and the timing set out
3 there but could have filed if the other rules, the
4 broader rules had been in effect, that we would put
5 in a stopgap to make sure that no one was
6 prejudiced by that differentiation because we had
7 agreed on a different timing for the final set.

8 Q. Ms. Eisner, who at ICANN legal was
9 responsible for tracking and working on CEPs and
10 IRPs?

11 A. That would be a team led by Amy Stathos,
12 one of the deputy general counsel, and the people
13 who work for her that she would assign based on
14 availability and subject matter.

15 Q. So when you -- I'm sorry.

16 A. Go on. Sorry.

17 Q. So when you said during the IOT meeting on
18 October 11th that, "We at ICANN org are getting
19 nervous about being on the precipice of having an
20 IRP filed," were you referring to Ms. Stathos?

21 A. In part. It was a general area of
22 discomfort for us. We committed to have this IRP
23 in place through our bylaws, and we knew that it
24 was a stopgap measure. Every single day we are at
25 risk of having IRPs filed. So it is a general

1 collective concern.

2 We are -- we're the lawyers responsible
3 for making sure that our entity's in compliance,
4 and part of that is in compliance to our bylaws,
5 and there's a really big gap there.

6 Q. And, in fact, Afiliias filed its IRP 34
7 days after that October 11th meeting, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the next IRP to be filed wouldn't be
10 filed for more than 400 days; is that right?

11 A. I believe so, based on when you said the
12 next filing was.

13 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Ms. Eisner.

14 I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

15 Thank you, Ms. Eisner, very much for your
16 time today.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you,
19 Mr. Litwin.

20 Do my colleagues have questions for
21 Ms. Eisner, starting with Catherine Kessedjian?

22 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: I do.

23 Ms. Eisner, I am Catherine Kessedjian. I
24 am speaking from Paris.

25 I noted at the very beginning of your

1 testimony today before us that you are in the
2 position in which you are at ICANN as deputy
3 counsel, general counsel since 2014; is that
4 correct?

5 THE WITNESS: I have been -- I can't
6 recall when I was promoted to deputy. I believe it
7 was somewhere in 2016, but I have been either
8 associate general counsel or deputy since 2014 and
9 doing the same work since 2014.

10 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Okay. My
11 recollection may not be good, but I think I have
12 seen a CV of yours on the Internet saying that you
13 have joined ICANN in 2009; is that correct?

14 THE WITNESS: That's correct, yes.

15 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: So could you
16 describe for us what you did before becoming the
17 deputy general counsel?

18 THE WITNESS: Sure. When I joined ICANN
19 in 2009, I joined a three-person department, making
20 it a four-person department, and I was the most
21 junior member of the department at that point.

22 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: You mean the legal
23 department?

24 THE WITNESS: The legal department, yes.
25 So I assisted on any matter that came up before --

1 across the legal needs of the organization.

2 So because ICANN itself was a smaller
3 organization and the legal department was smaller,
4 we all covered a lot of the areas and kind of
5 stepped in and out as needed to cover our service
6 areas.

7 In 2013 ICANN doubled the size of its
8 legal department, and with that came a
9 differentiation of duties. So we wound up
10 separating out the work that we do across
11 Ms. Stathos, who is a deputy -- she was a deputy
12 then and remains a deputy now, who manages our
13 litigation management as well as the internal work.

14 We have someone that handles a lot of the
15 policy side of what we do and our stakeholder
16 services and actually for the contracted parties.

17 And I stepped into a role of -- that I
18 explained yesterday of supporting our strategic
19 initiatives work as well as the global stakeholder
20 engagement work and then special projects that come
21 up, such as the community-facing work that I do.

22 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Thank you. You
23 have described many times during the
24 cross-examination the fact that IRPs have been at
25 the center of the worries, if I may say so, of the

1 legal department and of ICANN org.

2 Could you explain to us how the
3 information is going through the legal department
4 throughout the community? What information do you
5 get and how often do you discuss that with your
6 colleagues?

7 And since you were drafting rules about
8 IRPs, how come -- I may have misunderstood you. I
9 would have to read the transcript again -- but how
10 come you cannot recall anything about IRPs? I find
11 a disconnect from what you have been telling us in
12 your cross-examination between the fact that you
13 say it's a major worry and the fact that you have
14 answered a lot that you do not recall when you are
15 asked precise questions about IRPs.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I appreciate why
17 it might appear that there's a disconnect.

18 So I am not involved in the day-to-day
19 operation of the IRPs. I am not part of our
20 regular litigation support function that prepares
21 our defenses and really engages on the substance of
22 how ICANN itself will, you know, participate in IRP
23 proceedings or, for that matter, our other
24 accountability mechanisms.

25 My day-to-day work -- and there's a lot of

1 it and separate, but that doesn't mean that I am
2 not involved in helping to make sure that ICANN as
3 an organization is prepared to handle those.

4 So one of my biggest roles in our legal
5 department is to help make sure that we are acting
6 in alignment with our bylaws. It is one of the
7 obligations of all of our counsel, of course.

8 Because of the specific nature of work
9 that I do and I have been very involved in the
10 accountability processes that led up to the
11 development of the recommendations that enhance the
12 IRPs, and so then I kept going with that work.

13 That's one of the reasons why we also had
14 Liz Le, Elizabeth Le, who you have heard me discuss
15 and she's been referred to, she works more closely
16 with Amy and her team on the litigation management.
17 I am not sure about her involvement in individual
18 IRPs.

19 So I am very familiar with the operation
20 of IRPs in general, and I am very familiar with how
21 actions taken within the supplementary procedures
22 might impact efficiency of proceedings, resources
23 needed and those sorts of things.

24 It is like -- imagine really understanding
25 civil procedure, for example, but not getting

1 involved in the day-to-day procedure of a case.
2 That's exactly kind of where I sit.

3 So I, of course -- if that makes sense.

4 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: But saying that
5 you are not involved in the day-to-day management
6 of a case, I fully understand that. But when an
7 IRP is filed or about to be filed, there are some
8 conversations within the department of which you
9 are, if not a participant, at least an observer,
10 aren't you?

11 THE WITNESS: Of course there are times
12 when I know when an IRP is filed. I will get an
13 update about that fact. It is both a special and a
14 regular course of our life at ICANN.

15 So it is something that -- like this IRP,
16 of course, has touched me much differently than any
17 IRP that has happened since I was a junior attorney
18 in 2009, working with ICANN, where I might have
19 been more directly involved with litigation
20 support, only because as you can manage, my name is
21 in it and it is about the activities and centers
22 around some of that.

23 But often also the IRPs themselves relate
24 to day-to-day work at ICANN that I am also not
25 involved in. So, for example, I don't do a lot of

1 the work that relates to the new gTLD Program or
2 those -- as I discussed earlier, much of the IRPs
3 have been about processing the applications for the
4 new gTLD Program.

5 So because I don't have substantive
6 expertise on that and it's not my role, I hear
7 things are coming in and I am aware of what my
8 colleagues are working on, but I have a full desk
9 of work, so I don't necessarily get involved in a
10 lot of the day-to-day conversations about it.

11 It becomes a fact of something that's
12 going on, but because it's not something that I
13 need to give attention to, I would only give
14 support when I'm called on to give support for it,
15 but otherwise I don't get involved in regular
16 status updates with my colleagues on it because it
17 is not something that -- typically just a general
18 conversation among our department unless there's --
19 we know that there's hearings coming up.

20 Someone says, "There's a hearing coming up
21 in this IRP, so I'll be very busy with that. Maybe
22 you can help pick up some of my work over here."
23 Something like that.

24 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: My last question.
25 I understand you cannot recall now in 2020 what has

1 happened in 2016 and '18, but it would be fair to
2 say that at the time when you were working on those
3 rules, you heard about what was going on in the
4 other parts of the department, and so your thinking
5 may have been influenced by that?

6 THE WITNESS: I would have had general
7 knowledge of it, but I think it is also important
8 to recall that I -- knowing that someone might be
9 filing an IRP, that's -- it makes it important to
10 make sure we have the basis for that IRP to be
11 filed. That's one thing that exists no matter what
12 the topic or who that entity might be.

13 So even -- I would assume I was aware at
14 some point that there was a CEP happening, for
15 example, that I don't recall the specifics of
16 because, again, it was a fact of note, right. But
17 it wasn't about who it was. It was about the fact
18 that there was something happening.

19 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Because it was
20 directly important for the work you were doing?

21 THE WITNESS: In order to make sure that
22 we had the basis of rules coming through. So it
23 could have been any entity that had initiated a
24 CEP, for example. That didn't matter.

25 So the important thing was we needed to

1 have some rules that matched with the bylaws to
2 allow the Panel to run an IRP that made sense for
3 everyone.

4 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Thank you very
5 much. I am done.

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Mr. Chernick, any
7 questions for Ms. Eisner?

8 ARBITRATOR CHERNICK: No. Thank you.

9 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Ms. Eisner, could I
10 ask you to turn to Paragraph 5 of your witness
11 statement?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes. I am there.

13 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So this paragraph
14 deals with the period between 11 October 2018 and
15 16 October 2018, a period during -- concerning
16 which Mr. Litwin questioned you.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And there is
19 presented in this paragraph a sequence of events
20 which, for the purpose of my question, I'll break
21 down in five steps, if I may.

22 The first one is Mr. McAuley's suggestion
23 to give claimant status to persons with a
24 significant interest, correct?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Then you mentioned
2 Mr. Huty's suggestion that interim procedures
3 should specify the categories of persons entitled
4 as a matter of right to participate in an IRP,
5 right?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And then you
8 mentioned that you are tasked by the IOT to propose
9 language to reflect the discussion?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And then you
12 mentioned that you drafted further revisions which
13 included a deemed interest in favor of members of
14 the contention set or an entity whose actions are
15 significantly referred to in the IRP, that's Step
16 4?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Then you mentioned
19 that you send out those revisions on 16 October to
20 Mr. Turcotte and McAuley and then you and McAuley
21 had subsequent exchanges over the next three days,
22 right?

23 THE WITNESS: Right.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: There is no mention
25 in that sequence of events of the fact that between

1 Steps 3 and 5, as I understand it, you had contacts
2 with Mr. McAuley and to the fact that Mr. McAuley
3 had input into the drafting of the revisions that
4 were sent out on 16 October; is that correct?

5 THE WITNESS: I don't recall the contact
6 that you are speaking of.

7 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Can you look at Tab
8 8 of the witness bundle?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: You recognize this
11 email message? This is the email by which
12 Mr. Turcotte, on behalf of Mr. McAuley, sends out
13 the draft that you have been working on since
14 October 11, correct?

15 THE WITNESS: Correct.

16 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Can you look at the
17 fifth paragraph?

18 Just before you do that, we know that this
19 email was, in fact, drafted by Mr. McAuley, who
20 sent that draft to Mr. Turcotte, who then on behalf
21 of Mr. McAuley sent that out to the members of the
22 IOT, correct?

23 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So if we look at
25 this paragraph, we read, "As some attempted to

1 draft a compromise in this respect." So he's
2 talking about the period between the 11th of
3 October and the 16th of October, correct?

4 THE WITNESS: Let me just refer back to my
5 declaration. Can you repeat your question?

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes. I am just
7 trying to situate this language here.

8 What I'm understanding reading this email
9 is that Mr. McAuley is explaining to the members of
10 the IOT that as you were attempting to draft the
11 compromise, basically to deliver on the task that
12 you were given on the 11th of October, you
13 encountered difficulty, and he explains here that
14 you "encountered difficulty in capturing
15 appropriate language that she felt would be
16 consistent with bylaws."

17 Then he goes on to say, "Sam reached out
18 to me in my participant capacity, and we discussed
19 over the ensuing days, and so the language you will
20 see there is not exactly as discussed on the calls.
21 The language is acceptable to me in my participant
22 capacity. I felt these discussions were
23 appropriate inasmuch as I had raised the issue as
24 participant and knew I would forward the resulting
25 language to the list, a way to try to take

1 advantage of Board action at next week's meeting,"
2 end of quote.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So in point of fact,
5 there were discussions between you and Mr. McAuley
6 on the subject of the changes to Rule 7 between the
7 11 of October meeting and the 16 of October draft,
8 correct?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. And there are email
10 discussions that reflect that that are in the
11 record. For example, at Tab 6 of my binder, the
12 binder that Afiliias' counsel presented to me,
13 you'll see the difficulty reflected on that
14 February 12th -- sorry, on that Friday, October
15 12th, email.

16 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Right.

17 THE WITNESS: And then we had exchanged
18 emails regarding that. So we had email discussions
19 that I -- that's what I understand he's referring
20 to here.

21 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And do I understand
22 that these discussions were only by emails? There
23 were no telephone discussions?

24 THE WITNESS: As far as I recall, that's
25 the case.

1 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: As you sit here
2 today, Ms. Eisner, do you remember these exchanges?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes. I remember the email
4 exchanges that are in front of us, yes.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Are you sure that
6 they were only email exchanges, or might you have
7 had telephone exchanges?

8 THE WITNESS: There were times when I
9 spoke with Mr. McAuley in his role on the IOT on
10 the telephone.

11 I don't recall specifically when those
12 occurred, and I don't recall if it was around this
13 time period or about this topic.

14 I did speak with Mr. McAuley at times by
15 telephone, but I don't recall sitting here today if
16 we ever discussed this topic by telephone.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Do you recall -- or
18 I'll put it even in sensitive terms.

19 Is it possible that in the course of these
20 discussions, Mr. McAuley influenced or shaped the
21 language added to Rule 7 during that very short and
22 critical period, and in particular, the two
23 categories of parties who, according to the new
24 draft, would be deemed to have a material interest?

25 THE WITNESS: So Mr. -- the revisions that

1 happened in that middle part of October would never
2 have happened if Mr. McAuley hadn't introduced the
3 new language that he did around the October 9 to
4 October 11 time frame, that's true. We were
5 prepared to move the rules forward.

6 Whether Mr. McAuley -- to your question of
7 did Mr. McAuley influence the specific language --

8 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: I wouldn't even put
9 it in those terms. What I suggested is whether
10 your discussions with him may have influenced or
11 shaped that language? Because they are very
12 specific scenarios that are contemplated there.
13 They emerged during that period.

14 And what we know based on that email --
15 unless you correct it -- is that, as he says, you
16 reached out to him and you discussed over the
17 ensuing dates, so the language that you see there
18 is not exactly as discussed on the calls.

19 So the question I have is: Is it possible
20 that during that period, the language that you came
21 up with was shaped by those discussions?

22 THE WITNESS: I believe my outreach to him
23 in his participant capacity would have been a
24 Friday, October 12th, email that was directed to
25 him with Mr. Turcotte and Ms. Le. That's where you

1 see my discomfort with his initial language
2 reflected.

3 I clearly -- so within my role at ICANN --
4 or with ICANN and as we get to points where we are
5 getting ready to have something sent to the Board
6 to reach conclusion in a group, it sometimes
7 happens that people come in towards the end and
8 request changes.

9 No matter who those people are, my role in
10 this group was to help move this language forward.
11 It didn't matter who was presenting it. Anyone
12 else could have raised this language, and I would
13 have had the same obligation to try to move the
14 language forward.

15 I clearly had to think about the issues
16 that Mr. McAuley was raising that he was expressing
17 regarding why he was proposing this to see if I
18 could move this language within the bounds of the
19 appropriate structure of the IRP, and where it
20 appeared that we had the ability to go with it, to
21 make -- to see if we could move it to a place where
22 we would have rules that we could put in place.

23 But I was also extremely careful to not
24 expand the rules beyond a place where it didn't
25 seem appropriate.

1 MR. LITWIN: Mr. Chairman.

2 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes.

3 MR. LITWIN: There is a document that I
4 referred to obliquely in my questioning, which is
5 not a substantive document. It is a two-line email
6 that Mr. McAuley sent to Ms. Eisner at 7:09 a.m. on
7 October 15, 2018. It is one of the documents that
8 ICANN posted to the IOT-IRP website in response to
9 our motion before the procedures officer.

10 It is not in the record, but I do believe
11 that if we could introduce this document and ask
12 Ms. Eisner about it, it would confirm the existence
13 of a phone call between Mr. McAuley and Ms. Eisner
14 on October 15th.

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: I don't think we
16 should embark on a discussion of adding to the
17 record at this point, Mr. Litwin.

18 MR. ALI: Mr. Chairman, if I may, this is
19 a two-line email, which was sent -- where
20 Ms. Eisner, who is the witness before you, is the
21 recipient. It seems to me that she can be asked
22 about it, particularly in light of the line of your
23 questioning.

24 It is simply a question of confirming or
25 helping her to refresh her memory that, in fact,

1 there was the phone call that you were alluding to.
2 It is there in black and white. It doesn't take
3 more than 30 seconds for her to review the message.

4 MR. WALLACH: Mr. Bienvenu, may I say
5 something?

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Is that Mr. Wallach?

7 MR. WALLACH: Yes, it is.

8 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: I think Mr. LeVee
9 also wanted to say something, but I'll listen to
10 you, Mr. Wallach.

11 MR. WALLACH: I would object to the
12 addition of new evidence, new documents into the
13 record at this point on any issue, but particularly
14 on the Rule 7 issue, which has been the subject of
15 significant briefing going back a year and a half
16 now. It has already been the subject of one
17 hearing.

18 I would also object to Mr. Ali's
19 interjecting himself at this point. We agreed that
20 one attorney would do the examination other than in
21 exceptional circumstances. Mr. Litwin did the
22 examination.

23 This came up also in respect to Ms. Burr's
24 examination yesterday, where Mr. Litwin did the
25 examination and Mr. Ali interjected himself in

1 objecting to questions on redirect. I believe we
2 have agreed that one attorney will do the
3 examination, and that should apply to redirect.
4 That should also apply to other issues, such as
5 this, that are interjected during the course of the
6 examination.

7 MR. ALI: Mr. Chairman, I think that is, I
8 would say, unfortunately an uninformed view. We
9 had agreed that there would be only one counsel to
10 question a witness, which we have stuck by that
11 rule.

12 I am lead counsel representing Afiliias in
13 this matter, and I believe I am entitled, with your
14 permission, to make interventions before you on
15 matters.

16 I have not posed a single question to a
17 witness. Unfortunately, we are having this
18 conversation in front of Ms. Eisner, and I remember
19 Professor Kessedjian's admonition yesterday. So
20 perhaps Ms. Eisner could go back into the waiting
21 room while we hear from Mr. LeVee on other matters,
22 if I may suggest that.

23 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes, that's probably
24 appropriate. Ms. Eisner, forgive us, but we'll ask
25 you to go to another room.

1 I do want to take this opportunity --
2 well, I address everybody. We had a discussion
3 about the one-lawyer rule, and we decided that a
4 counsel team would be permitted to consult during
5 cross-examination, and we were asked to pause to
6 allow such consultations, and we will continue to
7 do so. That is appropriate.

8 To correct you, Mr. Ali, you did yesterday
9 raise an objection in the course of the redirect
10 examination of a witness, and that normally would
11 have been for the counsel who had conducted the
12 cross-examination to do.

13 We do not want to be formally -- we do not
14 want to be overly formal, but we do want both
15 parties to feel that there are rules of engagement
16 that have been either agreed or determined by the
17 Panel and that those rules apply to everybody.

18 I don't want to have a discussion about
19 it, Mr. Ali.

20 MR. ALI: I'd like to put it on the
21 record. No, Mr. Bienvenu, I need to put it on the
22 record.

23 We are here in a virtual hearing because
24 of ICANN's insistence and because the Panel
25 insisted on having this hearing. We have been put

1 under incredible pressure because of the way in
2 which this procedure has been played out. The
3 pressure has resulted from the manner in which
4 ICANN has chosen to conduct itself.

5 I don't want to sound like I'm whining,
6 but the way in which this is played out has not
7 only put us under incredible pressure that if it
8 continues will give rise to issue of fairness,
9 number one.

10 Number two, we have been put in the
11 position because of the way in which we have been
12 proceeding, where I have had to -- where my team
13 has had to basically break every rule of engagement
14 that is required by the D.C. government and by my
15 law firm in terms of health and safety because of
16 the pace at which we are proceeding.

17 We are proceeding under immense pressure
18 by this Panel that allows -- that -- where we are.
19 We have nine witnesses.

20 Mr. Chairman, you, yourself, have been
21 counsel in international arbitrations. One week to
22 get ready for a hearing with nine witnesses that we
23 have to cross-examine is no mean feat, and we are
24 doing so where people are not in the same room.
25 People are having to make special arrangements

1 because of how they live and where they live and
2 who they live with in order to be able to
3 participate in the hearings, unlike the three
4 arbitrators and some of the members of the team, do
5 not have the luxury of being in a location where
6 they can work easily or, for that matter, the lead
7 counsel and the partners. So it has, indeed, been
8 extremely difficult.

9 I will say if I were sitting next to
10 Mr. Litwin, as would be the case for any lead
11 counsel, Mr. Chairman and members of the Panel, I
12 would have been able to pass him a note.

13 So these objections that are being raised
14 I find are to the rules of engagement and the
15 formalities and the procedures. You know, it is
16 either virtual or not virtual. If we are in a
17 virtual world, then allowances need to be made as
18 we are all learning how to manage the technology,
19 how we are trying to manage health and safety
20 issues, how we are trying to manage the time zone
21 witnesses, how we are trying to get nine witnesses
22 done in truncated hearing days.

23 So, Mr. Chairman, yes, I do need to put
24 that on record, and I apologize if I'm being
25 strident about this, but, frankly, I have reached

1 the end of my tether in the way in which some of
2 this has been -- how some of this has played itself
3 out.

4 I do think that allowances need to be made
5 for the circumstances that we are in because I am
6 seeing what this has done and is doing to my team,
7 whose health and safety is paramount.

8 And together with that is our right to a
9 fair hearing in which we are given an opportunity,
10 a full and fair opportunity to present our case.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BIENVENU: Thank you, Mr. Ali. So we
13 will take the request for the addition of this
14 document into the record under advisement. I will
15 discuss it with my colleagues during the next
16 break.

17 And for the moment, unless there are
18 questions from my colleagues for Ms. Eisner, we
19 would move to the redirect, then probably break and
20 then see if the addition into the record of this
21 document would lead to a few additional questions.

22 So let's bring the witness back in.

23 Before we do, Mr. Ali, I will just say
24 that we are conscious of the additional burden that
25 the crisis which befalls the world is putting on

1 parties engaged in dispute resolution. We are
2 conscious of the fact that the burden is
3 particularly heavy for the party in the case that
4 has to conduct the cross-examination of witnesses,
5 and in your case there are many. We are fully
6 conscious of that.

7 My recalling the one-counsel rule was to
8 make sure that both parties feel that the rules
9 agreed -- discussed and agreed are followed, so
10 that was the only import of my reference to that
11 rule.

12 So let us then bring -- I have no more
13 questions for Ms. Eisner. Let's bring her back in.

14 Mr. Wallach, are you ready for your
15 redirect?

16 MR. ALI: Just one more point of order
17 before she comes back because I don't want her to
18 hear this question. We would request that she not
19 be released until the Panel has decided on the
20 document.

21 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Of course. It goes
22 without saying.

23 MR. ALI: Thank you.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So, Mr. Wallach,
25 please proceed with your redirect.

1 MR. WALLACH: Thank you, Mr. Bienvenu.

2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. WALLACH

4 Q. Good morning, Ms. Eisner.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. I have only a few questions for you.

7 First, you were asked by Mr. Litwin some
8 questions about the number and identity of
9 attendees at certain meetings of the IOT?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were all IOT members given notice before a
12 meeting was held?

13 A. Yes. It is a practice that there's
14 typically both an email on the list as well as
15 calendar notifications that go out from the
16 secretary to all the people who are in that group.

17 Q. And were all IOT members given an
18 opportunity to attend any meeting that was held?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Moving on to another subject. I
21 believe Mr. Litwin suggested to you -- or asked a
22 series of questions which suggested that any
23 significant change to the version of the
24 supplementary procedures that was sent out for
25 public comment would need to be sent out for a

1 second public comment period.

2 Is it a correct statement of your
3 understanding of the standard that any significant
4 change to the supplementary procedures sent out for
5 public comment would need to be sent out for a
6 second public comment period?

7 MR. LITWIN: Objection; that's a leading
8 question.

9 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Mr. Wallach, do you
10 want to reformulate your question?

11 Q. BY MR. WALLACH: Okay. What is your
12 understanding of the standard applied within ICANN
13 regarding when a change to the version of the
14 supplementary procedures sent out for public
15 comment would need to be subjected to a second
16 public comment period?

17 A. My understanding of when a change made to
18 a version of the supplementary procedures that have
19 previously been put out for public comment would
20 have to go out again would be if it was -- if there
21 was a change made that is not reflective of a trend
22 that arrived from that first public comment or if
23 it was significant or an unexpected change --
24 significant and unexpected change from that version
25 that was previously put out.

1 Q. Thank you. Did you have a view on whether
2 the changes to Rule 7 were required to be put out
3 for a second public comment period?

4 A. I did not think that the changes made to
5 Rule 7 as reflected in the version that the Board
6 approved needed to go out for public comment
7 because I believe they were in line with the trend
8 of public comment that we had received on the
9 versions that had been posted in 2016.

10 Q. Thank you. And now I'd like to look at a
11 document. This is Tab 10 of the binder that was
12 provided to you by Mr. Litwin. It is Exhibit C-314
13 for the arbitrator.

14 I'd like to turn to Page 63, using the
15 page numbers that are in the bottom right-hand
16 corner of the document. Actually, if we could
17 refer to 62 for a moment.

18 On Page 62, you have that on the screen,
19 on Page 62 in the final full paragraph you'll see a
20 paragraph that Mr. Litwin referred to and took you
21 through.

22 Do you recall that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So now if we could turn over to
25 Page 63 and look at the top paragraph. It says,

1 "The IOT began consideration of a set of interim
2 supplementary procedures in May 2018. The versions
3 considered by the Board today was the subject of
4 intensive focus by the IOT in two meetings on 9 and
5 11 October 2018, convened with the intention of
6 delivering a set to the Board for our consideration
7 at ICANN63. There were modifications to four
8 sections identified through those meetings, and a
9 set reflecting those changes was proposed to the
10 IOT on 9 October 2018."

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is your view on whether the Board was
14 aware of the changes made to the amicus procedures
15 in the interim supplementary procedures in October
16 2018?

17 A. My view is the Board was aware of the
18 changes that had been made.

19 MR. WALLACH: Thank you. Those are all my
20 questions. Thank you very much for your testimony.

21 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you,
22 Mr. Wallach. Let me just see here.

23 So I am looking at my colleagues,
24 Professor Kessedjian, Mr. Chernick, would you be
25 agreeable to breaking now? We can have a side-bar

1 and discuss the request for the addition of a
2 document.

3 We would ask Ms. Eisner to remain
4 available, and then we would move to hearing either
5 more from Ms. Eisner or to move to Ms. Willett. Is
6 that agreeable to you?

7 ARBITRATOR CHERNICK: Yes.

8 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Fine. Thank you.

9 MR. BIENVENU: Very good.

10 So, Ms. Eisner, I cannot see you, but I
11 think you can still hear me?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. May we ask
14 you to go back in your room, if I may say so, stay
15 available to the parties and the Panel, and we will
16 instruct you and communicate our decision, and
17 we'll go from there.

18 THE WITNESS: I'll be ready whenever you
19 are.

20 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.

21 So take our break, 15 minutes, and we'll
22 convene in our break-out room.

23 Oh, before we break, is everyone still
24 there?

25 MR. LITWIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

1 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: This question is for
2 Mr. Litwin or Mr. Ali, depending on who can provide
3 an answer. When did the claimant become aware of
4 the document that you wish to add to the record?

5 MR. LITWIN: May I answer this, Arif?

6 MR. ALI: Yeah, I was going to say, Ethan,
7 please do.

8 MR. LITWIN: Mr. Chairman, as you are
9 aware, we had made a motion before the procedures
10 officer to disclose what is called off-list
11 communications that took place in this October time
12 period because they had not been posted to the
13 ICANN IRP-IOT's Wiki website that contained all the
14 other emails that are in the record.

15 ICANN produced those on a sliding scale.
16 These were -- this email along with, as you may
17 recall, the October 12th email, were disclosed at
18 the end of April 2019, after we had concluded the
19 procedures panelist process. That record is now
20 closed.

21 That caused us really on the eve of the
22 Phase I hearing to move the Panel to admit the
23 October 12 email, which ICANN objected to at the
24 time because it was not part of the record that was
25 before this Panel, as we had agreed to abide by the

1 record that had been developed before the
2 procedures officer.

3 We were at the time, of course, aware of
4 all the other emails that had been disclosed at the
5 time, but given that they were nonsubstantive in
6 nature, chose only to move to admit the October 12
7 email at that time.

8 This is also a nonsubstantive email. It
9 is two lines that respond directly to Ms. Eisner's
10 October 12th email. For that reason and because
11 the relevance of it became clear today,
12 particularly in light of, Mr. Chairman, your
13 questioning, we thought it would assist the Panel
14 in answering a question that you were trying to
15 elicit from Ms. Eisner.

16 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And can you -- could
17 you please repeat, what is the date of that email?

18 MR. LITWIN: It is Monday, October 15th,
19 2018, at 7:09 a.m., so a day before Ms. Eisner
20 sends her October 16 email that you questioned her
21 about, and I did as well.

22 MR. WALLACH: Mr. Bienvenu, could I just
23 briefly respond to that?

24 MR. ALI: May I just supplement, David, so
25 you can respond to everything?

1 Just points of information so we have
2 everything in front of the Panel.

3 Chairman, this isn't clear, Ethan wasn't
4 aware, this is not an email from Ms. Eisner to
5 Mr. McAuley. It is from Mr. McAuley to Ms. Eisner.

6 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yeah.

7 MR. ALI: This is a document that would
8 also be helpful to examine Mr. McAuley when he
9 testifies later next week.

10 Sorry, David.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Someone on behalf of
12 ICANN wanted to say something. Could you please
13 identify yourself? I see Mr. LeVee, but I hear
14 someone else.

15 MR. WALLACH: Yes. This is David Wallach.
16 I just had something to say very briefly. I
17 haven't seen the document that they are proposing
18 to enter. It has never previously been provided to
19 counsel for ICANN or mentioned in any context
20 before it was raised for the first time this
21 morning. So I obviously have not had a chance to
22 investigate any of what Mr. Litwin said.

23 I believe the crux of what he said, the
24 answer to your question, was that Afilias has had
25 this document since April of 2019, which, of

1 course, is approximately 16 months ago.

2 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes. I think he was
3 also saying, Mr. Wallach, that the relevance of
4 that document arose out of questions asked by the
5 Panel.

6 MR. WALLACH: I would not accept that
7 representation, though. The issue of the drafting
8 of these provisions of the interim supplementary
9 procedures and exactly what communications happened
10 in the lead-up to their adoption in October of 2018
11 has been front and center since the Amici sought to
12 intervene in this proceeding and Afilias opposed
13 their request on the basis of alleged improprieties
14 in the adoption of Rule 7.

15 So the notion that Afilias had no concept
16 that what they represent this email to say had any
17 relevance until this morning is difficult to
18 understand.

19 MR. LITWIN: Mr. Chairman, if I might,
20 yes, this issue has been front and center, as
21 Mr. Wallach says, since December 2018, when NDC and
22 VeriSign sought to intervene in this IRP, but ICANN
23 had not disclosed that document by then.

24 It was also relevant in the hearings
25 before the procedures officer where that issue was

1 arbitrated, but ICANN had not produced that
2 document at that time.

3 It was produced months after we made the
4 arguments and the record had closed on the Rule 7
5 issue. We had agreed to simplify things and not
6 overcomplicate the matters and burden this Panel in
7 Phase I by relying on the record as it had been
8 developed before the procedures officer, i.e.,
9 before this document had been produced, which would
10 have, if that rule was followed strictly, exclude
11 the October 12 email, which is so interesting and
12 that the Panel quoted in its entirety in its Phase
13 I decision.

14 This is not a substantive email. This is
15 not an email that reflects any substantive
16 communication between Mr. McAuley and Ms. Eisner on
17 any point.

18 It simply goes to answer the question of
19 whether or not there was a telephone call between
20 Mr. McAuley and Ms. Eisner the day before she sent
21 her September -- her October 16 email, and that is
22 it.

23 MR. BLACKBURN: May I speak for a moment?

24 MR. WALLACH: May I speak briefly and then
25 I will turn it over to Mr. Blackburn? It will not

1 take me more than 30 seconds.

2 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Go ahead.

3 MR. WALLACH: I believe Mr. Litwin said
4 Afiliias has been aware of this email and the
5 relevance of this email since prior to the Phase I
6 hearing. There was a deadline for the introduction
7 of all new evidence into the record, which the
8 parties agreed was the 23rd of July.

9 If they sought -- if Afiliias wanted to add
10 this to the record, they could have added it then.
11 They chose to sit on it and wait until Ms. Eisner's
12 testimony was underway and to spring it in the
13 course of that. I believe those circumstances
14 should be sufficient to resolve their application.

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you,
16 Mr. Wallach.

17 I saw counsel for VeriSign raising his
18 hand metaphorically.

19 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes, Mr. Bienvenu. I just
20 wanted to note on this issue that if the Panel
21 refers back to its Phase I decision, as Mr. Litwin
22 noted, the October 12th email is set out in full
23 followed by a discussion in which I believe the
24 Panel does directly question the communications
25 that occurred between Mr. McAuley and Ms. Eisner

1 between that date and the October 16th email.

2 So I would say that the Panel has raised
3 that question first in the Phase I decision in
4 which it also then continued its final decision on
5 Rule 7 to this proceeding.

6 So the Panel's questions in that regard
7 were evident in the Phase I decision and amplified
8 by you today. That's all.

9 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much,
10 sir.

11 So we will take our second break and
12 resume in 15 minutes.

13 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So on the request by
16 Afiliias to admit into the record an email from
17 Mr. McAuley to Ms. Eisner dated 15 October 2018,
18 the Panel decides as follows: Counsel for Afiliias
19 will be permitted to show the email in question to
20 Ms. Eisner in order to see if it assists in
21 refreshing Ms. Eisner's memory on the question of
22 whether before October 11 and October 16 she had
23 conversations with Mr. McAuley, as opposed to email
24 communications, about the draft of Rule 7, a
25 question that I raised with the witness at the end

1 of her cross-examination by counsel for Afiliias.

2 The email is allowed to be used strictly
3 for that purpose and is not admitted as an
4 additional exhibit into the record, although
5 evidently the transcript will reflect the Panel's
6 decision and the text of the email when it is put
7 to the witness.

8 Mr. Litwin, we will call the witness back
9 into the hearing room, and you are permitted to
10 show her that email. I will continue with my
11 questions and will ask the witness if that email
12 assists in refreshing her memory.

13 MR. LITWIN: Very good, your Honor --
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. BIENVENU: Ms. Eisner, this is Pierre
16 Bienvenu. So the Panel has decided that counsel
17 for Afiliias would be permitted to show you the
18 email -- an email dated 15 October 2018 that
19 Mr. McAuley sent you in order to see if it assists
20 you in recalling whether you had discussions
21 with -- discussions as apart from -- as opposed
22 from email communications with Mr. McAuley during
23 the period between October 11th and October 16th.

24 So Mr. Litwin.

25 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Can we have the exhibit brought up so
2 Ms. Eisner can see it? Chuck, if you can focus in
3 on the top half of that where it is Mr. McAuley's
4 email down to, "Hi, David," because it is very
5 small on my screen.

6 RE CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. LITWIN

8 Q. Can you see this, Ms. Eisner?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Ms. Eisner, this is an email dated Monday,
11 October 15th, 2018, and it is an email that
12 Mr. McAuley sent to you in response to that email
13 that you sent to him on October 12th, 2018.

14 If you can take a minute and review it.
15 And my only question for you is whether this helps
16 refresh your recollection whether you had a
17 telephone call with Mr. McAuley at 1:00 p.m. on
18 October 15th, 2018, to discuss your email of
19 Friday, October 12th, 2018?

20 A. I don't have any recollection of the call,
21 but I don't have any reason to think this email is
22 untrue.

23 MR. LITWIN: Mr. Chairman, that is my only
24 question.

25 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.

1 Mr. Wallach, anything arising from this
2 exchange?

3 MR. WALLACH: No, nothing for me. Thank
4 you, Mr. Bienvenu.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. Ms. Eisner,
6 it remains for me on behalf of the Panel to thank
7 you very much for your evidence and for assisting
8 the Panel in this matter.

9 MR. LITWIN: Thank you, Ms. Eisner.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Ms. Eisner, you're
12 still there?

13 MR. ENGLISH: I'm sorry, Pierre, I removed
14 her. Do you want her to come back?

15 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Yes, please.

16 MR. ENGLISH: She's back. Sorry.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Ms. Eisner, I would
18 like to inform you that the sequestration effect of
19 witnesses in this case extends to instructing
20 witnesses after they have been heard by the Panel
21 to not communicate or discuss with other witnesses
22 whose testimony has not yet been heard.

23 MR. ENGLISH: Sorry, Mr. Bienvenu, she
24 hasn't appeared yet.

25 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: She hasn't

1 appeared. I don't think she is there.

2 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. Mr. Litwin,
3 are you satisfied if we ask your friends opposite
4 to convey these instructions to Ms. Eisner on
5 behalf of the Panel?

6 MR. LITWIN: Of course, Mr. Chairman.

7 MR. BIENVENU: Mr. Wallach?

8 MR. WALLACH: We will give her the
9 instructions.

10 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.

11 So we move then to the
12 cross-examination -- well, to the introduction of
13 the next witness, which is Ms. Willett. And who
14 will be introducing the witness?

15 MR. LeVEE: I will, Mr. Chairman, Jeff
16 LeVee.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Mr. LeVee, very
18 well. Is she waiting to be brought into the room?

19 MR. LeVEE: She has been.

20 Mr. Chairman, we have a fire alarm that is
21 going. I am assuming since the building is almost
22 empty, that we should follow the alarm.

23 I will bring my phone so I can relay to
24 Mr. Smith what's happening. Usually these are
25 about five minutes.

1 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. So we will
2 wait to hear from you, Mr. LeVee. We will wait ten
3 minutes.

4 MR. LeVEE: I apologize. This has
5 certainly never happened to me. We are going to
6 leave the line open. I am going to put us on mute.

7 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: We will take a
8 second -- a third break, and perhaps, Mr. De
9 Gramont, when you hear from your friends, or maybe
10 we'll hear directly from them, then we can either
11 reconnect or decide how we are going to move
12 forward.

13 MR. De GRAMONT: Very good, Mr. Chairman.
14 Thank you.

15 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

16 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Ms. Willett, good
17 afternoon, or end of morning, and welcome.

18 My name is Pierre Bienvenu. I chair the
19 Panel hearing this case.

20 I would like to direct your attention,
21 Ms. Willett, to the witness statement that you
22 signed on the 31st of May 2019.

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: And at the end of
25 that statement, you swear that the content of the

1 witness statement is true and correct?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.

3 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: May I ask you,
4 Ms. Willett, in relation to the evidence that you
5 will give to the Panel today, likewise solemnly to
6 affirm that it will be the truth, the whole truth
7 and nothing but the truth?

8 THE WITNESS: I so affirm.

9 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.
10 Mr. LeVee, your witness.

11 MR. LeVEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Good very late morning. How are you?

13 THE WITNESS: I'm well. How are you?

14 MR. LeVEE: Our apologies for keeping you
15 in your own waiting period, but the fire alarm is
16 over and it is fine.

17 I did want to ask if you have any
18 corrections to your witness statement?

19 THE WITNESS: I have one correction. When
20 I signed this witness statement in 2019 it was
21 accurate, but since signing this statement I have
22 left ICANN. I am no longer an employee of ICANN.

23 So the first paragraph that states I am
24 the vice president of operations, I am no longer in
25 that role at ICANN.

1 MR. LeVEE: So in order to make it
2 accurate, you can say "I am the former president of
3 operations"?

4 THE WITNESS: That would be correct.

5 MR. LeVEE: And likewise, Paragraph 5, it
6 would say, "In my former role as vice president"?

7 THE WITNESS: That would be accurate.

8 MR. LeVEE: Okay. Any other corrections
9 that you are aware of at this time?

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 MR. LeVEE: Then, Mr. Chairman,
12 Ms. Willett is available for cross-examination.

13 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much,
14 Mr. LeVee.

15 Mr. De Gramont, are you ready for your
16 cross-examination?

17 MR. De GRAMONT: I am ready, Mr. Chairman.
18 Thank you. May I proceed?

19 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Please proceed.

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. De GRAMONT

22 Q. Good morning, Ms. Willett. My name is
23 Alex De Gramont. I represent Afiliast. You should
24 have with you a binder -- or rather a package that
25 contains a binder, and pursuant to our agreement,

1 you can now open it. Your counsel, Mr. LeVee, who
2 has been eagerly awaiting to open it, may do so as
3 well.

4 Do you have it in front of you,
5 Ms. Willett?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So at the first tab you will see your
8 witness statement, and then in the following tabs
9 are documents, some of which, or all of which, we
10 will discuss with you today.

11 You will see that we have put the page
12 numbers in brackets just so -- sometimes the
13 hardcopies and the PDFs differ. So that we are all
14 on the same page, literally, I will be referring to
15 the page number in brackets.

16 I just want to confirm, this is the first
17 time you have seen this binder; is that correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Yes. And you haven't spoken to anyone
20 about the testimony that's been provided in this
21 hearing to date?

22 A. So today, no, but I have spoken with
23 counsel.

24 Q. Okay. But you have not spoken to any of
25 the witnesses?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And you haven't reviewed any of the
3 transcripts?

4 A. No.

5 Q. All right. You said you have left ICANN.
6 When did you leave ICANN?

7 A. 13 December of 2019.

8 Q. And what were the reasons for your leaving
9 ICANN?

10 A. I was terminated as part of a
11 restructuring within the organization.

12 Q. Okay. Did you sign any sort of agreement
13 providing that you would give testimony in this
14 proceeding?

15 A. So I did not sign anything pertaining to
16 testimony in this proceeding.

17 Q. It wasn't part of your separation
18 agreement or anything like that?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Are you currently employed?

21 A. I am not.

22 Q. Have you been employed in any capacity
23 since 13 December 2019?

24 A. I have not.

25 Q. When did you start working at ICANN?

1 A. 1 October 2012 was my first day of
2 employment at ICANN.

3 Q. Had you ever worked in the DNS industry
4 before that?

5 A. No, I had not.

6 Q. And what was your first position in
7 joining ICANN?

8 A. I believe the title that I was hired in
9 with was as general manager of the new gTLD
10 Program.

11 Q. Now, the deadline for new gTLD
12 applications was June 2012.

13 Do you recall that?

14 A. It was May, June of 2012, prior to my
15 arrival at ICANN.

16 Q. So you started at ICANN after that
17 deadline had already passed?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. And just to be clear, you started at ICANN
20 after Afilias, NDC and the other .WEB applicants
21 had submitted their .WEB applications?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. After being general manager of the
24 program, you were promoted to vice president of the
25 program; is that correct?

1 A. I believe that there was a restructuring
2 of titles and title change. So I don't believe
3 there was a promotion, but yes, my title did
4 change.

5 Q. Did your responsibilities change?

6 A. At that time of the title change, no.

7 Q. To whom did you report in those positions?

8 A. So when I first joined ICANN, I reported
9 to Akram Atallah. His position changed, but I
10 believe he was COO at the time he was hired.

11 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Sorry to
12 interrupt. This is Catherine Kessedjian, a member
13 of the Panel. I have a difficulty understanding
14 what you said. You are cut off from time to time.
15 So perhaps if you want to speak closer to your
16 microphone. Particularly when you turn your head
17 there is a problem.

18 I'm sorry, but we need to be clear.

19 THE WITNESS: Is this any better?

20 ARBITRATOR KESSEDJIAN: Much better.

21 Q. BY MR. De GRAMONT: When you first started
22 at ICANN, you reported to Mr. Atallah, you were
23 saying?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what was his position at that time?

1 A. I believe his title at that time was chief
2 operating officer.

3 Q. And did you always report to Mr. Atallah
4 until the time he left ICANN?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Let's take a look at your witness
7 statement, which is, again, at Tab 1 of your
8 binder, and you will see -- so you can look at the
9 documents in the binder, which I personally find
10 easier. Our exhibit wizard, Chuck Vaughan, will
11 also be putting the documents up on the screen, but
12 I personally prefer to look at the documents in
13 hardcopy, but it is obviously your preference.

14 If you turn to Page 2 of the witness
15 statement, Paragraph 4, it says, quote, "In
16 connection with the new gTLD Program, ICANN
17 published an applicant guidebook, which sets forth
18 the requirements for new gTLD applications to be
19 approved and the criteria by which they are
20 evaluated. The guidebook was developed in a
21 years-long public consultation process in which
22 numerous versions were published for public comment
23 and revised based on comments received from the
24 public," close quote.

25 I take it you still agree with that

1 testimony?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Now, the guidebook was completed before
4 you started at ICANN; is that correct?

5 A. Yes. There was a version of the guidebook
6 completed. I don't think that there was any update
7 to the guidebook after I started at ICANN.

8 Q. So you must --

9 A. It was completed.

10 Q. So you must have studied the guidebook
11 upon assuming your position at ICANN?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. Okay. And it's obvious from the guidebook
14 itself that the purpose is, to use your words, set
15 forth, quote, "The requirements of the new gTLD
16 applications and the criteria by which they are
17 evaluated," unquote.

18 Do you agree?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. And in addition to studying the guidebook,
21 I take it that you also studied ICANN's articles
22 and bylaws?

23 A. Well, I reviewed them. They were quite
24 lengthy and -- but I could definitely say that
25 there were aspects of the guidebook that I studied

1 in order to manage the operation of the program. I
2 wouldn't say that I studied the articles of
3 incorporation and the bylaws.

4 Q. But you understood that the new gTLD
5 Program and the guidebook were designed to promote
6 the principles in the bylaws, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay. Take a look at Tab 3 in your
9 bundle, which is Exhibit C-9. This document is
10 entitled "ICANN Board Rationales for the Approval
11 of the Launch of the new gTLD Program."

12 I assume you have seen this before?

13 A. I may have. I honestly don't recall. It
14 does not look familiar to me.

15 Q. Take a look at Page 9, which is under the
16 heading, quote, "ICANN Board Rationale on the
17 Evaluation Process Associated with the gTLD
18 Program," close quote. Under the heading
19 "Introduction," it states, quote, "Through the
20 development of the new gTLD program, one of the
21 areas that required significant focus is a process
22 that allows for the evaluation of applications for
23 new gTLDs. The Board determined that the
24 evaluation and selection procedure for new gTLD
25 registries should respect the principles of

1 fairness, transparency and non-discrimination," end
2 quote.

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes, I do.

5 Q. And those are all principles that are
6 stated in the bylaws, are they not?

7 A. I believe them to be.

8 Q. You don't recall that specifically?

9 A. I don't.

10 Q. Okay. But the guidebook had lots of
11 requirements to promote the principles of fairness
12 and transparency and nondiscrimination.

13 Do you agree with that?

14 A. I would, yes.

15 Q. As an example, the guidebook required that
16 the public had the right to know which gTLD strings
17 were being applied for and who was behind the
18 application, right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. You're familiar with the frequently asked
21 questions about the new gTLD Program which is
22 posted on the ICANN website; is that right?

23 A. Is there a specific page? There is an
24 entire new gTLD microsite, a subset of the
25 ICANN.org website.

1 Q. Yeah. Would you turn to Tab 4 of your
2 binder. This is Exhibit C-181, and these are the
3 frequently asked questions that are posted as of
4 today. And I know that 1.6 has been posted since,
5 I believe, at least 2014, and it says, "1.6, how
6 and when can I see which gTLD strings are being
7 applied for and who is behind the application?"

8 And the answer is: "Approximately 2 weeks
9 after the application submission period closes,
10 ICANN will post the public portions of all
11 applications received, including applied-for
12 strings, applicant names, application type,
13 mission/purpose of the proposed gTLD, and other
14 application data."

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Do you know who prepared this document?

18 A. I don't know specifically.

19 Q. Okay. But, again, we can see that,
20 consistent with the principle of transparency,
21 ICANN committed that the public would be able to
22 see which gTLD strings were applied for and who was
23 behind each application, do you agree?

24 A. I don't know what you mean by "who was
25 behind." The application required applicants to

1 disclose -- the applications had to be submitted by
2 an applying entity, by a company, not by an
3 individual. But we did, as part of the
4 application, the directors had to be -- directors,
5 officers, managers had to be disclosed and any
6 ownership interest in the applying entity greater
7 than 15 percent, and the other individual that
8 would have been disclosed would be -- that was
9 definitely public was the applicant primary
10 contact.

11 So those were the people related to the
12 application.

13 Q. All right. I am simply quoting the
14 language of the document, who was behind the
15 application. The purpose for that was so the
16 public could know who, in fact, was seeking to
17 obtain a particular gTLD string; is that right?

18 A. I think it was to inform the public of the
19 entity.

20 Q. And "the public" included other
21 applicants, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And so the guidebook, as you say, provided
24 rules for portions of each application to be posted
25 publicly so the public could comment on them.

1 Do you recall that?

2 A. I believe there were multiple purposes of
3 posting the public application.

4 Q. Would you take a look at Tab 5 of your
5 binder, which contains the first 30 pages of Module
6 1 to the guidebook.

7 For the record, the entire guidebook is on
8 the record as Exhibit C-3. I'd ask you to look at
9 Page 1-5, which is Section 1.1.2.3, and the
10 guidebook states, quote, "Public comment mechanisms
11 are part of ICANN's policy development,
12 implementation, and operational processes. As a
13 private-public partnership, ICANN is dedicated to:
14 preserving the operational security and stability
15 of the Internet, promoting competition, achieving
16 broad representation of global Internet communities
17 and developing policy appropriate to its mission
18 through bottom-up consensus-based processes. This
19 necessarily involves the participation of many
20 stakeholder groups in a public discussion,"
21 unquote.

22 Those are among the principles that the
23 public comment period were seeking to advance; is
24 that correct?

25 A. I believe this is describing the intention

1 of the comment period for applications.

2 Q. It also provided for governments to submit
3 comments on applications?

4 A. Yes, yes, did it.

5 Q. Okay. In fact, on Page 1-6, Page 6, the
6 highlighted paragraph just above "Comments and
7 Formal Objection Process," says, "In the new gTLD
8 application process, all applicants should be aware
9 that comment fora are a mechanism for the public to
10 bring relevant information and issues to the
11 attention of those charged with handling new gTLD
12 applications. Anyone may submit a comment in a
13 public comment forum," unquote.

14 Was that your understanding?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. There's a separate process by which
17 governments can submit comments in response to
18 applications as well.

19 Do you recall that?

20 A. I am not sure what you are referring to.

21 Q. There's a separate process by which
22 members of the GAC can submit comments on
23 applications?

24 A. I apologize. What do you mean by
25 "comments"?

1 Q. Comments, concerns, there was a mechanism
2 by which governments could express any concerns
3 they had with respect to a particular gTLD and who
4 was applying for it?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. Okay. Have you ever reviewed the public
7 portions of NDC's .WEB application?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 Q. You never took a look at NDC's application
10 even though you were involved in the investigations
11 that we'll talk about in a little bit?

12 A. So we had -- we received over 1,900
13 applications. They were frequently over 100 pages
14 of content and dozens of attachments, and I had a
15 large team of people, over 35, maybe 45 staff as
16 well as hundreds of evaluators on various panels.
17 They were the ones responsible for reviewing the
18 content of the applications.

19 I on occasion did look at applications,
20 but I don't -- I don't specifically recall looking
21 at NU DOT CO's application.

22 Q. You recalled that in 2016 you were asked
23 to investigate an allegation that there had been a
24 change of ownership and control.

25 Did you not review the public portions of

1 the application at that time?

2 A. I may have. I don't personally recall
3 looking at the application.

4 Q. Let's take a look at what's behind Tab 10
5 of your binder to see if it refreshes your
6 recollection. This is Exhibit C-24, and it is the
7 public portions of the NDC .WEB application. Just
8 tell me when you're there.

9 A. I am there. Thank you.

10 Q. If you flip through it, Pages 1 through 3
11 contain background information about the applicant,
12 who the main contacts are, what the address is and
13 so on, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it lists two primary contacts, Jose
16 Ignacio Rasco and Mr. Nicolai Bezsonoff.

17 You see that on Page 2?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then if you go to Page 4, it asks for the
20 names and positions of all directors.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. And, again, it lists Mr. Rasco,
24 Mr. Bezsonoff and also Juan Diego Calle.

25 Do you see that?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. And then it asks for the names and
3 positions of all officers and partners, and
4 Mr. Rasco is listed as the CFO. Mr. Calle is
5 listed as the CEO, and Mr. Bezsonoff is listed as
6 the COO.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. It asks for the names and positions of all
10 shareholders holding at least 15 percent of the
11 shares, and here we see Domain Marketing Holdings,
12 LLC, and NUCO LP, LLC.

13 Do you know who owns those companies?

14 A. I have no idea.

15 Q. Okay. Have you reviewed Mr. Rasco's
16 witness statement in this case?

17 A. I have not.

18 Q. He refers to beneficial owners of those
19 companies. You don't know who the beneficial
20 owners of these two companies are?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. Now, Paragraph 11(d) says, quote, "For an
23 applying entity that does not have directors,
24 officers, partners or shareholders," it asks for
25 the names and positions of all individuals having

1 legal or executive responsibility.

2 What was the purpose of that request, that
3 question?

4 A. So I'll say I wasn't part of the team
5 drafting the guidebook or the questions, but I can
6 respond from the perspective of how we utilized
7 that information in the course of administering the
8 program.

9 Q. I assume it was because you wanted to know
10 who, in fact, was controlling the entity if there
11 were no directors, officers, partners or
12 shareholders; is that a fair statement?

13 A. Well, I guess my understanding is that
14 there's different legal structures in different
15 countries around the globe and that they might --
16 those entities might not have typical directors,
17 officers, partners, shareholders.

18 So it was an option that if you didn't --
19 in a way, if the applicant wasn't able to respond
20 to 11(a), 11(b) and 11(c), then 11(d) was another
21 place where they could respond with relevant
22 information.

23 Q. Again, that's so ICANN and the public can
24 see who is the controlling entity applying for a
25 particular string, right?

1 A. I wouldn't use the word "controlling," but
2 individuals who had some involvement in the
3 organization.

4 Q. Who have legal or executive
5 responsibility; those are the words used, right?

6 A. In 11(d), yes.

7 Q. Skipping ahead to Page 6, this is the
8 mission/purpose part of the application, and ICANN
9 requires that to be publicly posted; is that
10 correct?

11 A. Yes. This is Question 18. This is one of
12 the questions that is publicly posted.

13 Q. Okay. And you can see that it's one of
14 the longer responses that NDC has given in the
15 application; is that a fair assessment?

16 A. Well, it's -- their response to 18(b) is
17 over two pages long, but I haven't reviewed the
18 entire application. So two pages is lengthy. Some
19 applicants' applications were very, very long. We
20 did have some sort of -- I think there was some
21 sort of word-count limit to questions.

22 Q. And if you look at the response to 18(b),
23 "How do you expect that your proposed gTLD will
24 benefit registrants, Internet users, and others?"
25 It says in the last sentence of the first

1 paragraph, quote, "Prospective users benefit from
2 the long-term commitment of a proven executive team
3 that has a track record of building and
4 successfully marketing affinity TLDs."

5 You understand the proven executive team
6 to be referring to the NDC executive team?

7 A. Oh, I see. Sorry.

8 Q. In your understanding -- I think the plain
9 language understanding that anyone reviewing this
10 in the public portions of the application would
11 understand that the proven executive team is a
12 reference to NDC's executive team; is that a fair
13 reading of this?

14 A. I don't know what NDC meant, but I
15 would -- that's how I would interpret it.

16 Q. Okay. And then on Page 7, the first full
17 paragraph, "The experienced team behind this
18 application initially launched and currently
19 operates the .CO ccTLD," and that's a country code
20 TLD?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. It says, The intention is for .WEB to be
23 added to .CO's product portfolio, where it can
24 benefit from economies of scale along with the
25 firm's experience and expertise in marketing and

1 branding TLD properties, unquote.

2 Again, the reader would assume the
3 experienced team being referred to is the
4 experienced team at NDC?

5 A. That's how I would read it.

6 Q. That's the experienced team behind this
7 application, correct?

8 A. That would be my understanding.

9 Q. And then in the -- one, two, three --
10 third full paragraph on Page 7, last sentence, "We
11 plan to implement a very similar strategy for .WEB
12 in its launch, operation, promotion and growth,"
13 and the reader would assume that that's a similar
14 strategy that NDC used for .CO.

15 Is that a fair reading?

16 A. I believe so.

17 Q. And then in the next paragraph, at the
18 last sentence of the paragraph, quote, "The
19 domain's marketing strategy will utilize a
20 three-pillar framework similar to that used with
21 .CO."

22 Is it fair to assume that the average
23 reader would understand that to mean that NDC was
24 going to use the same or similar strategy that it
25 had used with .CO?

1 A. I believe so.

2 Q. And then if you go up in the middle of the
3 second paragraph, it says, "In addition, .CO has
4 become the standard secondary option to .COM from
5 the leading global registrars to having the most
6 conversions when presented with a non-.COM option."

7 And the suggestion is that NDC will use
8 .WEB in the same manner as it used .CO to compete
9 against .COM; is that a fair reading?

10 A. I don't -- I don't think I would take that
11 understanding. Could I ask you to repeat the
12 question? I was still reading this paragraph.

13 Q. Yeah, sure.

14 So NDC's mission purpose statement is
15 saying that it successfully launched .CO as a -- as
16 another option to .COM, and it is going to use --
17 it plans to use .WEB in the same manner; is that a
18 fair summary?

19 A. Yes. I believe they plan to market .WEB
20 in the same way.

21 Q. Let's turn to Tab 8 of your binder, and
22 that is Module 6 to the guidebook, again, part of
23 Exhibit C-3.

24 And these are the terms and conditions by
25 which the applicant agrees to be bound when it

1 submits an application for a gTLD under the new
2 gTLD Program; is that correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And ICANN considers these terms and
5 conditions to be binding on the applicants, right?

6 A. Yes, they do.

7 Q. In fact, ICANN considers the submission of
8 a new gTLD application to form a contract between
9 the applicant and ICANN; is that your
10 understanding?

11 A. I am not a lawyer. I am not quite sure
12 if -- I don't think I could speak to it being a
13 contract.

14 Q. Have you ever heard ICANN refer to the
15 submission of a new gTLD application to form a
16 contract?

17 A. I don't recall it being expressed that
18 way.

19 Q. Okay. Do you recall that Ruby Glen filed
20 a lawsuit in Federal Court against ICANN in
21 connection with .WEB?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. And you submitted a declaration in that
24 lawsuit, right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And ICANN invoked the litigation waiver
2 that is a part of Module 6.

3 Do you recall that?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. You don't recall that ICANN argued that
6 the application formed a contract between the
7 applicant and ICANN in those proceedings?

8 A. I don't recall reading ICANN's arguments
9 in the matter.

10 Q. Do you remember that the Federal Court
11 dismissed Ruby Glen's lawsuit based on the
12 litigation waiver?

13 A. I recall that the lawsuit was -- it did
14 not proceed. I believe you that it was based on
15 the litigation waiver, but I don't recall knowing
16 that either.

17 Q. Ordinarily I would offer you some water,
18 but I'm afraid I can't.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. Let's take a look at the terms and
21 conditions. And looking at the first paragraph of
22 Module 6, on Page 2, the guidebook states that the
23 applicant agrees to be bound by the terms and
24 conditions, quote, "without modification," unquote.

25 Do you recall that?

1 A. I do, yes.

2 Q. Okay. And you recall that according to
3 Paragraph 1, and I quote, applicant warrants that
4 the statements and representations contained in the
5 application (including any documents submitted and
6 oral statements made and confirmed in writing in
7 connection with the application) are true and
8 accurate and complete in all material respects, end
9 of quote.

10 Do you recall that warranty?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. And your understanding is that that
13 warranty applied to all statements and
14 representations contained in the application; is
15 that your understanding?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And then the last sentence of
18 Paragraph 1 says, quote, applicant agrees to notify
19 ICANN in writing of any change in circumstances
20 that would render any information provided in the
21 application false or misleading, unquote.

22 Do you recall that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Again, that applies to all of the
25 information submitted in the application; is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If we turn to Page 4, Paragraph (c),
4 you'll see the litigation waiver that we just
5 talked about.

6 Do you recall that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And then I have a couple of questions
9 about Paragraph 10 on Page 6. I want to ask you
10 about the first sentence and the last sentence.

11 So the first sentence says, quote,
12 applicant understands and agrees that it will
13 acquire rights in connection with a gTLD only in
14 the event that it enters into a registry agreement
15 with ICANN, and that applicant's rights in
16 connection with such gTLD will be limited to those
17 expressly stated in the registry agreement.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. So by filing an application, an applicant
21 doesn't receive any rights in the gTLD itself; is
22 that your understanding?

23 A. Correct. It is simply an application to
24 operate a top-level domain in the future.

25 Q. So it only receives rights in the gTLD if

1 it enters a registry agreement with ICANN; is that
2 correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. By contrast, the last sentence says,
5 quote, applicant may not resell, assign, or
6 transfer any of applicant's rights or obligations
7 in connection with the application.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. So ICANN distinguishes between rights and
11 obligations in the gTLD on the one hand from rights
12 and obligations in the application on the other
13 hand; is that right?

14 A. Yes, ICANN makes a significant
15 distinction.

16 Q. So just as an example, one of the
17 applicant's rights is that if they make it through
18 the evaluation process and go on to an ICANN
19 auction, they have the right to submit bids on
20 their behalf in advance of the application, right?

21 A. So participating in an auction, the way I
22 would express that is participating at auction is
23 one of the applicant's rights or not participating
24 in an ICANN auction of last resort.

25 Q. So they are prohibited under Section 10

1 from reselling, assigning or transferring that
2 right, correct?

3 A. Well, they are prohibited from
4 assigning -- reassigning, transferring their
5 application.

6 Q. Well, you just said that they had certain
7 rights in the application, one of which is to make
8 bids in a public auction -- rather, an ICANN
9 auction, whether to choose to enter a private
10 auction.

11 So there are particular rights or
12 obligations that they are not allowed to resell,
13 assign or transfer?

14 A. Well, so applicants, because they were in
15 many cases not always expert in how to submit an
16 application, they engaged with third parties to
17 submit their applications on their behalf or
18 they -- to provide responses to how technical
19 registry operations would be held to essentially
20 provide them with the technical responses to their
21 application.

22 I mean, in fact, Afilias was one of those
23 consultants. They provided and submitted
24 applications on behalf of a couple dozen other
25 applicants. So applicants all the time were

1 assigning rights or designating third parties to
2 operate on their behalf.

3 But the way we -- like, from an
4 operational or transactional perspective, we viewed
5 this Paragraph 10 about not assigning the rights
6 and obligation of the application to be of the
7 total application. You couldn't sell your
8 application in total to someone else.

9 Q. You could hire someone to assist you, but
10 you couldn't sell to someone the right to tell you
11 whether you are allowed to bid in a public auction
12 or not?

13 A. I don't -- I am not a lawyer. I don't
14 think -- I haven't evaluated that. I wouldn't say
15 so. I wouldn't agree with that, but I am not a
16 lawyer.

17 Q. Do you know if anyone at ICANN has
18 prepared any sort of analysis of what the rights or
19 obligations in an application are?

20 A. Not that I'm aware of.

21 Q. But in any event, to your knowledge, NDC
22 has not yet entered a .WEB registry agreement with
23 ICANN, correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And as far as you know, NDC has not

1 formally requested ICANN to prove -- to approve an
2 assignment of the .WEB registry agreement to
3 VeriSign, has it?

4 A. Since there's no agreement, registry
5 agreement signed, there's nothing to assign.

6 Q. And the process for seeking agreement --
7 or, rather, assignment of an executed registry
8 agreement is different from the process for
9 applying for a new gTLD, do you agree?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. For example, you don't have to pay 185,000
12 application fee to seek assignment of an executed
13 registry agreement, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And you don't have to go through a public
16 notice and comment period, do you?

17 A. I don't recall all of the administrative
18 aspects of assigning a registry agreement. I don't
19 recall if there's a public notice period.

20 Q. Any event, it's a different process --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- from the new gTLD?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Take a look at Tab 9 of your binder, which
25 is the model Registry Agreement that's included

1 to -- in the guidebook.

2 We are going to skip to Page 18 -- sorry,
3 Page 17, Paragraph 7.5, the heading is "Change in
4 Control: Assignment and Contracting," quote,
5 neither party may assign this Agreement without the
6 prior written approval of the other party, which
7 approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. And that's very different from the
11 language and terms and conditions where they say
12 applicant may not resell, assign or transfer any of
13 the applicant's rights in connection with the
14 application, do you agree?

15 A. You're asking if I agree that they are
16 different language?

17 Q. Well, my question, ma'am, is: In the
18 terms and conditions, the language "approval will
19 not be unreasonably withheld" doesn't appear?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Now, in Paragraph 39 of your witness
22 statement, you mention two transactions involving
23 Afiliias, one in which Afiliias sought ICANN's
24 permission to assign an executed registry agreement
25 for .MEET to Google.

1 Do you remember that?

2 A. I am going to my witness statement. Thank
3 you.

4 Q. Yes. Please take your time.

5 A. Yes. Afilias sought ICANN's approval to
6 transfer, assign the .MEET registry agreement. It
7 also -- another entity requested an assignment of
8 the top-level domain .PROMO to Afilias, yes.

9 Q. Right. Those were requests made with
10 respect to execute Registry Agreements that had
11 already been entered; is that correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. So those requests were evaluated under a
14 different process than the process for applying for
15 a new gTLD; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Are you aware that during the application
18 process, Mr. Kane of VeriSign asked ICANN for
19 information about assigning Registry Agreements?

20 A. I don't -- I am not aware of that. I
21 don't recall.

22 Q. Okay. Would you take a look at Tab 11 of
23 your binder, which is Exhibit R-18. It consists of
24 several emails in early September 2015 between
25 Mr. Pat Kane at VeriSign and Mr. Atallah and

1 Mr. Halloran at ICANN.

2 And my question is whether you have ever
3 seen this before?

4 A. I have not.

5 Q. Okay. Let's skip ahead to the summer of
6 2016. And you now know that in early June 2016,
7 Mr. Rasco of NDC was corresponding with Mr. Nevett
8 of Donuts about whether .WEB could be resolved
9 through a private auction.

10 Do you recall that?

11 A. I recall being informed that they were
12 corresponding. I don't recall the exact date.

13 Q. Could you take a look at Tab 12 of your
14 binder, Exhibit C-35?

15 A. I am there.

16 Q. Okay. We all know who Mr. Rasco is.
17 Mr. Nevett was an executive at Donuts, which owned
18 Ruby Glen, which was one of the .WEB applicants,
19 right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And he says in the email below, written on
22 6 June 2016, "Hi, guys. Jose and I corresponded
23 last week, but I wanted to take another run at the
24 three of you."

25 Do you understand Jose to be -- well,

1 obviously it is a reference to Jose Rasco; is that
2 your understanding?

3 A. That's my understanding.

4 Q. Okay. And he says, "Until Monday, I
5 believe that we have a right to ask for a two-month
6 delay of the ICANN auction with the agreement of
7 all applicants. Would you be okay with an
8 extension while we try to work this out
9 cooperatively?"

10 Do you see that?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Have you seen these two emails before?

13 A. I may have. I recall reading Mr. Rasco's
14 response. It may have been -- I may have seen
15 Mr. Nevett's response, but I don't specifically
16 recall.

17 Q. Okay. Before we look at Mr. Rasco's
18 response, do you recall that most contention sets
19 are resolved privately?

20 A. Yes. Without ICANN's involvement, yes.

21 Q. In fact, in the guidebook, ICANN
22 encourages contention sets to resolve the
23 contention sets privately; is that right?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. So let's turn back to Tab 7, which is

1 Module 4 of the guidebook, on string contention
2 procedures, and I'd ask you to turn to Page 6.
3 Just let me know when you're there.

4 A. Yes, I am there.

5 Q. Okay. So under 4.1.3, "Self-Resolution of
6 String Contention," it says in the first paragraph,
7 quote, applicants that are identified as being in
8 contention are encouraged to reach a settlement or
9 agreement among themselves that resolves the
10 contention. This may occur at any stage of the
11 process, once ICANN publicly posts the applications
12 received and the preliminary contention sets on its
13 website."

14 Now, this applies only to applicants,
15 correct?

16 A. Correct. Yes, it is regarding applicants
17 with new gTLD applications.

18 Q. And it specifically applies only to
19 applicants who have made it through the evaluation
20 process and who are in a contention set?

21 A. Well, since it's -- I would disagree
22 there. It says that it could happen as soon as the
23 applications are received and the contention sets
24 are posted. Evaluations are not complete at that
25 time.

1 Q. I see. But, again, it is only referring
2 to entities that have -- submitted applicants and
3 are applying for a particular string and who have
4 been identified in the public comment period?

5 A. Yeah, that's who had applications, so yes.

6 Q. Yeah. And applicants can resolve a
7 contention set in any number of ways, right?

8 A. True.

9 Q. So if we look at the next paragraph, it
10 says applicants may -- quote, applicants may
11 resolve string contention in a manner whereby one
12 or more applicants withdraw their applications,
13 unquote, right, that's one of the ways they could
14 resolve contention?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. But it goes on to say, "An applicant may
17 not resolve string contention by selecting a new
18 string or by replacing itself with a joint
19 venture," unquote.

20 Then the next sentence says, quote, "It is
21 understood that applicants may seek to establish
22 joint ventures in their efforts to resolve string
23 contention," unquote.

24 And the way I understand this is that an
25 applicant could not form a joint venture by -- let

1 me state that again.

2 An applicant could not resolve string
3 contention by forming a joint venture with a
4 nonapplicant, but that applicants could establish
5 joint ventures with one another in their efforts to
6 resolve string contention.

7 A. That would not be my understanding.

8 Q. What is your understanding?

9 A. So my understanding was that where it
10 says, "An applicant may not resolve string
11 contention by selecting a new string or replacing
12 itself with a joint venture," meaning company Acme
13 Corporation couldn't form a joint venture with
14 Company B, C, D and E and then say, "We have a
15 Joint Venture ABCDE, and we are now replacing my
16 Acme Corporation application with Company ABCDE."
17 Essentially they couldn't change the applying
18 entity.

19 But that they could form a joint venture
20 with other applicants, anybody else, other
21 interested parties, some subset of them, and
22 potentially ICANN would not have any cause to
23 reject if -- that new entity or joint venture that
24 acquired Acme Corporation. That would have been
25 consistent with the rules of the program and

1 consistent with the applicant guidebook.

2 Q. But the proviso is that any material
3 changes in applications will require reevaluation,
4 and so it goes on to say, quote, "Applicants are
5 encouraged to resolve contention by combining in a
6 way that does not materially affect the remaining
7 application. Accordingly, new joint ventures must
8 take place in a manner that does not materially
9 change the application, to avoid being subject to
10 re-evaluation," end quote, right?

11 A. Yes. So may I explain?

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. My understanding -- again, I didn't write
14 the language in the guidebook, but the mechanism
15 for reevaluation was not fully understood and there
16 were significant concerns that reevaluation would
17 be extremely onerous and time-consuming.

18 During the course of operating the program
19 and because the program went on for so many years,
20 much longer than was anticipated in the guidebook,
21 my team and I, we had to devise a mechanism,
22 various mechanisms for reevaluation.

23 So truly we -- I believe we reevaluated
24 dozens, possibly hundreds of applications, some
25 portion, either financial reevaluation or technical

1 reevaluation. But the applicant itself wasn't
2 changing, but some portion of their application may
3 have changed, or the ownership, those interests,
4 the directors and the 15 percent interest might
5 have changed.

6 Q. Right. But the idea, again, is one of
7 transparency. The joint venture, the combination
8 can't fundamentally change the identity of the
9 applicant or the purpose for which the string is
10 being applied, right?

11 A. Well, there's a lot thrown in there.
12 So certainly the applicant couldn't
13 change. That was one of the hard-and-fast rules.
14 The applying entity couldn't change.

15 However, there were multiple instances
16 where the applying entity was acquired by another
17 organization, did, in fact, no longer -- it ceased
18 to exist, and it was subsumed or there was some --
19 its assets were acquired by some parent or tertiary
20 organization.

21 Over years and years there were a variety
22 of scenarios that weren't anticipated, in my
23 belief, in this portion of the applicant guidebook
24 that we then had to find a mechanism to manage,
25 administer as part of the program.

1 Q. The applicants would have to provide
2 notice to you so you could evaluate them, right?

3 A. Correct. We asked that they submit what
4 we called an application change request in writing,
5 and then the program team determined if and what
6 reevaluation might have been necessary.

7 Q. Okay. Let's go back to Exhibit C-35,
8 which is behind Tab 12 of your --

9 MR. BIENVENU: Mr. De Gramont, I am sorry
10 to interrupt you, but while we are on this page,
11 may I just ask a question?

12 MR. De GRAMONT: Yes, please.

13 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So the second
14 sentence of the highlighted paragraph, the first
15 scenario there, "An applicant may not resolve
16 string contention by selecting a new string," what
17 does that mean?

18 THE WITNESS: So if the applicant applied
19 for .WEB and then they noticed, wait, there are six
20 other people who applied for .WEB, they can't say,
21 "Oh, oops. Let me apply for .INTERNET. I don't
22 want to be -- have to fight this out with six other
23 people. So let me just change the string I applied
24 for."

25 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Basically change

1 contention set?

2 THE WITNESS: Really even before
3 applications were put into a contention set. Once
4 they were published, the world, the applicants were
5 able to see who had applied for the same string.

6 Those applicants presumed, rightly so, if
7 you applied for the same string, that was a direct
8 contention and only one applicant could prevail.
9 And we did have requests for applicants to change
10 their string to a completely different word.

11 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. So there's a
12 continuum here in time.

13 First there is a string contention, and
14 that's when more than one person, one entity
15 applies for a gTLD, and then at a subsequent
16 time -- point in time, there is created a
17 contention set where these competing applicants are
18 placed?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. This is a complex
20 aspect of the program. I can explain sort of
21 sequentially what occurred, if that's helpful.

22 So the applications came in, in May, June
23 of 2012. ICANN published the list of all of those
24 applications and saw -- applicants could see all of
25 the other applications, so it was very easy for

1 them to see that there were seven applications for
2 .WEB.

3 At that time, in June of 2012, there were
4 no contention sets. There was another process
5 described in the applicant guidebook that evaluated
6 string similarity. And we had an expert panel who
7 evaluated and made those determinations, and they
8 defined for us what applications were put into the
9 contention set. Those contention sets were
10 published, to my best recollection, February of
11 2013, but then -- it still goes on.

12 And then the final complexity is that
13 there were -- there was a type of objection that
14 could be filed, a string-confusion objection, and
15 it was -- such an objection was filed in this case
16 that said even strings that were not obviously
17 similar or hadn't been deemed by that string
18 similarity panel to be in contention, that a
19 party -- an applicant or another party could say --
20 raise this objection to say that they might be
21 confusingly similar, which would change the
22 constitution, and the members of that contention
23 set.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Right. But focusing
25 back on the language that I was questioning you

1 about, when we see the words "string contention,"
2 that is at a point in time before the creation of a
3 contention set?

4 THE WITNESS: From my perspective, when
5 the guidebook refers to this and it says,
6 "Applicants may resolve string contention," that is
7 after ICANN has published contention sets. Until
8 then, it was all supposition what would be in a
9 contention set.

10 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay. Very well. I
11 understand. Thank you for that clarification.

12 Mr. De Gramont, we are coming to the end
13 of our hearing day as scheduled.

14 Today's the day when one member of the
15 Panel has a need for a hard close. It will not
16 always be the case, but today is such a day.

17 May I ask you how are we doing for time in
18 terms of your game plan and where you are in your
19 cross?

20 MR. De GRAMONT: Mr. Chairman, we had
21 estimated that we would need about four hours of
22 time for the examination of Ms. Willett. I think
23 we have been going for about an hour and ten
24 minutes, so another two hours and 50 minutes or so
25 should get us there.

1 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So the four hours
2 remains the right estimate?

3 MR. De GRAMONT: I believe so,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Okay.

6 So, Ms. Willett, you haven't completed
7 giving your evidence to the Panel, and therefore, I
8 must instruct you not to discuss the case or your
9 evidence with anyone until we resume tomorrow.

10 MR. De GRAMONT: Mr. Chairman, I assume
11 that the witness should not be looking through the
12 exhibits. Ordinarily in a real hearing, we would
13 probably take back the bundle.

14 So I would request an instruction to the
15 witness not to be reviewing the exhibits about
16 which we have not yet questioned her.

17 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Very well.

18 You don't object to that, Mr. LeVee?

19 MR. LeVEE: No, that's fine.

20 After the witness leaves, I have a
21 scheduling issue I want to raise. It is something
22 I could raise in the morning. I just want to
23 handle this.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Let's do one thing
25 at a time.

1 Ms. Willett, you are not to look at the
2 witness binder that you were provided.

3 THE WITNESS: Understood. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you very much.
6 So we say good-bye until tomorrow morning.

7 And you want to raise something,
8 Mr. LeVee?

9 MR. LeVEE: Really I am just giving notice
10 to the Panel and to the parties, following
11 Ms. Willett, Mr. Disspain, because of the
12 estimates -- I am not interested in casting
13 dispersions at all -- the Panel has questions, and
14 we will have to sort out questions later.

15 Mr. Disspain is available tomorrow and
16 also on Friday. He's not available for chunks of
17 next week. So I just wanted to alert everyone, we
18 may -- we should get to Mr. Disspain tomorrow, but
19 he needs to finish Friday.

20 Under the time estimates, that should not
21 be a problem, but I don't know if anybody else has
22 timing issues with the witness. I just wanted to
23 make sure.

24 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: That's very helpful
25 for you to mention that, and everybody has taken

1 due note of it.
2 MR. LeVEE: Thank you.
3 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: So we'll suspend the
4 hearing until tomorrow morning.
5 MR. ALI: One other tiny issue is how
6 would you like to deal with the question of the
7 other plea documents?
8 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: We will look at the
9 exchange of emails overnight and communicate our
10 decision to the parties tomorrow.
11 MR. ALI: Thank you.
12 ARBITRATOR BIENVENU: Thank you, Mr. Ali.
13 Good night, everyone.
14 MR. De GRAMONT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Thank you, everyone.

16 (Whereupon the proceedings were
17 concluded at 1:03 p.m.)

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COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO)

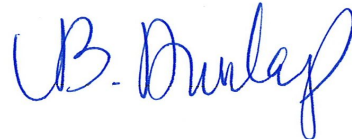
I, Balinda Dunlap, hereby certify:

I am a duly qualified Certified Shorthand Reporter, in the State of California, holder of Certificate Number CSR 10710 issued by the Court Reporters Board of California and which is in full force and effect.

I am not financially interested in this action and am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, or of any of the parties.

I am the reporter that stenographically recorded the testimony in the foregoing proceeding and the foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony given.

Dated: August 13, 2020



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