

EXHIBIT 1

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE BROUN

1 MR. MORGAN: Speaking is Bryson Morgan,
2 Investigative Counsel with the Office of
3 Congressional Ethics. I'm here with Paul Solis and
4 Ryan Cortazar with the Office of Congressional
5 Ethics as well, and we are joined by Representative
6 Paul Broun on June 25th, 2014.

7 BY MR. MORGAN:

8 Q. And Congressman, we just went over the
9 application of the False Statements Act to the
10 interview, so I think we'll go ahead and get
11 started with our questions.

12 A. Sure.

13 Q. Sir, first want to ask you how it was that
14 you became acquainted with Brett O'Donnell and how
15 it was that he came to be retained by the
16 Congressional Office?

17 A. I was very eager to have somebody help me
18 with our electronic media communications in our
19 staff. Doing a lot of TV interviews and we
20 actually had talked to several people prior to
21 hiring Mr. O'Donnell.

22 In fact, I had a conversation with -- with
23 -- what's the guy's name that's on TV all the time
24 with on Fox News that -- raising issues all the

1 time and is around here? Forgetting his name but
2 he came here a day. We didn't hire him. I just
3 talked to him about I wanted to communicate
4 better --

5 Q. Um-hmm.

6 A. -- as a member of Congress with all these
7 TV interviews and he came in, spent an hour or so
8 just talking about words that work and things like
9 that.

10 Q. Is that Frank Luntz?

11 A. Frank Luntz, Frank Luntz. I talked to
12 Frank Luntz, wanted to hire him to be part of our
13 communications staff to help me be able to
14 communicate as a Congressman with the --
15 particularly with TV interviews --

16 Q. Um-hmm.

17 A. -- and Frank was -- I got to know him just
18 through my contact here as a member. He did not
19 want to come on board.

20 So then we hired a lady that I had hoped --
21 I don't remember her name either, but I had hoped
22 to have an ongoing process of helping me to be a
23 bit better communicator.

24 So we had a lady come in that my

1 communications director had searched out an
2 individual. She spent a couple of hours with me
3 and the communications director and gave us some
4 suggestions.

5 I thought it was a bare -- beginning in the
6 process but I still wanted somebody on an ongoing
7 basis to help us with our electronic
8 communications, with our radio interviews as well
9 as our TV interviews.

10 So when the lady was -- if I remember
11 correctly, is from out of town somewhere. That was
12 not going to be an ongoing process. So I charged
13 my staff to try to find somebody who can help me on
14 an ongoing press -- on an ongoing basis to help
15 with our communications here and our communications
16 office. Principally, with -- from the electronic
17 side, doing radio interviews as well as TV
18 interviews and to help me learn how to communicate
19 better.

20 As a medical doctor, my propensity is to
21 overexplain things and to try to help my patients
22 understand what's going on and so, I realized that
23 I needed somebody to help me be a better
24 interviewee for radio and TV and I wanted somebody

1 as part of our communications team to do so.

2 We -- we got some applications. We
3 interviewed actually three individuals, and one
4 took himself out of the consideration and the other
5 two -- it was just a decision we made to hire Brett
6 O'Donnell to -- to be that individual and either
7 one of them I thought could do a good job and
8 that's what he came on board for.

9 Q. I'm going to show you this document which
10 is PBTN5 and this is a calender item on a calender
11 managed by Teddie Norton. The subject is, "Meeting
12 with Brett O'Donnell, Bachmann's debate coach at
13 the NRCC." Date is May 31st, 2012. Do you recall
14 was this, you know, end of May about the first time
15 that you met with Brett O'Donnell?

16 A. I don't remember when we met him, and I've
17 never seen this document as far as I know.

18 Q. Okay. You --

19 A. I don't -- I don't remember when we hired
20 him. I know we hired him in 2012 --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- but I dont' remember. We started the
23 process. As I said, we did several interviews, the
24 three people that they brought to me as potential

1 -- as potential media advisors and part of our
2 communications team. They -- I don't remember how
3 many interviews. I think we did two interviews
4 with Brett before we hired him. I don't know that
5 for certain --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- but we -- I know I interviewed him one
8 time and I think a second time.

9 Q. Do you recall where those interviews took
10 place?

11 A. No, I don't. Most of them were over across
12 the street at NRCC --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- just out of convenience.

15 Q. Out of convenience. Okay. Show you this
16 -- well, this is PBDB120 through 130. This is an
17 email from Brett O'Donnell on Friday, June 1st,
18 2012 to you. That email address appears to be an
19 email account belonging to you. Is that -- that
20 right? This drpbroun?

21 A. Yes, that's my personal email address.

22 Q. All right. CC-ing David Bowser and
23 Meredith Griffanti. You know, says, "Thank you for
24 meeting with me yesterday." Skipping a sentence

1 there. He says, "Attached is my proposal to assist
2 you," and then there's a proposal attached. Do you
3 recall seeing this proposal?

4 A. I did not look at the proposal. I do
5 recall getting this email but --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- what -- what I basically have counted my
8 chief of staff on doing is -- is wean out any kind
9 of staff hires to -- what I've told my chief is
10 that what I'd for him to do is to sort all of those
11 details out, just bring the bottom line to me,
12 whether he thinks that we ought to hire this person
13 or not and that's for all staff, not only with --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- Mr. Mr. O'Donnell but all our staff and
16 so what -- since he is the manager, what I've said
17 to him is that "Whoever we're going to hire --
18 staff, unless I have a check -- in my spirit about
19 hiring them, if this is a person that you think --
20 I'm going to rely you." I'm not a micro manager.
21 Maybe I ought to be. My wife thinks I ought to be
22 more but anyway --

23 Q. Okay --

24 A. -- so I -- I didn't go through this

1 proposal at all.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So I let -- I just depended upon him to do
4 so.

5 Q. Going back to those you said one or two
6 meetings with Brett O'Donnell when you were
7 interviewing him, what was discussed regarding what
8 his role with the Congressional Office would be?

9 A. I made it very clear to Mr. O'Donnell all
10 along that he was being hired to be part of our
11 communications team. Actually, with anybody I talk
12 to that -- being hired as part of our
13 communications team here to hep me with my radio
14 and TV interviews and that's solely the -- the
15 purpose of -- of our interviews. That's the
16 purpose of our looking to hire them.

17 Q. Okay. Did you discuss with him your
18 campaign or your political activities during those
19 interviews?

20 A. I don't remember doing so, no.

21 Q. Was there --

22 A. 'Cause it was -- this was a all on an
23 official basis. I've -- all along, not only with
24 Mr. O'Donnell but anybody else. I don't -- I've --

1 I tried not to even get near the line, so that you
2 guys don't have to come talk to me, so and I've --
3 I've always just been very clear to everybody no
4 matter what we do that there is a division between
5 the official side as well as campaign side.

6 So Mr. O'Donnell was hired strictly for the
7 purpose of being part of our communications team to
8 help us develop our messaging, to help me to
9 understand how I can communicate better in my radio
10 and TV interviews.

11 Q. Want to show you now the -- the consulting
12 agreement that was entered into between your office
13 and Mr. O'Donnell. This is PBDB114. So that this
14 first page is an email from Brett O'Donnell to
15 David Bowser attaching the consulting agreement.
16 Attached to it is a consulting agreement, and one
17 of the things mentioned in the consulting agreement
18 in a couple of locations, more specifically under
19 engagement on the first page there, it says,
20 "Client hereby engages consultant to render as an
21 independent contractor the consulting services
22 associated with media interview, public speaking
23 message, debate preparation for Representative
24 Broun, such other services as maybe agreed to in

1 writing." Was campaign debate preparation
2 discussed --

3 A. Never.

4 Q. -- in the process of entering into this
5 agreement?

6 A. I haven't gone through this. I didn't see
7 this document either.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Just like I did -- the other. It's -- I
10 don't -- I can't make a comment about that 'cause
11 we never talked about campaign function during this
12 whole negotiation period of time. The --
13 everything I had contact with Mr. O'Donnell about
14 was just about being part of communications team on
15 the official side.

16 BY MR. SOLIS:

17 Q. We had a chance to speak with David
18 yesterday and he had mentioned to us that -- that
19 there was some discussion that Brett had offered
20 during that negotiation phase to do some
21 volunteering for the campaign. So to what extent,
22 you know, do you recall those -- those
23 conversations?

24 A. Well, I wasn't involved in those

1 conversations at all, so I can't comment about
2 those.

3 BY MR. MORGAN:

4 Q. You know, in this -- this email where the
5 consulting agreement was attached, Brett writes, "I
6 wasn't sure that you settled on how I would be
7 paid, so I left the address blank." Were you
8 involved in any discussions about how he would be
9 paid?

10 A. Negative.

11 Q. What was your understanding at the time
12 about how he would be paid?

13 A. My understanding was that he would be a
14 part time independent contractor for us for our
15 communications team.

16 Q. Be paid by the -- out of the --

17 A. Out of "MRA," right.

18 Q. Okay. So I mean, looking at this
19 consulting agreement right now, this is the first
20 time you've seen it or should I say --

21 A. I don't recall ever seeing that before.

22 Q. Okay. And wonder if you -- tell us the
23 timeline a little bit? It appears like this
24 consulting agreement was in place for a couple of

1 months and then it was renewed on a couple of
2 occasions. Do you recall that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Those conversations with Brett O'Donnell
5 who would've had those with him --

6 A. Assume David --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- David Bowser 'cause like I say, I count
9 on him being my chief and helping to -- to do
10 whatever needs to be done as far as trying to hire
11 staff and manage our staff.

12 Q. Okay. Show you this document here. This
13 is PBDB86, and you -- you're on the first email
14 here at the -- at the very bottom. This is an
15 email from David Bowser on June 14, 2012 to Brett
16 O'Donnell and to Broun, all staff, you know, the
17 Congressional staff, CC-ing you and a few other
18 individuals and he -- he -- he says, "We are
19 pleased to announce the addition of Brett O'Donnell
20 to Team Broun as a communications and messaging
21 consultant to our official office." There's a
22 response to that email from Jordan Chinouth --

23 A. Um-hmm.

24 Q. He says, "Had no idea we are close to

1 making a decision," and then David Bowser responds
2 saying, "This is not a media consultant for the
3 campaign. That part is dragging." Now, I don't --
4 I don't know if you had seen those two emails
5 before but was there some discussion around that
6 same time that you were bringing Brett O'Donnell on
7 about hiring a media consultant on the campaign
8 side?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Never. In fact, we weren't going to hire a
12 media consultant --

13 Q. So was there a discussion in which you
14 decided that you wouldn't hire a media consultant
15 --

16 A. No. There was no consideration of a media
17 consultant at that time. We didn't have the money
18 from the campaign respective -- to hire a media
19 consultant. In 2012, the -- this -- I don't
20 remember June 14th. It's probably just very
21 shortly before the -- the primary which was -- I
22 didn't have a -- a -- didn't have a general
23 election opponent, so --

24 Q. But it was Mr. Simpson, I think for the

1 primary?

2 A. That's right. And we -- I'm not sure at
3 what point but we -- we had decided that we weren't
4 going to -- really going to engage in -- in any
5 kind of a forum or debate or anything else. So
6 there was just no consideration of having a media
7 consultant. We weren't doing TV. We weren't doing
8 radio. We weren't doing any of those types of
9 normal things -- didn't feel like we needed to --

10 Q. Was that -- was that a competitive primary?

11 A. Not really.

12 Q. Not really.

13 A. Got 69 percent of the vote in the -- in the
14 primary. Simpson didn't have any money and just
15 didn't see any need of having anybody on board at
16 that time.

17 Q. Okay. When --

18 A. It seems like he and I had one forum
19 together and that was all.

20 Q. I do have a couple of questions about that.
21 We'll get to that in a little bit, but do you
22 recall when -- when it was that the consultant
23 agreement with Brett O'Donnell ended?

24 A. I don't remember. The --

1 Q. He's not -- is he still a consultant for
2 the --

3 A. No, no, no.

4 Q. When did that relationship end?

5 A. Well, it ended when he thought that his
6 being part of our team because of -- of -- I guess
7 y'all looking into him and what he was doing for
8 other members -- he thought it might be
9 advantageous for us -- for him to -- for us to
10 cease that agreement. So he ceased being part of
11 -- of our communications team at that time.

12 Q. Do you recall when about that was?

13 A. I do not remember.

14 Q. Would that have been, you know, shortly
15 after the WSB-TV story and the initiation of our
16 review --

17 A. I don't remember --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- I really don't remember.

20 Q. Okay. So want to ask you some questions
21 about the work that Brett O'Donnell did on the
22 official side --

23 A. Um-hmm.

24 Q. -- for the office. How would you -- you

1 know, he was introduced here by David Bowser as a
2 communications and messaging consultant. The
3 consulting agreement lays out some of his duties,
4 but how would you, you know, looking back on what
5 he did for the office, how would you describe his
6 role?

7 A. Well, he helped us on an ongoing basis. It
8 was -- I had phone conversations with him at times
9 about how to deal with a radio interview or a TV
10 interview. He would -- I think my staff talked to
11 him on a routine basis about what was coming up,
12 about what our messaging was going to be, how to
13 deal with that messaging, what our -- whenever I
14 was requested to do a TV interview or radio
15 interview, it's my understanding that my
16 communications director would contact him about
17 what our message was, what our bottom line --

18 Q. Um-hmm.

19 A. -- statement would be and I would talk to
20 him about how to approach the interview and what to
21 do with it and that's the way we operated.

22 Q. Who, who in the Congressional staff did he
23 -- he being Brett O'Donnell, interact with the most
24 frequently?

1 A. Mostly with the -- with communications
2 director who is Meredith Griffanti --

3 Q. And is now Christine Hardman?

4 A. She's not a communications director. She's
5 a press secretary --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So a little different function.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But Christine replaced Meredith.

10 Q. Who else would he interact with? Would he
11 interact with chief of staff quite a bit --

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I don't know. I'm sure he interacted some --
15 or had some action with our scheduler just to
16 schedule calls and sometimes he'd come here in the
17 office and we'd sit down and talk about issues.
18 That happened not infrequently, so.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. He'd come here and we'd talk about the
21 interview or we'd consult by phone. He was -- he
22 always told me that he was available anytime that I
23 needed to call and I -- I did try to touch base
24 with him before every interview that we did -- most

1 every interview unless I already had it -- and
2 about what we were doing.

3 Q. Would you communicate with Brett
4 independently of your staff? Would you reach out
5 to him on your own or would that usually go through
6 your staff?

7 A. Sometimes I would. Not on an ongoing basis,
8 but he had my cell phone. I had his.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Rarely would he call me. Rarely would I
11 call him. Most times, it was what -- we knew we
12 had an interview scheduled and so, we'd schedule
13 sometime for us to either talk in person. He'd
14 come here, or we'd talk by phone.

15 Q. Okay. We've seen quite a bit of reference
16 to weekly sessions that Brett would do with you --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Does that -- describe those too...

19 A. Well, he would come in here and we'd just
20 talk about how I needed to approach a TV interview.
21 At the time, I was -- not done a lot and I'd get
22 kind of uptight on the TV interview, particularly
23 these national interviews -- national TV and
24 sometimes my brain would freeze up and I couldn't

1 think about what I wanted to say and -- and he
2 would just help me in that process of trying to get
3 through it, so that I could do these interviews and
4 so it was an ongoing process os just basically
5 trying to teach me about how to organize my
6 thoughts, how to express what I wanted to have the
7 audience to hear with whatever interview I did
8 about whatever the topic was.

9 Q. Did those sessions occur on about a weekly
10 basis?

11 A. Pretty much, yeah. It was three or four
12 times. Well, two to three times a month 'cause
13 we're not here but generally two weeks and then off
14 week, so -- or home a week. So he would come in
15 here not every week that we were here but he would
16 come frequently most weeks.

17 Q. Where were those -- where were those
18 typically held?

19 A. Right here --

20 Q. Were they sometimes held over the NRCC as
21 well?

22 A. I don't recall doing any over there. Most
23 of them were right here --

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- there may have been -- I can't remember
2 any over there --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- at all.

5 Q. And so I want -- take me through what a
6 typical session would entail? You said prep for
7 interviews --

8 A. We just sat down and talk about the -- what
9 the interview was. If -- if we had an interview
10 upcoming --

11 Q. Um-hmm.

12 A. -- what he and I would work through is try
13 to -- as well as the communications director would
14 try to determine what our -- my first sentence was
15 going to be which was the bottom line of the
16 interview.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. The point we wanted to make and then we
19 would -- from that point we wanted to make, we'd
20 develop how I thought about the process, so that I
21 could go through a three minute or five minute
22 interview with --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- with the TV personality, whether it was

1 a friendly one or sometimes an unfriendly 'cause I
2 did some of those too and of course, more stressful
3 to do those when you're dealing with somebody like
4 Megyn Kelly, she can be a little bit forceful --

5 Q. Um-hmm.

6 A. -- if you ever watched -- so --

7 Q. Dick Cheney discovered that recently.

8 A. What's that?

9 Q. I think Dick Cheney discovered that
10 recently as well from what I read but --

11 A. Anyway, so what -- what Brett was trying to
12 help me do is to be able to -- to keep everything
13 together, keep my mind functioning properly, so
14 that when I made my first statement, I was making
15 my point and then I would build the -- the case for
16 that point and then end up basically restating that
17 point. So --

18 Q. Um-hmm.

19 A. -- we would -- we would talk about what
20 that interview was all about. Sometimes he would
21 help me as far as if it was an issue that -- that
22 he needed to help research a little bit to give me
23 some more background. He would do that for me --

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- on the outside. So he was -- we were
2 talking about issues and a whole raft of issues.
3 In fact, he even prepared an issue book for me to
4 -- to look at various issues, so that I would have
5 it available to study as -- as we went along and we
6 --

7 Q. Where was -- would David Bowser typically
8 participate in those sessions?

9 A. Sometimes he would. Sometimes he wouldn't.

10 Q. And Meredith and Christine, would they --
11 would they sit it on those as well?

12 A. The -- I'm not sure where Meredith came. I
13 guess she followed --

14 Q. It appears to us from the -- that she
15 overlapped with Brett O'Donnell's role with the
16 office for about a year --

17 A. And then --

18 Q. -- and then it was I think June or July of
19 2013 when Christine came on.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But do you recall Meredith, Christine or
22 whoever was in that --

23 A. Whoever was in on communications job 'cause
24 there were -- he was helping to develop my

1 messaging too that we would do when we would put
2 out press releases and things like that --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And so he was --he just part of our
5 communications team.

6 Q. Okay. As you were preparing for the
7 upcoming interviews and these sessions, would some
8 of those interviews or some of the things you were
9 preparing for be campaign related --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- as opposed to official?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No?

14 A. Un-uh.

15 Q. If you had an upcoming campaign related
16 speech or appearance or something like that, would
17 it just not be addressed at all in the session?

18 A. Well, we didn't -- like I said, when he was
19 hired, it was toward the tail end of the -- of the
20 primary process --

21 Q. Um-hmm.

22 A. -- we didn't have an opponent that I was
23 concerned about too much. Did not have a general
24 election opponent. So there's -- campaign issues

1 were just not even discussed or even part of
2 anything --

3 Q. We're going into --

4 A. -- so --

5 Q. -- you know, 2013 --

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. -- and then into, you know, 2014 --

8 A. Right.

9 Q. -- when you were having these weekly
10 sessions and there was -- was more campaign related
11 things happening in your life. Would you discuss
12 campaign media appearances or campaign speeches or
13 -- or debates in this weekly sessions?

14 A. Not much if any. It was -- he and I had
15 more of those discussions by phone than anything
16 else --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. We -- I wrote my own campaign speeches. He
19 helped tweak them a little bit but actually, my
20 wife was more my campaign media consultant than --
21 until we hired a media person --

22 BY MR. SOLIS:

23 Q. Would you review videos of your past
24 campaign appearances either on, you know,

1 interview, on TV? Would you sometimes review those
2 here during --

3 A. Oh, we did that, yes.

4 Q. Um-hmm.

5 MR. MORGAN: I want to --

6 MR. BROUN: In fact, it wasn't every time
7 but I tried to look at those TV interviews and --
8 and critique it myself and listen to his critique
9 and we would try -- again, it was -- the purpose
10 for having him was to help me be a better
11 communicator and so we -- we would -- you know, we
12 did that.

13 BY. MORGAN:

14 Q. You said he -- Brett O'Donnell prepared an
15 issue book for you to study. Do you recall him
16 briefing you or providing you with talking points
17 or research on any -- any specific issues?

18 A. No. I asked him to help put the issue book
19 together, just so that when we ever had an
20 interview, that I would have it available to -- to
21 look at -- at -- at the issues that were in the
22 current news cycle and so --

23 Q. We --

24 A. -- there are a lot of issues that of course

1 all of us have to deal with and -- and so --

2 Q. We didn't see a copy of that issue book in
3 the documents provided to us --

4 A. I don't have a copy.

5 Q. But --

6 A. I don't know if there is another copy --

7 Q. Okay. I want to just show you this
8 PBDB151. This -- this was not sent to you but this
9 is from Brett O'Donnell to David Bowser. Subject
10 if "FAA material." So it was on April 29, 2013,
11 and my question is just if this was typical of the
12 type of an issue briefing or issue research that
13 Brett O'Donnell would do? Appears to be you know,
14 what four, five pages of material on FAA and then
15 how it was perhaps impacted by the sequester.

16 A. Without studying this, I can't make a
17 comment about the content --

18 Q. Right --

19 A. -- but this is the kind of thing that yes,
20 that he prepared, so that I would know background
21 history and -- and the -- the -- any issue that we
22 may deal with. I didn't -- I've never seen that --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- that I know of.

1 Q. But that's typical of the type of issue
2 research he would provide --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Did he have any role in drafting
5 speeches on the official side? I think you said
6 you wrote of your own speeches. He would maybe
7 edit them. Floor speeches --

8 A. Most of those, I -- I do those myself or I
9 did it along with my communications director or
10 press secretary. We -- a lot of times those things
11 occurred very rapidly. So we didn't have a lot of
12 time to -- to really tweak them or edit them or
13 anything else.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. So it was -- it as more a spontaneous type
16 of -- of situation.

17 Q. One of the -- you know, of the newspaper
18 articles this spring mentioned -- I think it
19 attributed to you a comment that Brett had helped
20 you prepare a floor speech about the VA after
21 visiting a VA hospital down in Georgia. Does that
22 ring a bell?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you recall making that statement?

1 A. No.

2 Q. It was a statement that was not in
3 quotation marks but it was nevertheless attributed
4 to you but you don't recall Brett working on a VA
5 speech?

6 A. I do not, no.

7 BY MR. SOLIS:

8 Q. What about your Patient Option Act, did he
9 draft any speeches, any floor speeches?

10 A. No. We talked about it. Just the same way
11 we talked about any issue but no. Most of my
12 speeches, the -- the one that I can remember that
13 we talked about more than anything else, I did a
14 special order on the Commerce Clause, and we had
15 some conversation about that. He really didn't do
16 a lot for that either, but we did talk about that
17 one and that's the only one I can remember off the
18 top of my head that -- that he actually -- he and I
19 had any discussions about, so. And that was very
20 limited, even at that.

21 Q. If he had been involved in working on
22 drafts of speeches, would you have known about it?

23 A. I don't know. I don't know about any.
24 Again, what -- normally what I do is I do my own

1 speeches --

2 Q. Um-hmm.

3 A. -- or I'll tell my press secretary,
4 communications director, whatever, of what I want
5 to say --

6 Q. Um-hmm.

7 A. And ask them to get some bullet points for me
8 and I do more extemporaneously than -- than read a
9 speech. I have a hard time just sitting and
10 reading a speech and doing it effectively. So I
11 feel more comfortable actually just doing it out of
12 my head.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. And so that's generally the way we do it.
15 Now, they have prepared some speeches that I have
16 read and I've tried to learn to do that better by
17 doing some one minute speeches. Most of those are
18 prepared very quickly. We'll just talk when I come
19 up. For our first day, we'll have a staff meeting,
20 say, "Well, maybe tomorrow we're going to do a
21 speech," or I'll tell my communications staff, "I
22 want to do a one minute on this and this is what I
23 want to say," and they'll put some talking points
24 for me -- page and I'll go down the floor and give

1 them.

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall Brett O'Donnell ever
3 providing you or your staff with any training?

4 A. This was an ongoing process.

5 Q. Um-hmm.

6 A. So I considered it all training 'cause
7 that's what I hired him to do, help train me to be
8 a better communicator. That's the purpose of him
9 coming on board.

10 Q. We -- we talked to -- to Brett and he -- he
11 mentioned that he does it like a -- at least when
12 he's brought on by somebody during those first
13 initial sessions, he has a little training thing
14 that he does on more -- you know, talking about
15 communication skills in -- in general. Do you
16 recall anything like that, like an initial round of
17 training that he did or --

18 MR. CORTAZAR: Video.

19 BY MR. SOLIS:

20 Q. -- video that he may have showed you?

21 A. We looked at some videos. He -- most of
22 the videos we looked at were just a critique of
23 what I've done on TV interview or floor speech but
24 I don't recall a training video as such.

1 Q. Okay. I do -- I want to ask you some
2 questions now about the work that Brett O'Donnell
3 did on your campaigns, both in 2012 --

4 A. Um-hmm.

5 Q. -- Congressional campaign and then the 2014
6 Senate campaign. So how -- how would you describe
7 Brett's role with -- with your campaigns?

8 A. He was always in a volunteer status. I
9 made that crystal clear to him and to my staff that
10 anything that he helped us with -- I don't recall
11 him being engaged in the 2012 election at all --

12 Q. I do have -- I do have some documents I'll
13 show you along those lines but you said you made it
14 clear to your -- to him, to your staff?

15 A. Like I said, I don't recall -- I don't
16 recall him being involved in that at all --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- and then I made it crystal clear to
19 Brett as I do my staff when they volunteer for our
20 campaign to do -- campaign type functions that --

21 Q. Do you recall when that was that you made
22 it clear to Brett?

23 A. I had all along.

24 Q. All along?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Recall any specific conversation?

3 A. No, because I do this quite frequently.

4 Whenever I asked him to do something, I'd say to
5 him, "I can't require you to do this. If you -- if
6 you'd like to, I'd like for you to do this for me,"
7 and it's something that I've been very diligent
8 about telling all my staff, no matter they do is
9 that it's all -- whatever they do on the campaign
10 side, it has to be on a volunteer basis --

11 BY MR. CORTAZAR:

12 Q. And do --

13 MR. BROUN: -- and that they're not
14 required...

15 BY MR. CORTAZAR:

16 Q. Excuse me. And do you think that when he
17 first began volunteering, would have come up
18 through his -- his coming to you or was that
19 something that you would normally do -- propose to
20 him?

21 A. I don't remember --

22 Q. The first instance?

23 A. No.

24 BY MR. MORGAN:

1 Q. Do you recall if you ever had a discussion
2 with Brett about how if your senate campaign
3 fundraising started kicking up or if you made it
4 through the primary that you would then pay him out
5 of the campaign?

6 A. Never.

7 Q. Do you recall if he ever was paid out of
8 the campaign --

9 A. Never --

10 Q. -- for any services?

11 A. As -- never as far as I now. We paid a --
12 the campaign paid for him to come to Georgia --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- to -- we had a staff retreat down there
15 and the -- we just felt --

16 Q. Is that a congressional -- congressional...

17 A. Yeah. We had the staff in Georgia as well
18 as the whole Washington staff came down. We --
19 we've tried to -- I've tried to do that on a yearly
20 basis to just kind of lay out the plan for the full
21 year. We -- Dave and I talked about it. We felt
22 that it was best to -- to -- since he was an
23 official employee, that he ought to be there
24 because we were talking about what we're going to

1 be dealing with but we paid for his expenses down
2 there out of the campaign just to -- that was what
3 David thought was the best and clearest way to keep
4 from having any kind of a -- of a problem from an
5 ethics perspective.

6 Q. I want to -- I want to discuss with you in
7 some level of detail the different types of work
8 that -- that Brett O'Donnell did for the campaign
9 and first being you know, campaign speeches,
10 campaign media appearances. I think you -- you
11 mentioned that in these weekly sessions, did you
12 review past campaign speeches or campaign media
13 appearances with Brett in those weekly sessions?

14 A. I don't recall doing so. It --

15 BY MR. SOLIS:

16 Q. Congressman, I just want to be clear. You
17 know, I had asked -- I had asked that same question
18 about 10 minutes ago and you said you recall that
19 you had reviewed and the whole package of things
20 that Brett -- services Brett provided --

21 A. Right.

22 Q. -- you know, media appearances, even if
23 it's on your campaign, I asked you if you reviewed
24 those here on video or something and you -- you

1 said that you had. So I just want to be clear.

2 A. Well, let me make that clear. My answer
3 was that we have looked at things not from a
4 campaign perspective but from the official side.
5 So I apologize for the confusion --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- there but I thought you were talking
8 about all inclusive, "Has he done any of those?"
9 And -- and so we -- we looked at --

10 BY MR. MORGAN:

11 Q. So let me make sure --

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Let me make sure we're clear. When you say
14 from an official perspective --

15 A. Right.

16 Q. -- were there instances in which you know,
17 in those weekly sessions the videos or the
18 appearances that you reviewed were campaign
19 interviews or appearances?

20 A. I don't remember doing any campaign
21 appearances during those weekly sessions, no.

22 Q. Reviewing those? Okay.

23 A. Yeah.

24 BY MR. SOLIS:

1 Q. You know, David had recalled that -- that
2 you had done that a couple of times and I think
3 Christine had recalled that that occurred a couple
4 a couple of times.

5 A. I'd defer to them. I don't remember it.

6 Q. Okay.

7 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

8 MR. BROUN: So.

9 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

10 MR. BROUN: What I do remember is those
11 times that we've looked at -- at TV interviews and
12 those types of -- of reviewing --

13 MR. SOLIS: Um-hmm.

14 MR. BROUN: -- the -- the appearance on one
15 of the TV networks and I don't recall the campaign.

16 BY MR. MORGAN:

17 Q. Show you -- show you a document here. This
18 is BOD00193 and this is -- now want to ask you some
19 questions about Brett's involvement in campaign
20 speeches. This document is an email from Brett
21 O'Donnell to -- well, to himself but CC-ing David
22 Bowser, Brian Tringali, Bob Bibee, Meredith
23 Griffanti where he says, "Attached is the 10 minute
24 stump that Dr. Broun asked me to write. Wanted to

1 sent it around to your edits -- approve before
2 sending it to Dr. Broun." Do you recall asking
3 Brett to prepare a 10 minute stump speech for you?

4 A. What -- as I mentioned earlier, I basically
5 write all my speeches and have the ideas of what I
6 want to do --

7 Q. Um-hmm.

8 A. -- I talk to him about what should be
9 included or not included. So it's -- basically, my
10 speeches were my speeches --

11 Q. Um-hmm.

12 A. -- and he did help tweak them some and that
13 sort of thing. So we were --

14 Q. So would you -- would you tell him in
15 person or over the phone the types of things you
16 wanted to talk about and then would he then
17 actually put it to paper? Is that --

18 A. No.

19 Q. No?

20 A. What -- what I -- what I did is talk to him
21 about taking my whole 20 minute stump speech --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- and helping me to pare it down to 10
24 minute or 3 minute speech, what he thought was most

1 important to help me in that. This was all done on
2 a volunteer basis.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Was not done out of what we were doing from
5 the "MRA."

6 Q. Okay. Do you recall if he had any role in
7 -- in your 2013 Georgia GOP convention speech?

8 A. He -- yes, he did and again, it was to help
9 me basically put -- he made some suggestions about
10 what -- what I needed to say and that sort of
11 thing. So he did help in that process, yes.

12 Q. Did you rehearse that speech with him?

13 A. No.

14 Q. No. Do you recall if -- if that speech was
15 filmed and he provided you feedback on that
16 delivery?

17 A. I don't know. I don't remember him doing
18 so.

19 Q. Okay. What about your -- your speech when
20 you announced your candidacy for the Senate? Do
21 you recall if he had any role in that speech?

22 A. I don't remember that.

23 Q. Show you one email here. This is BOD01551.
24 I'll sort of point out the part I want to ask you

1 about. Take your time to review that. It's an
2 email from David Bowser to -- to Brett O'Donnell,
3 CC-ing Bob Bibee, yourself, Meredith Griffanti and
4 Jordan Chinouth on February 5th, 2013. David
5 writes, "For the sake of brevity, I will get to the
6 point. There are two -- two things only that we
7 care about with this announcement. One, it is
8 delivered well and looks like it. Two, what is the
9 story and main theme we want printed?" And then he
10 says, "The first is Brett and Meredith's job." So
11 referring to it being Brett and Meredith's job to
12 make sure the speech is delivered well and looks
13 like it. Was -- was Brett involved in preparing
14 you for that announcement speech?

15 A. Only the point that -- just talked to him
16 about trying to -- to make a very short speech and
17 have some -- some sound bites in it.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Other than that, I don't recall any -- any
20 other type of function in that.

21 Q. Okay. Would Brett draft talking points,
22 bullet points or -- or one liners or things like
23 that for you to add your speeches or add to your --
24 your media appearances? Was he involved in -- in

1 helping you come up with that type of content?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Do you recall any specific issues --

4 A. Well, you're asking about on the campaign
5 side?

6 Q. On the campaign side.

7 A. Oh --

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. He did more of that on trying to get that
10 sound bite -- that first sentence from the official
11 side --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- and the -- as far as -- as what he did
14 from the campaign side, most of what -- all of our
15 contact was more -- had to do with TV interview and
16 radio interviews, so --

17 Q. I want --

18 A. I don't remember him trying to give me
19 bullet points. He may have helped me look at -- I
20 don't know how to answer your question --

21 Q. Let me see. This email might --

22 A. Okay, so.

23 Q. -- help a little bit --

24 A. Okay.

1 Q. -- so. This is PBCH22 --

2 A. Um-hmm.

3 Q. You know, this is going to be another one
4 of those instances where I ask you if this was
5 typical of Brett's work for the campaign. He
6 emailed you on August 13, 2013, writing, "Dr.
7 Broun, so we know now that Obamacare is a winning
8 message. Here's the one you need to be a little
9 sharper on, strikes a populist message that will hit
10 the voters we need," and then he provides you with
11 a few lines of -- of you know, text --

12 A. Um-hmm.

13 Q. -- on -- on Obamacare.

14 A. Um-hmm.

15 Q. Was it typical for -- for Brett to provide
16 you talking points or messaging like this?

17 A. Well, I did get these kind of things
18 occasionally --

19 Q. Um-hmm.

20 A. Would read them and that was the end of
21 that, so again, I can't remember this.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I can't remember how to do this, and I
24 can't just regurgitate that without sounding as if

1 I'm just trying to go through the memorization
2 point. That's not the way my brain works. So
3 whenever I would get something like this, I'd read
4 what he has to say and -- and then I'd think about
5 it a bit and that's -- that would be the end of it.

6 Q. Okay. Well, do you recall -- was in
7 December of 2013. Do you recall there being a
8 "Georgia Public Broadcasting Get to Know the
9 Candidates" piece that you filmed in December of
10 2013 down in Atlanta?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Do you recall if Brett was involved in --
13 in helping you with that piece at all?

14 A. I don't remember him being involved in
15 that, no. Whether he was or not, I don't remember,
16 but I don't recall him being a part of that.

17 Q. Okay. Was it -- do you recall before you
18 would do a speaking engagement on the campaign
19 trail would you sometimes have a brief messaging
20 call with Brett before -- before a speaking event?

21 A. I may but that was not a routine --

22 Q. Wasn't a routine thing. Do you -- how
23 frequently would that happen during the Senate
24 campaign?

1 A. Not very frequently. I can't give you --

2 Q. Be --

3 A. -- data --

4 Q. -- weekly basis --

5 A. Oh, no, no, no --

6 Q. -- or monthly --

7 A. No. I can't give you a time --

8 Q. Okay. But you recall --

9 A. And so it would be occasionally and it was

10 just when I had a question, I'd give him a call.

11 As I've already mentioned, he told me all along

12 that he was available anytime but I seldom called

13 him and he seldom called me. By the way, got

14 another appointment at 3:00, so.

15 Q. I will try to be as quick as possible here.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. I do want to give you the opportunity to

18 chime in on some other documents --

19 A. Oh, sure --

20 Q. -- and ask you questions. It's important

21 we get your --

22 A. Sure --

23 Q. -- your side of the story --

24 A. -- I'm trying to be helpful --

1 Q. Do you recall if Brett was involved at all
2 in negotiating campaign debate formats?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. You don't know. Want to talk to you now
5 about Brett's role in -- in preparing you for
6 campaign debates and reviewing debate performances.
7 Think -- see here. Show you this document which is
8 BOD681. It's the second email there I want to ask
9 you about which is from Brett O'Donnell to David
10 Bowser, CC-ing Bob Bibee, Jordan Chinouth, Meredith
11 Griffanti and yourself on June 22nd, 2012. He
12 writes, "Dr. Broun, below are the reminders from
13 the prep session today." So I'll tell you. It
14 appears from the documents reviewed -- we've
15 reviewed that you had a primary debate on June
16 22nd, 2012 with Mr. Simpson, and it was the day
17 before that on the 21st that you had a prep session
18 with Brett O'Donnell. Do you recall that prep
19 session?

20 A. I do not.

21 Q. Not. There was also a 10th District Debate
22 on Athens radio, WGAU on July 2nd, 2012. Do you
23 recall that debate?

24 A. No, I don't.

1 Q. Do you recall --

2 A. I don't remember doing any debates with
3 Simpson except for seems like we did one forum.

4 Q. Okay. Do recall if Brett O'Donnell was
5 involved in preparing you for that forum that you
6 do recall?

7 A. I don't recall.

8 Q. Do you recall -- show you this -- PBTN10
9 through 11. It's the -- on the second page is what
10 I wanted to ask you about an email from Teddie
11 Norton to Brett O'Donnell on July 3rd, 2012 --

12 A. Um-hmm.

13 Q. She writes, "Hey, Brett. Dr. Broun wants
14 to set up about 90 minutes next week to go over
15 both debates." You know, and then it appears like
16 that was -- that was set up to occur -- Teddie
17 requested a room at the NRCC --

18 A. Um-hmm.

19 Q. Do you recall a session with Brett to go
20 over those 2012 primary debates?

21 A. I don't.

22 Q. Don't recall that.

23 A. Like I said, we -- we made a decision that
24 we weren't going to do debates with him and I don't

1 really remember any -- any forum or debates.

2 Obviously, there was --

3 Q. When you say you made a decision not to do
4 debates with him, you mean with Mr. Simpson?

5 A. Yeah, from the campaign side, we -- we just
6 wanted the -- the radio broadcast. WGAU was very
7 upset with me for a long period of time -- wouldn't
8 even talk to me because we did not do a forum that
9 he wanted us to do -- that he wanted to host.

10 Q. Okay. I want to move right along --

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. -- be respectful of your time. Now,
13 looking at the 2014 senate campaign --

14 A. Um-hmm.

15 Q. -- I have a series of calender items and
16 documents I need to go through with you.

17 A. Sure.

18 Q. But do you recall the Charge Senate Forum?
19 It appears that it occurred in July of 2013 at Lake
20 Prads Marina -- at Lake --

21 A. La Prades --

22 Q. La Prad?

23 A. La Prades.

24 Q. Do you recall that --

1 A. I do --

2 Q. -- that forum?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Do you recall if Brett was involved in
5 preparing you for that?

6 A. We talked about it. It's -- when -- we
7 never had what I would consider a sit down practice
8 debate or anything like that 'cause these were
9 forums where they ask questions and he and I would
10 talk about questions that might be asked and what
11 my answer would be and that was basically --

12 Q. And that's what you did leading up to the
13 Charge Forum?

14 A. Well, I'm just talking about in general.

15 Q. In general? Okay.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I want to --

18 A. With any -- with any --

19 Q. -- make sure --

20 A. -- with -- and I don't remember any
21 specific event. I don't remember talking to him
22 about that particular event or any others but
23 that's how we worked basically.

24 Q. So there were it appears a number of

1 debates in that senate campaign.

2 A. Right.

3 Q. Quite a few actually --

4 A. None were true debates. They were all
5 forums.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Just answer questions.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. There's was back and forth. There was no
10 -- really no opportunity or very little opportunity
11 for rebuttal or anything else. So they were --
12 they were not true debates. Just forums. Ask a
13 question about an issue. We'd answer the question
14 and they're basically the same questions of
15 virtually everyone --

16 Q. Okay. So we can refer to them as forums.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Would you typically discuss an upcoming
19 forum with Brett? Would you do a preparation
20 session with him for -- for each of the forums or
21 most of those forums?

22 A. We would probably talk more by phone than
23 anything else about what went on. We might mention
24 it during a period of time that he would be here

1 where we're working on the -- the -- I don't recall
2 any specific instance but we may or may not have
3 talked about -- about what might be upcoming when
4 he was here --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- to -- to help with the TV interviews and
7 radio interviews I was doing on the official side.

8 Q. Do you recall Brett O'Donnell preparing for
9 you a debate attack grid? Does that sound familiar
10 at all? This is BOD1956, the second -- the email
11 at the bottom there. On December 26th, 2013, Brett
12 writes, "Attached is the attack grid for Dr. Broun
13 --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- to use against PG and KH in the
16 debates."

17 A. Um-hmm.

18 Q. Do you recall him preparing an attack grid
19 for you?

20 A. He did this. Yeah, I remember that.

21 Q. Okay. Is that something you requested him
22 to do?

23 A. No.

24 Q. I want --

1 A. In fact, I would not have asked for that
2 'cause I've always run a positive campaign. In
3 fact, I've told my staff through every campaign,
4 "We will always run a high, high road campaign, and
5 we're not going to be doing any attacking." It was
6 going to be basically about me and my policies and
7 where I stand on issues and that's -- would show
8 maybe a delineation between me and my opponents in
9 that regard and that one opponent would have a
10 position on an issue here. I'd have one there. So
11 comparison I think is fair, but I've never run an
12 attack campaign.

13 Q. Okay. I do want to give you the
14 opportunity to -- to tell us if you recall any
15 specific prep sessions that are reflected in some
16 of the documents we have.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. This is BOD2268, email from Teddie Norton
19 to Brett O'Donnell saying, "David's" -- on January
20 8, 2014 saying, "David has arranged for you all to
21 prep for the debate at Jamestown Associates
22 townhouse" --

23 A. Um-hmm.

24 Q. Subject of the email is, "This morning."

1 It appears that this session occurred on January 8,
2 2014. Do you recall that?

3 A. I do, yes.

4 Q. Okay. Do you recall which debate this was
5 --

6 A. I do not --

7 Q. -- referencing? Okay --

8 A. Would've been one shortly after this --

9 Q. Okay. Would that have perhaps been the
10 Adel debate? 'Cause I'll show you this document,
11 BOD --

12 A. It's Adel.

13 Q. Adel -- 638, all right. Says, "Brett," --
14 on January 9" -- so the following day 2014 emailing
15 David Bowser and CC-ing a number of people saying
16 "Attached is the proposed open for the Adel
17 debate." Do you recall if Brett was involved in
18 putting together your opening statement for -- for
19 that debate?

20 A. Probably was involved in -- in talking
21 about what I was going to do to -- 'cause opening
22 statements and closing statements were very short
23 --

24 Q. Um-hmm.

1 A. It says 1/2 to 2 minutes and just -- we --
2 I'm sure I talked to him about how do I get the
3 point across? What do I say in that 1 or 2
4 minutes? 'Cause that's not a long period of time
5 to try to get a point across, and so, we had
6 discussions about what I needed to say during that
7 1 or 2 minutes.

8 Q. Okay. It also appears, you know, based on
9 these couple of documents here, PBTN133 and DB --
10 PBDB25 that there was a debate session on January
11 10, 2014 at Jamestown Associates conference room.

12 A. Is this the same one or?

13 Q. It appears like a separate one and the --
14 the next page, there's some reference -- there's an
15 email from Brett O'Donnell where he -- he says --

16 A. This is dated January 9th here, there and
17 this is --

18 Q. This is the 10th.

19 A. -- January 10th. So --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. -- assume this is the same -- the same
22 event.

23 Q. You know, you tell me? If you recall it
24 being two separate preps, one on the 8th and then

1 one on the 10th or if you recall it being the same?

2 Do you specifically remember there being just one

3 or two?

4 A. I don't --

5 Q. Okay. Appears --

6 A. -- anyway, I don't remember.

7 Q. What's referenced in the emails on the 10th
8 is Brett asking you some tough questions about gay
9 marriage. I don't know if that jogs your memory of
10 the debate session in which Brett helped you with
11 back and forth on -- on some potential questions
12 about gay marriage. That being a hot button issue
13 at the time --

14 A. Um-hmm.

15 Q. -- given the attorney general's recognition
16 of the Utah same sex marriage. Do you recall that?

17 A. Yeah, I do.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. We did have -- he just asked how I would
20 answer a question and we -- I'd sit there and think
21 about it and answer it and he'd say, "Well, maybe
22 you ought to do this?" And that was -- we'd --
23 we'd go on to the next issue.

24 Q. Do you recall there being -- I'll show you

1 these two documents, PBTN134 and PBTN135, couple of
2 calender items from Teddie Norton's calender
3 listing "Prep for debate with Michael Hall in D.C.
4 on January 16 and January 17, 2014." Do you recall
5 one or more prep sessions with Michael Hall?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. Okay. Do you recall if it was one session
8 or if it was two?

9 A. One.

10 Q. One session. Who -- Michael Hall --

11 A. I do remember meeting him --

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. -- and -- and had one session. We had it
14 again at Jamestown.

15 Q. Okay. That was at Jamestown?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Who is Michael Hall?

18 A. He I think works with -- with Brett.

19 Q. Okay. Had he previously done any work on
20 your campaign?

21 A. Negative.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. This was the one and only time I met with
24 him.

1 Q. And Brett wasn't there for those?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. For that? Okay. So was Michael Hall
4 substituting for Brett?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Okay. Do you recall there being I think
7 RJC Senator job interview? I think RJC is
8 Republican Jewish Committee or Coalition or
9 somewhere along those lines. Do you -- do you
10 recall there being a forum or --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- interview with them? And do you recall
13 Brett being involved in preparing you for that?

14 A. I don't recall that either.

15 Q. Don't recall that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. And what about a Georgia Municipal
18 Association debate or forum? Do you recall that?

19 A. I do recall that, yes, and I don't recall
20 him being involved in that. What I was --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- with all these types of events like
23 that, basically, I was saying the same thing and it
24 was -- basic stump speech I'd guess you'd say and

1 -- and -- and maybe I'd alter it a little bit
2 depending upon what -- what the audience was like
3 but I varied it, not much.

4 Q. Okay. Just want to take you to -- through
5 a few --

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. -- calender items here. This is PBTN137.
8 It's January 29, 2014, listed as "Debate prep with
9 Brett at Jamestown Associates."

10 A. Um-hmm.

11 Q. There's also PBTN141. This is January
12 31st, 2014 --

13 A. Um-hmm.

14 Q. -- a couple of -- another instance --
15 debate prep -- Jordan's office. Do you recall
16 either of these sessions? So the first one
17 would've been it looks like at Jamestown Associates
18 here in D.C. on a Wednesday. Next one would've
19 been on a Friday. Says Jordan's office. We
20 understand that's perhaps J. Russell Associates
21 down in Athens. Is that -- do you recall these --
22 these prep sessions?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you recall there being a prep session

1 down at J. Russell Associates?

2 A. I don't.

3 Q. Okay.

4 BY MR. CORTAZAR:

5 Q. Is J. Russell Associates the office space
6 -- their headquarters for your campaign?

7 A. We operate out of there. It's actually the
8 office of Jordan Chinouth who was my district
9 director. He took a leave of absence from being
10 district director. He worked as our grassroots
11 coordinator -- coalition's coordinator for our
12 campaign and he just let us use his office. He has
13 his own office down there. He's gone into
14 political consulting business and so, he -- he has
15 another candidate or two. I don't know. I think
16 -- I know of one. I'm not sure. Know he
17 interviewed others. I'm not sure who all he did
18 'cause we didn't talk about what he was doing
19 outside the --

20 BY MR. MORGAN:

21 Q. So is that space your Georgia campaign
22 headquarters?

23 A. We really didn't have a Georgia campaign
24 headquarters. You could say that, I guess. We

1 just used his office whenever I needed to have a
2 place --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So we didn't -- we had no specific campaign
5 office. It was his office. He very graciously let
6 us use it whenever we needed to have a spot.

7 Q. Okay. So is that where you store your
8 campaign materials?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Is that where your campaign staff had work
11 spaces?

12 A. We didn't have -- the only campaign staff
13 we had was very limited and they did work out of
14 that office, yes.

15 Q. Okay.

16 BY MR. CORTAZAR:

17 Q. Do you know if your senate campaign paid
18 rent to --

19 A. I don't know --

20 BY MR. MORGAN:

21 Q. Next document is PBTN145, show that. Says,
22 "Call with Brett for debate prep on Tuesday,
23 February 18th." I can -- I can tell you that it
24 appears that on the same day of February 18, there

1 was an NFIB Senate Candidate Forum. I don't know
2 if that refreshes your recollection. Do you recall
3 that forum, NFIB?

4 A. I remember we had one --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. What we would do with -- I think on a
7 routine basis, he and I would talk prior to -- to
8 an event where we had these forums and he'd say,
9 "Are there any questions? Is there anything I
10 can?" Just have a very short conversation. It was
11 not an ongoing discussion for any long period of
12 time --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- usually, it was a very short phone call.

15 Q. Do you recall if while you were down in
16 Georgia you ever Skyped or conferenced called Brett
17 in to those -- those prep session?

18 A. We did one, yes.

19 Q. One? Okay.

20 A. I remember one. Maybe two --

21 Q. Recall this date here, February 21st, 2014?
22 It lists, "Debate prep, Skyping with Brett."

23 A. Um-hmm.

24 Q. Would that perhaps had been the session in

1 which Brett Skyped in?

2 A. Assume.

3 Q. Okay. Okay. Do you recall the debate in
4 Macon, Georgia?

5 A. Yes.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Your next appointment is
7 here Dr. Broun. About how much longer?

8 MR. MORGAN: I think three to five minutes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

10 MR. MORGAN: Apologize for that.

11 MR. BROUN: That's okay. Want to answer
12 all of your questions and be as helpful as I can
13 be.

14 BY MR. MORGAN:

15 Q. Certainly. The Macon debate, March 8, do
16 you recall that debate or forum --

17 A. Yeah, sure.

18 Q. Do you recall if Brett was involved in
19 preparing for you for that at all?

20 A. Again, we would have a conversation by
21 phone about anything -- if I had any questions or
22 anything. So we would have routine phone calls but
23 --

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- I don't recall anything specifically,
2 you know, recall any type of prolonged conversation
3 --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- about any of these forums.

6 Q. We're almost done here.

7 A. No problem.

8 Q. Want to show you this document. This is
9 JC0 --

10 A. Sorry. Then we have --

11 Q. -- 190. This is a very long email that
12 Brett O'Donnell wrote on February 24, 2014 to Bob
13 Bibee, CC'ing yourself, David Bowser, Christine
14 Hardman, Jordan Chinouth, ██████@paulbroun who I
15 understand is Josh Findlay --

16 A. Um-hmm.

17 Q. -- and then Brian Tringali. I want to --
18 take your time to review that. I want to ask you
19 about the last couple of -- of lines in this email.
20 So, so let me know when you --

21 A. Which lines are you talking about?

22 Q. Near the bottom. So if you go sort of
23 third to last line. Says, "And most of all, we
24 have to stop having campaign panic after every

1 debate unless he made a significant mistake or
2 didn't drive the message, then we are on course,"
3 and then Brett writes, "You hired me to coach the
4 candidate. I won't make ads, write mail pieces,
5 manage the on-line program or the campaign but
6 let's trust each other to play the roles we were
7 hired to do."

8 So my question, why would -- if Brett was
9 volunteering for the campaign, why would he here
10 refer to himself as being hired --

11 A. Beats me --

12 Q. -- to coach you as a candidate?

13 A. 'Cause we never hired him.

14 Q. Okay. And you said it before but I want to
15 make sure it's absolutely clear for the record.
16 Your understanding is that all of his work for the
17 campaign was as a volunteer?

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. Okay. And you recall specific -- having
20 specific discussions with Brett where you discussed
21 that his role with the campaign was as a volunteer?

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. Is there any specifics or anything else you
24 can tell us about those conversations with Brett,

1 when they might've occurred, context --

2 A. Occur periodically through the whole time
3 that he was helping us. I would remind him that
4 this -- that whatever he was doing on the campaign
5 was whether these -- get together's, when we went
6 down to Jamestown or anytime we talked about any
7 campaign issue -- wasn't every single time. I'd
8 say, "I'll remind you, this is -- you're
9 volunteering for this, so."

10 Q. Okay. Were you involved in putting
11 together the office's statement in response to the
12 newspaper articles this -- this spring questioning
13 Mr. O'Donnell's role with the office? This is an
14 email from Christine Hardman to Brett, subject,
15 "Statement on March 13, 2014," and we, you know,
16 we've confirmed with Christine that this was in
17 fact the statement issued by the office.

18 A. Yes. And this -- I wasn't involved in this
19 statement at all.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. But this is exactly what he was hired to
22 do. This is exactly what we paid him to do and any
23 other thing outside of this was totally volunteer
24 on his part.

1 Q. So this statements says at the end -- says,
2 "As stated by the House Administration Committee,
3 O'Donnell's communication training is in compliance
4 with all House rules."

5 A. Um-hmm.

6 Q. Were you involved any discussions with the
7 House Administration Committee or with the Ethics
8 Committee about Mr. O'Donnell's role with the
9 office?

10 A. I was not myself. As I already mentioned
11 earlier on is I wanted to be absolutely clear with
12 everybody that we were absolutely clear with The
13 House Administration and rules of the House. So
14 was very adamant about making sure that we didn't
15 even get to the line -- close to the line.

16 Q. Okay. And who do you recall telling --
17 telling that to in your office?

18 A. Primarily to David Bowser but I would -- I
19 don't remember any specific conversations but it's
20 just something that I've been very adamant about
21 making sure that we delineated the functions of all
22 my staff including Brett.

23 Q. I'm going to review my notes, see if I have
24 any other questions. I'll let --

1 BY MR. SOLIS:

2 Q. Last question for me: Did you talk to Mr.
3 O'Donnell at all about your review?

4 A. I have not, no.

5 Q. Okay. Have you talked to David or
6 Christine about over conversations with them?

7 A. Briefly. Just stated it occurred and we
8 didn't get into -- I don't remember even talking to
9 Christine. Asked David yesterday after y'all
10 talked to him about how did it go and he said it
11 was long and that -- that's about all he said.

12 BY MR. MORGAN:

13 Q. Okay. I think you have a good sense of the
14 types of questions we're asking and what we're
15 looking at. Is there anything else you think would
16 be helpful for us to -- to know?

17 A. The only thing is that I've been adamant
18 all along that any function that Brett had on the
19 campaign side was totally voluntary. He was hired
20 to come and just help me with my communications.
21 He's part of our communications team --

22 Q. Um-hmm.

23 A. I considered him as an integral part of
24 what we're doing, trying to communicate to America

1 about the issues that we were dealing with here in
2 this office and that's why we hired him and that's
3 what we paid him to do and that's all we paid him
4 to do.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay. All right. Well, we
6 appreciate your time.

7 MR. BROUN: Thank you. I appreciate
8 y'all's.

9 (END OF PROCEEDING)

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1 I, Blanca Wier, do hereby certify or affirm
2 that I have impartially transcribed the foregoing
3 from an audiotape record of the above-captioned
4 proceedings to the best of my ability.

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Blanca Wier

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EXHIBIT 2

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE BROUN'S CHIEF OF STAFF

1 MR. MORGAN: All right.

2 Speaking is Bryson Morgan, investigative
3 counsel with the Office of Congressional Ethics,
4 joined by Paul Solis, investigative counsel with
5 the OCE, and Ryan Cortazar, a legal clerk with the
6 OCE, and we are here on June 24, 2014 with [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]?

8 MR. [REDACTED]: Correct.

9 BY MR. MORGAN:

10 Q. So, Mr. [REDACTED], we have, already gone over
11 the application of the False Statements Act to this
12 interview and we do emphasize that you answer all
13 of our questions correctly and honestly, and the
14 first we want to just get some basic background
15 information about you --

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. -- and your current position is chief of
18 staff --

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. -- to Representative Paul Broun?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And who do you report to in that capacity?

23 A. Congressman Broun.

24 Q. Okay. And what are your duties?

1 A. Oversee the office and management of the
2 team, district offices, as well, of course, the
3 district operation, mainly and most importantly
4 assist Dr. Broun with his legislative duties, his
5 goals, his -- anything that he needs done.

6 Q. Okay. Who do you supervise; who do
7 you -- who directly reports to you?

8 A. For the most part, we have 17 staff
9 members, I want to say.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I believe that's the -- that's the full
12 allotment between the district office and the DC
13 office. Obviously there's a lot of fluctuation
14 going on sometimes, with people leaving and people
15 coming, but usually we have -- we have around 17
16 staff members.

17 Q. Okay. Are some of them part-time staff?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Which ones are part-time?

20 A. To my knowledge -- I'd have to look at
21 the -- the latest payroll form because it's three
22 positions that we had that are labeled as
23 part-time.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. I want to say Bob Bibee is a part-time
2 staffer. We had a district staffer whose name
3 totally escapes me right now. He's a recent hire.
4 We run a Milledgeville office that's open three
5 days a week, and he was manning that office for us.
6 The problem is we have a guy named Boston and a guy
7 named Arthur or something like that, and so I
8 confuse the two, and then who would be our third
9 part-time staffer?

10 Quite honestly, I don't -- I can't recall.

11 I can look at the payroll form if you like,
12 though.

13 Q. But Bob Bibee is part-time; he's --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. So he's not -- there's not a
16 contractual relationship with him?

17 A. No, sir. He's a staff member.

18 Q. Part-times staffer, okay.

19 How often do you interact with
20 Representative Broun?

21 A. Daily.

22 Q. Daily; and when he's in the District, same
23 thing or --

24 A. When he's in the District, it depends on

1 what kind of week we're having. I mean, I -- the
2 last week, he was off for most of it, so I think I
3 talked to him -- I'm sorry, not the last week, the
4 last work period, he was off for most of it so I
5 think I only talked to him like twice during the
6 course of the week.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. A lot more by e-mail and text if he's in
9 the District than when he's here.

10 Q. Okay. What did you do prior to being Chief
11 of Staff?

12 A. I was a Chief of Staff for a member from
13 California named John Campbell.

14 Q. Okay. And prior to that?

15 A. I owned a firm, a fundraising consulting
16 firm.

17 Q. What was the name of that firm?

18 A. Increased Strategies.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. SOLIS: Yeah, we just spoke to
21 Christine, and Christine -- when we asked her about
22 Bob's role with the office, she -- I believe she
23 mentioned that she thought Bob was a consultant,
24 that maybe he had some sort of agreement with

1 Representative Broun's office to provide services.

2 Do you know why she would have thought
3 that?

4 A. I have no idea.

5 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

6 A. I mean Bob's been on staff longer than
7 Christine's been on staff, so --

8 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

9 A. -- that might explain it, and also
10 obviously, Bob did not work out of the DC office.

11 So I'm not sure she's actually physically
12 met Bob or not.

13 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

14 BY MR. MORGAN:

15 Q. Where does Bob work you out of?

16 A. He lives in Tennessee.

17 Q. Tennessee?

18 A. He commutes to our Athens office pretty
19 frequently, meets with the Congressman a lot when
20 he's down in the District, but for the most part,
21 we handle everything by e-mail or by phone.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. SOLIS: Does he was a title?

24 A. He is a communications consultant,

1 strategist type of position. He's been with
2 Dr. Broun actually longer than I have, so I'm not
3 sure how long they have been together.

4 MR. SOLIS: But he's an official House
5 employee?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

8 BY MR. MORGAN:

9 Q. Have you --

10 A. And that's all he is, by the way, I think.

11 Q. Have you ever held any positions with
12 Representative Broun's political campaigns?

13 A. Have I held any positions?

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. No. I mean, I've advised the Congressman.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. The last -- the -- this most recent
18 campaign, I was a consultant to it, yes, now that
19 I --

20 Q. A paid consultant?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And you're referring to the 2014
23 Senate campaign?

24 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. For the 2012 campaign, were you a
2 paid --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- consultant?

5 A. Not that I'm aware of.

6 Q. Okay. But you --

7 A. I may have gotten expenses reimbursed, paid
8 for my cell phone, a Capital Club membership,
9 things like that.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. SOLIS: Would you have volunteered
12 then?

13 A. Uh-huh, yes, sir.

14 I mean, he really hasn't had any campaigns
15 until 2014, for the most part.

16 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

17 BY MR. MORGAN:

18 Q. When did you first become acquainted with
19 Brett O'Donnell?

20 A. I want to say April or May of 2012.

21 Q. Okay. I do have some documents to show you
22 that may refresh your recollection here. This is
23 PBTN 5.

24 A. So May.

1 Q. And PBDB 120.

2 So the first one, PBTN 5, again, was a
3 calendar item, "Meeting with Brett O'Donnell,
4 Bachmann's debate coach, location NRCC, May 31,
5 2012."

6 Were you in that meeting?

7 A. I'm sure I was. We had four different
8 interviews --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- four different type of people,
11 consultants of the same nature.

12 Q. You -- you said you interviewed four
13 different --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- potential consultants?

16 A. I think four.

17 Q. Okay. Who -- do you recall any of the
18 other people you interviewed?

19 A. A guy named Steve, he was from -- I'd say
20 Massachusetts; who was that other guy -- I
21 apologize, my memory is very bad, but I -- I
22 remember meeting at least three, if not four, Brett
23 being the fourth.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. I would say --

2 Q. What kicked --

3 A. -- Brett was the most recent.

4 Q. -- off that process of doing those
5 interviews?

6 A. You know, for years, Dr. Broun has always
7 been focused on messaging.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. He believes that's one of his primary
10 responsibilities. Being in Congress, it's sort of
11 educate America on getting back to our
12 Constitutional founding moorings, as he calls them,
13 and he's gone through several different efforts to
14 try to improve his public speaking.

15 That's always been his weakest link, his
16 ability to -- to convey a message in a shorter,
17 more concise way. It's not his strong suit,
18 especially being a physician. You know, I mean,
19 physicians tend to explain things in excruciating
20 detail, and on top of that, you know, a Southern
21 country doctor, he's got a slow drawl and he wasn't
22 a very powerful speaker.

23 So it's always been one of his main
24 focuses, is improving his public speaking and his

1 ability to get his message across.

2 We've had several sessions over the years
3 with Frank Luntz.

4 You're familiar with Frank Luntz, I assume?

5 Q. Uh-huh, generally.

6 A. We hired a woman named Merrie Spaeth, I
7 want to say is her name, out of Texas for a day.
8 She came in and did this whole workshop, she filmed
9 him and went over his interviewing techniques and
10 he bought a few books, based -- I can't remember
11 the author's name, but it was based on the guy who
12 did communications for Winston Churchill.

13 So he went through these several different
14 iterations of trying to improve his ability to give
15 public speaking and messaging. He decided that he
16 needed more consistent help.

17 I mean, he would improve after taking a
18 class or -- or doing a seminar or a book or
19 whatever, but it would only last like a week or so,
20 and then he would slip back into his previous ways.

21 So he started asking around. He asked
22 several different members. We came up with three
23 or four people that we interviewed. Brett
24 O'Donnell, I think he got from Ms. Bachmann. He

1 was talking to Ms. Bachmann about her public
2 speaking and she recommended that we talk to Brett.

3 Before we had a chance to reach out to
4 Brent, I think he actually contacted us.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And so we sat down and -- and met with him.
7 I honestly can't remember whether it was here or at
8 the NRCC. We had set up like three or four of them
9 in a row and, you know, it's -- it's funny because
10 I thought I knew all of these people's names, but
11 now I can't seem to remember them all, but he
12 seemed to hit it off with Brett. So they seemed to
13 have a natural ability to work together.

14 The other guy, Steve -- I can't believe I
15 can't remember his last name for the life of me
16 because we met with him twice actually -- he was a
17 close second.

18 Q. Was it one meeting with Brett before he was
19 brought on or were there multiple?

20 A. I honestly can't recall. I mean, I know we
21 met with him at least once and then we did a trial
22 period when he first came on.

23 We were getting ready to enter the summer
24 break, obviously August recess. So we went through

1 probably June and July and August. We did like a
2 three-month block for one set price, I believe, and
3 the idea being if it worked out and Dr. Broun, you
4 know, appreciated how it was progressing -- he
5 actually went to Afghanistan over the month of
6 August, if I remember correctly.

7 So when he got back, we sat down and
8 revisited Brett again, and he thought that there
9 was a lot of positive benefits of the work he was
10 doing with him.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So they decided to continue forward and
13 that would be obviously September, I think is
14 when -- is when we did a more permanent sit down
15 relationship type deal.

16 Q. So this -- you know, on PBTN 5, the
17 location is listed as the NRCC.

18 You don't recall where -- where the meeting
19 did take place, though?

20 A. I don't. I mean, it's funny because I can
21 remember the meeting with Steve and I can remember
22 the meeting with the other guy who's name totally
23 escapes me because we were sitting in that -- in
24 that back conference room. I just honestly can't

1 remember meeting Brett the first time.

2 Q. Okay. What was discussed in that meeting
3 with Brett?

4 I mean, you can't remember the location but
5 do you remember the -- what was discussed?

6 A. We discussed what Dr. Broun was looking
7 for, quite frankly. I mean, the -- again, the idea
8 being that, you know, when he gave floor
9 statements, when he did press interviews,
10 especially media interviews tended to go not as
11 well as he liked them to go --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- and the whole idea was improving on his
14 message delivery, and that's -- you know, that's
15 what he talked to Ms. Bachmann about and, you know,
16 Michelle does a good job at doing interviews.

17 Q. Was campaign speeches, campaign debates --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- were those discussed?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Not at all in that meeting?

22 A. Not that I recall.

23 Q. Okay. I mean --

24 A. I mean, Brett may have brought it up that

1 that's what he does.

2 Q. The title was listed as Bachmann's debate
3 coach. Is that -- was that just --

4 A. That's, I guess, how he presented himself.

5 Q. Okay. So the -- the second document, PBDB
6 120, it's an e-mail from Brett O'Donnell to you and
7 Meredith Griffanti. The subject is proposal.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. He says, "Thank you for meeting with me
10 yesterday." You know, "Attached is my proposal,"
11 and if you look at the proposal attached there, you
12 know, it discusses fine tuning communication,
13 public speaking, media interview skills, media
14 prep" --

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. -- "preparing for media speeches, as well
17 as debates. Additionally, this proposal will cover
18 assisting with messaging and other strategic
19 communication, campaign or official activities
20 including specific media interview prep in each
21 appearance."

22 You know, it references debates in a couple
23 of locations on the second page and then, you know,
24 Page 3 and Page 4 includes significant sections on

1 debate preparation.

2 If -- so is it correct that part of Brett's
3 proposal -- the proposal of work he was to do for
4 the office included campaigns activities and
5 campaign debate preparation?

6 A. No. I mean, that's not what we were
7 looking for.

8 Q. That wasn't what you were looking for?

9 Do you have any idea why he included it in
10 his proposal?

11 A. I -- I don't. I mean, honestly, I didn't
12 even -- I don't think I went through the proposal.
13 I mean, my job is to put everybody together. He
14 spent a lot of time with Meredith and Dr. Broun
15 discussing what it is that they needed to do. I
16 was in most of those meeting.

17 Q. Okay. I want to show you now, the -- this
18 document, PBDB 114. It's an e-mail from Brett to
19 you saying, "Attached is my consulting agreement."

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. He asked -- he said, "I wasn't sure that
22 you settled on how I would be paid so I left the
23 address blank."

24 Was there some discussion about how you

1 would pay Brett O'Donnell?

2 A. Probably.

3 Q. Probably?

4 A. I mean, I don't recall the specifics. I
5 mean, at --

6 Q. You don't recall?

7 A. -- at no point did we ever entertain the
8 idea this would be a political adventure. This was
9 purely on the official side. I mean, this was the
10 whole idea, was to help him improve on his ability
11 to communicate his message.

12 Mainly, we are looking at, again, the
13 floor -- floor debate in the House. He was just
14 became a subcommittee chairman, so, you know, he's
15 managing the debate and the committee mark-up, and
16 especially being in Oversight Committee.

17 There's not -- you don't mark-up bills in
18 the Oversight Committee, you do pure hearings in
19 the Oversight Committee --

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 A. -- as well as media interviews and town
22 halls. I mean, that was the -- the summer of
23 the -- if I recall correctly, that was the summer
24 of the Obamacare heat-up and debate, and the town

1 halls we were at, they were quite large and very
2 well attended.

3 So he was having a hard time trying to
4 communicate his message there, as well.

5 On top of that, he introduced a complete
6 call overhaul of the healthcare financing system,
7 his option --

8 Q. (Inaudible)?

9 A. Yeah, which was a major messaging
10 opportunity for him, and it's a tough, complicated
11 subject to try to get across to people in sound
12 bites. So that's -- I mean, we went into it purely
13 looking for nothing but official help, and we
14 talked to House Admin because Mr. O'Donnell had
15 worked for -- at the time, was working with a
16 couple of other members, from what we understand,
17 in the same capacity. They said that it was
18 allowable.

19 Q. Well, let's go -- I want to go into that a
20 little bit more in depth in a moment here --

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. -- but I want you to look at this
23 consulting agreement that's attached to that
24 e-mail.

1 A. This one?

2 Q. Yeah, it's attached to the e-mail. It's at
3 PBDB 115 and ask you if this is the -- the first
4 consulting agreement that was entered into between
5 Representative Broun and Brett O'Donnell, if this
6 is the one I think you referred to that covered
7 just a few months?

8 A. Was what, June -- yes, June 16th until
9 August 3rd, right, because that's when
10 doctor -- that when we had recess to, so this would
11 be the --

12 Q. And does this describe Brett O'Donnell's
13 work, his -- the work he was going to do,
14 accurately? Is it accurate to say he was -- he was
15 to be a consultant to the office?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. It says he has -- well, in the engagement
18 is -- it says, "Engages consultant to render the
19 consulting services associated with media
20 interview, public speaking, message, debate
21 preparation for Representative Paul Broun."

22 When it refers to debate preparation
23 there --

24 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- is that referring to debates in the
2 campaign context?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. And why is that?

5 A. And why is that?

6 Q. Well, common -- in common usage, this is --
7 Brett O'Donnell is a person who's well known as a
8 campaign debate preparation --

9 A. Sure.

10 Q. -- person, it's a consulting agreement
11 here, part of the work product is debate
12 preparation.

13 A. We didn't need debate preparation.

14 Q. You didn't need it?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. No. In 2012, we didn't even have a general
18 election, so --

19 Q. You had a primary that year?

20 A. We had a primary that year, I think it was
21 three weeks later, Dr. Broun got like 64, 68
22 percent of the vote and then he had no idea that
23 he'd be running for the Senate in February, March.

24 MR. SOLIS: Were there debates leading up

1 to that primary?

2 A. I think was one.

3 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

4 A. I would call a debate. I think it was a
5 forum more than anything else but --

6 BY MR. MORGAN:

7 Q. Let me show you this document here.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. Well, before I do that, you -- you
10 mentioned that you reached out to Admin. Did
11 you --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Well, in the process of bringing Brett
14 O'Donnell on --

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. -- did you have any conversations with the
17 Administration Committee or the Ethics Committee
18 about bringing him on?

19 A. Yes, I called House Admin and asked if we
20 were allowed to retain outside consultants, and
21 they indicated that we were.

22 Q. Who did you -- when about was that?

23 A. That would've been May, some time around --
24 I mean, it -- it was just -- I talked to -- I want

1 to say I talked to -- not the person who answered
2 the phone. I told them what I was looking for and
3 they transferred me to somebody else and it
4 was -- they seemed to indicate there was no problem
5 at -- I mean, my only inquiry was whether an office
6 could enter a contract with an outside consultant,
7 and they indicated that we could, as long as it's
8 for official business.

9 Q. Okay. But you don't recall who that person
10 was?

11 A. I do not, I'm sorry.

12 Q. If I were to tell you that -- that Admin
13 has no recollection or record of any communications
14 with this office regarding Brett O'Donnell, would
15 that surprise you?

16 A. It would be inaccurate. It was actually in
17 print.

18 Q. And that -- well, it's in print?

19 A. A --

20 Q. In what form?

21 A. -- newspaper article. The newspaper
22 article came out from USA Today, I want to say his
23 name is Paul Singer. He's --

24 Q. Is this around July of 2013?

1 A. Yeah, I guess.

2 Q. And when you say -- what --

3 A. That was it.

4 Q. -- what's in print in the article that
5 would make that statement accurate?

6 A. Mr. Singer talked to the House Admin
7 Committee and they, in the article, at least,
8 indicated that we were fine.

9 Q. Fine with regards to staff training?

10 A. Allowed to hire outsiders consultants, yes.

11 Q. Okay. Are you aware that the manual on the
12 House Committee Administration specifically
13 outlines that consultants are not allowed to be
14 hired by members offices?

15 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

16 Q. You're not aware of that, that's news to
17 you?

18 A. I'm -- that's news to me, yes.

19 Q. That's news to you?

20 So your conversation with Admin around May
21 of 2012 --

22 A. Right.

23 Q. -- they indicated to you that you could
24 hire a consultant?

1 A. We were allowed to have
2 consultants -- outside consultants as long as we
3 were doing official business.

4 Q. Do you have any -- any record of that
5 conversation occurring, any notes, any e-mails
6 exchanged with them?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MR. SOLIS: And when you made that inquiry,
10 did you give any specifics on the type of
11 relationship that --

12 A. I may have. I may have said that we were
13 looking to hire a messaging -- someone who could do
14 messaging for us.

15 I mean, obviously, we hired somebody -- we
16 hired Merrie Spaeth in 2000 -- I would have to
17 look, I don't even know what year that was -- and
18 paid her out of the MRA.

19 MR. SOLIS: But the consulting agreement,
20 the proposal from Mr. O'Donnell, those written
21 products that he provided to you --

22 A. Right.

23 MR. SOLIS: -- would any of those documents
24 have been forwarded on to the Committee on House

1 Administration by you?

2 A. No, they were not.

3 BY MR. MORGAN:

4 Q. Was that the only time you reached out to
5 the Admin Committee --

6 A. No, I called them --

7 Q. -- to ask them about --

8 A. -- a second time about that article.

9 Q. About the July 2013 article?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And who -- do you recall who you spoke
12 with?

13 A. I do not. I think it was their press
14 office, to be honest thank you.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. They may have actually reached out to me, I
17 cannot recall totally because there was -- between
18 Ms. Bachmann, Ms. McMorris-Rodgers, House Admin and
19 then us, we were all sort of contacted about that
20 article.

21 Q. Okay. Why did you reach out to their press
22 office and not to somebody who could actually
23 provide you advice on --

24 A. That's what was saying.

1 Q. -- (inaudible)?

2 A. I think they actually reached out to me.

3 Q. They reached out to you?

4 A. To ask if we --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- were still involved with Mr. O'Donnell.

7 Some of this is -- I'm just trying to recall, quite
8 honestly, but some of it was related to the fact of
9 whether or not we were gonna talk to the reporter
10 or not, which we did not.

11 Q. Did, at any point, you send, you know, the
12 initial consulting agreement or any of the
13 subsequent consulting agreements to Admin or Ethics
14 Committee for them to view?

15 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Not that I recall.

18 I mean, my main thing was they were both --
19 he was already employed by two other offices and I
20 didn't really think about that much about it.

21 In hindsight, obviously, I probably
22 should've.

23 Q. Okay. When was the first time that Brett
24 O'Donnell became involved in Representative Broun's

1 campaign activities?

2 A. I cannot recall if he did anything for us
3 in 2012. I mean, again, he came on right about the
4 time that we were entering into our primary phase.

5 I recall a specific time where he indicated
6 to us that he'd be happy to volunteer on the
7 campaign side if we needed him to do anything.

8 We tied him in a lot on e-mails involving
9 messaging. Sometimes his advice was sought,
10 sometimes it wasn't. Sometimes his advice was
11 taken, sometimes it wasn't.

12 Dr. Broun likes to operate under what he
13 calls under a multitude of counselors --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- but at the end of the day, he makes all
16 his own decisions so --

17 Q. I'm gonna show you some e-mails here.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. This is PBDB 86. This is from your
20 Document Production.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. This appears to be -- you know, the bottom
23 here, an e-mail from you to Brett O'Donnell, then
24 Broun Allstaff.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. You say, "We're pleased to announce the
3 addition of Brett O'Donnell to Team Broun as a
4 communications and messaging consultant to our
5 official office."

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. What I want to ask you about is --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- this response from Jordan Chinouth.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. He says, "Congrats, had no idea we were
12 close to making a decision."

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You then respond to him saying, "This is
15 not a media consultant for the campaign. That part
16 is dragging."

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. Was there -- was Jordan confused? Why
19 would he have thought that Brett was a campaign
20 consultant?

21 A. I don't why he thought he would be a
22 campaign consultant. I'm not sure if Jordan was
23 ever just consulted at all on hiring any messaging
24 consultant on the official side.

1 Jordan would've been our district director
2 at the time --

3 Q. Uh-huh.

4 A. -- so obviously, he's down at our district
5 office, but I don't think he's -- he was part of
6 the whole discussion on whether we needed a
7 messaging consultant or not.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. He -- I'm -- I'm just gonna assume that he
10 thought we had hired somebody on the media side and
11 I had to explain to him that he was not our media
12 consultant. I'm assuming that we also had some
13 discussion about whether we needed a media
14 consultant or not, and --

15 Q. For the campaign?

16 A. Yeah -- and we ended up not having one.

17 Q. You ended up not having one?

18 A. Right, we never --

19 Q. Why did you --

20 A. We never ran any ads.

21 Q. Okay. So you did not hire a media
22 consultant for the campaign?

23 A. No.

24 MR. SOLIS: You mentioned that Jordan, at

1 this time, was the district director.

2 I realize that his title is reflected in
3 that e-mail, but Jordan also took time off at --

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 MR. SOLIS: -- various pointing to go
6 work --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 MR. SOLIS: -- am I right?

9 Would that have -- you know, keeping in
10 mind that his title is reflected there, would he
11 have been working on the campaign during that time?

12 A. Yes, sir. If that was June of what, 2012,
13 and our -- well, when was our primary, because it
14 just changed this cycle?

15 BY MR. MORGAN:

16 Q. I think it was either late July or August
17 of 2012.

18 A. It may have been in July, the primary,
19 yeah. Jordan had never left full-time. He went
20 either half time or three-quarters time. I'm
21 trying to recall exactly what the number was, but
22 he was either half time or three quarters time.

23 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

24 So again -- so again, you know, bearing in

1 mind that he was actually working for the campaign
2 during that time --

3 A. Sorry.

4 MR. SOLIS: Are we just coming in or --
5 yeah -- that he was working for the campaign at
6 that time, would that have given him any reason to
7 inquire about a media consultant for the campaign?

8 Would -- would that have -- I mean, he was
9 he part of those discussions on bringing somebody
10 on?

11 A. As a media consultant --

12 MR. SOLIS: Yeah.

13 A. -- on the campaign side?

14 MR. SOLIS: Yeah.

15 A. Probably.

16 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

17 A. I don't -- I don't know I'm really sure if
18 I remember discussing media consultant at that
19 point in time.

20 I mean, here we are a month out, we really
21 didn't have a serious opponent and this is more
22 about just wrapping up a brand new district. We
23 had just finished -- redistricting -- we were
24 about 60, 65 percent new district, new territory,

1 so it was just more about getting Dr. Broun known
2 in the new part of the district.

3 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

4 BY MR. MORGAN:

5 Q. Okay. I want to talk to you about the work
6 that Brett O'Donnell --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- did for the Congressional office.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. How frequently was he in communication with
11 Dr. Broun or with the office?

12 A. The general rule was he would come in about
13 once a week when Dr. Broun was here and we were in
14 session. We would review the week prior and the
15 upcoming week when it came to messaging. He would
16 talk to Dr. Broun by e-mail, I believe, if
17 Dr. Broun was not in town or by phone. We would
18 set up phone conference calls --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- for him. Obviously by e-mail, we
21 communicated depending on the business of the day.

22 Q. Did these weekly sessions sometimes occur
23 at the NRCC?

24 A. No, not that I recall. There may have been

1 an odd one here or there, but for the most part,
2 they were in his office here.

3 Q. I ask you about the document right here.
4 It says PBTN 31.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Let's see if this refreshes your
7 recollection.

8 What I want to ask you about the top e-mail
9 from Meredith Griffanti to Teddy Norton cc'ing you,
10 she says, "We could just have it be official today
11 and do NRCC stuff next week," you know, in
12 reference to a couple of meetings with Brett
13 O'Donnell. I -- take your time to review --

14 A. Yeah, this is a long.

15 Q. -- those e-mails.

16 A. -- chain. I got to -- I'm trying to figure
17 out where the beginning is.

18 Q. Yeah, that's always the answer to that.

19 A. So Meredith is was setting up a meeting
20 with Brett, meeting through 6, bell Billy next
21 week, wide open right now, CNBC hit. Okay.

22 So sometimes, he would meet over at the
23 NRCC if that's where Dr. Broun was making his calls
24 from all day.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So -- and this is what, 2012, December,
3 yeah. That would December. It was probably a year
4 end push for the NRCC dues.

5 Q. Okay, and she refers to NRCC stuff -- to do
6 NRCC stuff next week --

7 A. Makings calls.

8 Q. -- to have this meeting be official but
9 NRCC stuff --

10 A. "Do NRCC stuff next week," I don't -- I'm
11 not sure what she's referencing there at all.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. She cc'ed me on it, unless she --

14 Q. Would these weekly sessions, you -- you
15 said you'd review the past week's media --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- talk about the upcoming week's media?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Would that include campaign media?

20 A. It would, yes, if they were reviewing an
21 interview he had done -- I mean, for the most part,
22 there was really nothing after July, I guess would
23 be, whenever the primary was of 2012, until
24 February of 2014.

1 Q. Or 2013?

2 A. 2013, yes. I'm sorry.

3 Q. 2013. Okay.

4 A. So --

5 Q. Was that about when he announced --

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. -- when Representative Broun announced
8 his --

9 A. He announced some time in February. I
10 can't recall the exact date.

11 Q. Okay. So the course -- over the course of,
12 you know, approximately this two-year period where
13 Brett O'Donnell was a consultant --

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. -- these weekly sessions, sometimes they
16 would cover campaign media appearances?

17 A. They would review what he had --

18 Q. What he had done?

19 A. -- what he had done.

20 Q. And prepare for campaign media appearances
21 coming up?

22 A. He would prepare for just any media
23 appearance, yes.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And so as his campaign activity picked up,
3 the extent to which those weekly sessions discussed
4 campaign activity would reflect that, as well?

5 A. Well, it would depend on the interview, as
6 well. I mean, keep in mind that sometimes he'd get
7 an interview scheduled and no matter what it would
8 be about, it would be about the Option Act or it
9 would be about immigration or whatever, I mean nine
10 out of the 10 interviews is gonna bring the
11 Senate campaign.

12 You know, it wasn't booked specifically as
13 a campaign media appearance but they almost would
14 turn into it at some point in time.

15 Q. Well --

16 A. -- but again, keep in mind, Brett
17 O'Donnell's main role and function in these
18 sessions is to review the delivery and the style
19 and -- of the messaging, not the actual content in
20 as much.

21 Q. Would he provide talking points or ways to
22 frame an issue?

23 A. He would help Dr. Broun sort of solidify
24 his talking points. In other words, Dr. Broun

1 would say, "This is what I'm trying to get across,
2 or I want to talk about, you know, the Option Act,
3 immigration, taxes, shutdown or whatever it may be,
4 how do I get my point across in 30 seconds," or the
5 main thing he would really work on, especially at
6 the beginning was not being taken off topic.

7 I mean, Brett's real big focus early on was
8 let's keep you from getting led down -- you know,
9 in other words, an interviewer tries to take you
10 somewhere but you're trying to stay on this path,
11 and so he would work with him on how to stay on
12 that path --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- and not so much run off onto a different
15 path.

16 Q. Would -- would those sessions also cover
17 upcoming speeches?

18 A. I am sure sometimes.

19 Q. Floor speeches?

20 A. Floor speeches, appearances -- again, keep
21 in mind we have a huge district so there was a
22 lot -- Dr. Broun loves to be out amongst the
23 district. If we don't schedule him end to end, for
24 the most part, then he's not very happy.

1 Q. Okay. I will give you an e-mail here, see
2 if this refreshes your recollection, this is PBDB
3 0151, so this is in your document production.

4 This is an e-mail from Brett O'Donnell to
5 you, subject is FAA material. It says, "[REDACTED],
6 here are some talking points for Dr. Broun and
7 FAA," and then there's -- you know, it looks like
8 about four -- four pages of -- of material that --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- that Brett provided.

11 Was it common for him to provide this type
12 of material to the office?

13 A. Probably. If he had some stuff, he would
14 use, kind of give to us and let us consider whether
15 to use it or not.

16 Q. Do you recall any -- any instances in which
17 Brett O'Donnell drafted speeches for the office?

18 A. Sure, sure.

19 Q. Do you recall any -- any specific speeches?

20 A. Not really; I mean, there is just about
21 every single floor speech and Dr. Broun would sit
22 down and say, "Okay. This is what I want to say."

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And whether it be Meredith and then later

1 on, Christine, take it down and then would hammer
2 out a draft and then the whole team would look at
3 it.

4 Q. And the whole team would -- would include
5 Brett?

6 A. Yeah, Brett would look at it, Bob, myself,
7 even Dr. Broun, and it really depends on where he
8 was, as well, whether he was at home or up here on
9 the -- on the speed of which we would get a final
10 draft produced. It was all basically taking what
11 he wanted to say and putting it into a 60-second or
12 two-minute format.

13 Q. Okay. Did Brett have any -- any role over
14 the legislative strategy or the legislative work of
15 the office?

16 A. As far as producing legislation, not that
17 I'm aware of.

18 Q. Or advising on --

19 A. Well --

20 Q. -- votes or the sponsoring or --

21 A. No. I mean, sometimes he would offer his
22 two cents on, you know, what a vote would mean,
23 what it could do. How to message it was more what
24 we were interested in.

1 Q. Okay. Would he, for example if
2 Representative Broun was contemplating voting a
3 certain way, would he offer his thoughts on how
4 that would play in the press or how that might --

5 A. I'm sure he would.

6 Q. -- effect by other --

7 A. Sure, absolutely. I'm sure he did.

8 Q. Did he ever provide any training to the
9 Congressional staff --

10 A. Just --

11 Q. -- Brett?

12 A. I would assume just Meredith and then
13 Christine.

14 Q. Were you ever a part of -- of any, you
15 know, a series of training or an initial series
16 that Brett O'Donnell put the Congressman through on
17 speaking training sessions?

18 A. I know he would do -- more so obviously
19 towards the beginning. I knew he would sit down
20 and review -- it was more of reviewing speeches. I
21 mean, we filmed all of his public appearances that,
22 you know, obviously interviews, speeches floor
23 speeches, town halls, I mean, everything. We
24 filmed everything --

1 Q. Debates.

2 A. -- and put it up on onto -- I want to say a
3 YouTube site, but that would --

4 Q. Is it a G drive, Google drive?

5 A. I think it's actually -- I think we have a
6 private YouTube site. I don't know; I just go to
7 the website and it takes me there.

8 Q. Saw some reference in the documents to a G
9 drive and then also to a private YouTube account.

10 A. Yes, we have Broun speeches, something like
11 that. I mean, I rarely looked at it but I knew it
12 was there.

13 Q. Okay. I'm gonna ask you about this e-mail.
14 This is BOD 00234.

15 MR. SOLIS: Before we move on --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 MR. SOLIS: -- can I just ask one question?

18 A. Certainly.

19 MR. SOLIS: Bryson had asked you just about
20 some of the work on the legislative side, if any,
21 or to the degree that Brett mentioned legislation.

22 Did he have any contact with any staffers
23 who handle legislation? Would he ever e-mail them,
24 have a phone call with them?

1 A. Not that I'm aware of.

2 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

3 A. Not that I'm aware of. I'm not sure -- I
4 mean, they knew who he was because he'd come in
5 once a week.

6 Out of our current legislative staff, maybe
7 Tim is the only one who may not have met him but
8 not that I'm aware of. I don't think he's talked
9 to any of the other staffers on the legislative
10 side individually, no.

11 MR. SOLIS: When Meredith or Christine
12 would make a draft of a speech or talking points
13 or --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 MR. SOLIS: -- anything, would you ever
16 direct them to send their product to Brett for
17 review?

18 A. Who, Christine?

19 MR. SOLIS: Christine or Meredith, would
20 you ever direct them to --

21 A. I'm not sure if I ever directed them do it.
22 I think they would just -- that was part of the
23 process, and it would not be just Brett, either,
24 that I'm aware of. It's -- again, it's the whole

1 team thing. I mean, if you've noticed on the
2 e-mails, a lot -- Dr. Broun liked us to include a
3 wide swath of people in a lot of our e-mails just
4 as more of a so they know what's going on approach
5 as opposed to put your hands in there and tinker
6 with it approach --

7 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

8 A. -- especially on the messaging side. I
9 think we had too many cooks in the kitchen as it
10 was.

11 MR. SOLIS: Yep.

12 BY MR. MORGAN:

13 Q. Yeah, I want to ask you about this e-mail.

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. These are the 00234 --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- e-mail from you to -- well, on December
18 19, 2012 to a number of people, you write, "Good
19 afternoon, Team Broun --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- just wanted to do a quick intro, two new
22 additions brought on today by Dr. Broun to our
23 political efforts" --

24 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- and you introduce, you know, Hans Keiser
2 and Guy Short.

3 At the bottom of this e-mail, you -- you
4 list Brett O'Donnell.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. You write "Brett O'Donnell is Congressman
7 Broun's messaging consultant and media prep
8 advisor."

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. Does that accurately describe his role with
11 the campaign with regards to the Congressman's
12 political efforts?

13 A. No. This was about who he was on the
14 e-mail, about --

15 Q. Say that again.

16 A. This was -- I was describing to Hans and
17 Guy who everybody on the e-mail were.

18 Q. Uh-huh.

19 A. I mean obviously, there's a lot of people
20 on here who are not a part of the campaign but they
21 may be on e-mails.

22 Q. Who on here was not part of the campaign?

23 A. Well, Teddy, of course, being our
24 scheduler; Meredith, being our communications

1 director; and Brett, being our media guy -- our
2 messaging guy.

3 Q. Did --

4 A. Let me see.

5 Q. -- Meredith volunteer on the campaign?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. So this -- this e-mail is describing
8 Brett O'Donnell's role with the Congressional
9 office, not his role with the campaign?

10 A. Correct.

11 I mean, you know, obviously in messaging,
12 they intermix all the time. So if we were doing a
13 messaging e-mail about a -- an interview or an
14 upcoming town hall or whatever it would be, Brett
15 would be on those e-mails.

16 Q. How --

17 A. I mean, he would be on all of the e-mails
18 involving messaging.

19 Q. How would you then describe Brett
20 O'Donnell's role with Representative Broun's
21 campaigns?

22 A. Brett -- again, Brett, volunteered to help
23 out whenever he could and his -- he offered advice
24 sometimes, and it was either listened to or it

1 wasn't listened to. He helped Dr. Broun try to
2 prepare for any big speeches coming up. Again,
3 this was all on the volunteer side on his own time.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Yep.

6 MR. SOLIS: Brett affirmatively said to you
7 "I want to volunteer on the campaign"?

8 A. Yes. He said, "If you guys need anything,
9 this is what I do and I have helped other people in
10 this capacity, so let me know."

11 BY MR. MORGAN:

12 Q. When was the first time he -- he did any
13 work for the campaign?

14 A. Again, I can't recall if he did anything at
15 the beginning when he first started in 2012. I
16 mean, it was so near the end and he was so new, I
17 just -- I don't know if he ever talked to Dr. Broun
18 about anything on that side or not, but in February
19 when Dr. Broun told us he was gonna run for the
20 Senate and announced to the staff and team that he
21 was gonna run for the Senate, everybody said they'd be
22 happy to help in any way they could, and that's
23 when Brett O'Donnell did it, I believe.

24 Q. Is that -- is that about when you believe

1 the conversation you had with Brett about
2 volunteering for the campaign would've taken place?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. When you were bringing him on
5 the -- that initial time that you brought him on
6 and signed that first consulting agreement, was
7 there any discussion of him volunteering for the
8 campaign at that time?

9 A. Not that I recall, no.

10 Q. Not that you recall? Okay.

11 A. I'm not sure if we ever discussed any of
12 the campaign stuff. It was all just purely
13 messaging. I'm not even sure we discussed what he
14 did for other people.

15 Q. Okay. I want to show you a document -- go
16 ahead.

17 MR. SOLIS: We just -- we had a chance to
18 speak with -- with Mr. O'Donnell. I mean, he -- he
19 mentioned to us that at some point in the kind of
20 early stages, he had -- he had a conversation with
21 you about engaging the campaign more fully,
22 potentially, with a -- with a more -- with a paid
23 position with the campaign, that the campaign would
24 pay him for sort of more extensive research

1 services and more extensive services that would go
2 beyond mere volunteering.

3 Do you recall having a discussion with him
4 about that?

5 A. I do not. I mean, he may have.

6 You know, the idea being that we weren't
7 quite sure how he would work out. Again, it was
8 sort of a testing phase.

9 We had used him obviously on the political
10 side -- on the official side -- on the official
11 side, you know, just pure messaging, and then when
12 the campaign started gearing up and he had a
13 conversation with us, we weren't quite sure if that
14 would work or if he would even be helpful or
15 effective or not.

16 Ultimately, at the end of the day, like
17 everybody else, we were hoping Dr. Broun would win
18 and then we would have our foot in the door, which
19 is why we all volunteered, but I think along the
20 way, as he was providing his thoughts and support
21 and ideas on the campaign side, I don't think
22 Dr. Broun found a lot of value in it.

23 Q. And --

24 A. In other words, we actually started moving

1 more away from anything that he was offering as
2 advice and just focusing mostly on the messaging on
3 the official with him.

4 Q. I am going to show you a couple of -- of
5 documents here. This is BOD 00535. It's a series
6 of an exchange between you and -- and Brett
7 O'Donnell in June of 2012. It starts with the --
8 you know, the last page.

9 A. All right.

10 Q. BOD 540, where Brett O'Donnell writes to
11 you, he says, "Attached is my consulting
12 agreement." Again, this is that e-mail I showed
13 you with his consulting agreement attached.

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. This is --

16 A. Document approved, thank you.

17 Q. You respond two days later, "Brett, I have
18 the contract approved and signed. Make sure you
19 get it this afternoon. Thanks, [REDACTED]." He
20 responds, and then the next e-mail from him is,
21 "Where is prep today?"

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. You respond, "NRCC, we have a conference
24 room reserved." He responds, "I'm in conversation

1 room at NRCC."

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. Early the next morning, this document here
4 BOD 00681, Brett O'Donnell writes to you cc'ing Bob
5 Bibee, Jordan, Meredith and Dr. Broun, "Here" --
6 you know, "Below are the reminders from the prep
7 session today."

8 I -- you want me to -- it appears that this
9 session on June 21, 2012 was a session in which
10 there was a campaign debate preparation?

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. Right?

13 A. That's what it looks like.

14 Q. And what it looks like is that if not the
15 first thing but one of the very first things that
16 is Brett O'Donnell did after the consulting
17 agreement was executed was a debate preparation
18 session.

19 In fact, it's the same -- it's on the same
20 e-mail chain in which the agreement is exchanged
21 and approved, the prep session is discussed?

22 A. I'm sorry. I was just looking at -- oh,
23 this is November 13th. That doesn't make sense.

24 Q. But if you look below --

1 A. Oh, I see, I see.

2 Q. So this is the -- you know, the obvious
3 question and I'll tell you, this is -- this is what
4 our Board is gonna want to know --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- and they are going to -- to frankly
7 perhaps grill me on, which is how can you say
8 Brett O'Donnell was volunteering for the campaign
9 and how can you say that debate preparation was not
10 part of his consulting agreement when you have an
11 e-mail exchange like this in which debate
12 preparation is discussed in the same e-mail back
13 and forth where the consulting agreement is
14 exchanged and where it appears that the first in
15 June of 2012 and early July of 2012, it appears
16 that what Brett O'Donnell was almost exclusively
17 doing for the office was preparing for two debates
18 for the Republican primary, one held on the 22nd,
19 one on July 2, 2012, and then a session in early
20 July at the NRCC to then review those debate
21 performances.

22 So do you see -- I mean, what my Board is
23 gonna want to know is --

24 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- how do you not say then that debate
2 preparation was part of his consulting services?

3 A. Well, that's -- you know, that was not why
4 we hired him.

5 Q. But it was one of the first things he did?

6 A. I'm not sure it was one of the first things he
7 did, but it's apparently something he did do.

8 Q. But you did not hire him to do campaign
9 debate preparation?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. And was there any conversation with him
12 about his participation in this debate preparation
13 session being separate from his contract?

14 A. I'm sure there was. I don't recall.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. I really don't recall the specifics of this
17 debate preparation session.

18 MR. SOLIS: Were you there?

19 A. I don't believe so. I don't remember any
20 of this at all.

21 BY MR. MORGAN:

22 Q. Okay. It's just -- it's hard for me --
23 it's perhaps difficult for us to -- to nail this
24 down, to get a clear understanding.

1 A. Sure.

2 Q. You have a consulting -- and I'm sure you
3 can relate to this, a consulting agreement that
4 references debate preparation.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. We -- right after that's executed, we see a
7 lot of debate preparation starting to happen. It
8 happens, Brett O'Donnell is listed as attending,
9 you know, I would say more than a dozen, it's
10 several debate preparation sessions and review
11 sessions and while that consulting agreement refers
12 to debate preparation is in place. So what --

13 A. Well.

14 Q. -- can you help us you understand why --

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. -- it is that that campaign's debate
17 preparation is separate from that consulting
18 agreement?

19 How can you -- can you help us understand
20 that?

21 A. What he does as a volunteer is separate
22 from what he does on the official side. I mean,
23 who -- what other consultant out there doesn't do
24 campaign work, as well. I mean, our franking guy

1 does campaign work. Our townhall guy does campaign
2 works. I don't know who else that doesn't --

3 Q. Do either of them have a contractual
4 arrangement with the office --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- that specifically mentioned debate
7 preparation?

8 A. No.

9 Q. I mean, that's -- the issue here --

10 A. No, I understand what you're saying. The
11 issue here is at the same time, you're taking one
12 day of debate prep that he does as a volunteer on
13 the outside and you're not looking at the 12 or 14
14 official sessions he did over this, and then you're
15 also talking about --

16 Q. And during that same -- you said he -- that
17 Dr. Broun was in Afghanistan for the month of July?

18 A. No. We're talking about June, July. We
19 had at least -- well, I would say that's an
20 eight-week period and probably about eight to 10
21 different official sessions, yes.

22 Q. In addition to a couple or -- it appears
23 maybe three or so debates?

24 A. I think we only had one debate and again,

1 you know, we hired a guy in June, our debates --
2 our primary is over in July and we have nothing
3 until he decides to run for the Senate, until
4 February.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I mean, that, to me, is a pretty clear
7 indication that the guy was brought on in an
8 official capacity. I -- he decided to volunteer
9 and help out on this -- on the campaign side like
10 everybody else does and that's what this is.

11 Q. Was there ever discussion with Brett that
12 he was -- that to the extent he did campaign
13 activity, that was not covered by the consulting
14 agreement?

15 A. I'm sorry, there was a discussion about
16 what?

17 Q. About campaign activity not being covered
18 by the consulting agreement?

19 A. Oh, sure, that was -- I mean, when we hired
20 him, we were very clear, this is official stuff.
21 This is what we were doing. We're looking at
22 messaging and messaging only, and that's the
23 delivery of the message. It's not about content
24 and it's not about creating points and creating

1 issues. This is about Dr. Broun actually
2 delivering the message itself.

3 Q. Okay.

4 MR. SOLIS: So on the outset, you actually
5 had a discussion with Brett, making a clear
6 distinction between the work he would be doing --

7 A. Well, no, we never said anything
8 about -- we were just sitting down talking to him
9 about official stuff. I mean, this is what we were
10 looking for, Obviously by the e-mail. Never -- I
11 don't think it became an issue that we had to talk
12 about, as far as the campaign side.

13 I mean, we didn't have -- you know, our
14 race is almost over, as far as we were concerned,
15 and there was nothing much else going on. I mean,
16 we sat down with him and talked to him plainly and
17 clearly, Dr. Broun needs help with messaging, and
18 at the time, you know, when we talked to him
19 about -- when we talked to Michelle -- when he
20 talked to Michelle Bachmann about it, that's all
21 she talked to him about.

22 "This is the guy helps me prepare for my
23 interviews, prepare my floor statement, prepare for
24 my floor statements, so on and so forth." I don't

1 think they even talked about the campaign stuff.

2 BY MR. MORGAN:

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I didn't know he did campaign stuff at the
5 very beginning until he sent over his -- or until
6 he sent over his prospectus, I guess, whatever they
7 call that thing.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MR. SOLIS: So the prospectus laid out
10 campaign work?

11 A. Yes, his --

12 MR. SOLIS: The proposal?

13 A. His proposal or whatever it is about him,
14 discussed his debate prep ability, and he pitched it
15 pretty highly as far as maybe I want to say Romney,
16 but I'm not sure if he did Romney or not.

17 MR. SOLIS: Well -- well, Bryson, you know,
18 showed you that earlier and -- and the word debate
19 was used extensively in that proposal and the
20 consulting agreement itself and we asked you what
21 you felt that meant and you said that you felt it
22 meant, you know --

23 A. For us, it would have meant.

24 MR. SOLIS: You know, exclusively floor

1 debates?

2 A. For us, that's what it meant.

3 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

4 A. And that's why -- I mean, floor debate was
5 used extensively through our discussion and we
6 actually, you know, watched videos of Dr. Broun's
7 earlier floor debates to kind of show him what we
8 were talking about.

9 MR. SOLIS: But yet those documents, when
10 they were provided to you, that gave you the
11 awareness that Brett O'Donnell also did campaign
12 work?

13 A. Oh, yes. I mean, we knew -- once I saw
14 him, then I knew what he did.

15 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

16 BY MR. MORGAN:

17 Q. Okay. So you brought on this
18 consultant for the official side.

19 Did you have a conversation with him,
20 asking if he was willing to volunteer on the
21 campaign side, ask him if he was willing to prepare
22 for those --

23 A. I think he just offered it.

24 Q. -- 2012 debates; he just offered it?

1 A. Yeah. He offered it out on his own.

2 MR. CORTAZAR: Did it come up during the
3 contract negotiations or --

4 A. No.

5 MR. CORTAZAR: -- did the volunteering
6 happen at some other point?

7 A. It happened in another point. It probably
8 happened in our -- maybe our second session, I
9 guess. I remember was in a session. It was after
10 a session was over and we were leaving and he said
11 something about, you know, I do debate prep on the
12 campaign side. I'm happy to help out with
13 messaging or anything else you need over there, as
14 well. Just let me know and I will volunteer, and I
15 said I will let the Congressman know, and I guess
16 they decided to set up a time to talk about it.

17 BY MR. MORGAN:

18 Q. Okay. I want to ask you some questions
19 about the 2014 Senate campaign.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Do you recall the Charge Senate forum; does
22 that ring a bell, on or about July?

23 A. Yes, it's --

24 Q. Okay. I think you have a document I can

1 show you.

2 A. Yes, I recall it. This -- the reason why
3 is because it's not based up there. That was quite
4 strange.

5 Q. Okay. Do you recall if Brett O'Donnell was
6 involved in preparing the Congressman for that?

7 A. I don't know if he was involved in
8 preparing. I do remember watching the video
9 afterwards and discussing the delivery.

10 Q. Watching the video with Brett, and
11 discussing the video?

12 A. No, it wasn't with -- Brett wasn't
13 physically there. I remember watching the video
14 afterwards is what I'm saying.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So I don't remember being -- outside of
17 scheduling, I don't remember being involved with it
18 at all.

19 Q. Okay. Do you recall if -- would Brett do
20 brief messaging calls with the Congressman before
21 campaign events, campaign speak -- media
22 appearances or campaign speeches; does that -- that
23 ring a bell to you at all?

24 A. He could have. I mean, I don't think that

1 it's unlikely that happened.

2 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you a document here,
3 skipping around a little bit. This is PBCH 33
4 through 35. This is an e-mail from you to Brett in
5 which you refer to doing some brief messaging calls
6 in advance of what appear to be some campaign
7 related events. One is a conservative Republican
8 Women of North Atlanta event, other is a Cobb GOP
9 women event, then a Baren BOP barbecue. You
10 write, "All the candidates should be there and they
11 will be speaking in alphabetical order."

12 A. Sure.

13 Q. Was this typical for Brett to do?

14 A. Yeah. I mean, we were mixing in the
15 official interviews and stuff, and they -- I was
16 telling him everything we had coming up.

17 Q. So would this have been something that
18 Brett did in his capacity as a consultant to the
19 office or as a volunteer for the campaign?

20 A. It would depend on what these events were.
21 I don't recall this specific event. Obviously,
22 this is over August so this is during recess.
23 Conservative Women of North Atlanta, that may have been
24 an official event or a non-political event, I will

1 call it, because sometimes they don't like to have
2 campaigning going on at these things, which is
3 strange, obviously. I don't remember what he was
4 in Columbus for.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Obviously, Baren GOP barbecue is a campaign
7 event.

8 Q. And Cobb GOP women, would that be a
9 political campaign event, as well?

10 A. It would have to be because Cobb is not in
11 our district.

12 Q. Okay. You can take some time to
13 look at this. This is PBTA 25 through 127B. I'm
14 gonna put a mark next to the relevant part I want
15 to ask you about, but it appears that there was a
16 Georgia public broadcasting get to know the
17 candidate piece that was --

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. -- there was something that was filmed in
20 advance. Then you write here, in response to, you
21 know, being asked in you're okay with scheduling it
22 since the other candidates will be there, you say,
23 "Yes, but I want heavy Brett time beforehand."

24 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Do you recall -- do you recall --

2 A. I'm just trying to -- I'm sorry. I'm
3 trying to find the date so I get some idea, oh,
4 December, 2013.

5 Q. Yeah, that's --

6 A. Yeah, so it's about six months ago.

7 Q. Was this is also something that was typical
8 for Brett to do to prepare -- well, when you say,
9 "I want heavy Brett time beforehand," what does
10 that -- what does that mean?

11 A. That means -- let me just see Georgia
12 public broadcast, okay. That means any time he's
13 on TV, I want him to sit down and talk to Brett
14 about how he was to deliver his message.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I mean, it's about, again, the delivery of
17 the message, not the content of the message.

18 Q. About the delivery but not the content,
19 okay.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. What -- how -- was Brett O'Donnell involved
22 in negotiating debate formats, are you aware?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. I believe at one time, he talked to the
2 State party. I want to say the guy's name was
3 Adam, if I remember correctly -- anyway, they were
4 starting to set up -- well, it turned out it might
5 not even be debates or forums more than anything
6 else, but they had never done it before so Brett
7 offered to call out there and tell them how to set
8 them up.

9 Q. All right. I am going to show you the next
10 document here. This is BOD 0956 and see if you
11 recall this e-mail at the very bottom from Brett
12 O'Donnell to you and it appears like a couple of
13 people where he says, "Attached is the attack grid
14 for Dr. Broun to use against PG and KH in the
15 debates."

16 Do you recall Brett O'Donnell putting
17 together this attack grid or --

18 A. Yeah, I remember he put this together on
19 his own and we never even used it.

20 Q. When you say, "He put it together on,"
21 Brett O'Donnell put it together on his own?

22 A. Yeah. I remember he sent these one day and
23 he had asked me for information on votes or
24 something, and then he kind of put these things

1 together and sent them over to us and we never
2 even used them. Dr. Broun didn't like them.

3 Q. Okay. Did he provide other prep materials
4 for debates similar to the attack grid?

5 A. Not that I'm aware of. I mean, after
6 these -- again, he did these and Dr. Broun didn't
7 like them and we actually never used them and then
8 I think they reviewed Dr. Broun's opening
9 statements and closing statements, yes.

10 Q. Okay. Was he involved in putting together
11 Dr. Broun's announcement speech announcing his run
12 for the Senate?

13 A. I think he helped him with it, yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay, and do you recall him being involved
15 in -- well, you said he helped -- well, do you
16 recall what his role was in putting that speech
17 together?

18 A. I don't -- I wasn't in there, no, but I
19 think --

20 Q. Did he draft it?

21 A. -- they may have done it on the phone.

22 I think Dr. Broun, again, told him what he
23 wanted to say and he worked with Dr. Broun on how
24 to deliver it.

1 Q. Okay. Do you recall Brett O'Donnell being
2 involved in the Congressman's GOP convention speech
3 in 2013?

4 A. Yes, sir, same thing.

5 Q. Well, was he --

6 A. I think it was the same speech.

7 Q. Oh, his announcement speech and
8 commencement speech were --

9 A. For the most part. I mean, he didn't say
10 I'm announcing today I'm running.

11 Q. Do you know who drafted the main body of
12 that speech?

13 A. I want to say Meredith.

14 Q. Okay, and Brett was involved in putting
15 together maybe the opening and closing; is that --

16 A. I think, yeah, it was sort of like a piece
17 thing. In other words, Dr. Broun would say,
18 okay -- I think they did that a piece at a time.
19 So Dr. Broun would say okay, here's how I want to
20 say in the opening and so he kind of -- I think he
21 typed it out himself and then we all cleaned it up
22 as far as, you know, because it was this long and
23 we took it down to this long.

24 So everybody sort of had a hand in it, you

1 know.

2 Q. Right. I want to -- the campaign
3 debate preparation sessions --

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. -- it appears to us from the documents
6 reviewed that those types of sessions occurred on a
7 number of occasions --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- and it appears that they occurred in
10 various locations?

11 A. I could think of two actual sessions.

12 Q. Which two do you recall?

13 A. There was actually three, but Brett wasn't
14 involved in one of them. It was -- most likely the
15 first two, I want to say Adairsville or something
16 like that, and then I can't remember the second one
17 was, as far as where the debates were, sorry, but
18 we did, at this conference room across the street
19 from the D Triple C, it's a consultant townhouse.

20 Q. Okay. Is that Jamestown Associates?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Who was involved in the sessions?

23 A. Obviously Dr. Broun, Brett -- was Meredith
24 still there?

1 I can't remember if Meredith or Christine
2 were the ones that were there at the time. I want
3 to say Christine but it might have been Meredith,
4 forgive me --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- and then that's it.

7 Q. That's it.

8 At some point was Michael Hall --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- involved in debate prep?

11 A. That's the third guy. That's the third
12 debate.

13 Q. What -- who is Michael Hall?

14 A. Somebody that works with Brett.

15 Q. Somebody that works with Brett?

16 A. I think that's his name. I mean, it sounds
17 familiar.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I know there was a guy who worked with
20 Brett and that sounded like what his name was.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Hi, sorry to interrupt.

22 Do you know about how much longer y'all
23 will be?

24 Dr. Broun is back, so --

1 MR. MORGAN: 10 minutes.

2 MR. SOLIS: Yeah, 15 minutes.

3 FEMALE VOICE: 10 minutes, okay. Great.

4 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

5 BY MR. MORGAN:

6 Q. Why was -- was Michael Hall participating
7 instead of Brett?

8 A. I think Brett was out of the country.

9 Q. Out of the country.

10 A. At this point, Dr. Broun, I don't think
11 felt like Brett was being very helpful and we ended
12 up kind of moving away from Brett as far as debate
13 prep went.

14 MR. SOLIS: Why do you say that?

15 A. I just didn't -- Dr. Broun didn't go with
16 the style that Brett was used to advocating for
17 debates.

18 MR. SOLIS: And he expressed this to you;
19 Dr. Broun expressed this to you?

20 A. Yeah. I mean, it was more so that -- I
21 think he was just saying that, you know, what Brett
22 was saying as far as how to deliver the message
23 wasn't working for him -- wasn't working for
24 Dr. Broun, it wasn't his natural style, it wasn't

1 how he normally did things, and so I think he just
2 started slipping away from listening to what
3 Brett's advice was coming up and more so into what
4 he thought the should be doing.

5 BY MR. MORGAN:

6 Q. Okay, but going through some documents here
7 that reflect some debate preparation sessions, this
8 is BOD 2268, the first two are debate prep sessions
9 may have occurred on January 8, 2014 at Jamestown
10 Associates?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. The next day --

13 A. I remember the first one.

14 Q. -- this is BOD 238, Brett O'Donnell
15 e-mailed an attached proposal for a debate opening
16 for the Adel debate, so it looked --

17 A. Right. Well, this is Dr. Broun's speech
18 that he wrote down.

19 Q. What -- his speech what --

20 A. Dr. Broun would write all of his thoughts
21 down and then we would condense it to the --

22 Q. To an opening?

23 A. -- to a minute and a half as opposed to
24 three minutes or whatever.

1 Q. So this would have been Brett O'Donnell
2 sending --

3 A. This is --

4 Q. -- his proposed open -- opening
5 statement --

6 A. This is Dr. Broun's proposed.

7 Q. -- for the debate? Okay.

8 A. Not Brett's, I'm sorry. I see what you're
9 saying. This is -- in other words, Brett just --
10 he had the draft and set it up, this is what
11 Dr. Broun --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- wants to say.

14 Q. Okay. The next document here, PBDB 25, it
15 appears that on January 10, there was a debate
16 preparation session and one of the things that was
17 discussed that may jog your memory is talking about
18 responding to questions on gay marriage?

19 A. I'm sorry, let me just see. We talked
20 about what, oh, other -- same sex marriage.

21 Okay.

22 Q. So it appears there was an additional
23 meeting on January 10th. It could have been.

24 I'm sure if you recall the specific session

1 in which --

2 A. I don't recall the specific session. This
3 might have been at a meeting where they were
4 talking about messaging as far as the issue goes.
5 I think that's what this is.

6 Q. Okay. So when Brett says, "We talked about
7 this at today's meeting," that may have been
8 something other than a debate preparation session?

9 A. Yeah, this wasn't a debate --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- prep session.

12 Q. But this would have been --

13 A. This is just --

14 Q. This would have been just one of these
15 weekly sessions?

16 A. It could be, yeah.

17 Q. It could be? Okay.

18 A. I mean, this is just an issue, right?

19 Yeah.

20 Q. It just -- the -- Christine's response at
21 the top where it says, "Brett was asking the tough
22 questions on this and we discussed answers for a
23 while," made me think this is may have been a
24 debate prep session?

1 A. No, this was actually --

2 Q. Other than a typical session?

3 A. This is a typical session where they were
4 talking about I think about the news of the day and
5 how he was gonna respond to it, especially if it's
6 something he may be likely to be asked about.

7 Q. So aside from campaign -- specific campaign
8 debate preparation sessions, sometimes you would
9 discuss questions and answers back and forth in the
10 regular weekly sessions?

11 A. As it related to the media --

12 Q. As it related --

13 A. -- not a campaign or anything, but in other
14 words, all right. So this issue came up today. If
15 someone sticks a camera in your face and says, you
16 know, Dr. Broun, what do you think about this
17 ruling, this is how his messaging should be.

18 Q. Okay. Next couple of documents PBTN 134
19 and 135, they're a couple of calendar items that
20 refer to -- they're both titled, "Prep for debate
21 with Michael Hall" --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- "location DC, January 16th and 17th," do
24 you recall if there were two sessions with Michael

1 Hall or was there only one?

2 A. There was only one. I think it was we had
3 to reschedule it or --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- I remember dropping him off at it but I
6 wasn't at it.

7 Q. Okay, and then here's another -- what
8 appears to be another session, PBTN 147, prep --
9 debate prep with Brett, Jamestown Associates on
10 January 29, 2014.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. I'm sort of jumping through.

13 Here's another session what appears to be
14 taking place on Friday, January 31, 2014.

15 This says, "Debate prep," and this was
16 Jordan's office --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. -- is the location? Is that Jordan
19 Chinouth?

20 A. Yes, but that wasn't -- it's not like Brett
21 was there. I don't think Brett was even invited.

22 Q. Okay. Was, at some point, Brett, would he
23 conference call in or Skype in to the debate prep
24 sessions that happened down in Georgia?

1 A. I don't know. He may have.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And sometimes these aren't actual debate
4 preps. I think that's just how Teddy lists them.
5 It's reviewing the debate that happened already.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So in other words, it's going over the tape
8 of it and discussing the delivery of the message
9 and how you can do a better job.

10 Q. Okay. The next one is PBTN 145, "Call with
11 Brett for debate prep." This is February 18th. I
12 can tell you that there was an NFIB Senate
13 candidate forum that day.

14 I'm not sure if that refreshes your
15 recollection of what this meeting might have been
16 about, if it was preparing for that forum or --

17 A. It sounds familiar, although I'm not sure
18 if they ended up having it.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. They may have. There were so many
21 different -- in other words, it may have been not
22 like a forum but like just one on one type of
23 thing.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. One candidate in the group.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. And they would just march everybody in one
4 at a time.

5 Q. And held separate meetings or run it back
6 to back, yeah.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. PBTN 146, this one specifically refers to,
9 "Debate prep, Skyping with Brett" --

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. -- on February 21, 2014.

12 Do you recall this instance where he was
13 Skyped in?

14 A. I do not. I wasn't there.

15 Q. Okay. You're listed as a required
16 attendee. Was --

17 A. I don't know why that would be,
18 especially -- I mean, anything he Skyped with Brett
19 means he was in Georgia and I wasn't there.

20 Q. When you say, "He was in Georgia," you mean
21 the Congressman?

22 A. Dr. Broun, yes.

23 Q. Okay. So, I mean, this is -- and
24 previously, you said that Dr. Broun sort of drifted

1 away from wanting to use Brett's method but it
2 appears that there's --

3 A. Well, these were --

4 Q. -- there was debate prep occurring well
5 into February and the next document, you know,
6 well, into the early part of March of this year.

7 A. They had 11 debates --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- and I think Brett prepped for two of
10 them, Michael Hall prepped for one of them and then
11 we just kind of moved away from prepping for them
12 at all.

13 Q. So then but these other -- these other
14 calendar instances, I mean, there's -- there's -- I
15 don't know the number, there's at least seven or
16 eight instances there of calendar items for debate
17 prep.

18 A. Right. I think we did more on the first
19 one, which was the January debate. So we may have
20 had three or four sessions. Some them may have
21 been rescheduled because of timing. I'd --

22 Q. Right.

23 A. -- have to look at my own schedule to try
24 to figure that out, maybe --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- but then after the third or even the
3 fourth out of -- I mean, we just realized they
4 weren't even debates, really. They just turned
5 into forums and Dr. Broun was uncomfortable with
6 how he was doing them, so he just wanted to mix it
7 up, change it up and started doing his own thing.

8 Q. When was the last instance in which Brett
9 O'Donnell was involved in the campaign?

10 A. It would have been April.

11 Q. April of this year?

12 A. Yes, sir, and it was mainly around the
13 media, we were getting on his involvement of the
14 campaign.

15 Q. The media, WSB/TV, is that what you're
16 referring to?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So at that -- is that about the same time
19 when his consulting agreement with the
20 Congressional office ended?

21 A. He resigned or whatever they call it, but
22 yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. He just thought he was becoming too much of

1 a distraction.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Some time in mid April.

4 Q. Is that -- do you recall how long after the
5 newspaper articles it was that he resigned?

6 A. I don't know when the articles were, but I
7 know that he was mid April.

8 Q. Okay, and that was the last activity he had
9 with the Congressional office was around that
10 period?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And, as well, the last activity he had with
13 the campaign was around that same period?

14 A. It was probably a couple of weeks earlier.

15 Q. Well, were there debates, were there Senate
16 debate -- campaign debates occurring in -- in April
17 and May of this year?

18 A. I'm sure there were. I -- I would have to
19 look, again, at the schedule. They went up till --
20 let's see the primary was May 20th.

21 Q. Uh-huh.

22 A. We had our two biggest debates were the
23 weekend before.

24 Q. Okay. Who was involved in prepping the

1 Congressman for those debates?

2 A. Pretty much, him.

3 Q. Just him?

4 A. Yeah. I mean, I would ask him if he needed
5 anything. We'd talk a little bit about messaging,
6 but at this point, you know, he had done enough of
7 them that he felt like he knew sort of what path
8 and direction he wanted to go.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. The two last ones were the biggest ones. I
11 mean, they were the only televised ones that we
12 had.

13 Q. Okay. Do you recall Brett O'Donnell
14 travelling down to Georgia around February of 2013
15 in connection with a --

16 A. Yes, we did.

17 Q. -- staff retreat?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Why -- why did he go down to Georgia?

20 A. We had a staff retreat and we would -- a
21 big part of it was discussing messaging and
22 Dr. Broun efforts on messaging.

23 Q. Was there also as campaign staff meeting?

24 A. There was, at some point. I honestly

1 couldn't recall where we did it. I know it was
2 someplace -- we did the staff retreat at Chateau
3 Alan (phonetic) and there was somewhere right off
4 of Chateau Alan is a little restaurant or
5 something. I think that's where we all met.

6 Q. Okay. It appears that Brett O'Donnell's
7 expenses related to his travel down to Georgia was
8 covered by the campaign --

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. -- or reimbursed by the campaign?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Why was that?

13 A. Because he is not a House employee and I
14 could not reimburse out of the MRA.

15 Q. Okay. Why did he volunteer to cover those
16 expenses himself, considering given how --

17 A. I think we asked him to come down to
18 discuss messaging with the staff.

19 Q. But you had asked him to do a lot of things
20 for the campaign --

21 A. This wasn't the campaign side.

22 Q. -- that were not all volunteer?

23 A. This was on the official side.

24 MR. SOLIS: He attended that meeting.

1 BY MR. MORGAN:

2 Q. But then why was it paid for by the
3 campaign?

4 A. Because he was not a staff -- he's not a
5 House employee so you can't reimburse
6 House -- non-House employees with --

7 Q. I just want to make sure I'm clear.

8 The reimbursement from the campaign was for
9 his attendance at an official Congressional staff
10 retreat?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. It wasn't so that he could attend
13 the campaign --

14 A. It was the expenses, right.

15 Q. It wasn't -- so -- so were you reimbursing
16 his travel for the Congressional staff retreat or
17 for the campaign meeting?

18 A. For the Congressional staff retreat.

19 Q. For the Congressional staff retreat, okay.

20 MR. SOLIS: He attended that meeting,
21 though, at the restaurant with the campaign there,
22 right?

23 A. I'm sure he did. I mean, I can't recall
24 specifically. I'm sure he did.

1 It was sort of an impromptu meeting because
2 when we went down there, we did not know we were
3 having a campaign. I think Saxby literally
4 renounced his decision like a week and a half
5 prior, and we got down there. We still --
6 Dr. Broun wasn't even sure if he was gonna run or
7 not at that point in time, and I think there was
8 sort of a meeting to discuss -- you know, he wanted
9 to sort of hear whether everybody thought he should
10 run or not and he was gonna contemplate that.

11 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

12 A. I know he had not announced yet.

13 BY MR. MORGAN:

14 Q. So the -- the WSB/TV article, Brett --

15 A. I'm sorry, real quick, if you don't mind me
16 asking a quick question?

17 Q. Go ahead.

18 A. It was my understanding that we could not
19 reimburse his travel out of the MRA.

20 Q. Did you -- is that based on a conversation
21 you had with someone or --

22 A. I believe I asked my financial counselor,
23 whatever, that we do the weekly MRA reimbursement
24 stuff with. I asked her ahead of time and she said

1 if he's not a House employee, then you have to
2 reimburse him from the campaign.

3 It's the same as if, you know, Dr. Broun
4 goes on the members' retreat, we had to pay for his
5 travel out of the campaign. We can't pay for it
6 out of the MRA.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Is that not correct or --

9 Q. Well, we're not --

10 A. Oh, you don't know.

11 Q. To be frankly, one of the bright lines we
12 draw in our office, we don't provide advice.

13 A. Oh, all right.

14 Q. We don't advise. I mean, we -- that's
15 something that we don't do, so I can't respond one
16 way or another.

17 A. I always try to be careful, especially when
18 it comes to MRA, so I always ask ahead of time.

19 Q. After the WSB/TV article broke, did you
20 have any conversations; did you reach out to ethics
21 or Admin? I think you talked about -- we talked
22 about 2 instances in which you had communication
23 with somebody at Admin?

24 A. Admin, right.

1 Q. Are there any other instances --

2 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.

3 Q. -- communication -- did you have any
4 conversations with Representative Broun about the
5 permissibility of Brett O'Donnell's services?

6 A. I'm sure we did. I mean, it was more so --
7 because it was sort of a surprise. The surprise
8 was when the camera showed up at the office.

9 Q. Uh-huh.

10 A. At that point, though, we had already had
11 some discussions because Brett had already been in
12 the news for his relationship with Michelle
13 Bachmann and with Cathy Morris-Rogers and --

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. -- Dr. Broun asked me and I said we're
16 really using him on the official side and we're
17 only paying for him on the official side for the
18 official work that he does.

19 Q. Okay. Going back to, you know, July of
20 2013 when you said you reached out to Admin, I am
21 going to show you this e-mail PBDB 174 where you
22 e-mailed Brett O'Donnell, "Just talked to
23 Admin? Let me know when you can chat. I have
24 more info." Then Brett O'Donnell responds --

1 A. (Inaudible).

2 Q. -- call --

3 A. I'm assuming that means --

4 Q. -- he'll call in a bit. I'm assuming
5 that's --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Do you recall having a conversation with
8 Brett O'Donnell where you relayed --

9 A. I think they were asking -- I think this is
10 when I was -- Admin asked me whether we were gonna
11 respond or not, and so Brett wanted to know whether
12 they were gonna respond or not.

13 Q. And what was the -- was it decided that he
14 would not respond; do you recall how that issue --

15 A. I think we just never -- we never
16 entertained the idea of responding.

17 Q. Okay. Were you involved in putting
18 together the office's response to the WSB/TV story?

19 A. I'm sure I was, yes.

20 Q. Let's just get it right, here, from
21 Christine. When this says, near the end, "As
22 stated by the House Administration Committee,
23 O'Donnell's communications training is in
24 compliance with all House rules," do you know what

1 that is referring to, what statement by the
2 Committee?

3 A. I believe the news article that was in USA
4 Today by Paul Singer --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- where they stated that we were in
7 compliance with all House rules.

8 Q. All right, and so if you will flip the page
9 over, there was an exchange between you and
10 Christine and Brett?

11 A. And this is on the (inaudible).

12 Q. Yes. It appears that way.

13 Did you push to have the article corrected,
14 if you --

15 A. I wouldn't.

16 Q. -- viewed that as incorrect?

17 A. I wouldn't. I would ask Christine to talk
18 to them about it. I know Christine did talk to
19 them. I don't think they were interested in
20 listening to her.

21 Q. Okay. You know, leading up -- you know,
22 during our office's review process and leading up
23 to these interviews, did you have any conversations
24 with the people we you -- we interviewed?

1 A. Our staff?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you have any conversations about in
5 which you discussed Brett O'Donnell role
6 (inaudible)?

7 A. Mainly what I was doing was making sure
8 everybody had filled out those forms and turned
9 them in and pitched to the staff members who had no
10 idea what was going on, who Brett was.

11 I had specifically mentioned to each one of
12 them that I'm not talking to them about what to say
13 about what the whole, you know, relationship or
14 anything was. That's up to them to meet with you
15 or not.

16 Q. Do you recall telling any of the witnesses
17 that to the extent Brett did campaign work, it was
18 as a volunteer?

19 A. Sure.

20 Q. Who do you -- who did you tell that to?

21 A. I think everybody that asked. They said
22 Brett O'Donnell's is a volunteer, right? I said,
23 yes, I mean, because a lot of people didn't know
24 the -- most people don't know what the specific

1 details are of everybody else.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. In other words, they don't know who's a
4 volunteer, who's not; who's getting paid, who's
5 not.

6 MR. SOLIS: So people who didn't know who
7 Brett O'Donnell was said he was a volunteer, right,
8 as a question to you?

9 A. No, people who -- who -- I'm sorry, didn't
10 know?

11 MR. SOLIS: Right; you were saying some
12 people in the office didn't even know who Brett
13 O'Donnell was. I'm wondering --

14 A. No, no. All I'm saying is --

15 MR. SOLIS: -- why would they ask a
16 question to you about his role in the campaign if
17 they didn't even know who he was?

18 A. No, the people that he was meeting with.

19 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

20 A. Like Jordan and --

21 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

22 A. -- and Meredith and -- because they
23 didn't -- I mean, they knew Brett was helping us
24 out and they assumed he was a volunteer but no one

1 ever asked specifically.

2 BY MR. MORGAN:

3 Q. They knew who he was --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- they just didn't know what his --

6 A. Right.

7 Q. -- role was?

8 A. In fact, I think the only people who knew
9 were myself and Meredith and Dr. Broun.

10 Q. And Christine?

11 A. Well, Christine, sorry.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And my financial guys, of course.

14 Q. Okay. Have you -- when was the last time
15 you spoke with Brett O'Donnell?

16 A. He called me yesterday.

17 Q. And what time yesterday?

18 A. It would've been late afternoon, mid
19 afternoon. It was before 4 o'clock but after 2
20 o'clock because I remember having calls on each
21 side of that.

22 Q. Did you discuss our interview of Brett?

23 A. I just asked him how -- he's -- I asked
24 him -- because he called me the day before to tell

1 me he was going in. I didn't talk to him at that point.

2 I think he called me, didn't leave a message and
3 then e-mailed me that he was going to meet with you
4 all yesterday, I guess, and then he called me in
5 the afternoon afterwards to tell me he had
6 finished. He said it went about two hours and that
7 he gave them all the e-mails that he had.

8 Q. Okay. Did you discuss -- did he discuss
9 the questions we asked him?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No? Did he --

12 A. I specifically didn't want to ask him about
13 the questions.

14 Q. Did he -- the issue of him volunteering for
15 the campaign come up in your conversation with him
16 yesterday?

17 A. I don't think so, uh-uh.

18 MR. SOLIS: Did the word, "Volunteer," at
19 all enter your discussion with Brett?

20 A. Not yesterday, no.

21 MR. SOLIS: At any other time prior to
22 that?

23 A. It may have prior to that, sure.

24 BY MR. MORGAN:

1 Q. In the context of our review, did you
2 discuss --

3 A. Oh, sure. Sure.

4 Q. When; do you recall a specific
5 conversation?

6 A. No, it was more mostly in the context of,
7 you know, you were just volunteering. I mean, I
8 don't know what the problem is, type of deal.

9 Q. I want to -- I want to come back to this.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. You know, we showed you those e-mails where
12 in the middle part of June, Brett did a debate
13 preparation sessions.

14 A. June of last year?

15 Q. 2012.

16 A. '12, okay.

17 Q. So right after the consulting agreement --

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. -- is executed, and I believe you said that
20 there was a conversation with him where he
21 volunteered to do campaign debate work?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. Do you recall where that conversation took
24 place; do you recall anything more about it you can

1 share with us?

2 A. I don't. I mean, I remember it was after he
3 was already on the team, and prior to him coming
4 onboard and working for us, we never even talked
5 about campaign stuff. It was always about this is
6 what Dr. Broun is looking for, and this is what
7 we're trying to find, somebody to be able to help
8 him with it.

9 It would have been right after he came
10 onboard. You know, we -- at some point, we
11 discussed the idea that we're -- you know, we have
12 a debate coming up, and at that point, he
13 volunteered and he said, Look, you know, I do
14 debate coaching -- excuse me -- I do debate
15 coaching -- I do debate coaching. I'm happy to
16 volunteer and help out any time I can.

17 Q. Was there any expectation or any
18 understanding or even a conversation with Brett
19 that if things went well on the Senate
20 campaign, if the funding was -- was good enough,
21 that he could be paid by the campaign for the
22 debate prep --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- services?

1 A. I don't think we ever got to that point.

2 Q. Never a conversation like that --

3 A. Never got to that point.

4 Q. -- where if Dr. Broun made it through the
5 primary, he would be hired on officially by the
6 campaign?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. You don't recall a conversation?

9 A. I mean, no. We actually never had a
10 conversation about any role that Brett would quite
11 honestly have. It just sort of evolved. In other
12 words, he offered to volunteer, we took him up on
13 his offer at one point and it just sort of came
14 more and more involved and then it wasn't working
15 out so we started pulling back.

16 Q. Okay. Those are --

17 MR. CORTAZAR: Do you remember if the
18 offer to volunteer came -- when you said it came
19 after he was onboarded, in terms of onboarding, do
20 you mean when you made an offer to him or when the
21 contract was executed?

22 A. It would have been after all that. I mean,
23 after at least --

24 MR. CORTAZAR: (Inaudible).

1 A. -- a couple of sessions. I think it was
2 after a couple of sessions where they had met --

3 MR. CORTAZAR: Okay.

4 A. -- and they, you know, had a comfortable
5 thing going on.

6 BY MR. MORGAN:

7 Q. Well, I mean, it appears from the e-mail
8 chain we showed you, that --

9 MR. SOLIS: The next day.

10 BY MR. MORGAN:

11 Q. -- that the next day or within a couple of
12 days of when --

13 A. Well --

14 Q. -- he sent the consulting agreement to you,
15 there was that prep session?

16 A. That was what, June 21st on that e-mail?

17 Q. Yeah, yeah.

18 A. And when did he start with us?

19 Q. The e-mail from him --

20 A. So it would have three weeks?

21 Q. -- to you attaching the consulting
22 agreement was like June 19th?

23 A. I -- well, he started working for us before
24 we got --

1 Q. Before the agreement was hammered out?

2 A. Yeah. Before it was returned and signed.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. A lot of that stuff is done. I mean, I
5 know he started -- I would have to look at the
6 schedule on when the recess was in June. I'm
7 almost sure that we were at least in session the
8 first week of June.

9 I mean, I know we were at least two
10 sessions in or three sessions in before they
11 even -- the whole idea of the debate even came up
12 and it was sort of a last minute schedule item,
13 anyway --

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. -- the debate.

16 MR. CORTAZAR: Question: Then, I mean, so
17 then the offer probably came before the execution
18 of the contract, which was two days before the
19 debate prep?

20 A. I'm sorry?

21 MR. CORTAZAR: The -- his offer to
22 volunteer then came after you had several meetings
23 when he had been onboard before the contract was
24 actually executed, which would have been two days

1 before the debate prep?

2 A. So the contract was executed on --

3 BY MR. MORGAN:

4 Q. Executed on June 19th?

5 A. June 19th, and then we had a debate session
6 on the 21st --

7 Q. On the 21st?

8 A. So it may have been, I don't recall.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I mean, I think we had the contract
11 executed, I mean, it was probably two or three days
12 after we met him, so it would have been -- when did
13 we meet with him, May?

14 Q. May 31st --

15 A. 31st --

16 Q. -- because that was (inaudible)?

17 A. So I mean, some time around June 3rd, 4th,
18 I mean, whatever the weekend --after the weekend
19 was, called him up and said I'd like to try it out.
20 You know, we hammered out the terms, how long it
21 would be, how much it would be, and then we started
22 meeting with him and then -- well, and then he made
23 the offer to do -- to volunteer on the debate side
24 if we ever needed it.

1 Q. Well, I think you -- I think you have a
2 sense of what we're looking at, what we're
3 interested in.

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. Is there anything else that you would like
6 to share with us?

7 A. I can't recall anything right now, to be
8 honest with you. I mean, I'm just -- there's a lot
9 of stuff but I think it's --

10 Q. Our review ends tomorrow. If you -- upon
11 reflection, if there's something you want to add to
12 what you told us here today --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- whether it be documents, whether it be
15 going through your calendar and trying to get a
16 better sense of the timing of things or whatnot --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. -- let me know.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. I'd be happy to take a supplemental
21 submission from you.

22 A. No, I mean, I'd like to be able to find out
23 the other -- you know, find the other people that
24 we had met with and -- if that would be helpful at

1 all, of course, and -- and of course the sessions
2 that we had prior to the search with other -- you
3 know, with the (inaudible) and with Merrie Spaeth
4 and a few others.

5 I mean, bottom line is this was done
6 because he significantly needed help in his
7 communicating ability and that's the only reason
8 why it was done and, you know, we had no intention
9 at all of doing anything on the political side with
10 this. It just evolved as Brett volunteered and it
11 came along so --

12 Q. All right. Well, we appreciate your time.

13 A. Yep.

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A				
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EXHIBIT 3

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE BROUN'S FORMER COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

1 MR. MORGAN: All right. Speaking is Bryson
2 Morgan, Investigative Counsel at the Office of
3 Congressional Ethics.

4 I'm joined here by Paul Solis, who's
5 also Investigative Counsel at the Office of
6 Congressional Ethics.

7 And we are here with [REDACTED]
8 on Thursday, June 19, 2014.

9 So, [REDACTED], thank you for being here with
10 us.

11 MS. [REDACTED]: My pleasure.

12 BY MR. MORGAN:

13 Q. And we already covered the False Statements
14 Act and that acknowledgement form, so I think --
15 first, we'd like to ask you some pretty general
16 questions about your background?

17 So, what -- what was your first
18 position with Representative Broun's Congressional
19 Office?

20 A. I was hired as his Press Secretary,
21 originally.

22 Q. Okay. When, about, was that?

23 A. That was March, I think. 2010.

24 Q. 2010. Okay. What did you

1 do --

2 A. I think. I'd have to look at my resume.

3 MR. SOLIS: That's okay. Best of your
4 recollection.

5 A. I think, I'm sorry.

6 BY MR. MORGAN:

7 Q. What did you do before then?

8 A. I was the -- the Press Secretary, and then
9 formerly Press Assistant for Congressman Phil
10 Gingrey.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And prior to that I was with Senator
13 Chambliss.

14 Q. Okay. So, you were hired on as Press
15 Secretary in Representative Broun's office, you
16 think it was March 2010. How long did you hold
17 that position?

18 A. I was promoted to Communications Director
19 after about six months. You know what, I think it
20 was 2011.

21 Q. 2011. Okay.

22 A. I'm sorry.

23 Q. And then how long were you in -- in that
24 Communications Director position?

1 A. Two years.

2 Q. Two years.

3 A. Approximately.

4 Q. And what did you do after that?

5 A. I left to work in the private sector for a
6 company here in Atlanta, where I'm the Senior
7 Director of Public Relations.

8 Q. Okay. Have you ever had any positions with
9 Representative Broun's campaigns? Either for the
10 House or for the Senate?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you ever volunteer for the campaigns?

13 A. Volunteered, yes.

14 Q. And what -- did you have a title as a
15 volunteer, or what types of things --

16 A. Um-hmm.

17 Q. -- did you do as a volunteer?

18 A. I didn't have any title. I mostly just,
19 kind of, helped him with speeches and talking
20 points. Just sort of the things that were messages
21 for us in the 10th District that sort of resonated
22 with the whole state.

23 So, I was more of a, kind of, refine and
24 help message messaging.

1 Q. Okay. Did you -- so, did you volunteer
2 during the 2010 campaign?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No? So, the 2012?

5 A. Did I -- yeah, I guess I did volunteer
6 during 2010 campaign. He didn't have a very tough
7 re-elect then, so he didn't need a ton of messaging
8 help. But, mostly, for the Senate.

9 Q. Mostly for the Senate.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. So, the -- when -- do you recall when it
12 was that his campaign for the Senate began?

13 A. It was just after Saxby announced he was
14 retiring, so that was January, maybe?

15 Q. Of 2013?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. It was literally like the week after. Or
19 maybe even, like, the day after Saxby announced he
20 was retiring. So --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- whenever that timeline was. I should
23 have brushed up on all these before I came in,
24 sorry.

1 Q. No, it's -- it's fine. All the questions
2 we ask we're just asking that you respond to the
3 best of your recollection.

4 A. Okay, yeah. Because the dates might be
5 off.

6 Q. Totally understand. So, when -- let's talk
7 about your time in the Congressional Office.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Who did you report to when you were Press
10 Secretary?

11 A. The chief of staff.

12 Q. The chief of staff. Is that David Bowser?

13 A. David Bowser. He was the Chief of Staff
14 the full time I was there.

15 Q. Okay. And as Communications Director, did
16 you still report to David.

17 A. Yes. Mm-hmm. It was the same position, it
18 was just a better title and a pay bump.

19 Q. Okay. Who -- who else was involved in the
20 press or communications side of the Congressional
21 Office during your time?

22 A. When I first started Austin Carson was the
23 Press Assistant. But he later transferred, kind
24 of, to a legislative role. And then Jane Burrell

1 was a Press Assistant for a little while, too.

2 Q. Jane Burrell, okay.

3 A. Very -- I mean, literally like social media
4 kind of true assistant roles, and then for a while
5 Jessica Morris -- I guess her name is now Jessica
6 Hayes --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- she was sort of the District Press
9 Secretary, and handled a lot of the, you know,
10 constituent communications.

11 But, later, she transferred into a
12 different role and I picked up some of those
13 responsibilities as well.

14 Q. Okay. And on the -- on the campaign? So
15 -- well -- did you work on the 2012 Congressional
16 Campaign? For Representative Broun? I think he
17 had a primary challenge from --

18 A. Yeah, he had a --

19 Q. -- Simpson.

20 A. Yes. Yeah, I did. But not like a -- like
21 I said, he didn't have a very --

22 Q. Very strong.

23 A. -- strong effort there, so. I did very
24 little volunteer work.

1 Q. Do you recall -- do you recall who else --
2 I -- I'm trying to get a sense of who are the main
3 players on Representative Broun's campaigns. So,
4 in 2012 do you recall who was the Manager?

5 A. Bob Bibee.

6 Q. Bob Bibee. Okay.

7 A. Mm-hmm. Who was also his Senate Campaign
8 Manager, so.

9 Q. Okay. Do you recall who else was involved
10 in 2012?

11 A. Jordan Chinouth.

12 Q. Jordan Chinouth.

13 A. Just from a kind of boots-in-the-ground
14 perspective, but --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- I really didn't have much of a role in
17 that. Other than, like, prepping for interviews
18 and, you know, a lot of those interviews kind of --
19 for -- especially for, like, the 10th District,
20 when it's a re-elect campaign and you're already
21 serving -- servicing --

22 Q. Mm-hmm.

23 A. -- that district, from a messaging
24 standpoint. Like, we're doing radio interviews,

1 we're doing anyways. We're not doing anything
2 outside of our district, anyway, so it was a lot
3 of, like, cross-over, I guess.

4 Q. I see. Yeah, that -- that's
5 understandable. Was Jordan also involved in 2014?

6 A. Yes. He was involved from a, like, I don't
7 remember what his official title was. He wasn't
8 the Campaign Manager, but, yes, he was involved.

9 Q. Was Josh Findlay? Does that name ring a
10 bell?

11 A. Yes. Josh and him are partners.

12 Q. Oh, okay. I didn't know that. So, I think
13 I've seen some documents where Josh Findlay is
14 identified as the Campaign Manager, but I
15 understand that sometimes titles --

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. -- and roles and duties on campaigns don't
18 necessarily match up.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Do you recall who else was -- was really
21 involved in the campaigns? Was David Bowser
22 involved?

23 A. Most of it, I mean, anyone that volunteered
24 from his Congressional staff was, you know, just a

1 volunteer.

2 Q. Just a volunteer.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Not anyone that was paid by the -- I mean,
6 to my knowledge -- paid by the campaign or --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- really --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. -- involved from that standpoint.

11 Q. I understand that's pretty common. Okay.

12 A. And, again, I was his Congressional
13 staffer, so my knowledge of, like, everything that
14 went on -- on the campaign is kind of limited.

15 Q. Okay. So, in the -- in -- during the 2012
16 campaign, who -- who on the campaign was prepping
17 Representative Broun for media appearances?

18 A. Just like I said, we didn't really seek out
19 to do a lot of campaign-specific press.

20 Q. Mm-hmm.

21 A. So, we were doing radio shows that we were
22 doing weekly anyways, so.

23 Q. In an unofficial capacity?

24 A. In unofic- -- yeah -- and, like, we'd be

1 there for an official interview and a campaign
2 question --

3 Q. Yeah, of course.

4 A. -- might pop up that he would have to
5 answer, but, you know, there wasn't a lot of
6 dedicated effort to press.

7 Like, I don't recall us putting out
8 press releases, like, you know, or anything along
9 those lines for the 2012 --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- campaign. We kind of, our strategy was
12 just to ignore that guy.

13 Q. And in 2014, do you know who was involved
14 in prepping him for -- for media appearances?

15 A. You know, I -- I did, from a volunteer
16 standpoint, again. But he -- well, he -- I'm
17 trying to -- I mean, again, we didn't really do
18 anything that was -- I -- I think Bob, his campaign
19 manager, maybe sent out the -- a lot of the e-mails
20 and I had access to it from a Gmail account, but...

21 Q. Well, we have some documents here that
22 might --

23 A. Yeah, that'd be helpful.

24 Q. -- refresh your recollection a little, but

1 we'll get to those in a little bit. But first I
2 want to ask you some questions about Brett
3 O'Donnell.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. And how -- how you first became acquainted
6 -- acquainted with him.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Do you recall how that came about?

9 A. Yes. Dr. Broun had wanted to -- and he had
10 mentioned this, like, literally from the day he
11 hired me, that he wanted to get better at
12 messaging, and he had, you know, just this whole
13 spiel about how messaging was, like, the heart of
14 everything, so.

15 Q. Mm-hmm.

16 A. I think his -- he had mentioned multiple
17 times his former Press Secretary had brought in
18 someone to train him a few times, and he was
19 looking for -- instead of just, like, a one time
20 seminar or session, he wanted someone to work with
21 him on an ongoing basis.

22 So, we first met Brett when we were
23 hiring a consultant.

24 Q. Okay.

1 A. A media-coach-consultant sort of thing.

2 So, we interviewed multiple can- --

3 Q. Did you review other candidates?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You did? Okay.

6 A. Yup. We interviewed multiple candidates.

7 Q. Do you recall who any of those other
8 candidates were?

9 A. I don't. I mean, this was a long time ago.

10 Q. Yeah. Do you -- do you recall when, about,
11 this was? I think I have -- wait, one document...

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Here's a -- a little group of documents,
14 so --

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. -- to review. And these are some documents
17 that relate, perhaps, to that first interaction you
18 had -- the numbers --

19 A. Yeah. I guess it would be about this time.
20 Then -- May? Late May?

21 Q. Okay. First one is -- I'll read this for
22 the record -- PBDB82. And it looks like it was an
23 e-mail from Brett to David Bowser, introducing
24 himself. And then it -- it -- it looks like there

1 was an initial meeting -- it says -- it's an e-mail
2 from Brett to David saying, "Just confirming our
3 meeting today" --

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. -- "at 4 p.m. at NRCC."

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. And then if you flip to -- a -- a couple of
8 pages, it looks like there's the calendar
9 appointment from Teddie Norton's account. This is
10 PBTN0005; where the subject line is, "Meeting with
11 Brett O'Donnell --

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. -- about Bachmann's debate coach, and are -- at
14 the NRCC."

15 A. Yup.

16 Q. Shows Representative Broun, David Bowser,
17 and you attending.

18 Was this the -- was this about when you
19 think you first became acquainted with -- with
20 Brett.

21 A. Yeah. This definitely was, because I was
22 there for the first meeting.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Where they ever met, so. This was surely

1 the first time.

2 Q. Do you -- what do you recall about that
3 meeting? Do you recall why it was held at the --
4 the NRCC?

5 A. No. I don't remember if there was a
6 specific reason. I mean, I was just there helping
7 to kind of get a sense of the candidates, so, you
8 know --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- I can't really tell you why.

11 Q. Okay. Do you remember what was discussed
12 or?

13 A. Yeah. We talked about all the things we
14 were looking for in a, you know, messaging
15 consultant. Dr. Broun frequently had trouble with
16 deliverance in, especially, TV interviews. And
17 sort of just awkward Floor speeches and not pausing
18 in the right places and he just really wanted
19 someone that had a little more expertise, I guess,
20 than me? That could really hone in on deliverance.
21 That was a big part of --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- why. And he kind of tended to be all
24 over the place, and then things -- say things that

1 you'd want to walk back.

2 So, he was really looking for someone
3 to help with messaging.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Bottom line.

6 MR. SOLIS: And when you say, "all the
7 things that you were looking for," is deliverance
8 the only thing, or what -- what are some other
9 things that you were potentially asking Brett
10 about? And so you could --

11 A. I mean, we just asked him about, you know,
12 how he would handle, I mean, someone who has very
13 go-against the grain beliefs. I mean, obviously,
14 it's a very hard right, tea-party, conservative,
15 likes to vote against things like John Boehner for
16 Speaker, and sometimes those are really tough
17 things to deal with, as far as the press goes.

18 So, I mean, it's hard to work with
19 anyone on that staff -- I mean, on a staff that
20 doesn't -- doesn't necessarily, like, doesn't agree
21 with what you're doing, or, you know, kind of
22 believe in some of the -- so, we asked him about
23 that and how he would deal with that.

24 And, you know, Dr. Broun has a very

1 strong Christian background, and, you know, he
2 always wants to get into --

3 BY MR. MORGAN:

4 Q. Excuse me.

5 A. -- those sort of things when it comes to,
6 like, his speeches, and we needed to make sure that
7 that wasn't something that was going to offend him,
8 or that he would be okay with, so.

9 Just all sorts of, you know, can you
10 deal with these quirks? What's your experience?
11 Just all of those typical things you would ask.

12 Q. Did --

13 A. It was a lot of the -- the interview
14 questions that I got, honestly, when I came on
15 board, so.

16 Q. Okay. Did -- was there a discussion about
17 what types of service Brett O'Donnell could
18 provide? Did he -- did he mention weekly sessions?

19 A. I don't remember. I -- actually, I do
20 remember that when we first wanted to hire a
21 communications person we kind of wanted to test it
22 out and see how it went and see if, like, they fit,
23 style wise.

24 Q. Mm-hmm.

1 A. And Dr. Broun had been trying to get
2 deployed to Afghanistan at the time, so we said we
3 would revisit it sort of after that. So, I think
4 it was maybe monthly or bi-monthly. I don't quite
5 recall, but...

6 Q. Okay. Did -- so, what was understood about
7 the services that O'Donnell would provide? Once --
8 once he was brought on? Was there any discussion
9 of -- of debate preparation?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No?

12 A. Um-hmm.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. No.

15 Q. Was there any discussion of him helping
16 draft Floor speeches?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Yes. Not so much draft, because, I mean,
20 that was primarily my responsibility.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But more so, like, we would -- Dr. Broun
23 would literally stand up and practice them in front
24 of Brett. Or he would do a Fox interview or a CNN

1 interview and we would sit back in Dr. Broun's
2 office and go over them afterward and then, like,
3 re-go over them -- of how we can do them better,
4 role-playing, that sort of thing. Just the things
5 he really needed work on.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- He was just a true messaging consultant.

8 Q. Would he -- would he supply you or Dr.
9 Broun with talking points?

10 A. You know, that -- our talking points in
11 that office really kind of came from the leg
12 staff, because they were very at-one with what
13 Dr. Broun's goals were and what he wanted to get
14 passed on the Floor, what amendments he wanted to
15 offer. And he wanted to kind of hone in on being
16 this, like, deficaut- -- deficit hawk.

17 So, I -- it was more like, we would
18 come up with the talking points and maybe Brett
19 would help massage them so that Dr. Broun could
20 deliver them better.

21 Q. I see.

22 MR. SOLIS: But the talking points would
23 originate from the legislative staff?

24 A. Oh, yeah. Or me.

1 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 MR. SOLIS: Do you know how often Brett
4 would maybe meet with those staffers? Those
5 legislative staffers?

6 A. He didn't really have too much interaction
7 with the legislative staffers. I mean, I think he
8 knew all of them, but it wasn't like he was sitting
9 in on our legislative meetings or going through
10 Bills with us.

11 I mean, he really just kind of took
12 what we crafted, you know, the Bills that we wanted
13 to pass, or the legislation we wanted to introduce.
14 Like his health care bill for example, his OPTION
15 Act (inaudible).

16 He would kind of work with -- he in no
17 way shaped policy, but more so, again, just the way
18 we would kind of talk about policy.

19 BY MR. MORGAN:

20 Q. I'm going to show you another document
21 here.

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. And this -- this may be -- well, I think
24 you were CC'd on this.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. This is PBDB120. This is an e-mail --

3 A. Do I already have this?

4 Q. -- from Brett O'Donnell. Yes, you do. An
5 e-mail from Brett O'Donnell to [REDACTED] -- I
6 believe that would Representative Broun's personal
7 e-mail account.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And then David Bowser and you, in which he
10 attaches his proposal. And, if you flip over to
11 the next page --

12 A. Sure.

13 Q. -- here. This is the proposal attached.
14 You know, in the first paragraph there, he says --
15 he writes, you know, halfway down the paragraph:

16 "The method of media prep and the
17 materials I provide are essential to preparing for
18 media interviews and speeches, as well as debates.

19 Additionally, this proposal will cover
20 assisting with messaging and other strategic
21 communication, campaign or official activities,
22 including specific media interview prep for each
23 appearances that are scheduled."

24 I can tell you that if -- if you flip

1 through the proposal he -- he does highlight debate
2 preparation.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. You know, page 123 of this section is
5 "Media, Public Speaking, Debate Preparation." Page
6 124, a section on debate preparation. So, I did --
7 I just want to make, you know --

8 A. Sure.

9 Q. -- understand --

10 A. I mean, I think these are --

11 Q. -- to what extent debate or campaign
12 preparation may have been discussed as he was
13 coming on board.

14 A. Yeah. I mean, clearly we knew that he had
15 worked for Michelle Bachmann --

16 Q. Mm-hmm.

17 A. -- and what his background and credentials
18 were. But at the time that we were, you know,
19 looking for someone -- I mean, Saxby hadn't even
20 announced he was retiring, so.

21 I mean, to my knowledge there was no
22 consideration of any campaign. I mean, our -- our
23 campaign was already over. He had already just won
24 our re-elect, so.

1 Q. There was no discussion of the Senate
2 campaign?

3 A. I think that this -- this is probably a --
4 to -- to my knowledge, I mean, I don't know -- this
5 is probably a pretty standard proposal that he
6 gives to --

7 Q. (Inaudible).

8 A. -- I mean, this is what's right off of his
9 website.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. If I remember correctly.

12 Q. And then the next document I want to show
13 you. I don't think you have this over there yet.

14 A. See -- I think it'd be -- I mean, if you
15 look his e-mail, like, the things that we were
16 focused on were helping sharpen the communication
17 skills.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Which is what Dr. Broun would harp on all
20 the time.

21 Q. Okay. I think that... I think -- I'm not
22 sure you have this one over there.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. It's the consulting agreement. And you'll

1 notice -- let me just read the bottom number that
2 thing is PBDB115, at the bottom. Yes. Yeah.
3 Consulting agreement. The e-mail on top of
4 it, so PBDB114 --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- where he writes, "I wasn't sure that you
7 settled on how I would be paid, so I left the
8 address brank -- blank."

9 Do recall if there was a discussion of
10 how -- how Brett O'Donnell would be paid? What the
11 different options for paying him were?

12 A. I was just in his initial interview.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. On, sort of, his background in candidates.
15 So I, obviously wasn't involved in this
16 conversation at all.

17 Q. Okay. Do you recall there being any
18 discussion of -- of whether or not Brett should be
19 paid out of the campaign account as opposed to the
20 official account?

21 A. Not when I was -- we never talked about --

22 Q. You never --

23 A. -- I was never involved in conversations
24 about money at all. Kind of over my pay-grade at

1 the time.

2 MR. SOLIS: Aside from being a part of
3 those conversations, did you know, personally, how
4 he was paid?

5 A. I did not. I couldn't tell you, till this
6 day.

7 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

8 A. Well, aside from what I've read, but.

9 BY MR. MORGAN:

10 Q. Okay. Do you recall any -- if you heard of
11 anyone in the Congressional Office touching base
12 with the Committee on House of Administration?
13

14 Or the Committee on Ethics, regarding
15 bringing Brett O'Donnell on?

16 A. Again, it wasn't something I was involved
17 in --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- facilitating. So. No, I was just part
20 of the initial interview --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- with all of the candidates, sort of,
23 again what we were looking for.

24 Q. And -- do you recall there being any

1 discussion of the types of services that Brett
2 O'Donnell could provide to the Congressional Office
3 and types of services he wasn't able to provide?

4 Any sort of boundaries on what he could
5 or couldn't do?

6 A. No, because, again, at the time, it wasn't
7 something that was up for consideration. So, I --
8 I mean --

9 Q. And what -- what do you mean by --

10 A. -- I think -- I think at that time we had
11 just won -- I mean, if I remember correctly -- we
12 had just won our re-elect.

13 Q. Mm-hmm.

14 A. And, I mean, we didn't even know if it was
15 going to work out with him, it was a trial thing.
16 Trial basis with him, so.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. So, then, now, looking back at your
20 time in the Congressional Office --

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. -- and your interactions with Brett
23 O'Donnell, how would you describe, you know,
24 looking at the totality of what he did, how would

1 you describe his role with the office?

2 A. I would say that he was part of the
3 communications team.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. He was part of the -- I'm trying to think
6 of the best way to phrase it. He -- I mean, he was
7 an outside consultant, someone that wasn't, you
8 know, spending time day in and day out with Dr.
9 Broun. He was an extra set of eyes.

10 He was, I mean, he was just a message
11 -- I mean, to me, that's what he -- he was most
12 helpful with me in. Kind of, reining Dr. Broun in
13 and keeping him on point.

14 Q. Okay. How -- how frequently did you
15 interact with him?

16 A. I would say weekly.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I mean, I think at certain, you know,
19 points, like, when he first came on board, that
20 first month maybe bi-weekly? But as we got -- as
21 we got to know --

22 Q. As in -- as in every other week, or as in
23 twice a week?

24 A. Every other week, sorry.

1 Q. Every other week, okay.

2 A. You know, but as we got to know him and he
3 got to know Dr. Broun, he just kind of became part
4 of the, "Hey, what do you think of this Floor
5 speech? Like, what do you..."

6 Q. Okay. So, who -- who would he interact
7 with, on the staff? He being Brett O'Donnell?

8 A. Me, David --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- Dr. Broun, and, I would say, Teddie,
11 just from a scheduling stand point.

12 Q. Okay. And you said a few other names of
13 people who are involved in press? About Jane
14 Burrell, Jessica Hayes, or Austin Carson?

15 A. I think by the time Brett came on board,
16 Austin had already transitioned to Legislative
17 duties.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So, not really. And, no, I mean, anything
20 that got passed down -- because I -- I would say
21 that all the communications efforts funneled up
22 through me.

23 Like, Jessica and Jane, anything that
24 they did followed up through me, so anything that I

1 did with Brett got -- vice versa, cascaded down to
2 them.

3 Q. I see. Okay.

4 MR. SOLIS: Given that he was basically
5 interacting with Representative Broun --

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 MR. SOLIS: -- once a week, you said about.

8 A. Probably.

9 MR. SOLIS: And you were then all the time,
10 obviously --

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 MR. SOLIS: -- how much would you say were
13 your two roles different? You and Brett? I mean,
14 were you basically doing, sort of, the same things
15 from a communications standpoint?

16 A. Yeah. More or less, I mean, I think he was
17 just a -- someone that would come in and, like,
18 positively reinforce some of the things that, maybe
19 Dr. Broun would second-guess that I would suggest,
20 or that his staff would suggest.

21 So, you know, it's always good to have
22 those second set of eyes, or someone who's kind of
23 on the outside looking in, saying, "Hey, this is
24 how I would view this if I was watching this on

1 TV."

2 And, of course, I mean, that's what his
3 expertise was. Where as I had day in, day out
4 duties with everything under the sun.

5 MR. SOLIS: Was there every any sort of
6 discussion where it was, "This is only what
7 [REDACTED] does; Brett, you don't have to do this,
8 this is -- this is only her arena?"

9 A. No, because it wasn't like he had these,
10 you know, check-boxes to check where he had roles
11 and responsibilities, it was -- again, I have no
12 idea, like, how he was paid or anything like that,
13 but to me it was kind of like he was a as-needed
14 basis sort of thing.

15 BY MR. MORGAN:

16 Q. Okay. So, I want to --

17 A. Big speeches, big TV interviews are coming
18 up, you know, that sort of thing.

19 Q. Okay. So, he -- from what I understand
20 from the documents we reviewed, it appeared there
21 were almost every week there was about a one hour
22 -- one hour session that Brett O'Donnell did with
23 Representative Broun.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Does that sound about right?

2 A. Yeah, kind of.

3 Q. I mean, I'm not sure if that occurred every
4 week or?

5 A. Yeah. Yeah, and I think it -- it was kind
6 of, like, again, as needed.

7 Q. Right, as needed.

8 A. Sort of if something big was coming up,
9 maybe we'd spend a little more time. I mean, you
10 know, with votes, sometimes we'd schedule an hour,
11 sometimes we'd get ten minutes. So.

12 Q. Yeah. What would typically happen in those
13 sessions? Would they be in-person with Brett, or
14 would he call in?

15 A. No, he would -- a lot of times he would
16 come in to the office -- I -- I can't remember --

17 Q. To the Congressional office?

18 A. Yeah. To the -- to the House office, yeah
19 --

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. -- the Congressional office. And if -- I
22 mean, if, for any reason, like, we -- you know, a
23 lot of times, like, the staffers will take meetings
24 in Dr. Broun's office, that sort of thing.

1 Q. Mm-hmm.

2 A. So, I -- I -- the only reason I can imagine
3 having gone over the NRCC at this particular time
4 was the office was being used, or something like
5 that.

6 Q. Mm-hmm.

7 A. So, yes, for the most part we'd meet in the
8 Congressional office, but I can recall times where
9 we met at the NRCC --

10 Q. The NRCC?

11 A. -- as well. But, not abnormal, I would
12 say.

13 But in the sessions a lot of times we
14 would do kind of like news du jour of the week,
15 sort of, like, if you're getting caught coming off
16 the Floor and you get asked about, you know, what's
17 going on in Syria --

18 Q. Mm-hmm.

19 A. -- what are -- how are you going to
20 respond, blah blah blah blah blah.

21 Because Dr. Broun maybe had a tendency
22 to come up with really news worthy quotes that we
23 would not like for him to come up with, so, it's
24 always good to over-prepare him for anything.

1 Q. So, would Brett be the one providing those
2 response? Suggesting response?

3 A. You know, he -- all of our sessions with
4 him were, like, super informal. You know, he never
5 came in with a PowerPoint presentation or --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- anything like that. So, a lot of times
8 we would just be talking through those sort of
9 things. Kind of just the three of us, sometimes
10 Bowser would join, sometimes it would just be the
11 three of us.

12 Q. Okay. Would -- would you review
13 Dr. Broun's past media appearances in those
14 sessions?

15 A. Yeah, we did that a few times, like where
16 he would have an interview on healthcare, and we
17 would get the clip from the clipping service and
18 sit back in his office and watch it and be, like,
19 okay, well, this is where you really screwed up,
20 this is where you could tell you got nervous, this
21 is where you took too many breaths --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- and that sort of thing. But I -- I
24 mean, that was something that I had sort of started

1 doing with him anyways that we just kind of
2 continued to do.

3 Q. Okay. Did -- did he have any role -- or
4 Brett O'Donnell have any -- any role -- you said he
5 was acting sort of a consultant, but consulting on
6 a legislative matters?

7 A. In what sense?

8 Q. Would he ever suggest voting a certain way
9 or -- or co-sponsoring a Bill, or participating in
10 a committee hearing or anything like that?

11 A. Not -- No. Not like, "You should do this,"
12 --

13 Q. Mm-hmm.

14 A. -- but maybe, you know, just like any
15 communications staffer would do, like, "This is how
16 it could appear to the media."

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. But, you know, not like in any way was he
19 affecting policy.

20 Q. Okay. And --

21 A. Because that would be one of Dr. Broun's
22 questions. You know, he'd say, "Well, if I do
23 this, or if I vote against this, clearly it's going
24 to cause a big, you know, hoopla in the press.

1 Such as if I don't vote for John Boehner for
2 Speaker."

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. How, you know, how do we message this?
5 Sort of, you know, that sort of thing.

6 Q. So, he was providing messaging -- messaging
7 advice?

8 A. Yeah. That's exactly what I would say.

9 Q. So, did he -- so, his role with, say, Floor
10 speeches, for example.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. He would -- would he ever draft those
13 himself?

14 A. No.

15 Q. So those would be -- the first draft would
16 be done by?

17 A. Me.

18 Q. By you?

19 A. Always.

20 Q. Okay. And then --

21 A. Or maybe like the Press Assistant.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. But very rarely.

24 Q. And what would his role be? Would he

1 review the draft?

2 A. Typically the way I worked with Dr. Broun,
3 like, luckily David was a very kind, hands-off
4 Chief of Staff, but I would write something, I'd go
5 into Dr. Broun, we'd talk about it, he'd edit it.

6 Wake up, come into work the next
7 morning and be on my spee- -- desk all crossed out.
8 And then we'd kind of work on a draft that he felt
9 comfortable with.

10 And then if it happened to be where
11 Brett was in that week and we were delivering that
12 Floor speech, Dr. Broun would practice it a few
13 times.

14 I mean, certain words, like, he talked
15 about he was really bad with alliteration. So
16 sometimes, you know, we'd strike words to make it
17 flow better, sound better...

18 Q. So you would be prep- -- rehearsing in
19 front of Brett?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And he would --

22 A. Yep.

23 Q. -- be providing input, feedback?

24 A. Yeah. Just, again, delivery was his --

1 Dr. Broun's really achilles.

2 Q. Would he also provide comments on the text
3 of the -- of the speech? Offer phrases or suggest
4 taking out phrases. Was he involved in that
5 process?

6 A. I -- I mean, again, I would say, if it
7 sounded bad, or if Dr. Broun wasn't delivering it
8 well. But it wasn't like he was saying, you know,
9 this word -- I -- maybe he would say, like, this
10 word doesn't resonate well with the media, or this
11 gives off a negative connotation.

12 But, no, he would not say, you know,
13 "Strike this word and replace it with word. It
14 appeals to voters more," if that's what you're
15 getting at.

16 MR. SOLIS: Okay. You had mentioned
17 earlier that part of what you were considering with
18 Mr. O'Donnell is that Dr. Broun is a -- I think --
19 use -- your words were, "a hard-core
20 conservative --

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 MR. SOLIS: -- tea party," and, so when
23 he's developing these floor speeches and he's
24 developing these messages --

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 MR. SOLIS: -- you know, part of what
3 you're assessing Mr. O'Donnell, his hire on, is --
4 is these types of issues; right? How can you
5 handle going against the grain in these types of
6 things; correct?

7 A. Sure.

8 MR. SOLIS: So, if, you know, you're
9 practicing a speech, is Mr. O'Donnell then giving
10 you suggestions on, "Maybe this isn't the right
11 thing to say at this time, we should hold back on
12 this, given that you're hard-core conservative --

13 A. No.

14 MR. SOLIS: No?

15 A. Again, he had no input -- input from, like,
16 a development standpoint. Whatsoever.

17 BY MR. MORGAN:

18 Q. Okay. I have a --

19 A. I mean, he's just not a legislative guy. I
20 mean, he's a messaging guy, so.

21 Q. I have a few e-mails I want to --

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. -- I want to go through to get a sense of,
24 if what we see in the e-mails is typical of -- of

1 the type of work that -- that Brett did for the
2 office.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. This is PBDB89. And -- let's see. If you
5 flip over to the, you know, the third page, which
6 is actually the first e-mail. It's an e-mail from
7 you to David Bowser, Jordan Chinouth, Brett
8 O'Donnell, and GovBob, is Bob Bibee, I believe is
9 GovBob, is that his e-mail?

10 A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. And then Jessica Hayes. And in -- here
12 you're saying, "We absolutely cannot get roped into
13 commenting on this or dwelling on it." And it's
14 referring to a CREW report on the most corrupt
15 members.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. But if you -- if you notice on the second
18 page, Brett O'Donnell appears a couple of times in
19 the e-mail chain.

20 The e-mail from him to that group on
21 September 12, 2012, where he -- he basically agrees
22 with David Bowser, saying, "We should go on the
23 offense. Offense is the best way to handle this,"
24 he writes. "Want to talk about corruption? Let's

1 talk about the way Democrats are spending money,
2 etc."

3 You respond, I think, somewhat opposing
4 the offensive strategy.

5 A. Clearly.

6 Q. He then appears to agree with you, and he
7 says at the top of the page 90 there, "My
8 suggestion is a response if we're asked, I don't
9 think we should (inaudible) or seek press on this."

10 Here -- it appears in these e-mails
11 that he's -- he's consulting on -- on the messaging
12 strategy, or communications strategy.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Like, when to respond, how to respond. Is
15 that -- was that typical for him to do?

16 A. Not really. I -- I mean, I don't think
17 anyone, to be frank, I don't think anyone really
18 asked him.

19 Q. Mm-hmm.

20 A. I think that, you know, he got CC'd on a
21 lot of communications, would-be could-be crises,
22 just to be aware.

23 But, I don't think that Brett was, you
24 know, had an active role in any decision making

1 processes. Whether or not -- I mean, we could've
2 commented on it, or we could've not commented on
3 it. And that would have been our decision --

4 Q. Mm-hmm.

5 A. -- and I think he would've --

6 Q. When you say "our," you mean --

7 A. Our -- Dr. Broun's -- the -- the staff.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. The official staff. Or the, you know,
10 regular staff. I think we could've made a decision
11 to do either/or in this particular situation.

12 And I think lost this one, I think we
13 ended up commenting, and he would've done, you
14 know, the fallout from either.

15 Q. Okay. So would it be -- how --

16 A. (Inaudible).

17 Q. -- would you describe him as one of -- one
18 of a few people that were providing input into the
19 process, but not with a -- a dispositive role?

20 A. Sure. I guess. Maybe, you know, I -- I
21 kind of feel like he just chimed in. You know?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. In the situation. But --

24 Q. But he was obviously cc'd on the

1 conversation --

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. -- because...

4 A. Well, this, I mean, you know as well as I
5 do, these kind of stories always get legs, they
6 always get attention, they always end up, like --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- trickling down to the local press, the
9 AJC, Athens Banner-Herald.

10 So, I think in this situation we
11 probably wanted to pre-empt any sort of extra media
12 that we would be getting from being the number
13 three most corrupt member of Congress.

14 Q. Mm-hmm.

15 A. So, I think he was probably more CC'd for a
16 heads-up situation than a, "Hey, we are going to do
17 whatever you say," type of role.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. David and I always clashed on this stuff.

20 Q. So, let me show you this e-mail here.

21 PBDB140. This is an e-mail from you on February 8,
22 2013. It's not clear exactly who you're sending
23 this to, but based on the response, it looks like
24 you were sending it to Brett and Erica Miller, Dave

1 Bowser, GovBob, and Jordan Chinouth.

2 It says, "We need to work on this
3 messaging that he wants to see it go through
4 because it's the first real cut we've seen
5 referring anything to the sequester. It's not
6 getting good reception in Georgia because we're
7 still military-heavy, in just saying that we'll
8 plus it back up after he's cutting it."

9 Brett O'Donnell then responds, you
10 know, a little over an hour later with suggesting a
11 few lines of -- of -- of language on the sequester.

12 Would that -- would it be common for
13 him to suggest the language that the Congressman
14 used?

15 A. I mean, I -- I would say that -- again,
16 like, we would kind of come up with positions and
17 the route and direction we wanted to go and if the
18 tone or the, you know, wording need to be -- needed
19 to be massaged or, you know, altered to sound
20 better or come across better in the media, like,
21 that's what he was there for.

22 Q. Okay. So, I want to show you another --
23 another e-mail that's -- that's similar.

24 A. And in this situation, I mean, I was

1 honestly probably looking for someone else's
2 opinion.

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. Is what it seems like, at least.

5 Q. And then here is another e-mail and this is
6 PBDB155.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. It's an e-mail from Brett O'Donnell to
9 Congressman Broun's personal e-mail, CC'ing you and
10 David Bowser. And the subject is "Universal
11 Background Checks Answer," and he writes, "Dr.
12 Broun, below is the answers we discussed."

13 And it's, you know, five or six lines
14 of language on Dr. Broun's opposition to universal
15 background checks and framing that. Would this
16 also be typical for him to provide --

17 A. Well, I think in this situation this was
18 right after the Newtown, Connecticut shootings.

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. So, it was again, news du jour of the week.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. So, I mean, if I remember correctly, in
23 this situation. You know, we didn't want to be
24 caught off-guard and have Dr. Broun seen

1 insensitive in any way.

2 MR. SOLIS: All right.

3 A. To the situation that was going on, so.

4 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

5 A. Yeah, I mean, it's probably, I mean I don't
6 have the e-mail trail, or if we talked about this
7 in his office earlier that day or, you know, this
8 could've been part of a media inter- -- like, I
9 have no idea. This, kind of, is --

10 MR. SOLIS: The context.

11 A. Yeah, I need the context. But, I mean, it
12 could have been something that -- I think,
13 actually, after that happened we scheduled a call,
14 like, immediately to sort of go over his responses.
15 If I have the timing correct.

16 So, that could've just been, you know,
17 him putting in to -- typing notes up, or anything
18 along those lines.

19 MR. SOLIS: Okay. And by "after that
20 happened" do you mean after this e-mail was
21 created? Or?

22 A. No, I mean after that --

23 MR. SOLIS: (Inaudible).

24 A. -- that shooting happened.

1 MR. SOLIS: Okay. Okay.

2 BY MR. MORGAN:

3 Q. Okay. So, when you -- when you say the
4 "news du jour," it -- it seems to me -- and I don't
5 want to put words in your mouth --

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. -- so, correct me if I'm wrong. But when
8 hot topic issues would come up that you expected
9 Congressman Broun to need to respond on --

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. -- you would, sometimes, involve Brett
12 O'Donnell in helping craft the messaging --

13 A. Yeah, I mean --

14 Q. -- for his responses.

15 A. -- again, he was part of the -- I would
16 say, part of the communications team. I -- I
17 wouldn't say "crafting the messaging."

18 Q. Mm-hmm.

19 A. Again, he wasn't part of the development
20 phase, but if it was something such as Newtown or,
21 like -- I'm trying to think of other horrors that
22 happened at that time.

23 You know, like, some of the things
24 going on overseas. We'd often ask his opinion on

1 the way things were phrased, or how to best deliver
2 that so as to not come across as insensitive.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Or something, you know, something along
5 those lines.

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. But it wasn't like, "Should Dr. Broun
8 change his opinion on gun control because of this?"
9 So, it -- it was much more, "How do I deliver this
10 so as to not seem insensitive."

11 Q. Okay.

12 MR. SOLIS: So, if that's the case, if Mr.
13 O'Donnell's doing, really, no development
14 whatsoever --

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 MR. SOLIS: -- I mean, for example, this
17 155 e-mail, I mean, that then would have to be sort
18 of the result of the -- of the -- of putting
19 together notes and putting together other people's
20 opinions on it; right? This isn't just Brett
21 O'Donnell's --

22 A. This is definitely Newtown, because
23 "Children safe and free."

24 I mean, I would say, yes, to answer

1 your question. This is definitely a result of
2 spending a lot of time with Dr. Broun, first of
3 all, because he is the biggest Second Amendment
4 advocate there is. I mean, these are things he
5 says every day.

6 I mean, the first thing he says to you
7 when you walk into his office, if you haven't seen
8 the huge animals hanging on his wall, is the, you
9 know, "Being a member of the Safari Club got me
10 into Congress." Like, and he could go on about
11 guns all day long.

12 So, I mean, this is just something that
13 -- I would hope, at this point, was common
14 knowledge to Brett, if, you know, he knew his
15 client.

16 BY MR. MORGAN:

17 Q. Okay. Did -- did Brett ever train the
18 staff?

19 A. No.

20 Q. No?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So, he didn't interact -- well, he
23 interacted with you and David Bowser --

24 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. -- and the Congressman.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. Do you know if he ever provided David
4 Bowser any training?

5 A. No. David didn't do, like -- I mean, he --
6 David's role, I would say, would be to ultimately
7 approve the line in which we were going as far as
8 commenting on things.

9 But he was -- he'll tell you, like,
10 firsthand, he's not, like, a communications guy,
11 so --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- no.

14 Q. And did -- did -- and Brett, did he ever
15 train you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did he ever train anybody else that -- that
18 you're aware of on the staff?

19 A. What -- what do you mean, "train"? I mean,
20 we spent time kind of -- I mean, I felt like I
21 learned from him --

22 Q. Mm-hmm.

23 A. -- and some of the things that he was
24 really good at. But there's -- as far as training

1 goes, no. I -- I just -- I guess I'm not clear
2 what you mean.

3 MR. SOLIS: Well, for example, his
4 proposals. We looked at that a little while ago
5 and there's this, you know, step-by-step listing of
6 kind of how Mr. O'Donnell goes about doing what he
7 does for members of Congress; right?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 MR. SOLIS: But first -- one of the first
10 times you meet him and you sit down, did you have
11 to go through his, "Here -- here -- here's my
12 methods. And, you know, we'd like to see you do
13 more of this type of thing." Was there any of
14 that?

15 A. No.

16 BY MR. MORGAN:

17 Q. There any -- did he ever --

18 A. I don't remember him having any particular
19 methods, because, again, it was -- I mean, if you
20 want to say, like, having Dr. Broun practice the
21 alphabet backwards and forwards and, you know, read
22 from his Bible every night to get better at, like,
23 pronouncing words.

24 If -- there just wasn't a lot of, like,

1 formal -- we just didn't have very many formal
2 sessions, if you will.

3 Q. Well, when I think of training I think of
4 assisting a person developing skills. Did he do
5 any of that with you?

6 Were any discussions he had with you
7 about how to craft messages, how to write speeches,
8 how to monitor press, or how to respond to
9 situations?

10 A. No. Uh-uhh.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. No, I would actually say, I mean I don't
13 want to say it was quite the opposite, but when he
14 came on board he didn't know Dr. Broun at all.

15 And he has a very unique style, and,
16 you know, he's very quirky, whimsical, so I would
17 say it was a lot of Brett kind of sitting in and
18 learning how Dr. Broun currently does things and
19 what needs to get better for him to be a better
20 communicator.

21 Q. Okay. I want to talk now about Brett
22 O'Donnell's relationship with Representative
23 Broun's campaigns. Do you -- do you recall if he
24 ever had any -- if he ever volunteered for

1 Representative Broun's campaigns?

2 A. Yeah, I believe he volunteered some of his
3 time.

4 Q. What do you recall about that?

5 A. I remember him just helping out with some
6 of the, you know, kick-off speeches. I mean, I
7 don't think he ever came down to Georgia, to my
8 knowledge.

9 Q. It does appear -- I was going to ask you
10 about that, because it appears that he may have --
11 in February of 2013, I think, there's some
12 reference of him taking a trip to Georgia. I was
13 going to ask if you recall that.

14 A. Okay. I don't. I -- if he did I wasn't
15 here for it.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know -- do you recall how he
17 first became involved in Dr. Broun's campaigns? Or
18 when that was?

19 A. I don't -- I don't know how it actually
20 transpired. I mean, I would assume he was probably
21 excited like the rest of us and probably wanted to,
22 you know, volunteer to ensure if his career went on
23 he would still have a job.

24 Q. And you say he was, you know, volunteering.

1 How did you know that he was doing it in a
2 volunteer capacity?

3 A. I -- I mean, I have -- I don't -- I don't
4 know. I just assumed because the rest of us were,
5 so.

6 Q. I see. Okay.

7 A. I -- I have no idea.

8 Q. Okay. Do you recall who was -- who was
9 involved in preparing Representative Broun for
10 campaign debates and major campaign speeches, who
11 else was involved? So, Brett O'Donnell was
12 involved --

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. -- on occasion.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Who else was sort of on that -- that team
17 that would prep Dr. Broun for -- for big
18 appearances or for debates?

19 A. Mostly Bob and Jordan.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And, you know, some of myself here and
22 there.

23 Q. Okay. David Bowser, was he -- he involved?

24 A. Sometimes, yeah. I mean, again, my role

1 with the campaign was pretty limited. I didn't do
2 a ton.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So...

5 Q. And Josh Findlay, was he -- was he
6 involved?

7 A. I can't remember Josh being there for any
8 messaging things.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. But, I mean, again, he -- I'd have no idea.

11 Q. Okay. So I want to take you through just a
12 -- a few instances, a few e-mails to see if you
13 remember particular preparation sessions.

14 A. Sure.

15 Q. So the first one is PBTN0009.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And this -- well, there's an e-mail from
18 David Bowser to Brett O'Donnell on June 14, 2012.
19 So, this would have been, I believe, June -- June
20 2012 would have been when Dr. Broun was -- I guess,
21 it was Simpson and Broun was the race at the time.
22 I'm not sure when exactly that election was held,
23 but he -- David Bowser says --

24 A. Oh, this was Simpson?

1 Q. I think that's the case, maybe -- maybe I'm
2 incorrect on that.

3 But he says, "Brett, as we discussed
4 last week, there was a potential for a debate,
5 which has now turned into a scheduled event on June
6 22nd on television from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in
7 studio. We are in session next week with last votes
8 no later than Thursday, June 21st at 3.

9 The Congressman would like to schedule
10 a couple of hours later that afternoon for debate
11 preparations, so we are going to hold 3-6 p.m. on
12 our schedule and secure a conference at the NRCC
13 for this purpose. Please let me know if we can
14 plan on you attending some or all of the prep
15 time."

16 He responds, you know, 20 minutes later
17 writing, "I can be there for the entire time.
18 Let's talk early in the week about how to structure
19 that session." So, in -- you know, in Brett's
20 response he does CC you there.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Do you recall if that debate preparation
23 session took place?

24 A. I don't. I can't remember -- I thought,

1 for some reason, we had hired Brett after our
2 primary win against Simpson. So, maybe I have my
3 timelines confused.

4 Q. Okay. There was a --

5 A. So, I don't remember this particular one.

6 Q. This may help you recall.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. There was -- on July 2, 2012 there was a
9 10th District debate. It was held on WGAU Radio?
10 A Broun, Simpson debate?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Does that ring a bell at all?

13 A. Yes, I do remember that. I was there for
14 that.

15 Q. You were -- as in, you were in the studio
16 there?

17 A. No, I was still on staff.

18 Q. You were still on staff. Okay.

19 A. I don't remember who was there.

20 Q. Do you -- do you recall who was involved in
21 prepping the Congressman for that debate?

22 A. Me. I was there for that one.

23 Q. Do you recall if Brett O'Donnell was
24 involved in that debate prep? It would have been

1 --

2 A. I can't -- for some reason, I thought we
3 hired Brett after that happened. But I guess that
4 --

5 Q. So, it appears that the -- that first
6 meeting --

7 A. (Inaudible).

8 Q. -- with Brett was March of 2012. So, this
9 is, you know, now looking, you know, about four
10 months later, after that first meeting. And all
11 that e-mail.

12 A. Okay. And the election was in 2013 then?

13 Q. The election -- I think this was a -- I
14 think, if I'm not mistaken, this was a primary
15 election? 2012 Congressional?

16 A. Yeah, but wasn't the vote for the general
17 election in 2012?

18 Q. Yeah. In the -- the fall.

19 A. November 2012?

20 Q. Yeah. This would have been, I think, a
21 primary that summer.

22 A. Oh, okay.

23 Q. If that rings a bell.

24 A. Hmm.

1 MR. SOLIS: This is the first meeting, it
2 was the -- it was May 31; right? Of 2012? The
3 initial meeting.

4 BY MR. MORGAN:

5 Q. Oh, yeah. So, excuse me. I got March
6 wrong, it was May. So this would have been --

7 MR. SOLIS: At -- at the NRCC.

8 A. This is literally, like, a week later.

9 BY MR. MORGAN:

10 Q. This is -- this is a few weeks after he was
11 brought on.

12 A. So, maybe, I mean --

13 Q. (Inaudible).

14 A. -- that's probably why I don't remember him
15 being there much for that.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I don't recall if he or I prepped him or if
18 he was involved. I'm -- I'm sorry, I just don't
19 remember. Clearly, I don't remember that timeline
20 very well.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I think he was very new to the team at this
23 point. And, it sounds like David said, some of the
24 prep or all of it. So, it certainly wasn't Brett

1 leading it by any means.

2 Q. Okay. So -- and, just to be clear, you
3 can't recall if Brett was there or not?

4 A. I don't even recall if I was there, so no.

5 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

6 BY MR. MORGAN:

7 Q. All right.

8 A. Sorry.

9 Q. Next document is PBTN0010.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Let me show you this. Take your time to
12 take a look at that.

13 A. Okay. So, this is later in the summer.

14 Q. This is -- on the second page there of
15 these e-mails it's an e-mail, you know, on the
16 second page --

17 A. Oh, I have to start from the bottom up,
18 huh?

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. E-mail from Teddie Norton to Brett saying,
22 "Hey, Brett, Dr. Broun wants to set up about 90
23 minutes next week to go over both debates. What
24 days, times are better for you Tuesday to

1 Thursday?"

2 He responds saying, "Hi, Teddie. I'm
3 wide open Tuesday, on Wednesday I'm free to 10:30."

4 So, it looks like he got scheduled.

5 And then, you know, the last line on this
6 communication was on July 3rd when Teddie e-mails
7 Brett saying, "Okay, great. We'll request a room
8 at NRCC and let you know which one it is --

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. -- once they assign it."

11 So, this would appear to suggest that
12 there was, maybe, a session at the NRCC where Brett
13 went over two debates with Dr. Broun. Does that --
14 do you recall that session?

15 A. I don't. I don't think I was even
16 involved, so. I can't really tell you.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I mean, we -- again, like, Brett was -- at
19 -- at this point I don't remember what his role
20 was. I just distinctly remember Brett being more a
21 part of the con- -- the team when Dr. Broun came
22 back from Afghanistan.

23 Q. Do you recall when about that was?

24 A. I think it was in August, or August recess,

1 when Dr. Broun went. So, my interactions with him
2 were, I mean, few and far between until after that.

3 Q. Until after that time period?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Okay. Let's see one more document. This
6 is PBTN14?

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. This is a -- a calendar item from Teddie
9 Norton's calendar. Subject is, "Brett O'Donnell,"
10 location is, "Finance Conference room, NRCC," date
11 is July 19, 2012.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. From 3 to 5 p.m. Attendees -- required
14 attendees are Paul Broun, David Bowser, and you.
15 And then it's categorized as political?

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Does this ring a bell? A -- a 2 hour
18 session at NRCC with Brett O'Donnell around that
19 time period? When those debates were taking place?

20 A. No. I mean, not really. I -- I mean, I
21 know we went over there and met multi- -- I mean,
22 multiple times.

23 But, I don't know if it was this
24 particular time and, you know, a lot of times we'd

1 block off time to go meet and have it end up
2 turning into thirty minutes, forty minutes.

3 Like, it just, you know, I -- I can't
4 recall this specific time, I guess is what I'm
5 getting at, as two years ago, so.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Kind of hard to remember each and every
8 meeting.

9 Q. Okay. Show you another document here, this
10 is PBTN31.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. This may jog your memory a little bit.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. This is -- appears to be, you know,
15 scheduling a session with Brett. The last e-mail
16 in the chain, you write to Teddie Norton, CC'ing
17 David Bowser, "We could just have it be official
18 today and do NRCC stuff next week."

19 A. December 13th. (Inaudible).

20 Q. Yes, this is moving forward to -- to
21 December of 2012.

22 A. Yeah, I'm like, what time period is this?
23 So, this is moving backward.

24 Q. So, this was after the 2012 election.

1 A. Okay. After the 2012 election, then?

2 Q. Yes. And my question about this is what
3 did you mean when you said, "NRCC stuff"?

4 A. (Inaudible). I don't know. I guess,
5 whatever we were planning to meet at the time at --
6 over at the NRCC about.

7 I mean, he could have had some sort of
8 fund raising speech in Georgia that we were going
9 over. Or, I mean, if it was after our primary,
10 certainly we didn't have debates, so. Whatever we
11 were meeting about.

12 I mean, typically there was a -- a
13 purpose, or something we were going over.

14 Q. Mm-hmm.

15 A. I guess we were just -- I was saying, "I'd
16 rather focus on whatever was going on with CNBC
17 than the NRCC." Because, clearly, that was more
18 important at the time.

19 Q. Okay. And then I'll -- I'll show you this.
20 This appears to be the (inaudible) -- appears to be
21 the session you referred to that did occur in the
22 NRCC on December 19, 2012, 2:30 to 3:30.

23 Do you recall? This would have been,
24 you know, about a week before Christmas 2012. Do

1 you recall what was talked about in that meeting at
2 all?

3 A. I don't.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I don't. I can't -- I mean, I can't even
6 tell you, to be honest, like, like whether or not
7 all of these happened. You know? Like, just so --
8 just so many times --

9 Q. Was it common for something to get
10 scheduled and fall through?

11 A. Yes. It would be so common for things to
12 get moved or get rescheduled or, you know, again,
13 like I said, for them to end up being fifteen
14 minutes, and I think, like, a lot of times, maybe
15 we booked the NRCC because we could be talking
16 about some sort of, you know, activity in Georgia
17 that could be considered campaign related.

18 So, we booked time at the NRCC to,
19 like, be on the safe side. You know, if we weren't
20 specifically going over, like, a Floor speech or a
21 TV interview. If it was something that could have,
22 you know, muddied the waters a little bit.

23 Q. Mm-hmm.

24 A. Just to be safe we'd book time at the NRCC,

1 but, like, the subjects of these particular
2 meetings is just really hard for me to recall,
3 because, again, like, I mean over the -- the two
4 year period I spent so much time with him I can't
5 say, like, on December 19th I met and spoke with
6 him about this.

7 Q. Okay. Did -- did the amount of interaction
8 that Brett O'Donnell had with the Congressional
9 office vary quite a bit, week to week or month to
10 month? Or was it pretty -- pretty steady?

11 A. Like I told you, in the beginning I
12 remember it being more on a trial basis and more of
13 a, kind of, once or twice a month thing. And then
14 I remember when Dr. Broun came back from
15 Afghanistan he was more, like, of a -- because I
16 think he decided he really liked Brett and that we
17 would keep him, permanently, as our consultant.
18 And -- or, media consultant. And I -- it was a
19 pretty, like, week -- average, maybe, an hour a
20 week. Kind of like you said. But, that -- that
21 being said, there were weeks where we just couldn't
22 get it to work out and it got cancelled.

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. Or we'd do two sessions instead of one or

1 we'd do not any the next week. So, it was just
2 kind of depended.

3 Q. Okay. Another e-mail I want to show you.

4 MR. SOLIS: Can I just ask a quick -- quick
5 question?

6 A. Sure.

7 MR. MORGAN: Certainly.

8 MR. SOLIS: You said something about "when
9 you're at the NRCC it's to be on the safe side."

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 MR. SOLIS: And I think you kind of said it
12 was -- if it involved campaign issues. Can you --
13 just talk to me a little bit more what you meant by
14 "on the safe side by going to the NRCC to possibly
15 meet with Mr. O'Donnell"?

16 A. Sure. Just, I mean, I can remember Dr.
17 Broun giving, you know, like speeches to certain
18 groups in Georgia or things that maybe could be
19 fundraising related.

20 And while those speeches often echoed a lot
21 of the messaging we'd be working on on the House
22 side, I think, just to be safe in case we were
23 talking about something that was more fundraising
24 orientated, we would book time there to go over

1 those speeches or practice or, kind of, hone in on
2 messaging a little more.

3 MR. SOLIS: And you mentioned earlier that
4 the other times that Mr. O'Donnell would meet with
5 you it would be at the Congressional Office; right?

6 A. Yeah. I would say the major-- -- like, most
7 part we would meet in the Congressional Office.
8 But those were for, like, the weekly sessions and
9 if there was anything, like, extra we'd go to the
10 NRCC.

11 MR. SOLIS: Okay. So then -- it sounds
12 like, then, there's a decision based on what you
13 might be talking about in the meeting, whether
14 you're going to go to the NRCC or you're going to
15 stay in the Congressional Office; right?

16 A. No. I would say it was more of a standing,
17 like, once Brett became part of the team we'd have
18 kind of like a standing weekly meeting at our
19 Congressional Office about, like, news du jour type
20 thing.

21 But if it was, like, "Hey, we have this
22 event coming up, here's something extra." Sure,
23 yeah, we'd be like, "Okay, we need to go to the
24 NRCC to talk about this."

1 MR. SOLIS: Okay. So there was a
2 contemplation about campaign-type issues? That
3 would send you to the NRCC?

4 A. I guess. I mean, sure. I mean, I don't
5 know. I didn't really book these times, I just
6 showed up where I was told.

7 MR. SOLIS: Right.

8 A. I can't -- I mean, I can't tell you what
9 the decision was.

10 BY MR. MORGAN:

11 Q. Do you know who made that decision? About
12 where you would meet?

13 A. I -- I mean, David Bowser? I guess?

14 Q. Okay. And -- on balance, you said, I
15 think, most of the time you met in the
16 Congressional Office?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Was it seventy percent of the time
19 Congressional Office, thirty percent NRCC? Do you
20 have a sense of the -- of the breakdown?

21 A. Yeah. I would say, like -- I would say,
22 like, eighty --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- Congressional Office, twenty NRCC. I

1 mean, again, I think, like, the NRCC stuff that
2 came up, especially during this time period was
3 kind of few and far in between. And I think it was
4 just kind of a precautionary, "Let's go there to
5 talk about these things."

6 Q. Okay. I want to -- I want to show you
7 another e-mail here that says -- PB -- or PBDB163.
8 This is the -- I think, the last document I want to
9 show you.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And this an e-mail from David Bowser
12 agreeing with you. I think this is in regards to
13 an interview he did on the Ingraham Show?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. (Inaudible) --

16 A. Yes, I remember this interview.

17 Q. David writes, "We also need a pre-done
18 answer that is short and concise on why he can win
19 this race."

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. "It will be the most asked question."

22 A. Yeah, I remember when we did this
23 interview. It was the only time he did the Laura
24 Ingraham Show while I was part of his staff. And

1 we booked -- I guess it was right after he
2 announced -- I think?

3 Q. This is March of -- yeah, March of 2013.
4 So.

5 A. So, was that right after he announced his
6 candidacy? I think it was.

7 MR. SOLIS: You mentioned that Senator
8 Chambliss had -- in January, you -- you
9 believed --

10 A. Yeah. Was it January?

11 MR. SOLIS: -- you believed that he had
12 announced he was retiring.

13 A. Okay. So, I think what happened in this
14 particular one -- I remember we booked him to
15 discuss a certain subject. And then immigration
16 came up and it was, like, one of those "gotcha"
17 questions about, "How would you deport people," or
18 something like that. And Dr. Broun completely
19 fumbled.

20 And then at the end of it, after
21 already having fumbled. She was, like, "Okay. So
22 I heard you, also, are running for Senate." And
23 just, kind of, babbled his way through it; was
24 already caught off guard from the other topics.

1 And it just sounded bad and I think
2 that this was just David's reaction the whole
3 interview.

4 But, I know that we particular -- I think
5 we booked him on it for his -- something -- he
6 maybe just released his Patient OPTION Act. I
7 booked it for one thing. That was supposed to be
8 good press, and it ended up getting chewed out
9 because it ended up being about immigration.

10 Q. Hmm.

11 A. So --

12 Q. So Brett responds -- Brett O'Donnell --

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. -- responds saying, "On it. I agree, needs
15 to control the ground of interviews. Send the clip
16 and review in the next meeting."

17 So, this -- this appears like Brett was
18 tasked with coming up with that pre-done answer on
19 why he could win the race. Is that -- is that your
20 recollection of it?

21 A. I don't think that David's insinuating that
22 Brett needs to do that. I think if he was writing
23 this to all of us, he was probably just saying we
24 need an answer that's short and concise on why he

1 can win the race.

2 I mean, that was probably directed to
3 me, Jordan, Bob, Brett.

4 Q. Mm-hmm. But then Brett responded and said,
5 "On it."

6 A. Yeah, but I think if you have gotten a
7 sense by now, Brett would often, you know, respond
8 and kind of add his two cents.

9 But I don't think that it was directed
10 to him to --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- come up with the response.

13 Q. I see.

14 A. I think -- ultimately that would've been
15 something that Bob -- Bob kind of tended to wade in
16 to the messaging issues, too.

17 So, I think that would've been
18 something that ultimately Bob would have
19 responsibility for.

20 Q. Okay. So, you know, I don't have any other
21 documents I want to show you.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. But zooming back a little bit. I want to
24 make sure that we have it absolutely clear -- clear

1 for the record.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. His -- Dr. Broun's 2012 election. Do you
4 recall any specific instances in which Brett
5 O'Donnell was involved in preparing Dr. Broun for
6 campaign debates or campaign speeches or events?

7 A. No. I didn't -- I, for some reason, truly
8 thought we hired Brett after that race.

9 Q. Okay. But, so you --

10 A. But, I guess that doesn't make sense.

11 Q. So you do have a recollection -- you do
12 have a recollection, only you don't know when it
13 was exactly? Do you recall Brett O'Donnell
14 prepping Dr. Broun for debates?

15 A. No. Not for that race.

16 Q. No. At no point?

17 A. Not --

18 Q. What about for a -- for a different race?

19 A. For the Senate race?

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. For the Senate race, you know, he
22 definitely volunteered some of his time. And --
23 or, you know, went over to the NRCC.

24 Q. Mm-hmm.

1 A. I keep saying "volunteered" because the
2 rest of us did, and I just --

3 Q. You just assu- -- so you -- you weren't
4 sure --

5 A. -- assume. Well, clearly, like, since then
6 I've read media articles, and I know what this is
7 about. So, I guess I would have to say that I know
8 he volunteered his time. But --

9 MR. SOLIS: So, for example, you know, we
10 showed that -- that one -- bearing in mind that
11 some of these meetings just fall through --

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 MR. SOLIS: -- but it was in December -- I
14 think it was December 12th or something like of
15 2000 and --

16 BY MR. MORGAN:

17 Q. 12.

18 MR. SOLIS: 12. That would've been about
19 -- if that happened, it would've been about the
20 Senate race; right? Or no?

21 A. No.

22 MR. SOLIS: No?

23 A. Because I don't think he announced -- I
24 don't think Saxby announced before then.

1 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

2 BY MR. MORGAN:

3 Q. Okay.

4 MR. SOLIS: All right.

5 A. Actually, I know he didn't because I went
6 to Saxby's Christmas party and he didn't announce
7 then.

8 MR. SOLIS: Okay. Okay.

9 BY MR. MORGAN:

10 Q. Okay. So, from what you recall Brett
11 O'Donnell being involved in debate preparation
12 sessions?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Tell us a little bit about those sessions.
15 Do you recall where they took place?

16 A. Definitely the NRCC. We never did anything
17 campaign related in our House Office.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. What -- do you want me to tell you --

20 Q. What was the format? What was Brett's
21 role? Would he design the format? Would he do a
22 mock debate and play the role of the opponent? Or
23 -- I mean, just, so, what was it like?

24 A. No. Because -- I -- I mean -- I left -- I

1 mean, I left when a lot of them started getting
2 into the race. So --

3 Q. When did you leave the Office?

4 A. I left in May? Early May.

5 Q. Early May. Okay.

6 A. Yes. Of 20 -- I've been at Equifax a year,
7 now, so May 2013.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Right? Yeah. 2013. So, no, I mean, he --
10 we certainly weren't at the debate level then.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Were we? I don't know. He definitely
13 didn't play, like, the role of the debater. A lot
14 of Brett's prep was to go over Dr. Broun's
15 pitfalls. Which, again, like, I say, like, "muddy
16 the water," but, like, a lot of things that Dr.
17 Broun struggled with on a Congressional level were
18 things we worried about from a campaign standpoint
19 as far as messaging goes.

20 Like, he had just had a big -- you
21 know, like Freudian slip. I don't know what you
22 want to call it. He had a big mess up when he did
23 the whole evolution comment.

24 Q. Mm-hmm.

1 A. So, a lot of prep for -- that I can
2 remember -- Brett doing was, like, walking that
3 back and kind of trying to determine how we would
4 respond if we'd be asked about that. And, you know
5 --

6 Q. Mm-hmm.

7 A. -- when that happened, like, obviously, I
8 put forth the crisis communication strategy. But,
9 it was something we were asked about in any
10 interview we did about anything. Whether that was
11 campaign related or about healthcare, or about
12 Syria.

13 Like, it would somehow come up. So, a
14 lot of the prep work we did were about things like
15 that.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Again, just kind of "hot-button" issues for
18 us. So, I don't -- I mean, I don't particularly
19 remember him doing any debate coaching, if you
20 will. But, I mean, we had, you know...

21 Q. Do you recall any -- any sessions where
22 Brett would review campaign speeches? Or campaign
23 media appearances? Provide feedback on those?

24 A. I know that the initial speech that Dr.

1 Broun gave at his announcement for Senate?

2 Q. Mm-hmm.

3 A. That Brett reviewed that speech. But I
4 would say that speech mostly originated with me and
5 Bob and Bowser. And Brett reviewed it and helped,
6 again, with just things Dr. Broun struggled with or
7 just, kind of making it better.

8 But not, again, he doesn't know this --
9 he didn't know the state of Georgia. I mean, he
10 wasn't a -- we -- we used to have to tell Brett
11 things like, "Oh, that doesn't play well in
12 Georgia."

13 Q. Mm-hmm.

14 A. You know, like, Georgia, you know, our
15 constituents don't respond -- I mean, he -- we're
16 not from the same place.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And, so.

19 Q. Were there -- was there -- were there
20 rehearsals in advance of that speech? Or prep
21 sessions to -- to go over his delivery of the
22 speech?

23 A. Yeah. That's what I -- I thought we were
24 just talking...

1 Q. Oh, okay. Yeah, you said he reviewed the
2 speech.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. When you -- when you say that you mean, not
5 only the text, but also delivery?

6 A. I mean Dr. Broun would read it and we'd
7 kind of just review the context, and then once he
8 got it perfectly -- you know what, I mean, he
9 didn't really practice it too much. He practiced
10 it the day of up at the podium, but, you know, that
11 was it.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. Do you recall any other
13 specific instances in which Brett was involved in
14 campaign work during your time?

15 A. Nothing that jumps out to me.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MR. SOLIS: And because that November 2012
18 election would've been fairly uncontested election
19 for Dr. Broun --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 MR. SOLIS: -- again, as you stated before,
22 Brett and the team wouldn't have really been doing
23 much work on the campaign front; correct? The
24 November 2012 election.

1 A. Yeah. I think, you know, I can remember
2 certain things we did for the Simpson part of it.
3 But, like, the election part of it, no.

4 MR. SOLIS: Okay.

5 A. Not at all.

6 BY MR. MORGAN:

7 Q. Do you remember -- I'm -- I'm trying to --
8 because it's still a little bit vague in my mind.
9 It seems like at one point you were saying that you
10 remember Brett being involved in debate
11 preparation.

12 It appears from the -- the records
13 we've seen that -- that there were one or two
14 debates in July of 2012 -- so, shortly after Brett
15 came on --

16 A. And that had to have been when the primary
17 -- I don't remember Brett being involved with that
18 primary.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. With that Congressional race, at all.

21 Q. At all? Okay.

22 A. I mean, I know that's what the e-mail says
23 and that the calendar says that, but I truly do not
24 remember Brett having a hand in --

1 Q. Were you involved in those debate
2 preparation sessions?

3 A. -- anything having to do with that. A
4 little bit here and there, but just, again, from a,
5 like, this is what's going on.

6 I mean, it obviously affects us
7 media-wise, at that time we were running for our
8 District.

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. I mean this was a -- the Tim Bryant show on
11 WGAU, I remember that one that we did regularly, so
12 I had already had relationships with him.

13 Q. Mm-hmm.

14 A. So from that standpoint, yes. But that one
15 -- I -- I mean, that primary, I really don't
16 remember Brett being involved at all.

17 Q. Okay. Do you -- is it possible that Brett
18 was involved and you didn't know about it? Or that
19 he was involved and you didn't notice his
20 involvement because you weren't involved, or?

21 A. I mean that's like -- how do I answer that?
22 Is it possible that he was involved and I didn't
23 know about it, I mean, sure, I guess.

24 Q. Well, what I mean by that is how closely

1 were you involved with the debate preparation?

2 A. It would be -- I guess I would say that I
3 would probably have known if Brett and Dr. Broun
4 were out meeting on their own. I mean, that's not
5 to say it didn't happen.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. But I -- I mean...

8 Q. But for the most part, to the extent there
9 were debate preparation or review sessions you
10 would've been involved do you think?

11 A. For the most part, yeah. And if it weren't
12 me, I mean, David certainly. I mean, he -- I don't
13 think that Brett and Dr. Broun were ever alone in
14 any capacity.

15 Q. Okay. Okay. At -- at any point during
16 your time in the Congressional Office, was there --
17 was there ever any discussion about the
18 permissibility of Brett's payments?

19 The permissibility of the scope of his
20 work for the Office or the campaign?

21 Do you -- do you recall hearing any
22 discussions of reaching out the Ethics Committee,
23 or House Committee on Administration?

24 A. Again, I -- Brett and payments never came

1 up with me in the room.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So, I mean, that was something that I --

4 Q. And -- and this may have been after your
5 time, but it does appear that on a couple of
6 occasions reporters reached out to the Office to
7 ask why Brett O'Donnell was being paid by the
8 Office.

9 Do you recall any of that occurring
10 while you were -- you were there?

11 A. That was definitely -- I remember that
12 story. I was here at the time. The WSB story.

13 Q. Okay. So it was after your time. Okay.

14 A. I remember actually seeing it down here.
15 But, yeah, no, that -- nothing -- no inquiries ever
16 came up about him while I was there. I mean, it
17 wasn't anything that was in question.

18 Q. As -- as I said in the beginning, our role
19 is just to gather facts.

20 A.

21 Q. So, with that in mind, I think you have had
22 a general sense of what -- the scope of what we're
23 looking at it is --

24 A. Sure.

1 Q. -- is there anything else that you think we
2 should know and present to our board?

3 A. No. I'm -- I don't think there's anything
4 that you haven't covered. I mean -- I -- I would
5 just like to reiterate that, from my standpoint,
6 Brett was part of our official communications team.
7 I mean, that's the way I viewed him.

8 I mean, he was, you know, helpful with
9 my role as his Communications Director. I think
10 that his involvement with the campaign was probably
11 pretty limited and obviously didn't do much for the
12 campaign since it's no longer in existence.

13 So, that's just, you know, those are my
14 feelings.

15 Q. All right. We thank you again for being
16 with us.

17 A. I'm so sorry, again, that
18 I --

19 (END OF PROCEEDING)

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24

1 I, Jennifer R. Kessler, do hereby certify or
2 affirm that I have impartially transcribed the
3 foregoing from an audiotape record of the
4 above-captioned proceedings to the best of my
5 ability.

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Jennifer R. Kessler

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