

No. 0703807D

JOHN DOE I, JOHN DOE II,	X	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
through his mother as next	X	
friend of JOHN DOE II, a	X	
vulnerable (non compos mentis)	X	
adult, JOHN DOE III, and	X	
JOHN DOE IV,	X	
Plaintiffs	X	

vs.	X	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
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REVEREND NICHOLAS E. KATINAS,	X
pastor (formerly) of HOLY	X
TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH;	X
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX	X
CHURCH, THE GREEK ORTHODOX	X
METROPOLIS OF DENVER by and	X
through BISHOP ISAIAH of DENVER	X
in his official capacity, and	X
the GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE	X
OF AMERICA by and through	X
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS in his	X
official capacity,	X
Defendants	X

**Duplicate
Original**

X 95th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
FATHER WESLEY BENSON HOHNHOLT
August 26, 2008

ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF FATHER WESLEY BENSON
HOHNHOLT, produced as a witness at the instance of the
Plaintiffs, and duly sworn, was taken in the above
styled and numbered cause on August 26, 2008, from 11:55
a.m. to 4:59 p.m., before JUDY K. HOBART, CSR in and for
the State of Texas, reported by machine shorthand at the
offices of Grau-Koen, 2711 North Haskell Avenue, Suite
2000, Dallas, Texas, pursuant to the Texas Rules of
Civil Procedure and the provisions attached herein.

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APPEARANCES

FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

Ms. Tahira Khan-Merritt
TAHIRA KHAN-MERRITT, PLLC
8499 Greenville Avenue, Suite 206
Dallas, Texas 75231
(214) 503-7300

FOR THE DEFENDANTS HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER BY AND THROUGH
HIS BISHOP ISAIAH OF DENVER IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY and
THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA BY AND THROUGH
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY

Mr. James W. Grau
GRAU KOEN, P.C.
2711 N. Haskell, Suite 2000
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214) 521-4145

ALSO PRESENT:
Kevin DeRita, Videographer
Monty Fite

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1 Will the attorneys please make their
2 appearance for the record.

3 MS. KHAN-MERRITT: Tahira Khan-Merritt
4 representing John Doe I, John Doe II, John Doe III, John
5 Doe IV, and John Doe V, Plaintiffs.

6 MR. GRAU: Jim Grau on behalf of Holy
7 Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, The Greek Orthodox
8 Metropolis of Denver, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
9 of America.

10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Will the court reporter
11 please swear the witness.

12 FATHER WESLEY BENSON HOHNHOLT,
13 having been first duly sworn to testify the truth, the
14 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as
15 follows:

16 EXAMINATION

11:58:02 17 BY MS. KHAN-MERRITT:

11:58:02 18 Q. Would you tell us your name, please.

11:58:04 19 A. My full legal name --

11:58:06 20 - Q. Yes.

11:58:07 21 A. -- is Wesley Benson Hohnholt.

11:58:10 22 Q. And what is your church name or your baptized
11:58:13 23 name?

11:58:13 24 A. Father Gregory.

11:58:15 25 Q. Is it Father Gregory Hohnholt?

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12:27:37 1 can't recall if he was there or not.

12:27:37 2 Q. Dokos?

12:27:46 3 A. Dokos, D-o-k-o-s. He was the assistant before

12:27:47 4 I came.

12:27:47 5 Q. Did you know Father Triantafillou prior to

12:27:51 6 entering Holy Cross?

12:27:52 7 A. No, ma'am.

12:28:08 8 Q. When did you first learn that there had been an

12:28:13 9 allegation of sexual misconduct with minors lodged

12:28:18 10 against Father Katinas?

12:28:20 11 A. The first I knew of it was I knew that he had

12:28:25 12 been accused, I guess, of misconduct with a minor in

12:28:31 13 April of --

12:28:36 14 Q. 2006?

12:28:37 15 A. Yeah, yes, ma'am, 2006.

12:28:41 16 Q. So you had been in the church approximately two

12:28:45 17 years?

12:28:47 18 A. Almost two years.

12:28:47 19 Q. Now, during that two-year time frame, May of

12:28:50 20 2006 -- sorry, May of 2004 to April of 2006, now, as we

12:28:59 21 are sitting here in hindsight, were there any

12:29:02 22 interactions that you saw between Father Katinas and

12:29:09 23 young males or underage boys that you thought were --

12:29:09 24 now in hindsight that you think were strange?

12:29:13 25 A. No.

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12:29:16 1 Q. Never saw him hugging altar boys in a too
12:29:21 2 familiar way?

12:29:21 3 A. No, I didn't see anything that was strange or
12:29:25 4 out of the ordinary.

12:29:34 5 Q. Tell me how it is that you came to learn that
12:29:36 6 he was being accused of misconduct with minors?

12:29:38 7 A. I was informed by Father Michael Kontogiorgis.

12:29:42 8 Q. How were you informed? In person or by phone?

12:29:46 9 A. In person. Is it okay if I take a drink of
12:30:04 10 water?

12:30:05 11 Q. Sure. Anytime you need to take a break, just
12:30:10 12 let me know.

12:30:23 13 (Deposition Exhibit Number 9 identified.)

12:30:23 14 Q. (By Ms. Khan-Merritt) Father Hohnholt, let me
12:30:26 15 show you what is marked as Exhibit Number 9. It is
12:30:27 16 actually Exhibit 3 to Father Michael Kontogiorgis'
12:30:33 17 deposition. It's his airline ticket to Dallas, and I
12:30:35 18 believe it was April 6th of 2006.

12:30:35 19 A. Uh-huh.

12:30:36 20 Q. Does that sound to be the right time frame when
12:30:39 21 he would have come in person to talk to you about Father
12:30:42 22 Katinas' sexual misconduct?

12:30:46 23 A. As far as I can recall.

12:30:48 24 Q. Now, did you know that he was coming to the
12:30:51 25 church before he actually came in person to talk to you?

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12:40:34 1 Katinas' office or in the vacant office?

12:40:37 2 A. Probably for privacy. I don't know.

12:40:43 3 Q. So I take it that the meeting between Father

12:40:45 4 Michael Kontogiorgis and Father Katinas you were not

12:40:52 5 present?

12:40:52 6 A. That is correct.

12:40:52 7 Q. Did you speak to Father Katinas before you

12:40:57 8 spoke to Father Michael in April of 2006?

12:40:59 9 A. About.....

12:41:02 10 Q. Why Father Michael was there?

12:41:04 11 A. No, ma'am.

12:41:04 12 Q. So tell me -- you meet with Father Michael in

12:41:07 13 the vacant office that you have indicated on Exhibit 10.

12:41:10 14 Tell me what he says to you.

12:41:11 15 A. As best as I can recall I believe he said that,

12:41:18 16 again, that Father Katinas had been accused of

12:41:23 17 misconduct with a minor.

12:41:27 18 Q. With a minor or more than one minor?

12:41:29 19 A. I don't remember if he said a minor or more

12:41:32 20 than one minor.

12:41:36 21 Q. And what else did he say?

12:41:38 22 A. And he basically told me that I couldn't say

12:41:44 23 this to anyone, and that's all I recall him saying.

12:41:51 24 Q. Did he ask you to be Father Katinas' spiritual

12:41:58 25 father?

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12:49:25 1 sexual misconduct with a minor or minors, and you
12:49:28 2 couldn't tell anybody, and that was it?

12:49:31 3 A. Uh-huh.

12:49:31 4 Q. Is that "yes"?

12:49:32 5 A. Yes.

12:49:34 6 Q. Nothing about "he is suspended" or "we are
12:49:39 7 doing an investigation," anything like that?

12:49:41 8 A. Well, I had known that they were investigating.
12:49:44 9 So I don't know if he explicitly mentioned the
12:49:51 10 investigation at that visit in April. If they had been
12:49:53 11 investigating, I would assume that they would have
12:49:55 12 continued investigating. I don't recall exactly what
12:49:58 13 the man told me. I mean, it has been a little bit of
12:50:07 14 time, and I --

12:50:07 15 Q. Do you remember if in April he said anything to
12:50:10 16 the effect of "keep him away from boys"?

12:50:13 17 A. I don't remember. Like I said, I really -- my
12:50:14 18 recollection of that meeting -- what I remember is the
12:50:17 19 initial shock of what I was told, and that pretty much
12:50:21 20 blankets out a lot of whatever else he may or may not
12:50:24 21 have told me.

12:50:25 22 Q. So we know that --

12:50:26 23 A. Like I said, I remember watching him, I
12:50:30 24 remember being concerned about those things. They were
12:50:32 25 on my mind, but whether or not I was told to do that or

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12:50:36 1 whether I just did that, I can't recall exactly.

12:50:40 2 Q. And in terms of watching him, let's say from
12:50:45 3 April to June, what types of activities would you do to
12:50:52 4 watch?

12:50:52 5 A. Well, you know, I just try to know of his
12:50:58 6 whereabouts as far as on the church grounds. I mean,
12:51:00 7 there was no way for me to keep tabs of him off church
12:51:05 8 grounds. I did my best to keep --

12:51:05 9 Q. You guys weren't living like in the rectory
12:51:05 10 where --

12:51:05 11 A. No.

12:51:07 12 Q. -- everybody lived there?

12:51:07 13 A. No. I lived in Plano; he lived in Richardson.
12:51:12 14 We had our own homes, our own families. So as much as I
12:51:16 15 could, when I was at church when he was there, you know,
12:51:19 16 I kept track of his whereabouts. Where is he? What is
12:51:22 17 he doing?

12:51:24 18 Q. Would he come and go, say after April -- after
12:51:28 19 Father Michael's visit with you, would he come and go
12:51:32 20 into the church, continue to conduct services on the
12:51:35 21 altar?

12:51:41 22 A. I can't -- I can't really recall exactly if he
12:51:45 23 conducted any more services after that. There was
12:51:50 24 nothing to prohibit him from doing so as far as I could
12:51:55 25 recall. But whether or not he did that, I don't

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12:53:55 1 Q. So between -- the next thing I want to talk to
12:54:00 2 you about is the e-mail that I received yesterday,
12:54:05 3 Exhibit Number 3. I'm have you look at that, and then
12:54:08 4 I'll ask you some questions about it.

12:54:22 5 MS. KHAN-MERRITT: We are going to have to
12:54:24 6 change the tape so why don't we do that and take a short
12:54:28 7 break before we get to that.

12:54:28 8 (A short recess was taken.)

13:07:23 9 Q. (By Ms. Kahn-Merritt) You have in front of
13:07:24 10 you, Father Gregory, Exhibit Number 3 to your
13:07:28 11 deposition. Can you tell me what that is?

13:07:29 12 A. It is an e-mail from myself to Father Michael
13:07:34 13 Kontogiorgis.

13:07:34 14 Q. Kontogiorgis, and what is the date of it?

13:07:35 15 A. The date is Saturday, June 17th, 2006, at
13:07:39 16 11:25 a.m.

13:07:40 17 Q. And the time -- and the subject is.....

13:07:43 18 A. It says timeline, question mark.

13:07:45 19 Q. All right. Before we go to the contents of the
13:07:48 20 e-mail I want to talk to you about what happened, if
13:07:52 21 anything, between April 5th when Father Michael visited
13:07:56 22 with you in the vacant office and this e-mail in June in
13:08:00 23 terms of communications with the Archdiocese regarding
13:08:07 24 Father Katinas. Do you understand my question?

13:08:12 25 A. I do understand. I am trying to remember. I

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No. 0703807D

JOHN DOE I, JOHN DOE II,	X	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
through his mother as next	X	
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Plaintiffs	X	
	X	
vs.	X	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	X	
	X	
REVEREND NICHOLAS E. KATINAS,	X	
pastor (formerly) of HOLY	X	
TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH;	X	
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX	X	
CHURCH, THE GREEK ORTHODOX	X	
METROPOLIS OF DENVER by and	X	
through BISHOP ISAIAH of DENVER	X	
in his official capacity, and	X	
the GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE	X	
OF AMERICA by and through	X	
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS in his	X	
official capacity,	X	
Defendants	X	95 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
DEPOSITION OF FATHER WESLEY BENSON HOHNHOLT
August 26, 2008

I, JUDY K. HOBART, Certified Shorthand
Reporter in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify
to the following:

That the witness, FATHER WESLEY BENSON
HOHNHOLT, was duly sworn by the officer and that the
transcript of the oral deposition is a true record of
the testimony given by the witness;

That the deposition transcript was

1 submitted on September 3, 2008, to James Grau for
2 examination, signature, and return to Judy K. Hobart by
3 September 23, 2008;

4 That the amount of time used by each party
5 at the deposition is as follows:

6 Ms. Tahira Khan Merritt 4:00

7 That pursuant to information given to the
8 deposition officer at the time said testimony was taken,
9 the following includes counsel for all parties of
10 record:

11 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

12 Ms. Tahira Khan-Merritt
13 TAHIRA KHAN-MERRITT, PLLC
14 8499 Greenville Avenue, Suite 206
Dallas, Texas 75231
(214) 503-7300

15 FOR THE DEFENDANTS HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
16 THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER BY AND THROUGH
17 HIS BISHOP ISAIAH OF DENVER IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY and
THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA BY AND THROUGH
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY

18 Mr. James W. Grau
19 GRAU KOEN, P.C.
20 2711 N. Haskell, Suite 2000
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214) 521-4145

21 I further certify that I am neither
22 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
23 parties or attorneys in the action in which this
24 proceeding was taken, and further that I am not
25 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
the action.

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1
2 Further certification requirements
3 pursuant to Rule 203 of TRCP will be certified to after
4 they have occurred.

5 Certified to by me on September 1, 2008

6 *Judy Hobart*

7 JUDY K. HOBART, RPR, CSR No. 2439
8 Expiration Date: December 31, 2008
9 Firm Registration No. 126
10 6440 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 318
11 Dallas, Texas 75206

12 FURTHER CERTIFICATION UNDER RULE 203 TRCP

13 The original deposition was/was not
14 returned to the deposition officer on _____;

15 If returned, the attached Changes and
16 Signature page contains any changes and the reasons
17 therefor;

18 If returned, the original deposition was
19 delivered to Tahira Kahn-Merritt, Custodial Attorney;

20 That \$ _____ is the deposition officer's
21 charges to the Plaintiff/Tahira Kahn-Merritt for
22 preparing the original deposition transcript and any
23 copies of exhibits;

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

_____ Certified to by me this ____ day of
_____, 2008.

JUDY K. HOBART, RPR, CSR No. 2439
Expiration Date: December 31, 2008
Firm Registration No. 126
6440 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 318
Dallas, Texas 75206
214-363-7471

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