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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	23-CR-146(DG)
Plaintiff ,	:	
-against-	:	United States Courthouse Brooklyn, New York
RACHEL CHERWITZ and NICOLE DAEDONE,	:	
Defendants.	:	June 5, 2025 1:00 p.m.
- - - - -	X	

TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR FURTHER JURY TRIAL
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DIANE GUJARATI and a JURY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:	JOSEPH NOCELLA, JR. Interim United States Attorney BY: KAITLIN T. FARRELL KAYLA C. BENSING NINA C. GUPTA SEAN M. FERN Assistant United States Attorneys 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201
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For Defendant Cherwitz:	BALLARD SPAHR LLP 1675 Broadway, 19th Floor New York, New York 10019 BY: CELIA COHEN, ESQ. MICHAEL P. ROBOTTI, ESQ. KELLY LIN, ESQ. SCHUYLER LA BARGE, ESQ. KELLY LENAHAAN-PFAHLERT, ESQ.
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(Appearances continued on the next page.)

Court Reporter:	Jamie Ann Stanton Official Court Reporter
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1 Appearances: (Cont'd)

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3 For Defendant Daedone: BONJEAN LAW GROUP, PLLC
4 303 Van Brunt Street, 1st Floor
5 Brooklyn, NY 11231
6 BY: JENNIFER A. BONJEAN, ESQ.
7 KELSEY KILLION, ESQ.

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11 Also Present:

12 Liam McNett, Paralegal, US Attorney's Office
13 Marlane Bosler, Paralegal, US Attorney's Office

14

15 Galila Assefa, Paralegal, Bonjean Law Group

16 Kamille Simons, Paralegal, Ballard Spahr

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Proceedings

5116

1 (In open court; outside the presence of the jury.)

2 THE CLERK: This is United States of America against
3 Rachel Cherwitz and Nicole Daedone.

4 Is the government ready?

5 MS. BENSING: Yes. Kayla Bensing, Kaitlin Farrell,
6 Nina Gupta and Sean Fern. We are joined by Paralegal
7 Specialists Liam McNett and Marlane Bosler. Good afternoon.

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everybody.

9 MS. COHEN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Celia
10 Cohen, Michael Robotti, Schuyler La Barge, Kelly Lin, Kelly
11 Lenahan-Phahlert and Richard Hobbs all on behalf of Rachel
12 Cherwitz.

13 THE COURT: Good morning. Good afternoon, rather.

14 MS. BONJEAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Jennifer
15 Bonjean, Gabriella Orozco, Ashley Cohen, Galila Assefa and
16 Soph Moazed on behalf of Ms. Daedone.

17 THE COURT: And good afternoon, everyone.

18 The jury is all here but before we bring the jury
19 back, I will address the issue that was raised yesterday
20 before we ended for the day.

21 Defendants made a motion for a mistrial based on the
22 government's closing argument. The government opposed the
23 motion. Upon review of the record, defendants' motion for a
24 mistrial is denied.

25 We can bring out the jury now.

Summation - Bonjean

5117

1 Ms. Bonjean, approximately how long do you think
2 your closing will be?

3 MS. BONJEAN: I, I -- I'm so bad at these things,
4 timing. Not less than two hours. Not more than three.

5 THE COURT: Okay. I just wanted an estimate.

6 MS. BONJEAN: Yes, I don't think.

7 (Jury enters.)

8 THE COURT: Everyone may be seated.

9 Good afternoon to the members of the jury.

10 Ms. Bonjean, would you like to present a closing
11 argument?

12 MS. BONJEAN: I would.

13 THE COURT: Go ahead.

14 MS. BONJEAN: I bet when you all walked into this
15 courtroom and Judge Marutollo told you that this is a forced
16 labor conspiracy case, you thought to yourself this is going
17 to be a snoozer, but when you learned that this case involved
18 a practice known as Orgasmic Meditation that involved a
19 meditative practice, with clitoral stroking and this case
20 would involve concepts around BDSM and other sexual practices,
21 I'm guessing you said, Ooh, not going to be a snoozer as it
22 turns out. But what I'm guessing you did not anticipate is
23 that you would be jurors in this very consequential case.

24 Now, during the government's argument, the
25 government focused and the witnesses focused heavily on Nicole

Summation - Bonjean

5118

1 Daedone's teachings, her philosophies, her beliefs. And you
2 heard witnesses testify that it was those beliefs, those
3 ideas, those expressions that made them do things they
4 otherwise wouldn't have done and that now they regret having
5 done those things.

6 Now, the government showed you little clips of
7 Ms. Daedone's lectures. They showed you snippets of this,
8 here or there. And, listen, and they took a lot of liberties,
9 by the way, in their closing argument in terms of interpreting
10 those for you.

11 And I will be honest, I do not always fully
12 understand what the heck Nicole is saying and that's because
13 of the way she teaches. In metaphor. You've heard it.
14 Stories. It's complex. It's layered. It's dense. And I am
15 not sure I always agree with everything I hear. And no one
16 here will be asked to say whether they agree with her
17 philosophies, her ideas, her teachings, Orgasmic Meditation,
18 any of it. But to quote the great philosopher Voltaire: I
19 may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death
20 your right to say it.

21 So I am here today proudly representing Nicole
22 Daedone. And I am also here to condemn the dangerous
23 testimony and argument you heard and that the witnesses have
24 advanced that ideas and teachings expressed publicly, openly,
25 constitutes serious harm or coercion.

1 And I want you to think about this, ladies and
2 gentlemen.

3 You heard testimony, you heard testimony that grown
4 people went to take courses on controversial ideas, and not,
5 not bait-and-switch stuff. They knew it was controversial.
6 They were told it was controversial. You only need to show up
7 at one TurnON event and you know what you're getting into.
8 These grown women went there, they took these courses, they
9 were seeking them out, they wanted their boundaries pushed,
10 and now, 15 years later, they believe that those ideas caused
11 them harm.

12 But I'm not sure they really believe that and I
13 think you've heard some testimony and I'll quote some
14 testimony from Ms. Halpern.

15 On cross-examination, she was asked: You have free
16 thought. You can identify the way you want, right? She's the
17 leader of an organization talking about her ideas and teaching
18 them?

19 Right. Right.

20 And there's a lot of controversial figures in life
21 who have unusual ideas, right?

22 That is true.

23 And you don't have to adopt all of them, do you?

24 You do not.

25 Okay. That's called free will, right?

1 That's what it's called.

2 And ladies and gentlemen, if Nicole's book "Slow
3 Sex" or any of her writings constitute serious harm, what do
4 we call things like "Mein Kampf" or other controversial
5 writings?

6 Now, the government's closing argument was designed,
7 designed to get you to agree with them, that Nicole is a
8 cunning, calculated grifter who, along with Rob Kandell and
9 others, decided long ago to get rich off this practice of
10 Orgasmic Meditation in a forced labor scheme.

11 And anyone, anyone can pull together an ugly
12 narrative based on half truths, absence of context, snippets
13 of text exchanges, or videos. And it's particularly easy to
14 do in a case like this where Ms. Daedone and Ms. Cherwitz and
15 a number of their fellow OneTaste community members speak in
16 their own vocabulary to some degree, using words that don't
17 have conventional meanings, and you've heard a lot about that
18 during the course of this trial.

19 We're going to go over that a little bit, but it's
20 easy to distort meanings when we're not speaking the same
21 vocabulary. So I want you to remember that when you read
22 things and you are trying to assess what is meant here, and
23 this is -- we're going to talk about it in a little bit, but
24 that's really important when assessing intent.

25 And we're going to get it cleared up because unlike

Summation - Bonjean

5121

1 the government, we are going to show you all of it. We
2 want -- we're going to go over the facts, the good, the bad,
3 the ugly, not just the facts that we distort to our liking to
4 prove our case or show our case, or not just the convenient
5 ones.

6 And I do want to stop and really thank you all for
7 your attentiveness, your patience, your hard work, all of it.
8 I know you are exhausted because so am I. I don't know, my
9 whole team is exhausted, and maybe 15 years from now, I'll be
10 indicted for forced labor.

11 MS. FARRELL: Objection.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 MS. BONJEAN: Listen, my client is charged with a
14 very serious crime and she is presumed innocent of this crime
15 and she deserves a fair accounting of the evidence in this
16 case so I beg of you to bear with me as we go through this. I
17 will try to keep it interesting without drawing objections.

18 Now, you looked at some video in the closing
19 argument, in trial but also in the closing arguments. You've
20 learned a little bit about Nicole Daedone and her background.
21 The government showed you very short clips of Nicole lecturing
22 and teaching.

23 You heard testimony from a fellow named Chris Kosley
24 that he took terabytes -- and I'm not a techie person, but my
25 understanding is terabytes is a lot of data. He took many

1 terabytes of video footage of Nicole. And you remember him.
2 He's the guy with the drug problems and the honesty problems
3 who has a habit of, a number of habits, stealing computers and
4 stealing sensitive information that he then sold off to
5 filmmakers.

6 And what he told you and what I think you can deduce
7 from the fact that there were terabytes of information is that
8 Ms. Daedone -- they recorded everything at OneTaste. Her
9 teachings. The coaching programs. Her darshons, I think.
10 Maybe I have that wrong but, you know, these group settings
11 where there was, like, this sort of teaching moments, coaching
12 circles. These things were either audioed or videoed, et
13 cetera.

14 So to be clear, these are not people that were
15 operating in secret. And you heard a tiny, tiny bit of it and
16 even that, frankly, was -- even those portions that you heard
17 were not in context.

18 And they really, you know, reduced Ms. Daedone to a
19 few clips from this Stinson Beach OM demonstration. And you
20 may remember that the government, during closing argument,
21 they played a tiny portion of this video and then argued these
22 conclusions from it and I would like to play a slightly longer
23 version of this just to put some things in context.

24 This is, as you may recall, the introduction that
25 Ms. Cherwitz gave to Ms. Daedone before there was this OM

Summation - Bonjean

5123

1 presentation which was kind of an unusual presentation because
2 it was sort of theatrical in nature and there was the Buddhist
3 music in back.

4 And I would like to play that if we could now.

5 (Video played.) (Video stopped.)

6 MS. BONJEAN: So you heard a little tiny portion of
7 that in the government's closing argument, specifically, the
8 part where Ms. Daedone says: I had learned that it was good
9 to be smart and learned I was even better to be hot so I can
10 control men and women.

11 That's what they played you. And they want you to
12 conclude that this is evidence, that even back then,
13 Ms. Daedone just had this grand master scheme to control men
14 and women and that's what she's talking about here. And that
15 this thriving, lucrative business to which she's referencing
16 is OneTaste.

17 Well, putting it in context, actually, she says
18 something very different. She says, I started this work at
19 16. She's talking about work in sexuality, not specifically
20 about OneTaste, I posit, but you can make your own
21 conclusions. And they take issue, and we heard this from the
22 closing arguments, with this idea that Ms. Daedone used her,
23 it was better to be hot, and used this in some calculated way
24 with men and women who cannot control themselves.

25 Well, that's all fine and well. It's fabulous that

Summation - Bonjean

5124

1 young women nowadays don't think that's much of an issue, but
2 for those of us in, you know, in our 50s like Ms. Daedone,
3 like myself, that's a truth. They can say it's not but it's a
4 truth. Women did get more power through looks, through
5 sexuality, those things, and we can deny it but it was a truth
6 and she was saying something truthful there. But she also
7 went on to say and I found both lessons were equally valuable.
8 That is what she was saying. She said it with her own words.

9 And as you can tell from this clip, Ms. Daedone is a
10 woman who comes from trauma. Now, she wouldn't use that word
11 as I'm sure you all figured out. She would use different
12 words. Darkness, perhaps. And the government has repeatedly
13 argued that Nicole's teachings on trauma and victimhood makes
14 her some type of rape apologist or some type of person who --
15 I think what Ms. Gupta argued is that Ms. Daedone thinks
16 there's no such thing as a victim and that the way for women
17 to deflect rape is to be turned on. That's a quote.

18 Now, I'm pretty sure in her own introduction she
19 used the word "victim" or "survivor of incest," and if you
20 want to have a very limited view of what Ms. Daedone is, I
21 guess --

22 A VOICE: Cherwitz.

23 MS. BONJEAN: Well, I'm talking about Ms. Daedone.
24 That's her writing.

25 So if you want to have a very limited view of what

Summation - Bonjean

5125

1 Ms. Daedone's viewpoint is about victimhood or victim and
2 perpetrator, yes, sure, you can chalk it up to whatever you
3 want, but Ms. Daedone has always been a provocateur. I think
4 there's no doubts there.

5 And, frankly -- and the government played you a clip
6 we saw from this, this video they love of Ms. Daedone, we're
7 going to look at a portion of it, where she's lecturing about,
8 I guess, trauma, and they love playing this clip because she
9 starts off the clip with this crass joke and they played it
10 during the closing argument. I got raped and all I got was
11 this lousy T-shirt. It's meant to shock and awe you.

12 But here's the thing. Ms. Daedone has earned the
13 right to make a joke like that. She has earned the right to
14 be a provocateur around that. And if you stayed for the whole
15 lecture, you would understand that it's no laughing matter and
16 she has very serious ideas. And what you also understand is
17 she always lectures in the context of "my experience," "I
18 thought this," "this is how I think about it."

19 And you heard testimony, I think it was Ms. Gillick,
20 I think it was Ms. Gillick, where I asked her that exact
21 question: Didn't Ms. Daedone tell you, like, these are my
22 ideas, you don't have to follow them, but these are my ideas?
23 She said these things in lectures?

24 And Ms. Gillick said, Yes, she did.

25 So I would like to play you, again, a little more

Summation - Bonjean

5126

1 context so you do not conclude unfairly that Ms. Daedone
2 doesn't think there are victims or that victimhood isn't a
3 real thing. What she's talking about is what do you do with
4 that and how do you let it not define you. And, again, you
5 don't have to agree, but it's also not fair to misinterpret or
6 mischaracterize.

7 So let's take a look with a little more context.
8 We're not going to listen to the whole 90 minutes. I think
9 it's in evidence which is pretty interesting, but I will not
10 be playing that and you guys can decide whether you want to
11 listen to the whole thing.

12 (Video played.) (Video stopped.)

13 MS. BONJEAN: So not quite, not quite what was
14 characterized.

15 You know, she tells a story about the shaman and the
16 medicine man begins by falling into the power of demons and by
17 pulling himself out of this stark place, he becomes the
18 medicine man and someone who stays in this place remains the
19 sick person. And that, I think, is a powerful metaphor and
20 whether you agree with her or not is your business, but I'm
21 not going to have the government coming in here and
22 mischaracterizing that and making it cheap for the purposes of
23 an argument.

24 And you heard over and over again the I's, my's, my
25 story. This is not someone saying, You must, you know,

Summation - Bonjean

5127

1 believe in this. You know, this is very -- she's telling
2 through personal stories and she's teaching. And if you're
3 sitting in this classroom and you don't understand that,
4 that's your problem because this is plainly obvious that she
5 is lecturing about her own experience. It may resonate with
6 you, it may not, and you are free to draw from it what you
7 want.

8 And I want to play one other clip from this
9 particular lecture.

10 Go ahead.

11 (Video played.) (Video stopped.)

12 MS. BONJEAN: So I wanted to point this out, that
13 repeatedly, To me, To me. Okay? Implicit in all of this,
14 this isn't someone who's dictating from above. This is
15 someone who is making it very clear that I look at victimhood
16 and I look at these things differently and I think you can get
17 your power by not keeping yourself in that place.

18 And, frankly, you heard witnesses testify when I
19 asked them on cross-examination about this, they agreed. In
20 fact. In fact, even Becky Halpern said they were beautiful
21 ideas. Well, you just said a minute ago that they were the
22 ideas that kept you, I don't know, doing courses at OneTaste.
23 So, like, which one is it?

24 Now, the government hopes to persuade you, and they
25 have brought this up a number of times, to believe that

Summation - Bonjean

5128

1 Nicole's ideas and thoughts were designed to do harm so that
2 she can build this company around this wild idea of OMing,
3 planning all along to force women to engage in labor and
4 sexual services against their will in the course of 12,
5 15 years.

6 What they told you and what was argued, and I'm
7 going to quote: And that's not because OMing was actually
8 spiritual. They connected OMing to spirituality for legal
9 protection and people would follow Nicole Daedone's teachings.

10 Well, that is just not the case. That is -- and,
11 oh, their evidence of this was this one e-mail or text
12 message, 1456-DR, we'll look at it again, where Ms. Daedone --
13 this is 2014, you know, long after OneTaste was underway. And
14 they're talking about sort of marketing.

15 I'm sure it's not been lost on you that OneTaste
16 was, in fact, a business and there's this comment about, Oh,
17 should we, should we stick with our T-shirts that say 'Powered
18 by Orgasm' or should we change it to "Orgasm supercharge and
19 fulfillment" and she says keep "Power By Orgasm," I like the
20 subtle God reference.

21 That's, that's vague, at best. We don't know what
22 she's meaning by that, but the government wants you to
23 conclude that that means she just came up with the idea to
24 connect it with spirituality and God in 2014. This was all,
25 again, showing her intent. Well, that would require you to

1 ignore all of their other evidence.

2 You can take that down.

3 And, again, I also want to point out that I think
4 another one of their arguments is that there's something
5 improper about turning something that maybe has a spiritual
6 element to it into a business.

7 I mean I don't know if you -- some of the richest
8 people on the planet are TV evangelical preacher types. Okay?
9 This is not unusual. We are a capitalistic nation and
10 everything is turned into money, but I guess because
11 Ms. Daedone is a woman, maybe, this was seen as, I don't know,
12 off limits. But it's not a secret. Yes, she had this
13 incredible passion. It didn't start out as a business. And,
14 yes, she turned it into a business that many, many years
15 later, became profitable.

16 Now, this is what I want to point out.

17 Ms. Daedone's ideas about orgasmic meditation she
18 has been espousing for decades openly, publicly, in writings,
19 on video, in books, on the internet, in TED Talks.

20 (Continued on next page.)

21

22

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1 MS. BONJEAN: (Continuing) And then these ideas
2 became problematic at some point. But they were out there for
3 many, many, many years and they were always connected to
4 spirituality.

5 So this is a quote from the Government's witness,
6 Becky Halpern. And this is how she described it: At the
7 heart of OneTaste coaching is practice, is orgasmic
8 meditation, OM. OM is a simple sexuality practice that offers
9 practitioners the visceral experience of connection, sensation
10 and turn-on. OM becomes a process for discovery, the answers
11 that we had deep inside of us. It gives us access to what we
12 want in life as a whole. Desire, sex, shadow and relationship
13 becomes crucible of growth.

14 She seems to still really like this idea, frankly.

15 There's other evidence that you heard that orgasmic
16 meditation and the practice of OM was always tied with
17 spirituality. This wasn't a belated argument.

18 You can go to the next slide.

19 Mr. Kandell testified. And he was with Ms. Daedone
20 from the early days, as you all know.

21 He was asked the question: How was the term
22 "orgasm" used at OneTaste?

23 Pretty sure this was on direct examination, too.

24 It was used for many, many things. There was the
25 physical practice, orgasmic meditation, which led to orgasm.

Summation - Ms. Bonjean

5131

1 "Orgasm" meaning not climax, but orgasm being the energetic
2 energy in the body. It was also used as a life source. You
3 know, that thing powered you. Some people even looked to it
4 as a relationship to God, as orgasm as a connection to God.

5 And who -- who did -- did Nicole teach that?

6 Yes.

7 Question: And what exactly did she teach as orgasm
8 being the connection to God?

9 Answer: I think she meant as just a connection to
10 or the pathway to your spiritual enhancement, your spiritual
11 awareness, spiritual to the unknown.

12 And did she teach what the pathway was?

13 Yes.

14 Christina Berkley. And she -- these are people that
15 were with Ms. Daedone in the so-called warehouse days, long --
16 you know, in 2007, before OneTaste was even -- even could be
17 conceived as being the business it turned out to be.

18 When asked what was the spiritual path that she
19 taught -- "she" being Ms. Daedone -- well, there was a way to
20 tap into something deeper and greater than through this
21 practice called orgasmic meditation, that the pursuit of
22 finding our own power was very important, that going down into
23 difficult situations was where you found that power. Kind of
24 this figure eight. Go down and have difficult experiences and
25 you make it through that and then you become more powerful.

1 And then you come up and you have bright, enlightening
2 experiences and you come back down. It was in the down that
3 there was more focus.

4 And the reason I point this out, again, it's not to
5 persuade you all to adopt this. It's to show you that her
6 connection, her belief in orgasm to spirituality,
7 Ms. Cherwitz's belief in connection to orgasm to spirituality,
8 people who were involved in OneTaste, their belief in that
9 connection long preceded any success of OneTaste. So it is
10 just unfair to say, oh, in 2014 she just broke out into it as
11 some type of ruse.

12 And this all does go to important things you will be
13 deciding, which is Ms. Daedone's intent, Ms. Cherwitz's
14 intent.

15 I would also point out, I think if someone was, you
16 know, this cunning fraudster that wanted to go sell things for
17 a forced labor scheme, there might be easier things to sell
18 than orgasmic meditation.

19 What's another thing that we need to get into here?
20 Throughout the closing argument, throughout, and then suddenly
21 worked in throughout the evidence, the Government emphasized,
22 frankly, that OneTaste is a cult. That's -- quit pussyfooting
23 around it. That is what they want you to believe, and that
24 Nicole is the leader or guru of this cult. And we're not
25 afraid of the allegations, we're not afraid of the facts. But

Summation - Ms. Bonjean

5133

1 we're not going to curate a story around this and nobody
2 should. You heard from the witnesses that this is a
3 complicated question. And what you also learned -- and where
4 I'm going to get to is, it doesn't really matter.

5 But before we get there -- I don't want to bury the
6 lead, but before we get there, the Government told you about
7 how orgasmic meditation and OneTaste came into existence. And
8 they said during argument -- closing arguments that the
9 predecessor practice of OM which was, as you heard, called
10 deliberate orgasm, or D0ing, was developed in the 1960s and it
11 was written from the perspective of men. And it was,
12 Mr. Kandell told you, Mr. Blackman may have mentioned this,
13 that it was rooted in sort of male domination. And you heard
14 about how Nicole and Rob Kandell met at the Welcomed
15 Consensus, which engaged in this practice of D0ing, or
16 deliberate orgasm, and that the head of this group was very
17 power -- you know, was a power -- I guess leaned into his
18 power. He was violent, not a -- doesn't sound like he was a
19 great guy. And then Ms. Daedone and Mr. Kandell ultimately
20 went to Morehouse. Which, by the way, is not the same as
21 Welcomed Consensus, if you got that inflated.

22 Welcomed Consensus was one thing, Morehouse was a different
23 thing. And there was this idea and Ms. Daedone wanted to sort
24 of take up the leadership of Morehouse when the fellow that
25 was in the leadership of Morehouse was on his deathbed, dying

Summation - Ms. Bonjean

5134

1 of cancer. And she wanted to bring her ideas there. And it's
2 true. Apparently, the community vetoed that, so she and
3 Kandell went out and they started this new organization.

4 And the Government uses this and tells you this is
5 evidence she always wanted to be a guru. You can make your
6 own conclusions about that, but I am going to tell you this
7 right now: You're not going to get any jury instructions
8 about what a cult is. I bet you if you all sat around --

9 MS. FARRELL: Objection, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 MS. BONJEAN: Well.

12 THE COURT: The Court will be giving the
13 instructions to the jury.

14 MS. BONJEAN: Right.

15 And you won't see the word "cult" in there. And you
16 won't see the word "brainwashing" in there. Is that a secret?
17 It's not a secret.

18 And what Ms. Daedone wanted to do was rework the
19 concept of deliberate orgasm from a woman's perspective and
20 turn it into a meditative practice more akin to meditation and
21 yoga. That comes from the Government's witnesses. And the
22 Government suggests in their closing argument this was all
23 pernicious evidence of intent.

24 And what was said was, the Government argued to you:
25 And you heard it was centered around psychological tactics,

Summation - Ms. Bonjean

5135

1 ritualized activity and communal living.

2 Psychological tactics, ritualized activity and
3 communal living. Maybe kind of like a sorority, fraternities,
4 military, all types of communal living, religions.

5 I wasn't in a sorority, but I know people who have
6 been. They sound like a lot of fun. You live in community.
7 There are ritualized practices. They all sing these, you
8 know, kind of cute songs. They have weird handshakes.
9 They -- you know, they have loyalty to the sorority. And, you
10 know, some people really like them.

11 I had two daughters that went and hated it. You
12 know what they did? They left. They left. I don't like
13 this. This is weird. I don't want to be doing all these
14 events. They left.

15 And I know, I can hear the closing argument -- or
16 the rebuttal argument of the Government to say, well,
17 sororities don't engage in sexual practices or anything of
18 that nature.

19 Again, not the point. Not the point because, as you
20 will hear a little bit later in my closing argument, people
21 are permitted to engage in whatever practices they want so
22 long as they're not hurting people. And that's where we
23 disagree. That is where the crux of things are. If people
24 are engaging in consensual sexual activities, consensual
25 activities, then mind your business.

1 Now, if the Government proved otherwise, then we
2 might be in a different position, but they did not.

3 So I bring this up about the cult and all that
4 because we -- and we brought this up during opening
5 statements. That's a distraction in some ways. There's no
6 definition even amongst laypeople about what a cult is.
7 There's no -- I mean, if there was a cult statute, that's what
8 they would be charged with. And that's a word that gets
9 bandied about all the time, everywhere: Religions, companies,
10 political movements.

11 And I, personally, kind of like Rob Kandell's
12 definition. You don't have to adopt it. He says "cult" comes
13 from the word "culture." It is a definition of subculture and
14 not a negative connotation.

15 He was asked: In your view, many other legitimate
16 organizations and companies could be considered cults, right?

17 Answer: Absolutely.

18 Again, you don't have to agree with that. But the
19 bottom line is, is it does not matter.

20 The Government is banking on the fact that when you
21 think of the word "cult," you will think of Jim Jones, or
22 David Koresh in the Waco days. That is manipulation right
23 there.

24 And even if they joked about the fact that they were
25 perceived as a cult, which is one of their pieces of evidence

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1 that they wanted to present to you, I think there was
2 testimony from -- there was a quote that they put up in their
3 PowerPoint presentation, testimony from Mr. Hubbard where he
4 testified -- ah, here it is. The Government just showed you
5 the first four lines, 7 through 10, but we went to the next
6 question.

7 Eventually, one of the ways, it was -- Nicole
8 described it and we all described it, it was a sex cult. We
9 said that in public.

10 Question: What did you take that to mean?

11 Honestly, mostly it was my -- I took it to mean it
12 was mostly just a way to get a rise out of people that we met.

13 In what way?

14 Kind of a controversial statement.

15 So what?

16 Chris Hubbard was the fellow who helped create the
17 scenes, the Monsieur Follet, if you remember. The series for
18 Reese Jones.

19 And on those scenes, by the way, again, you
20 consistently heard these were consenting adults doing these
21 theatrical scenes that sometimes did and sometimes did not
22 involve sexual activities.

23 So the Government also put in evidence and mentioned
24 it in their closing argument that there's something -- some
25 inference to be drawn from the fact that if OneTaste became --

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1 was growing, there was an effort to get a reputation internet
2 service to disassociate OneTaste from the word "cult." That's
3 evidence that they were, I don't know, trying -- what, not to
4 be associated with a cult? Yeah, no kidding. They didn't
5 want people looking up and that first coming up because it's
6 bad for business. That's understandable.

7 And at the end of the day, you can call it a cult,
8 you can not call it a cult, it could be cultish, cult-ey,
9 whatever you want to use, it is not relevant for what you are
10 doing here. And the Government cannot, will not meet its
11 burden.

12 And Ms. Gupta did a very fine job in her closing
13 argument and she weaved together a story that Ms. Daedone, you
14 know, had these questionable motives for creating OM and
15 OneTaste, asking you to draw nefarious conclusions from
16 ambiguous text communications and from witness testimonies
17 which were conclusory every single time until they got on
18 cross-examination.

19 Were you harmed by Ms. Daedone? Yes, I was harmed.

20 Self-diagnosis. You know, I spent ten years in
21 therapy after I left OneTaste.

22 You know, these are -- you know, what -- again,
23 that's conclusory. Where are the facts to support it?

24 I was brainwashed. I was lost in myself. I didn't
25 know right or wrong. I was manipulated. Well, what are you

1 going to make of that?

2 And as to Ms. Daedone, you know, it's clear that
3 people were drawn to her. She was certainly smart,
4 charismatic, had an incredibly interesting history and people
5 wanted to hear what she had to say. And these are all
6 statements about her from the Government's witnesses.

7 And the Government, you know, wants to argue, well,
8 yes, this is all just brainwashing and therefore she's a guru,
9 et cetera. Okay. You heard Ms. Gillick say, actually, I
10 wanted to go talk to her because she seemed like a successful
11 business woman.

12 So, you know, again, I think we can leave this point
13 behind. It doesn't matter. Labels don't matter. Labels
14 don't matter. And however you want to define OneTaste will
15 not get you any closer to deciding whether or not Ms. Daedone
16 and Ms. Cherwitz are guilty of the charged offense.

17 So the Government also makes much of the fact that
18 the people who were involved in OneTaste had their own special
19 vocabulary and they used their own words. We saw that. Many
20 of those organizations have unique vocabularies: Apple, tech
21 companies, you know, military. You could come up with all
22 types of examples.

23 And the Government's own witnesses told you over and
24 over and over again that these, this terminology, yes, much of
25 it had a literal and metaphorical meaning. And the Government

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1 wants you to ignore the metaphorical meaning and just go with
2 the actual, the literal meaning time and time again. But
3 that's not fair. "Turned on" doesn't always just mean horny,
4 as their own witnesses pointed out.

5 And I didn't -- this was a quote that I kind of
6 missed. Thank you. We mentioned this in opening statements,
7 but also Mr. Kandell testified about it. And this is where --
8 this is a Buddhist principle. And, as you all know, that
9 OneTaste and Ms. Daedone's teachings are rooted in a number of
10 things, a combination of Buddhism, 12-step programs, kind of
11 different ideas that she's put together. And this is where
12 the name of the company derived: "Just as the great ocean has
13 OneTaste, the taste of salt, so does liberation and the taste
14 of truth." And that is the origins of the name of
15 Ms. Daedone's company, OneTaste.

16 Now, as you consider the evidence in this case, and
17 you were shown a great deal of text messages and exchanges,
18 again, I want you to remember some of the actual terms that
19 were used and their real meanings. And this, again, comes
20 from the Government's witnesses.

21 "Orgasm." We talked about this earlier and this
22 connection to, frankly, spirituality. And Mr. Kandell has
23 testified: It was used for many, many things. There was the
24 physical practice orgasm; meditation, which led to orgasm;
25 orgasm not meaning climax, but orgasm being the energetic life

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1 -- energetic energy in the body. It was also used as life
2 force. You know, that thing that powered you. Some people
3 even looked at it as a relationship to God, as orgasm as the
4 connection to God.

5 And then even Michelle Wright testified: The word
6 "orgasm" is synonymous with -- I can't see that, but. Oh.
7 Synonymous with, like, chi or life force.

8 Now, so, "turn on." We don't have to read them all,
9 but you have them there if you want to read them. The
10 Government argued to you in closing that Ms. Daedone says
11 there's no such thing as a victim and the only way to deal
12 with a rapist is just to turn on.

13 And as you will see, that is not at all what she's
14 saying, if you believe the Government's witnesses and these
15 definitions, is that "turn on" is really about power; it's
16 about flow; it's about what I am doing here right now; it's
17 about what anybody has; they're in their energy. And that is
18 what "turn on" is.

19 So when you see these text messages that seem a
20 little weird, frankly, to those of us that are not familiar
21 with the vocabulary, "I'm turned on," or "we need to get our
22 turn on," TurnON events, again, yes, it's a play on words
23 because "turn on" could mean sexually -- right? -- but it
24 really is about something greater. It's about your life
25 force, about your power, your energy and what you can do with

1 it.

2 Let's go to the next one.

3 "Aversion practice." You heard a lot about aversion
4 practice. The Government is of the view, and I guess some
5 witnesses have taken this position, that this practice was
6 really designed so women, young women would feel more
7 comfortable engaging in sexual practices with ugly, creepy
8 men.

9 And, I mean, when Ken Blackman testified, I was
10 like, ah, maybe they do have a point on that. But it's not
11 really what this is about.

12 This is -- this derives directly from aversion
13 therapy. It's a thing that has been around forever. And it's
14 about going to those places that bring you either fear or that
15 you don't understand and try to figure that out and learn
16 something from it.

17 And you can look at the Government's own witnesses'
18 testimony on this. Again, they want to ignore it, but their
19 own witnesses said: So, like, aversion, the way it was often
20 used, like an aversion practice. So if you don't particularly
21 like something, you don't particularly want to do something
22 and you're averse to it, the idea is to kind of go towards it
23 rather than move away from it and see what happens to push
24 your boundaries. Aversion, you know, similar to what it is in
25 regular speech, it's like if you're averse to something, you

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1 don't necessarily want to do it, you're hesitant to do it.

2 But aversion wasn't just about -- it was a general
3 principle. It wasn't just about sex or men or anything of
4 that nature. It was about questioning what do I fear, what do
5 I -- maybe I should be more open-minded and check it out.

6 You heard a lot about the system. And many
7 witnesses testified about, oh, the system forced me to do it
8 or I felt training from the system or pressure from the
9 system. And they always talked about the system.

10 Okay. On direct examination, Mr. Kandell testified
11 that system refers to how one -- the OneTaste ecosystem. And
12 there were just certain cultural aspects of our group,
13 communications, the way we did things, the way we understood
14 things, how we communicated.

15 And you know what? They had every right to. Every
16 right to. They were a system. They lived in community. So
17 unless you're saying that living in community is something
18 inherently bad, what is wrong with this? Yes, there will be
19 pressure to align with each other around ideas that you all
20 have a belief system in. And if you don't share our beliefs,
21 then maybe this isn't the place for you. Name me a religion
22 that doesn't do the same thing.

23 "Stroke/stroking." You heard about this.
24 Obviously, we've heard so much about stroking I don't ever
25 want to hear the word again, frankly, and I'm sure you don't.

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1 But there's literal stroking, but there is also this idea of
2 stroking that was like to give someone an idea, to give them
3 praise, encouragement, to give them insight into something.
4 And also to give criticism. Up-stroke is, like, the good
5 stuff; down-stroke, maybe not. And it's metaphorical.

6 Next one.

7 "Tumescence." Eee. Again, "tumescence," I think
8 it's the sound of the word, I don't know, but there's nothing
9 nefarious about this word. It's just built-up energy. And
10 yes, it can be around sex, but it doesn't have to be.

11 You could be tumesce in many aspects of your life,
12 according to Ms. Gillick. Again, a Government witness. They
13 would say like "career tumescence" or "purpose tumescence".
14 Basically, there were tons of different ways you could be
15 tumesce and not be progressing through, through, like,
16 something in your life. That's Ms. Gillick, Government
17 witness.

18 "The fourth dimension." You heard a lot about this.
19 You see things in some of the text message about that.

20 And Mr. Kandell explained it's the dimension outside
21 the third dimension. Called it the higher realms. It was
22 just another way to look at the world that's not the 3-D,
23 physical world and more in the energetic, spiritual word.

24 Chris Kosley told you the fourth dimension was
25 understood to be what was happening on sort of a spiritual

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1 level or some higher plane that couldn't be seen or felt
2 directly.

3 That's so controversial? You may not call it the
4 fourth dimension, but people talk about their spirituality,
5 things we can't prove, things we can't see all the time. It's
6 not nefarious.

7 Go to the next one.

8 Is there a next one?

9 Oh. Okay, hold on one second. I learned from Celia
10 yesterday that...

11 Okay. This is testimony again from Ms. Halpern.
12 I'll start in the middle. I don't know if you can see it.

13 Maybe from, you could pull it out from -- I don't
14 know if you can, from the "But the third dimension, as you
15 described."

16 But the third dimension, as you described is sort of
17 this physical world that constrains us, right?

18 Answer: Yes.

19 The world we need to live in that has social order,
20 right?

21 Yes.

22 And the fourth dimension is more of the spiritual
23 world, correct?

24 Right.

25 And it goes beyond the physical and sort of like

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1 what your connection is to this higher power, right?

2 Answer: Right.

3 So, that's the third and fourth dimensions. I think
4 there are plenty of other places where people have discussed
5 these concepts in different -- with different labels.

6 We can go on.

7 Ah. Now we're getting to the dry stuff.

8 So I want to talk about legal principles that I
9 suspect the Judge will instruct you on.

10 And I think one good way to think about this -- I
11 thought about this -- is that you heard testimony about the
12 container, which is sort of the rules in orgasmic meditation.
13 You heard Chris Kosley broke the container because he didn't
14 follow the rules. So, I like to think of these fundamental
15 legal principles as sort of a container. These are big
16 overriding legal principles that you must always, always,
17 always have in your mind as you deliberate.

18 And we start with the first one. Everyone thinks
19 they know these things and maybe it feels, you know, like you
20 don't need to go through this. But I think it will be helpful
21 and I think we always need reminding that the Government has
22 the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. That
23 burden never shifts to the Defendants. The Defendants do not
24 have to prove their innocence. That is our system. That is
25 our system that we're proud of. It doesn't ever go to them.

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1 Now we move to reasonable doubt. And this is --
2 there's a relationship because it is the Government that has
3 to prove reasonable doubt as to each and every element of the
4 offense that they are charged with.

5 And -- no. Can you go back?

6 What is reasonable doubt? You will get an
7 instruction, I believe, that will include what is written
8 here. It is doubt based upon reason and common sense. It is
9 doubt that a reasonable person has after carefully weighing
10 all of the evidence. It is a doubt that would cause a
11 reasonable person to hesitate to act in a matter of importance
12 in his or her personal affairs. Proof beyond a reasonable
13 doubt, therefore, must be proof of such a convincing character
14 that a reasonable person would not hesitate to rely and act
15 upon it in the most important of his or her affairs.

16 A little -- again, reasonable doubt, you think you
17 know it, but here's an instruction that you'll get.

18 And let's go to the next principle, the presumption
19 of innocence. To convict either Defendant, the burden is on
20 the Government. We talked about that. To prove the
21 Defendants' guilt on each element of the charge beyond a
22 reasonable doubt. The law presumes the Defendants to be
23 innocent and never imposes upon a defendant in a criminal case
24 the burden or duty of calling any witness or producing any
25 evidence. They don't have to do any of it. The burden always

1 rests with the Government.

2 And in a related instruction -- and the Judge I
3 think already instructed you to some degree -- the Defendants
4 have the right not to testify. And you may be very curious
5 and want to know what would they have said and speculate. No,
6 no. Under our Constitution, the Defendant has no obligation
7 to testify or to present any evidence. Why? Because it is
8 the Government's burden to prove a defendant guilty beyond a
9 reasonable doubt. The Defendant is never required to prove
10 that she is innocent. No inference of any kind may be drawn
11 from the fact the Defendants did not testify. Again, it was
12 each defendants' constitutional right not to take the witness
13 stand.

14 And you will hear from the jury instructions -- the
15 "I" is not me, but it will be the Court -- in the jury
16 instructions: I instruct you that you must not allow this
17 fact in any way to prejudice the Defendants and you must not
18 consider it as an indication, admission, evidence or inference
19 of guilt. Simply put, the fact that the Defendants did not
20 testify must never enter into your deliberations or
21 discussion.

22 So, those are the overriding principles.

23 And you fine jurors were chosen because you swore,
24 when you went through jury selection, that you could abide by
25 principles that are articulated in these jury instructions and

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1 that you would be also fair and impartial. And we have all
2 the faith in the world that you will be.

3 So, moving on to the charged offense and the
4 evidence in this case.

5 The Government put some slides up around what the
6 Defendants are charged with. I don't want to be too
7 redundant, but we're going to go through it because it's very,
8 very important. You need to know what you're doing back there
9 and what you're trying to decide.

10 And the Defendants have been charged with one
11 count -- I will point out, you will -- I think you will get a
12 set of jury instructions, as I understand it.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 MS. BONJEAN: So I hope I didn't overstep,
15 Your Honor, by mentioning that because I --

16 THE COURT: No. I'm going to be instructing the
17 jury on the law and they will have a copy of the instructions
18 when they deliberate.

19 But you may proceed.

20 MS. BONJEAN: Yes. Thank you.

21 So, the Defendants are charged with one count of
22 forced labor conspiracy.

23 And the Defendant -- I'm sorry, the Government's
24 closing argument, you know, again, weave together sort of this
25 wicked tale, really, pointing to, you know, again, partial

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1 text messages and just direct examinations without any
2 reference to the cross-examinations. Which I know -- I mean,
3 I -- listen, you have to have understood by the ninth time
4 that after direct examination, whatever one of these witnesses
5 said, the cross would put a whole other spin on it, right?

6 And you were also just sort of overwhelmed, swamped
7 with these 12 years, right? This is what we're talking about.
8 A 12-year conspiracy, is what has been alleged, of these
9 salacious sex stories and -- you know, like a bad Netflix
10 movie.

11 And Ms. Gupta, during her closing argument, said
12 this to you: This is not normal.

13 Well, no kidding. Comparing what has been alleged
14 and some of the ways in which the OneTaste community lived is
15 not normal by conventional standards. I mean, these people
16 are from San Francisco. They lived in a warehouse, sharing
17 beds and exploring sexuality. By conventional standards,
18 yeah, sure, it's not normal. But that's irrelevant, whether
19 it's normal or not. The question is whether it's criminal. I
20 mean, yoga wasn't normal for a very, very long time and now
21 it's mainstream.

22 And there were reasons why you were asked whether
23 you can keep an open mind and to be fair -- and you all said
24 yes -- and that is so that you don't get seduced by a long,
25 tawdry tale that does not shed any light on whether a crime

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1 actually occurred.

2 Now, I know, as I said, this would be a good time,
3 I -- my colleagues here at the Government's table will have
4 the last word. And that's how it works. Why? Because they
5 have the burden of proof. So, they get the last word. And
6 you won't hear from me again. Good or bad, I don't know, you
7 won't hear from the Defense again. And they're going to tell
8 you their argument and they're going to give you their
9 argument. And they're going to respond to some of my
10 arguments. And what I would just ask of you is that when you
11 are sitting here listening to the rebuttal argument, knowing
12 that neither Defense attorney will get up and be able to
13 address you again, that you think like the Defense. Question,
14 well, what would Ms. Bonjean say about this or what would
15 Ms. Cohen or Mr. Robotti say. Challenge. Because you're not
16 going to get another side of it.

17 So as the Government pointed out, the crime that is
18 charged here is a conspiracy. It's not actually the
19 underlying offense of forced labor. It's an agreement to
20 commit forced labor. And what you have to prove -- I'm sorry,
21 I've been sick this whole time, too. I'm sure you're annoyed
22 by my coughing, as am I, so I apologize.

23 To prove a forced labor conspiracy, the Government
24 must prove beyond a reasonable doubt, one, the existence of a
25 conspiracy; membership in the conspiracy; and the object of

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1 the conspiracy, which is, in this case, forced labor.

2 THE COURT: Again, I'm just going to remind the
3 jury, Ms. Bonjean, that the Court will be giving the legal
4 instructions and they will include that the crime of forced
5 labor conspiracy has two elements.

6 You may proceed.

7 MS. BONJEAN: Understood, Your Honor.

8 And the two elements are existence of a conspiracy
9 and membership in the conspiracy.

10 And you will also be given an instruction about
11 forced labor, which is the object of the conspiracy. But, of
12 course, the Judge will give you the instruction.

13 Okay, we can go to the next.

14 So, the first element: Existence of the conspiracy.
15 The first element that the Government must prove beyond a
16 reasonable doubt to establish the crime of forced labor
17 conspiracy is that two or more persons entered into an
18 unlawful agreement to commit forced labor. So it's the
19 agreement.

20 And the Government simply has no evidence. I mean,
21 the most, frankly, subpar evidence of a conspiracy that I
22 think you will agree when you consider it. What is their
23 evidence that there was an agreement to commit forced labor?

24 Well, they showed you that Nicole and Rachel were close.

25 Showed you lots of e-mails, testimony about Nicole was --

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1 Rachel was loyal to Nicole. There was mentions that, like,
2 Nicole was the boss and Rachel was her right hand. I think in
3 opening statements Mr. Fern called Ms. Cherwitz Nicole
4 Daedone's first lieutenant like this was, you know, they're
5 prosecuting the mafia. They worked together. There's text
6 messages where they discussed the financial health of the
7 company. They discussed the need to pay Reese Jones. They
8 did a demo together, the Stinson Beach video. All of these
9 things may show that these were individuals who were working
10 together. What it doesn't show is that there was an agreement
11 to commit forced labor. Evidence that people agreed to make
12 money, that talked about making money, that talked about in
13 engaging in pursuing their mission, none of that means
14 anything unless there's actually an agreement to do the
15 unlawful stuff. And that's the part that the Government has
16 failed to show.

17 I think the Government relied on -- I forget the
18 exhibit number, but...

19 Is it 27-D-R?

20 One second.

21 Oh. Actually, it's four -- no. 27-D-R. My
22 apologies. That's right.

23 And this was an exhibit that the Government relied
24 on and showed you.

25 And going to the second page, you may remember this

1 text exchange between Nicole Daedone and Joanna Van Vleck,
2 where it's clear that in 2016 there is some negative press
3 about OneTaste. It looks like New York Times and some other
4 article. And Ms. Daedone is discussing, you know, her, I
5 guess, frustration with it, her observations about it and then
6 talks about how to combat it. Okay?

7 The Government wants to make the argument that this
8 is evidence of a conspiracy. I mean, anyone who has worked in
9 a business, of course, knows that if a business gets bad
10 press, there's going to be discussion about it, what should we
11 do. And you will see that there is discussion about how to
12 handle the bad press. That's all this is. Meetings, talking
13 about -- having meetings people they're consulting with about
14 this. Ideas about, well, how can we move this in a direction
15 that reduces our risk?

16 And listen, 2016 was a very different time than 2006
17 in San Francisco. They are all over the world, frankly, at
18 this point. There's a cultural shift in attitudes. Of
19 course. It's a company. They're going to be discussing this.
20 This isn't evidence of intent to have committed forced labor.

21 And Ms. Daedone says, you know, maybe we should take
22 the most conservative stance, like seriously just switch to
23 just philosophy and the OM aspect can happen either for free
24 or like OMG yay. You know, in some other context because
25 obviously OMing, being what it is, was not necessarily -- at

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1 least at this time it was getting some criticism.

2 So I encourage you to look at these text messages.

3 And again, these are Government exhibits that I'm up here

4 putting up. Because I do want you to look at them and I want

5 you to remember that these are portions of text messages.

6 Emojis are even being removed. I mean, come on. An emoji can

7 change an entire context of a text. So keep that in mind when

8 you read this, if you do read these text messages when you're

9 considering them. Do I really know what is being said here?

10 Do I really know what the Government is saying I should infer

11 from this? And we would submit that a text message like this

12 where she's discussing with Joanna Van Vleck, you know, how to

13 handle bad press is not evidence of an intent. Frankly, it's

14 the opposite. This shows someone who is very devoted to this

15 product, to her work and is concerned about how it might be

16 perceived or misperceived.

17 Okay. So the second element of conspiracy is that

18 the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt to

19 establish the crime of forced labor conspiracy, that the

20 Defendant knowingly and intentionally became a member of the

21 conspiracy.

22 "Intentionally and knowingly became a member of this

23 conspiracy."

24 And the Government told you every person on this

25 board over here, on the left board, played a role in the

1 conspiracy. Well, this is a conclusory statement. You need
2 to ask yourself, what is the evidence that they played a role
3 in this conspiracy? Because it's not enough just to play a
4 role in a business.

5 In fact, you'll get an instruction that says mere
6 association with one or more members of the conspiracy does
7 not automatically make an individual a member. Mere
8 similarity of conduct or the fact -- not the fact -- that they
9 may have assembled together and discussed common aims and
10 interest does not necessarily establish membership in the
11 conspiracy.

12 That's what you're seeing. Seeing so much
13 evidence -- these are people getting together and talking
14 about common aims and interests.

15 Now, what does the Government say the evidence that
16 there were -- all these people were part of a conspiracy
17 and -- well, and that the Defendant, Ms. Daedone, joined into
18 a conspiracy with any one of these people, Ms. Cherwitz. I
19 think that's what they argued. And so, what was their
20 evidence of that?

21 Well, they argued Michal Neria, who you saw testify,
22 testified that she saw Rachel texting with Nicole about Brooke
23 and Brooke's money. Um, okay. Brooke was investing in this
24 franchise, Michal saw them texting. Okay. I mean, I don't
25 know, you can do what you want with that, but that certainly

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1 doesn't sound like evidence that would suggest that two people
2 got together to commit the act of forced labor.

3 I mean, let's look at Government Exhibit 2148-D.

4 Yes, these, these are -- this is a text message
5 between Yia Vang and Rachel Cherwitz that the Government says
6 is evidence that these individuals knowing and intentionally
7 entered this -- became members of this conspiracy.

8 And if you go to the next page.

9 Go to the next page.

10 Oh, yeah. Here's a good one. This is Yia Vang
11 making amends.

12 Now, you've heard the word "amends" through the
13 course of this trial. And this is, as you know, pulled from a
14 12-step program, that you make amends. You ask people for
15 forgiveness. That is what its purpose is. And it's not just
16 a OneTaste thing. It's really for any 12-step programs.

17 So, Yia Vang is making amends to different people in
18 her life. She's literally making amends from stealing from
19 Kmart as a child. Okay? And that's the Government's evidence
20 that there's some conspiracy going on.

21 Making amends to Rob: I didn't enjoy sex with him.
22 I withheld my heart. Secretly wished that he would penetrate
23 me, but punished him when he did.

24 My mom: She still doesn't know what I do.

25 Okay. She goes on and on making amends. Not sure

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1 what this -- how this is evidence that she entered -- that
2 Ms. Daedone was in a membership of -- was in the conspiracy
3 with Ms. Vang or Rachel Cherwitz. So that's what the
4 Government says is evidence of this conspiracy. I submit that
5 this is just meant to distract.

6 You saw so many e-mails where people -- where there
7 were lists of people who worked there, franchises,
8 consultants. There was I think an argument that Ms. Daedone,
9 there was a write-up in one of the e-mails about students and
10 these were the students in the classes giving summaries.
11 Okay, that's what they did there. This was a place about
12 wellness and pushing boundaries. Yes, they talked about --
13 this wasn't to get, like, you know, information about people
14 that they could use against them. This was the whole
15 curriculum. When people joined the courses or signed up for
16 the courses, they signed -- they filled out these applications
17 and they told some of their inner secrets because that's why
18 they were there. It was not something that was done for some
19 nefarious purpose. "My desires." You saw some of this, these
20 documents. "Why do I want to be here."

21 So, I think the Government pointed out that there
22 were no psychologists. Yes; no, there were not. And they
23 were very upfront about that. No one claimed to be a
24 psychologist. And these people didn't want a psychologist.
25 Probably many of them had psychologists. I think Michal Neria

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1 said: Yeah, I wanted this because I wanted to get off
2 antidepressants. She made that decision before. She wasn't
3 encouraged to do that. But some people wanted to start this
4 experience. They thought it could help them find some inner
5 truths, some learning.

6 What else does the Government claim was the evidence
7 that proved conspiracy? Well, they argue that because
8 Kandell, Mr. Kandell, testified that all upper leadership used
9 manipulation as a means to obtain labor, that means it's a
10 conspiracy. Well, this is not evidence that there was an
11 agreement to carry out forced labor. Mr. Kandell told you
12 right out of the gate: I do not accept that I did anything
13 illegal. And every company uses manipulations to obtain
14 labor.

15 I mean, Ashley's wearing that gorgeous green suit
16 over there that I bought her because she was up 'til about
17 2 in the morning with me. Is that manipulation? I don't
18 know. My kids manipulate me, I manipulate my kids.
19 Manipulation is a part of life. Every time you get on social
20 media, particularly in this day and age, you are being
21 manipulated into buying something, doing something, believing
22 something.

23 And Mr. Kandell gave you his definition of
24 manipulation. And by the way, I think we can all agree there
25 could be any number of definitions of manipulation, but here

1 was Mr. Kandell's definition of manipulation. And he said:
2 Manipulation was used towards a higher goal. Sometimes people
3 were pushed past their abilities, but the intention was to
4 push them to a higher goal. And that showed you that, whether
5 you agree with it or not, he did not have an intent to commit
6 forced labor with Ms. Daedone or anybody else.

7 He would not agree with the Government saying
8 Mr. Kandell admitted that manipulation and they used it for
9 forced labor. What he said is: We believed it could be a
10 good thing to push people. That's why people came to
11 OneTaste.

12 Every last time, those witnesses for the Government
13 testified: I came there to be pushed, my boundaries to be
14 pushed.

15 And I get now, they, you know, regret it or whatever
16 their feeling is about it, but that does not mean that there
17 was some intent to manipulate people into doing things they
18 did not want to do.

19 You saw other text messages. And I'm not going to
20 pull them up, but the Government had you look at this text
21 message where Ms. Van Vleck -- well, we can put up one page.
22 I'm not going to read it all to you. But it's this text
23 exchange between Ms. Van Vleck and Nicole Daedone, where
24 Nicole Daedone is narrating -- well, Ms. Van Vleck is telling
25 Ms. Daedone what Brooke is texting here.

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1 This is -- I'm sorry -- Government Exhibit 2033-V-R.
2 Sorry.

3 So it says here -- well, go to the first page. Good
4 morning. Got text back from Brooke. She's flying back from
5 Costa Rica this morning. We got some hellos in. She text me
6 when she lands back in the States. And I think this text is
7 after Ms. Gillick had parted ways.

8 And there's this back and forth where Ms. Van Vleck
9 tells Nicole Daedone what Ms. Brooke is communicating, or
10 Ms. Gillick.

11 And for one thing, there's a lot of "I love you"
12 there. Okay? I love you. And I love everyone I work with.
13 And I'm thankful for absolutely everything I learned at
14 OneTaste.

15 And Ms. Daedone responds, basically saying, oh, tell
16 her this.

17 You can go to the next page, Rich.

18 The response: Thank you for that. I want to do
19 anything I can to keep the connection feeling good, from
20 talking with Ulysses to going out to tea. I did not realize
21 there was so much internal conflict. Just as you feel
22 loved -- so much internal conflict. And just as you feel
23 loved, you don't know what to do with over here, so I --
24 there's so much internal conflict and just as you feel loved,
25 you don't know what to do with over here, so do I with you.

1 Would it feel good to get together and talk?

2 Okay. Well, the Government will tell you no, this
3 is all part of the scheme, as opposed to, you know, she feels
4 bad. Brooke has left, she's upset. And what Ms. Daedone says
5 here, through Joanna Van Vleck, is: I didn't realize you were
6 having so much conflict. I didn't know. Again, lack of
7 intent.

8 What they would be saying would be like something
9 along the lines of: Can you believe this?

10 That's not what they're saying. This is a text
11 message going back and forth.

12 And the fact that Ms. Daedone is sort of dictating
13 to Joanna is because Joanna is the one talking to Brooke.

14 And you can look at the whole thing. We don't need
15 to look at it right now. But again, these text messages that
16 the Government says is evidence of intent, I submit to you, is
17 not evidence of intent. In fact, it's evidence of lack of
18 intent.

19 One of my favorites is this one. The Government
20 argued that evidence of an agreement to commit forced labor
21 was when Aubrey Fuller, someone they have on the coconspirator
22 side, set up Dana Gill's Sugar Daddy and Red Book profiles.
23 And you remember Dana Gill, of course. This was the woman who
24 gave herself the moniker Mother Teresa of Orgasm and she was
25 one of the witnesses who talked about getting involved in sex

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1 work unrelated to OneTaste. And again, no judgment, but that
2 was her testimony. She was doing that separately from
3 OneTaste. And that's important for this reason -- and we'll
4 get to this -- these women all had significant connections
5 outside of their lives with OneTaste and this is an example of
6 one.

7 And she testified: Well, I didn't really want to
8 and Aubrey Fuller set it up for me.

9 Fully trying to push responsibility as if, you know,
10 Aubrey Fuller was just putting up the profile.

11 And Dana Gill eventually had to acknowledge: Well,
12 yes, she did it with my consent. I gave her the information.
13 I was the one that went out on the date with the sugar daddy.
14 I was the one that got paid. I was the one that did that.

15 But Ms. Gill wants to, you know, push responsibility
16 off on Aubrey Fuller, who wasn't even part of upper management
17 at the time.

18 So that's evidence of the conspiracy?

19 So, more importantly, this was not OneTaste
20 activity. Ms. Gill wants to say, oh, but it was so
21 normalized. She basically identified two or people besides
22 herself who were engaging in sex work. Okay? So she and her
23 two friends were engaging in sex work, but that's also
24 OneTaste's fault. Everything is Nicole Daedone's fault.
25 Everything is OneTaste's fault. Every decision I made is

1 OneTaste's fault.

2 And Dana Gill is the one that came from that
3 Evangelical Christian background and that she was drawn to
4 OneTaste because we didn't talk about sexuality, ultimately,
5 in our house. Okay, I mean, a lot of people do not. That's
6 OneTaste's fault, too? You know, by that logic, maybe you
7 have to sue your parents or something for having indoctrinated
8 you for not being open about sexuality. I mean, this is a
9 very slippery slope.

10 So, we looked at conspiracy and now you have to look
11 at the object of the conspiracy that the Government -- to find
12 the Defendants guilty of forced labor conspiracy, you also
13 have to find that the Government proved beyond a reasonable
14 doubt that the Defendants conspired to commit forced labor.
15 And someone cannot commit forced labor conspiracy unless they
16 knowingly and intentionally agreed to carry out every element
17 of the offense of forced labor.

18 So, let's look at the forced labor statute.

19 Oh, we missed a slide.

20 Okay. This -- you'll get this. You're going to get
21 this instruction, but I do want to read it to you because this
22 goes back to the conspiracy.

23 Mere knowledge without participation in the unlawful
24 plan is not sufficient. The fact that a person without any
25 knowledge that a crime is being committed merely happens to

1 act in a way that furthers the purposes or objectives of the
2 conspiracy does not make that person a member.

3 So, if someone is somehow helping this alleged
4 conspiracy along but they don't know they are or they don't
5 realize they are, if, you know, Rachael Hemsli is agreeing to
6 do something, but she has no idea we are -- this is all part
7 of some forced labor, forced labor scheme, that is not
8 sufficient.

9 What is necessary is that the individual must have
10 participated with knowledge of at least some of the purposes
11 or objectives of the conspiracy and with the intention of
12 aiding in the accomplishment of those unlawful ends.

13 Okay. So now we have to look closely at the forced
14 labor statute. And the Government discussed it and pulled up
15 some slides as well.

16 First, the Defendant provided or obtained the labor
17 or services of a person. And you'll get a definition about
18 labor and services. We can go to the next slide for that.

19 Labor and services of a person can be pretty much
20 everything. "Labor" means the expenditure of physical or
21 mental effort. We're all laboring in here.

22 "Service" means conduct or performance that assists
23 or benefits someone in any way. This is not very
24 controversial.

25 (Continued on the next page.)

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1 (Continuing.)

2 MS. BONJEAN: What's controversial is if you were
3 forced into it.

4 You can go back.

5 And this is where all the action is at, right
6 here. That the defendant did so through one of or any
7 combination of the following prohibited means. And the
8 first prohibited means is force, threats of force, physical
9 restraint, or threats of physical restraint to the person or
10 another person.

11 This case --

12 THE COURT: I'm sorry, Ms. Bonjean.

13 MS. BONJEAN: Yes?

14 THE COURT: I'm not sure what you're -- are you
15 purporting to refer to an instruction -- a Court's
16 instruction or something else?

17 MS. BONJEAN: Should have been.

18 THE COURT: I think you might want to take a
19 moment and --

20 MS. BONJEAN: Absolutely, Judge. I certainly
21 don't want to misstate anything.

22 THE COURT: I think you might have been looking at
23 a different page.

24 MS. BONJEAN: What's that?

25 THE COURT: I think you were looking at a

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1 different page.

2 MS. BONJEAN: Probably so.

3 Let me just read -- we were just looking at the
4 elements of forced labor and I am going to read -- we were
5 at the prohibited means section. And the first one we
6 looked at was, it has to be by force, threats of force,
7 physical restraints or threats of physical restraint against
8 the person or another person.

9 And this is not a case where there had been
10 allegations of physical force. In fact, you heard over and
11 over and over again: I wasn't forced to, nobody forced me.
12 There's certainly not evidence of physical restraint. I
13 wouldn't say I was forced, no. No one forced you to stay,
14 right? No. You said no and Daedone said okay, do you
15 remember that? Yes. Bottom line, ma'am, you were able to
16 leave OneTaste at any time, correct? Yes. There was no
17 physical force. And so after about 90 days are left, you
18 quit, right? Yes. And nobody made you do that, right? No,
19 they did not. And no one forced you to do the work trade,
20 correct? No.

21 Time and time again, every last witness who
22 testified agreed that there was certainly no physical force
23 of any kind. They had phones. They had computers. They
24 had keys to come and go as they wished. These were not
25 people locked in basements being forced to do, you know,

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1 without immigration papers. These were educated women who
2 were free to come and go. There was no force. And I submit
3 to you, ladies and gentlemen, manipulation alone is not
4 force. Manipulation is not physical force. And it's not
5 force.

6 Now, the other prohibited means is something
7 called serious harm or threats of serious harm. And what is
8 serious harm?

9 "Serious harm" means any harm, whether physical or
10 nonphysical, including psychological, financial, or
11 reputational harm -- and I would point out the Government
12 misled you on the facts, it also misled on the law, frankly,
13 during their closing remarks, because they stopped the
14 definition of serious harm right after reputational harm.

15 Remember, there was none of that part after. But
16 this is what you will be instructed on and it says: That is
17 sufficiently serious under all surrounding circumstances to
18 compel a reasonable person of the same background and in the
19 same circumstances as the alleged victim to perform or to
20 continue performing labor or services in order to avoid
21 incurring that harm.

22 It's a mouthful. And yes, serious harm can be a
23 number of things, but the important point, we submit, is
24 that it has to be sufficiently serious that would compel a
25 reasonable person of the same background and in the same

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1 circumstances as the alleged victim to perform or to
2 continue perform the labor and services, to avoid incurring
3 that harm.

4 There was nothing reasonable about thinking you
5 could not leave OneTaste. Even for the people within
6 OneTaste, it wasn't reasonable. You heard from nine people
7 and, again, this conspiracy allegedly lasted 12 years, you
8 heard they had offices all over the world, London, New York,
9 Las Vegas, et cetera, thousands of thousands of employees,
10 people who got involved with OneTaste at any level of
11 intensity they wanted to, and even under those
12 circumstances, even the people who moved into the OM
13 residences who were more emersed into a community, not just
14 working there, even if you take that as your -- the
15 circumstances, it was not reasonable. This was not
16 reasonable at all. People could leave, and they actually
17 told you they could leave. And you know what? They did
18 leave. They left. They came back. And when they did
19 leave, nothing happened. The worst that happened is, I
20 didn't get to talk to my friends anymore. Okay, that's what
21 happens. And particularly with an organization like this,
22 they're very close-knit, they have a very strong belief
23 system. Yeah, you're probably not going to be half in and
24 half out. So what, that's not a crime. That's like a lot
25 of organizations. You could compare it to churches, you

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1 could compare it to all types of things. Yeah, you don't
2 get to be only in the sorority part of the time. When you
3 are out of the sorority, you are kicked out of the sorority.
4 And guess what? You get shunned, you get shunned. You're
5 not coming to this party, you're not coming to that party,
6 and that is just life. It is not enough that these women
7 came up 15 years after the fact and said this is how I feel
8 now, reflecting on my experiences back then.

9 THE COURT: Ms. Bonjean, just let me know in the
10 next few minutes when is a good time to take a break.

11 MS. BONJEAN: Yes.

12 Let's just go on to the next slide, if we could,
13 which is the threat of serious harm. And I promise we are
14 almost done with the law stuff, but it's important for, I
15 think, for when you examine really the evidence in this
16 case.

17 THE COURT: Take your time, Ms. Bonjean. I just
18 wanted to let you know we are going to do a break.

19 MS. BONJEAN: No problem. Thank you, Your Honor.
20 It will be a good time to stop after this.

21 You have the definition of serious harm, and
22 threats of serious harm are similar.

23 In determining whether a defendant made a threat
24 of serious harm that could reasonably be believed by a
25 person, one should consider a person's physical and mental

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1 condition, age, education, training, experience,
2 intelligence, and particular vulnerabilities. A threat of
3 serious harm must be sufficient in kind or in degree to
4 cause -- some typos here -- to cause a reasonable person of
5 the same background and in the same circumstances as an
6 alleged victim to believe that there were -- was no
7 reasonable choice except to perform or to continue
8 performing labor or services for the defendant.

9 They don't even come close. In fact, their own
10 witnesses repeatedly said, I had a choice. And what did
11 they really fear? It's insane, actually. What did they
12 fear? They feared getting kicked out of the group chat,
13 that they thought was so abusive. They feared being kicked
14 out of the actual organization that they claimed was the
15 organization doing them harm.

16 Makes no sense.

17 And these were not children. These were not women
18 who didn't have education. My gosh, the educations between
19 all of them. I mean, there's women coming in here with
20 multiple Masters degrees, a doctor -- and I get it, she
21 wasn't a doctor at the time, but these were very smart
22 women. And you know what? It is absolute nonsense that
23 they didn't have support or resources with maybe -- you
24 know, I would put Max Pixley in a slightly different
25 category and we're going to talk about them individually in

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1 a little bit, but these were people that stayed connected to
2 their family and yeah, maybe they didn't want to tell their
3 families they are involved in this weird organization, but
4 that's not OneTaste saying you can't talk to your family.
5 That's yourself in a position of being, I don't want to be
6 explaining where I'm living or what I'm doing.

7 So I think we can pick it up there, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: That's fine.

9 Members of the jury, we are going to take a break
10 until 3:15 and then we will come back and Ms. Bonjean will
11 continue her argument at that time.

12 Don't talk about the case, not even among
13 yourselves -- that's okay, you can stand -- and don't talk
14 to anybody about the case, even among yourselves and keep an
15 open mind and I will see you at 3:15.

16 (Jury exits.)

17 THE COURT: I will see everyone at 3:15.

18 (Recess taken.)

19 THE COURT: We can get the jury now.

20 (Jury enters.)

21 THE COURT: Everyone may be seated.

22 And Ms. Bonjean, you may continue your argument.

23 MS. BONJEAN: Thank you.

24 Before we broke, we were looking at a slide that
25 was defining threat of serious harm. We had looked at

1 serious harm and threat of serious harm.

2 And there's also a third element of forced labor
3 that relates to knowledge. And it's not just that the
4 defendant must have used one of these prohibited means or a
5 combination of these prohibited means, but the defendant
6 must have acted knowingly. Knowingly. Okay? And this is
7 important because you heard time and time and time again
8 that these witnesses said, I didn't really want to do that.
9 We would ask, well, did you tell anybody? Did you tell
10 Ms. Daedone you didn't want to do something? No, I didn't
11 say anything. Why not? Well, I didn't want to disappoint
12 her. I didn't want to get pushed out of the inner circle.
13 I didn't want to lose an opportunity. You know, time and
14 time again, there was no communication to Ms. Daedone or
15 really anyone in the upper management staff or Ms. Cherwitz.
16 You heard the testimony over and over again.

17 THE COURT: Let me just interrupt you for one
18 moment, Ms. Bonjean. You have a slide on that says third
19 element: Knowingly.

20 The jury will take the instructions from the
21 Court, but I want to make sure that there's no confusion
22 that the crime charged has two elements: The crime of
23 forced labor conspiracy. What you are talking about now is
24 an object. There's not a third element to the crime of
25 forced labor conspiracy.

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1 MS. BONJEAN: No, there's a third element of
2 forced labor, which is the object of the conspiracy.

3 THE COURT: Yes. I want to make sure there's no
4 confusion being injected here on the legal standard. I will
5 be instructing the jury on the law.

6 MS. BONJEAN: Right.

7 THE COURT: Go ahead.

8 MS. BONJEAN: Just like --

9 THE COURT: Go ahead, go ahead, please.

10 MS. BONJEAN: We could talk about the
11 prosecution --

12 THE COURT: Go ahead, please.

13 MS. BONJEAN: Okay.

14 I don't think you're very confused, but if you
15 are, you'll follow the judge's advice --

16 THE COURT: Not advice. Instructions. The judge
17 will be giving instructions. Not advice.

18 MS. BONJEAN: Okay.

19 THE COURT: You may continue, Ms. Bonjean.

20 MS. BONJEAN: I will.

21 So the object of the conspiracy is forced labor.
22 And you will get these instructions. But, yes, Ms. Daedone
23 and Ms. Cherwitz, either defendant, must have acted
24 knowingly, in both the conspiracy -- in the conspiracy, as
25 well. You can't inadvertently or you can't accidentally

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1 cause serious harm or accidentally get into a conspiracy.

2 Now, you've heard from the witnesses and, again,
3 they took the stand and they admitted they were free to
4 leave, that they could leave. Time and time again they told
5 you I have friends outside, sometimes, yes, most of my
6 friends were in OneTaste, but I had jobs outside, I went on
7 vacations with my family sometimes, I went to holidays with
8 my family sometimes, I went to massages and manis and
9 pedicures and I did all these things and the reason this is
10 important is because the Government wants you to believe
11 that these people were isolated. They were not isolated.
12 They may have chose to be in community with their friends,
13 but they were not isolated. No one prevented them from
14 keeping their friendships, from working at the cafe, from
15 taking that three-month course in aerial silk arts. That's
16 not isolation.

17 And the witnesses, self-serving accounts, 15 years
18 later, when they are telling you how they feel now, looking
19 back, can never amount to serious harm. It's reflection.
20 What matters is whether there was serious harm and they were
21 compelled to stay in their situation at the time. And what
22 they're telling you is, no, 15 years later, I think I was
23 brainwashed or something of that nature.

24 And you know why the Government can never meet its
25 burden? Because reasonable people of the same background

1 would simply not be compelled to OM or have sex with
2 customers or jerk off Reese Jones unless they agreed to it.
3 And the type of pressure that they -- that was placed on
4 them was not the type of pressure, wasn't sufficiently
5 harmful to keep them in that place or that condition. And
6 you know why we know this? Because when they did say no,
7 they had no problem saying no. They left. Sometimes they
8 came back. And the only consequence anyone can point to is,
9 hmm, I feel like I let someone down, I feel like people were
10 mad at me, et cetera.

11 Now, you can use your common sense, obviously, in
12 making these determinations, but sufficiently serious under
13 all circumstances to compel a reasonable person of the same
14 background in the same circumstances as the alleged victim
15 to perform or continue to perform labor and services in
16 order to avoid incurring the harm, is that standard. It's a
17 reasonable person standard with consideration of the
18 background of the person and the circumstances.

19 Now, I do want to talk about some of the factors
20 that the threats of serious harm instruction identifies.

21 If we could go back to that.

22 You will receive an instruction that you can
23 consider a person's physical and mental conditions, age,
24 education, training, experience, intelligence, and
25 particular vulnerabilities, okay? And, again, it has to be

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1 reasonable -- a reasonable person, but you can consider
2 these things.

3 So let's talk about these complaining witnesses
4 for a second. These were women in their twenties, mid to
5 late twenties, sometimes earlier twenties, but not
6 teenagers, not children. Physically in good shape. Some of
7 them had talked about sort of coming in with certain things
8 in their background. Lianna Lifson talked about having been
9 in a sexually abusive relationship, she talked about. And
10 one of the reasons she wanted to come to OneTaste was to
11 explore that. This was not a secret.

12 Some of the other things the Court -- or you may
13 want to look to. Age, we talked about that. Education.
14 These were highly educated women. They all had educations,
15 training, clearly intelligence, experience in life. And the
16 Government suggests that they had particular
17 vulnerabilities. Certainly Max Pixley, you know, has --
18 came up, you know, in difficult circumstances. She talked
19 about being orphaned. But the rest of these women, you
20 know, what are their particular vulnerabilities? They came
21 from loving families, most of them -- all of them with the
22 exception of Max Pixley, talked about how, yeah, they got
23 distanced from their family from time to time, you know,
24 Dana Gill, for example, told you, you know, she separated
25 herself because of the religious dogma that she was exposed

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1 to. Many of them had drug problems when they came into
2 OneTaste and they, you know, afterwards, they didn't have a
3 drug problem. Seems like a good thing.

4 But there was nothing, particular vulnerabilities
5 that's inconsistent with really anybody we might know. The
6 Government wants to tell you that these women didn't have
7 age -- because they were so fragile. No, they weren't.
8 They weren't that fragile. And you saw that. And just
9 because 15 years later they are here treating the witness
10 stand as a therapy couch does not mean that they were
11 particularly vulnerable or that their mental condition
12 prevented them from leaving OneTaste or having the strength
13 to distance themselves from OneTaste.

14 Now, the Government used -- there's a bunch of
15 buzzwords. You heard the Government identify sort of
16 different tactics that they claim were all used, this -- you
17 know, that have all types of different meanings,
18 indoctrination. I think what they're saying there is like
19 brainwashing, but we already talked about this earlier.
20 Ideas, thoughts, mind -- there was no mind control, these
21 were teachings Ms. Daedone gave, and you can accept it or
22 leave it and these people had the absolute power to do so,
23 they could walk out the door if they didn't like what they
24 were hearing.

25 You remember Becky Halpern, this is the young

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1 woman who lived in Westchester, loving family, educated,
2 worked in the family business, didn't like the family
3 business, she started going to classes, she left, she came
4 back, she knew exactly what she was getting into. No one
5 forced her to stay, she says that. She was one of the first
6 who testified on direct. If you remember, she talked about
7 how she felt so pressured to buy the Coaching Program from
8 Rachel and -- but when you looked at her e-mail, which is in
9 evidence, she was asserting herself, saying, you know what,
10 I don't really think I want to take this, it's a little
11 overwhelming, et cetera. And she ends up going to CP5 and
12 she admits -- she gets on the stand and tells this funny
13 story about how when she panicked, you know what she did?
14 She closed down her checking account. She closed down her
15 checking account. And then you know what she did? She
16 reopened it. So she paid twice. She not only thought to
17 herself, oh, I'm a little overwhelmed, let me not pay for
18 this. But then she reassessed and paid twice. And she even
19 said and admitted from the witness stand that Rachel didn't
20 even have to try that hard. So when she came in here and
21 told you otherwise, that was not entirely truthful story.
22 It just wasn't.

23 What else do we know about Becky Halpern? And
24 listen, I want to point out, sometimes people remember
25 things differently. It doesn't necessarily mean someone's

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1 completely lying or anything of that nature, but this is the
2 problem with people testifying about their reflections from
3 things 15 years earlier.

4 If you remember from Becky Halpern, when she
5 finished her Coaching Program, she basically said, this was
6 fantastic, I found -- the man I was with, I found my
7 husband, and it was a positive experience.

8 Now, Becky Halpern and, you know, there's so many
9 quotes, but we pulled out a few here. This was someone who
10 really loved the practice and wanted to be part of that
11 culture, she said, very much. You remember she talked about
12 The Morellino -- we don't need to look at all these
13 documents again. You have them available. But it was no
14 secret what was going on at The Morellino and what you were
15 signing up for. None whatsoever.

16 In fact, why don't we just pull out 3500-W-12 as a
17 reminder, and look at the Rules of Play.

18 I mean, it could not be more clear what people
19 were signing up for and what they were moving into. And the
20 Government wants to conflate community with OneTaste, the
21 organization. And honestly, it's pretty easy to do. I
22 mean, those lines got blurred. You were living amongst your
23 coworkers, you were living in community, you were living
24 with your bosses. But a lot of what these people did, they
25 would have been doing because they were part of the

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1 community. They lived in community. And, in fact, the
2 Morellino handbook says part of being in here is doing
3 service for the system. That's what they signed up for.
4 They wanted that. And that's why they did it and that's why
5 no one needed to force them to do it. Because they had
6 wanted to work back of house. They loved going to these
7 courses. And yeah, there were some things they were like, I
8 didn't like to do that so much. But again, there's a lot of
9 things you do in your life, you look back and say I didn't
10 really enjoy that very much.

11 So OneTaste and this OM residence was very clear
12 that this was intended for adults. Spiritual, emotional,
13 psychological and physical adults. You are moving in
14 because you want something, a deeper sense of your orgasm,
15 actualization, and connection. The nature of this work is
16 that, on your path to search for these things, you will be
17 confronted. At some point, you'll probably want to blame
18 the people around you for your experience. You'll most
19 likely be up against your demons. We find that these rules
20 of play help us remember, that we are coming into the house
21 as fully volitional beings ready to take responsibility for
22 our own experiences.

23 Right? And for them to come now, 15 years later,
24 and say, oh, I didn't really know what I was doing and
25 people gave me the thumb's up or the thumb's down and I felt

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1 shamed. I mean, you know, you've got to really look at what
2 is alleged was the serious harm that caused them to stay
3 that they never communicated to anybody.

4 Looking at -- another thing about Becky Halpern.
5 She testified, of course, that at one point her father came
6 to a lecture. She wants to say she was brainwashed, but you
7 cannot brainwash people who are free to come and go. The
8 whole purpose of brainwashing is that you keep them isolated
9 so they can't hear other people say, hey, that's crazy, you
10 shouldn't do that. That is the purpose of isolation. So
11 you -- and these women are using that word very loosely.

12 Now -- and on this isolation thing, we were
13 talking about it. I mean, so many of them had these lives
14 outside of OneTaste. And yeah, it's true, they probably
15 spent most of their time in their OneTaste community, but
16 they went to AA and other 12-step programs and the
17 Government says, okay, they were forced to go to AA. Okay,
18 well, think about this for a second. If you've ever been to
19 AA, I have not, but think about the fact that this AA
20 program was run by non-OneTaste people. They are getting
21 messages -- some people think AA is sort of its own cult.
22 They are getting messages from people outside of OneTaste.
23 Why would OneTaste, if they wanted to isolate someone so
24 that they could have no contact in the rest of the world to
25 mess with their heads and engage in mind control send people

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1 to a whole different organization where they're going to get
2 entirely different messages? What's the sense of that? Why
3 let them work outside at the cafes or other organizations?
4 Why let Ms. Gillick go to San Francisco and have a whole
5 nother company she runs? Why? That makes no sense. Nobody
6 was trying to isolate them. And if they disconnected
7 themselves from their family for whatever reason because
8 they were -- you know, didn't want to talk about where they
9 were living and what they were doing, that's on them.
10 That's not because of OneTaste. But they're going to come
11 in here and say -- you know, Christina Berkley was a great
12 example. I didn't tell her. My parents were like strict
13 Romanian immigrants. You didn't tell them. OneTaste didn't
14 tell you not to tell your parents that you were involved in
15 OneTaste.

16 Let's talk about Christina Berkley for a second.
17 She's a woman from the Warehouse days. She was associated
18 with OneTaste for like seven years. She's the one that went
19 out and started her own competing business. This is the
20 woman that was educated, went to McGill, was married to a
21 professor. And then she decided she didn't -- I think her
22 words were, I just didn't want to be a professor's wife.
23 She loved the Warehouse. And you know what? It's okay, you
24 don't want to be a professor's wife, so you chose a
25 different path.

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1 Excuse me one second, I'm going to get some water.

2 (Pause in proceedings.)

3 MS. BONJEAN: And she's the one who told you she
4 knew she was giving up two salaries when she went to the
5 Warehouse, she had two salaries, lived a good life. She
6 understood this isn't a place where I'm going to be making a
7 lot of money, but I still want in. And it's not because
8 anyone told her to.

9 Now, what did she say about the experience she had
10 there? On cross-examination, I asked her, I asked her to
11 specifically identify what was the coercion? What was it?
12 And she said she didn't like that there was some
13 interference with her desire to have a relationship with
14 this fellow, Isaac, which, oh, by the way, if you listen to
15 her testimony, she went ahead and had a relationship with
16 Isaac. I mean, she didn't really take the advice and no one
17 interfered, she ultimately did it.

18 She talked about a circumstance where Ms. Daedone
19 apparently suggested -- and I don't even think she said
20 Ms. Daedone, but somebody else suggested this guy Brian Bert
21 be her research partner, but she went out on a date with him
22 and she didn't like him. She went out with him. And do you
23 know what she did? She wasn't a research partner with him.
24 She said no.. she said no. And do you know what happened?
25 Absolutely nothing. Other than maybe Ms. Daedone made some

1 comment in a group setting, you know, well, if you really
2 want to be engaged in OneTaste or in our program, maybe you
3 should accept our research partners or our suggestions for
4 research partners. That's it. That's it. She stayed seven
5 more years.

6 What else did she say? I was shamed. Humiliated
7 publicly. And I pressed her. What was the humiliation?
8 What was it? Well, there was this process where everybody
9 voted on whether you could stay in the Warehouse. Okay.
10 Everybody went through that process? Yes. And then they
11 gave you a thumb's up or a thumb's down. That was the
12 shame.

13 Okay. I mean, that was their process, but if you
14 didn't like it and you were shamed by it and you thought
15 that these people were real jerks for it, you know what?
16 Maybe you decide this isn't for me. But no. And now, what
17 is it, we're like two decades later and that thumb's up and
18 thumb's down is her example of the shaming that compelled
19 her to stay for seven years? I don't think so.

20 Now, I want to go back to -- let's see. We pulled
21 up some quotes here.

22 She says right here: Isn't it true, Ms. Berkley,
23 that you had no regrets about OneTaste and would do it
24 again? OneTaste felt like a choice.

25 Answer: True.

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1 She's saying that today.

2 Question: You said no and Daedone said okay. Do
3 you remember that?

4 Yes.

5 No one forced you to leave your husband and that
6 second income, correct?

7 It felt like my choice.

8 Compelled? I think not.

9 You can go back to the Halpern one.

10 This quote, I mean, she spent two days on the
11 stand crying and at the end, she's asked: And now you look
12 back and you regret your time, at least in part, at
13 OneTaste, right?

14 That is a big oversimplification.

15 Is that a yes?

16 No.

17 So you don't regret it?

18 No. I actually don't regret it.

19 THE COURT: Quiet please.

20 MS. BONJEAN: So we had to listen for three days
21 of testimony and in the end, you didn't really regret it?

22 All right.

23 THE COURT: I'm just going to remind anyone
24 sitting in the public section of the courtroom, no speaking,
25 no -- nothing audible. Sound carries. It's inappropriate.

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1 And you will be asked to leave if you are making noise.

2 You may continue, Ms. Bonjean.

3 MS. BONJEAN: Thank you.

4 I want to stop here. And I do want to talk,
5 obviously, about Reese Jones. Let's talk about Reese Jones.

6 Now, this is Reese Jones and Nicole here. And the
7 Government spent a lot of time talking about how Reese Jones
8 was an investor. Yeah. That's not in dispute. He was an
9 investor. He was Nicole Daedone's boyfriend. They had a
10 very long-standing relationship. It is also not true -- it
11 is also not untrue, it is true, actually, that he invested
12 in the company and at one point, she wanted to pay him back.
13 Absolutely true. We didn't need to look at two hours of FBI
14 exhibits or two hours of FBI testimony reading text messages
15 for that point.

16 The question is whether or not what Christina
17 Berkley, Michelle Wright, and Dana Gill did in terms of
18 their handling of Reese Jones was done either because of a
19 threat of serious harm or whether they agreed to it and
20 consented to it. And the Government wants to shock the
21 conscious of this one. They talked ad nauseam about these
22 scenes and, you know, putting dildos up people's asses. And
23 every single time the people came into this courtroom,
24 including those women who now, understandably regret it,
25 they said that they agreed to it. And whether it makes

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1 sense to us or not, they told you they agreed.

2 And yes, some of them said I didn't get paid for
3 this service, but, again, they agreed and they never
4 complained or objected. And you know what happened?
5 Michelle Wright told you, when I did object and said no, she
6 surmised that Nicole was not happy with her. But guess
7 what? She went about her business and didn't do it anymore.
8 Now, maybe it was transactional in some way. They wanted to
9 be closer to Nicole, they thought it was some type of sweet
10 gig that they could do this. You've got to remember,
11 they're already living in a community where there's all
12 types of sexual activity going on and experimenting with
13 people -- not just with your boyfriend or people -- this is
14 the nature of this community. But maybe it was a sweet gig,
15 I mean, living in Reese Jones 'fancy house. I don't know.
16 But the reality is Christina Berkeley -- I think we have a
17 quote up from her.

18 And that was something you were excited about,
19 right?

20 Answer: Yes.

21 That was something you wanted to do, correct?

22 Answer: Yes.

23 When Michelle Wright gave testimony about this,
24 she was asked by the Government: How did you become Reese
25 Jones' handler?

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1 And what she said was: Nicole asked my partner
2 Maddie and I to do the job. Now, the Government repeatedly
3 asked the question, did anyone direct you -- they like the
4 word direct. But what Michelle said was I was asked.

5 And then she was asked: What was your
6 understanding at the time of what Nicole was asking you to
7 do?

8 Answer: I knew there was sexual things involved
9 because I knew that other members of the staff were doing
10 that for him.

11 So again, no bait and switch. This was part of
12 it.

13 You remember Christina Berkley, she told you that
14 Nicole and Reese were sitting at a table or somewhere and
15 Nicole said, you know, how good are you at sucking cock or
16 something of that nature, if you remember that. And it was
17 clear in that moment and she testified, I knew exactly what
18 I was getting into. Reese Jones was right there.

19 And with Michelle Wright, she was asked: Did you
20 ever express to Nicole Daedone during this time that you did
21 not want to engage in a sexual act with Reese?

22 Answer: Not until the very end, I think. For the
23 most or the meat of that experience, I did not.

24 And Dana Gill said the same thing. She agreed to
25 it. Nobody forced her. She agreed. And at no point did

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1 any one of these women say to Nicole, I don't want to do
2 this. And when Michelle Wright did, she didn't do it
3 anymore.

4 Now, I get it, it's distasteful, it's unsavory,
5 it's troubling, but it does not make it forced labor if it
6 was not done under serious harm or threats of serious harm.
7 Period. And no, being asked to do something by someone you
8 admire or you see as some type of, you know, spiritual guru,
9 does not mean that you are compelled to say yes. And we
10 know this because these women did say no. It wasn't yes,
11 yes, yes, yes, yes. They did say no.

12 And also, Ms. Daedone -- and they knew this, they
13 testified about this, what did you think would happen if you
14 said no, probably find someone else, it was a coveted
15 position. So it's unsavory, it's scandalous, but it was not
16 forced.

17 Speaking of Dana Gill, many of these women were
18 asked if they left OneTaste, you know, in debt. They came
19 to OneTaste in debt and they left in debt some of them. Not
20 all of them. And Dana Gill was someone who worked, I think,
21 in the kitchen. She did a lot of work trade. The
22 Government talks about how some of these people didn't get
23 paid well or at all.

24 Well, many of them agreed to work for work trade.
25 They wanted to be part of this community and they were

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1 getting compensated in two ways: Through room and board,
2 through food, and through taking courses that they wanted to
3 take.

4 And Dana Gill was one of those people. Now, you
5 heard a little testimony from the defense star witness,
6 Antonios, and the purpose of his testimony in part relates
7 to Dana Gill, because he testified on direct that he was
8 directed -- and I don't know if it was Ms. Daedone or
9 somebody else in upper management -- to go have sex with him
10 because he was talking about leaving the Coaching Program.

11 And this is why you just can't trust this
12 testimony and whether it's memory or whether it's lying,
13 doesn't matter. Because he told you and he had no reason to
14 lie about this, said: Yeah, I had a sexual encounter with
15 her that first weekend at the Coaching Program and I didn't
16 see her again and I didn't even decide to even -- I wasn't
17 even thinking about leaving the Coaching Program until three
18 months later. So it is impossible that that was the reason
19 Dana Gillport was having sexual relations with him. It was
20 not because somebody said, oh, he's thinking about leaving
21 the program. It's just not accurate.

22 Lianna Lifson. This was -- oh, I'm sorry, you can
23 go back to that.

24 These are some questions. We talked about Dana
25 Gillport a little earlier, but she was asked: When you told

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1 people at OneTaste that you were moving out, they just let
2 you go, right? Yeah. Each time you left, you made a choice
3 to come back and keep associating with OneTaste, right?

4 Answer: Yes.

5 And that reminds me, something else about Dana
6 Gillport. She left and moved in with her boyfriend for like
7 a whole year. And then she came back. I guess she had this
8 very -- a distressing miscarriage. And where does she come
9 after this distressing event? She came back to OneTaste.
10 But remember, she left and was with a boyfriend in a whole
11 nother apartment and was not connected really or at least
12 strongly connected with OneTaste at that point. I mean, how
13 do you hold someone in isolation when they're in their own
14 apartment? You know what else she told you? She was
15 involved in her church when she was at OneTaste. What type
16 of brainwashing cult would say, sure, you can go hang out at
17 your church where you're getting all these other
18 philosophies? She even talked about seeing a therapist. No
19 one said you can't see a therapist. We'll get to that with
20 Ms. Gillick. But again -- and she worked outside of
21 OneTaste. There were plenty of opportunities in community
22 she was working in. Her coworkers outside. Her church
23 members. Her therapist. She was going to, I think, Walt
24 Disney World, I think she testified that some of these
25 people were not OneTaste people. She was working in the sex

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1 industry with people and customers and other people
2 unrelated to OneTaste.

3 So it makes you ponder, how do you get brainwashed
4 when you have all of this access to the rest of the world?

5 Lianna Lifson. This was -- Ms. Lifson, as you may
6 recall, in 2008, moved to San Francisco for some type of
7 teaching job, she was a teacher. She quickly quit. And she
8 told you that she had hoped OneTaste would be able to
9 address her challenges with connecting sexually because she
10 had gotten involved in sort of this dark world of BDSM at a
11 young age, was with a sexually violent man who had drug and
12 alcohol issues. That's what she told you. What's amazing
13 is she admitted that she looked up, Googled OneTaste before
14 she even got involved and she said, yeah, I knew it was BS,
15 I knew it was a cult. Sign right up.

16 She admitted that she was never directed to share
17 a room. She also had her parents, her father come listen to
18 a lecture of some type. She had clients -- she did some
19 writing projects, she had clients outside of OneTaste. She
20 admitted that in 2010 she sent an e-mail expressing deep
21 gratitude to OneTaste in part for giving her financial
22 stability. She complained about how, I think, Rob Kandell
23 had directed her to do some make-out session with a guy
24 named Toby, but admitted -- I didn't tell him, though, I
25 didn't want to do it. She was deeply involved. She ended

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1 up being the lead director in Boulder. She admitted that
2 she didn't have a great work ethic. There was a lot of talk
3 about -- they were on the text exchanges, group text
4 messages constantly. Okay, silence your phone. Silence
5 your phone. It's that simple. It really is that simple.
6 And if you get in trouble for it, then -- then quit. That's
7 what a reasonable person does. But she was very clear.

8 You could have just said I'm quitting, correct? I
9 could have at that point.

10 And nobody made you do that, right?

11 No, they did not.

12 Question: But at any point, you could have called
13 him up and said, you know what, this is not working for me
14 anymore, I want to come home and your family would have
15 taken you back, right?

16 Yeah, they probably would have.

17 These are people that could have -- their families
18 would have been there for them right away.

19 Max Pixley we talked about, lovely young -- she
20 was Margaret Pixley, now Max Pixley. She was a doctor. And
21 she is the one that seems to have the most difficult
22 childhood, but also seemed to be the most honest about her
23 experience. That was -- that's incredible. She was candid.
24 She said.

25 Question: And at any day, through whatever period

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1 of time that you lived there, you could have walked out the
2 door and not come back, correct?

3 Yes, and eventually that's essentially what I did.

4 Question: You could have done it at any point
5 leading up to the time you actually did it, right?

6 Yes. I'm a person with free will.

7 So the person that had the most amount of
8 childhood trauma, arguably, is the one who's freely
9 acknowledging I had free will, I could have gone -- and
10 yeah, she complained about some of the OneTaste -- what it
11 was like to live there and she had complaints about it and
12 she expressed how she felt about it. Again, it was a lot
13 of, you know, people expressing their feelings as if a
14 criminal prosecution is the place to do that, but in any
15 event, she still came back to this, I had free will. And
16 they all did.

17 Michelle Wright. This was another person who
18 became involved. She came to OneTaste. Ended up living
19 with -- at 1080 Folsom. She was one of the San Francisco
20 women. And she talked about how she was in a relationship
21 with Maddie Carl. And Ms. Carl was -- got involved with
22 OneTaste along with their friends Aubrey Fuller. And
23 Michelle said that she was kind of upset because she wasn't
24 immediately accepted into 1080 Folsom. And part of that,
25 she testified about how Rachel said some unkind things and

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1 questioned whether she was a fit. It doesn't really matter,
2 you know, whether Rachel was kind all the time. But the
3 point is, is that, yeah, they didn't hide the point that
4 they did not want people there who were not onboard for what
5 this community, living in community around orgasm meant.
6 And, again, that is their right. And they wanted to make
7 sure that if you were moving in to one of these communal
8 residences, you knew what you were getting into. You don't
9 need anyone who's going to come in and be like, whoa, what
10 happened? So they worked really hard to vet people. And I
11 guess, for whatever reason, they didn't immediately know if
12 Michelle Wright was a fit, but eventually she was and she
13 moved in. And again, she has a lot of pent-up, obviously,
14 emotion, about her time there. I think it has probably more
15 to do with her relationship with various people. She felt
16 that there was interfering in her relationship.

17 At the end of the day, she, too, admitted she was
18 thereof her own free will. She felt manipulated at times.
19 But she did not express an objection to the circumstances
20 under which she was working, living, and even in connection
21 with Reese Jones, she didn't say that. And some of her
22 quotes:

23 Question: You wanted to be there, correct?

24 I did.

25 And you wanted to do that work, right?

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1 Answer: I did.

2 And no one forced you to do the work trade,
3 correct?

4 And you remember also she told us this story about
5 how devastated she was and how unhappy she was in Las Vegas
6 and then she felt that there was this incident where she was
7 asked to have a sexual encounter with Reese Jones and she
8 said no and then she felt that --

9 Go back.

10 And she tries to tie it to the fact that, you
11 know, I was fired then several months later, but she stayed
12 in the homes with OneTaste. She then goes to Los Angeles
13 and she tried to tell all of you that she was underweight,
14 she was looking so bad, she was sick, she had cystic acne,
15 she was over weight, she looked at crap, she didn't feel
16 well.

17 We looked at a bunch of pictures where they looked
18 fantastic, frankly. And she looked happy in Los Angeles and
19 yes, of course, a picture doesn't really tell you what's
20 going on inside of somebody, but she stayed in the OneTaste
21 community. She did not get ex-communicated. She just lost
22 her job. She wasn't performing in Las Vegas. And that is
23 an adverse consequence to not performing well, that is
24 appropriate.

25 So you can compare these two pictures. One is

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1 like when she is in OneTaste and one is allegedly in Los
2 Angeles when she's left and, you know, I think she looks
3 better when she went to Los Angeles, but that's for you to
4 decide. I do not think her testimony was very compelling on
5 that point. You will decide for yourself. She may have
6 been disappointed that she lost her job? Vegas, but she
7 didn't have -- you know, that she was separated from her
8 relationship with Maddie because Maddie went to New York.
9 Those are all legitimate complaints, but it is not serious
10 harm or threats of serious harm that force you to do work
11 that you otherwise wouldn't.

12 We're getting to the end, here.

13 Michal Neria. This is the woman who went to,
14 like, one to two TurnON events and then went, like, full
15 force into OneTaste, abandoned her lease and her dog and
16 decided I'm just going to move into this OM house and she
17 was all in. This is the woman that said she went to her
18 grandfather's funeral and she had recently started either
19 working or was in the community with OneTaste or her phone
20 was blowing up. She was on a group chat. And what she said
21 was I didn't silence my phone essentially because I was
22 interested, I wanted to be part of that. That's not forcing
23 you. That's you having fomo. I mean, having fomo isn't
24 serious harm.

25 She talked about how she ended up getting in a

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1 relationship with this Misha guy and she want -- remember,
2 this is the woman, she takes no responsibility, none.
3 Marries a man because she is under some impression that, you
4 know, people are getting married now in OneTaste. And
5 Ms. Daedone was in a monogamous relationship and they're all
6 taking their cues from her. But nonetheless, she's out here
7 buying rings, you see photos. She gets engaged. She says
8 she's a little upset because he does it in public. But
9 during that month before she gets married, she's never like,
10 hey, slow down, I don't want to get married, okay? And this
11 is -- this is the woman who, if you recall, thinks they were
12 all witches or that they said they were witches. And when I
13 asked, I said, do you really think that they think they're
14 witches? 100 percent. Absolutely.

15 Didn't know you were at the Brooklyn witch trials,
16 did you?

17 But at the same time, she -- again, you know,
18 there's just no evidence that she was there against -- being
19 compelled to be there or being compelled to work.

20 Question: Now this was -- this is the witch
21 comment, we don't need to go back to that. Each and every
22 one of these things was offered to me and, yes, I made the
23 choice, too. When she was asked about threats, she said:
24 No, they did not come from threat. It came from a desire to
25 heal. She had supportive parents, parents who did not want

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1 her there, so she could have left at any point.

2 This was someone who told you that she was very
3 interested. She learned about OneTaste through -- when she
4 was at some yoga three months studying somewhere. And
5 there's just no evidence that this woman was compelled to
6 work there. She was on the sales force for a while. She
7 didn't do very well. And she left. Wasn't even there very
8 long.

9 Anthia Gillick. You remember her. This was the
10 woman that ultimately bought a franchise. That, when asked
11 about some of the ways in which she suffered serious harm or
12 was compelled, I think one of her complaints was that we
13 always had to go to Bikram yoga as opposed to, what, Vinyasa
14 or something. That was really like the extent of it. This
15 is the woman that denied over and over that she could travel
16 or see her friends, but, oh, she's going to Fiji, she's
17 going to San Francisco, she's going to the Hamptons. She's
18 the one who told you she was told that she couldn't see a
19 doctor, but meanwhile she's confronted with evidence where
20 she -- where she does talk about getting injured on her
21 aerial silks, and to say, my mom was there, I fell, but I'm
22 going out still. And then admitting that, oh, yeah, guys,
23 I'm at the doctors. Going to get manis and pedis. Going to
24 the acupuncturist. But she's up here saying we couldn't do
25 any of that. (Continued on the following page.)

Summation - Bonjean

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1 MS. BONJEAN: (Continuing) She testified that
2 Rachel Cherwitz, when her father died, sent a handler with
3 her. And this was not just -- this was Klaus. This was her
4 friend. The person she wanted to live with. It was a kind
5 thing. And she brought the franchise.

6 She consulted an accountant. She consulted her
7 mother. She's, she's -- she didn't -- nobody told her she had
8 to buy a franchise. In fact, you heard testimony where I
9 confronted her with messages with Ms. Daedone in which before
10 she signed the paperwork, Ms. Daedone said, Hey, you sure you
11 want to do this? She admitted that. She was all in. And
12 even this story, again, meant to shock and awe.

13 She talked about this class she went to where there
14 was this, really what is like aversion therapy. She did this
15 re-rape situation. And to her credit, she acknowledged that
16 she planned it. And that was not even a course that was
17 taught by Ms. Daedone, by the way. She didn't blame anyone
18 for it. She said she did it. She thought it was powerful.
19 She wrote in her journal that she got so much out of it.

20 And now, again, ten years later, she says from the
21 witness stand, Eh, I don't think it was the best way to handle
22 my trauma. Okay, yeah, I kind of agree, but it doesn't mean
23 that when you did it, you didn't choose to do it and it
24 doesn't mean you were forced to do it or compelled to do it.

25 I mean, you know, this is -- it's, frankly, you

Summation - Bonjean

5202

1 know, ridiculous. Everybody can look back at experiences in
2 their lives. They can look at relationships, marriages, all
3 types of things where they felt manipulated, where they felt
4 like they were taken advantage, where they felt like they did
5 things the other wives wouldn't have done, where they invested
6 time, where they didn't want to leave, where they grappled
7 with do I want to leave this guy, we were done within 5 years,
8 we share a house, all of those things are normal. That is
9 life, life, life, life. But you don't come in 15 years later
10 and say, Hmm, I just had no free will and I was just coerced
11 by, you know -- again, really, there's just no evidence of
12 what the actual coercion is. I know there's a lot of terms
13 being bandied about, but at the end of the day, this is not
14 reasonable. Reasonable people do not respond to a thumb's up,
15 thumb's down by staying in a company for seven years. Okay?
16 That's not reasonable.

17 And then Ms. Gillick was actually pretty forthcoming
18 ultimately.

19 She said: I understand.

20 But you chose to live at OneTaste, right?

21 Yes.

22 You understood that the community, the intentional
23 community was based around the practice of OM, right?

24 Yes.

25 No, no questions there. And she didn't even work

Summation - Bonjean

5203

1 for OneTaste. She ended up buying a full franchise.

2 And I think even after she departed, we looked at a
3 text message where, between she and Ms. Daedone which we don't
4 have to read the whole thing. I think the government showed
5 it to you in closing.

6 My apologies. I got mixed up.

7 We looked at a text message from Michelle Wright,
8 it's in evidence, Michelle Wright telling Ms. Daedone -- and
9 you can look at it. This was not someone who was indicating
10 in any way how displeased or unhappy she was. And this is
11 when she's allegedly as unhappy as she can possibly be. It's
12 not what she's communicating. And, again, this goes back to
13 Ms. Daedone's intent, knowledge. She's not a mind reader.
14 She tells her, Thank you for seeing me and guiding me.

15 And then lastly, Lyndsi Keves who was there, I
16 think, four months. I mean I don't know how brainwashed you
17 can get in four months when you -- but I'm not even sure what
18 the point of her testimony was because she, she literally does
19 not claim that she was compelled or forced to do anything.
20 Nothing. She's here to complain about OneTaste.

21 Bottom line, ma'am, you were able to leave OneTaste
22 at any time, correct?

23 Yes.

24 And so after about 90 days or less, you quit, right?

25 So, in totality, it's the same story over and over

Summation - Bonjean

5204

1 and over again. And it's not enough to just say, Oh, they're
2 saying it; therefore, it must be true.

3 Two things. One, they're saying it 15 years later,
4 that they were compelled, that they were being shamed, that
5 they were being bullied, that they were, you know, whatever
6 they're saying. But beyond that, you have to determine
7 whether it's reasonable. Was it reasonable. No, it's not
8 reasonable. It's not reasonable.

9 If what really happened impacted them the way they
10 say it is now, they would have left. These women do not
11 actually get as much credit as they should because they did
12 have agency. I refuse to believe and the evidence doesn't
13 show that they did not have free agency. It may be convenient
14 now because whatever they're feeling, to take on some other
15 identity, but they had free will then and they demonstrated it
16 in ways that you can see, including leaving.

17 Okay. We are nearing the end.

18 I do want to have -- there was one -- I want to have
19 you look at a text exchange that the government used, 2030-D.
20 And you heard something about, you heard some things about
21 Aries Blanck. And Ms. Gillick, I believe, told you she saw
22 some observations about her.

23 Now, I don't think it's lost on you that you have
24 not have heard any testimony from Ayries Blanck. And I guess
25 the government wants you to make assumptions, but she didn't

1 come here and testify, you don't know her story, and all we
2 know is that she, you know, she did eventually leave.

3 And the government points to this one e-mail or text
4 exchange identified as 2030-D which, by the way, is between
5 Joanna Van Vleck and this guy Kenan Wang which nobody's heard
6 of either.

7 And I want to remind you because I think it's
8 important, the government went through this on their closing
9 argument but they didn't reiterate this, that Kenan Wang, what
10 he says, you may not consider for the truth. Okay? This was
11 just for context. The Court gave a limiting instruction on
12 this at the time this evidence was received. You will get
13 another limiting instruction when you go back to the jury room
14 with the jury instructions.

15 And as to Joanna Van Vleck, portions are also not
16 considered for the truth and I'll point them out to you.

17 So she says to Kenan: I got a secret to tell you.
18 And on the first page, she says: I'm sitting with Nick. Can
19 only text.

20 The government wants you to believe, of course, that
21 Nicole is privy to this. It's not clear. If someone says,
22 I'm sitting with Nick, I can only text, maybe it is not
23 something that is being shared with Nick but, again, this just
24 goes to the point of very hard to read in between the lines in
25 text messages.

Summation - Bonjean

5206

1 And he says: Rachel not looking at my screen
2 anymore so you can tell me.

3 She said: Ayries sent a demand letter demanding
4 3 million for a list of things we did wrong.

5 He said, Oh, brother. Mainly things that she claims
6 RT did to her. Her attorney sent this letter. This is
7 confidential.

8 She said, We're going to mediation. Most likely
9 we'll end up, you know, settling with her about 300,000.

10 And he says: Do we feel that's fair?

11 And she said: Yeah. The only other option is to
12 let her sue us.

13 By the way, this is normal talk in companies where
14 people get sued, like what are we doing. Whether it's true or
15 not, we've got to deal with this lawsuit.

16 And she says: Well, you should read her claims.

17 And, again, her claims are not being offered for the
18 truth of the matter asserted. We do not hear from Ayries
19 Blanck. This is just Joanna saying what her claims are. You
20 may not consider it as true.

21 But she says that we were forced -- that we forced
22 her to have sex with wealthy clients. We forced her to go to
23 12-step programs, forced her to have sex for the job. Okay.

24 And Kenan says: OMG.

25 And what Joanna says, out of context: Some of that

1 may be true.

2 He says: Yeah, 12 steps maybe. I'm sure there are
3 places she felt coerced in some way. That I don't deny.
4 Totally.

5 And then they go on to talk about: This is top
6 secret.

7 And Joanna says: We can't, we can't do this. We
8 can't be, you know, we can't play that anymore even to people
9 that we think are in our inner community. We've got to be
10 more careful.

11 And this goes back to that text message that we
12 looked at earlier where Nicole is talking about the New York
13 Times article and they're talking about, hey, we've got to
14 change our ways a little bit. Okay?

15 And, you know, as I said at the beginning of this,
16 I'm not afraid, I'm not going to be here over here just
17 showing you the good stuff. We're looking at even the stuff
18 that looks, looks not good on the surface. But what that
19 shows is a lack of intent. That shows that they were, like,
20 wow, can't believe she's saying these things, what is going
21 on.

22 And you will notice from all of these other text
23 messages that you looked at, there was a real effort to do
24 self-reflection. I'm not going to go back over them. You
25 remember them. They were looking deep down, what can we

Summation - Bonjean

5208

1 change. What that shows is this wasn't some concerted effort
2 to carry out a forced labor scheme. These are people that
3 were like, Yeah, you know, maybe we should do things a little
4 better here. Okay? Because it could be misinterpreted.

5 That's what it shows, because if you conspired
6 amongst all of -- if you conspired together to carry out a
7 forced labor scheme and you were called out for it, your
8 messages would look a little different and they were
9 concerned.

10 I think at one point, Ms. Daedone said, you know, I
11 don't know what would, what would a zealous prosecutor do with
12 this. Well, I guess we got an answer to that question. But
13 it does not show that there was intent to carry out a forced
14 labor scheme or any of these women that we heard from were
15 compelled to do anything.

16 There's another way in which the government can
17 prove the object of a conspiracy or the forced labor under a
18 different theory. We don't need to spend much time on it
19 because it still goes back to the fact that OneTaste had to
20 engage in providing or obtaining labor services by any of the
21 prohibited means that we discussed. Okay? And that we looked
22 at that earlier. Either force, serious harm, threats of
23 serious harm, some combination of these things, and it's
24 really no different. The analysis is the same.

25 None of these women did what they did because they

Summation - Bonjean

5209

1 were under serious, suffering serious harm or facing threats
2 of serious harm, or by any type of physical force. So that's
3 the same and you will have this instruction, the Court will
4 instruct you on this and you will get a copy of the jury
5 instructions.

6 I want to discuss real briefly the issue of
7 Ms. Daedone's sale of the company.

8 You saw Ms. Daedone's salary over the course of
9 12 years. I think that's Government Exhibit 853. And let's
10 not forget she's the visionary, the CEO, she created the
11 company, and she toiled away at least for the first five years
12 making an average, I don't know, you can do the math better
13 than me. In 2011, she made 32 grand.

14 And then 2012, which Rob Kandell told you is when
15 the company started making money, and, yes, her focus did
16 switch to sales or not switch, but, you know, there was a
17 focus of sales. She was still focused on the message and the
18 vision but, yes, she wanted to make it profitable. She wanted
19 to make a business out of it and there's nothing absolutely
20 wrong with that.

21 Yes, there would be something wrong if you were
22 forcing people in labor, but we posit that the evidence has
23 not shown that and the government has not proved that. So
24 what we have here is a company that she built and that she
25 made a very modest salary, all things considered, for CEOs

Summation - Bonjean

5210

1 over the course of, what is this, 11, 12 years? Less than
2 \$1 million, and then she sold it.

3 And I want you to look at something else, the chart
4 of -- yes, we saw this. The government presented this.

5 Again, these were people there for short periods of
6 time. They did -- they didn't always make money. Dana Gil
7 did work trade. I mean, yeah, you wouldn't see money here on
8 this. Some of them worked on commission. Some of them
9 weren't very good salespeople. They weren't there for very
10 long, yes. And to compare the CEO of the company to, like,
11 the guy that works in the mail room, I mean, you know, I mean
12 that's just living in la-la land. It just is. And nobody
13 questions it when we're talking about CEOs of JPMorgan and
14 other big companies, of course.

15 But, again, a lot of these women volunteered, they
16 worked off the books sometimes, they did work trade. This is
17 not necessarily a fair reflection of what they actually
18 brought in but it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter because
19 they were doing it of their own free will.

20 And going back to Ms. Daedone's, the company itself,
21 you heard testimony from Mr. Lubin, the CPA who struggled to
22 figure out what a tax transcript was but, in any event, he did
23 look at OneTaste's returns and you can see from 2013 to '14,
24 '15, '16, '17, income started going up and there were salaries
25 and wages being paid. You can see it right here.

Summation - Bonjean

5211

1 Ms. Daedone sold the company in 2017, I guess, for
2 \$12 million when it was making profits of \$9 million. That is
3 not unheard of in valuating companies particularly with this
4 trajectory. So the government wants you all to think that
5 this is a crazy \$12 million amount. It's not really crazy.
6 The company was -- she probably could have sold it for more.
7 The company was making money and making money and, again, it
8 was not doing it on the backs of any forced labor because
9 these women were there voluntarily.

10 I mean you may question, like, why would anybody
11 work for such low wage. I don't know. They were getting
12 something else out of it, that's their business, but they were
13 there of their own free will.

14 So, what's important, ladies and gentlemen, again, I
15 want to remind you you're not going to hear from me again.
16 You are going to hear from the government. Obviously, they
17 have their case, they look at it very differently, but I
18 implore you to critically examine it and analyze it as you
19 listen, but our position is pretty clear, that the government
20 has not demonstrated that any of the women that you heard from
21 or that there was any evidence that anyone was doing something
22 against their free will, compelled, suffering serious harm,
23 facing threats of serious harm, none of that.

24 They made their choices, they wanted to be part of
25 this community, and they did it knowing what the community was

Summation - rebuttal - Bensing

5212

1 about. There was no bait-and-switch. And you cannot point to
2 Ms. Daedone's ideas, beliefs, that she routinely put in the
3 context of my beliefs, this is my experience, my sad story, my
4 victim story, you heard that, and as I started with my opening
5 statement, this is a case of grown women making grown
6 decisions that have free agency, no matter what the government
7 says.

8 Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Ms. Bensing, are you ready to proceed?

10 MS. BENSING: I am, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay, with the rebuttal argument from
12 the government.

13 MS. BENSING: Good afternoon, members of the jury.

14 Before I begin, I do want to say thank you for your
15 service and your attentiveness during this trial. This
16 process could not happen without you and so I want to thank
17 you for everybody on our team for being here.

18 Members of the jury, to hear defense counsel tell
19 it, all of the evidence that you've heard over the past five
20 weeks, all of the testimony and exhibits that my colleague
21 Ms. Gupta went through in painstaking detail with you
22 yesterday amount to nothing much at all. You haven't heard
23 from more than a dozen witnesses about the manipulation and
24 doctriation, surveillance and emotional trauma inflicted by
25 the defendants and their associates. You haven't read e-mails

1 from victims saying you have everything I have, I have nothing
2 left; the text messages where the defendants talk about how to
3 get employees to do more work, where they talk about
4 manipulating them.

5 According to the defense, we haven't proven any
6 actual crime here. These are just a bunch of women who went
7 to OneTaste to explore their sexuality and have their
8 boundaries pushed. They signed up for this. The defendants
9 didn't need to psychologically manipulate anybody, didn't need
10 to sexually abuse them, didn't need to push them to work all
11 hours of the day or night, didn't need to highly control every
12 aspect of their lives. The company, according to them, was
13 apparently doing just fine without all its unpaid labor.
14 Reese Jones didn't have any expectations. The company was
15 thriving on orgasmic meditation all on its own.

16 Members of the jury, that makes no sense in light of
17 the evidence that you've seen and heard at this trial.

18 Now, the Judge will instruct you the defense does
19 not have any burden at all. The burden of proof rests solely
20 on the government and we welcome that burden, but that does
21 not mean you have to take defense counsel's arguments,
22 innuendo, speculation and theories at face value.

23 The evidence that you have heard plainly shows that
24 for years, the defendants conspired to use and abuse a group
25 of vulnerable women and the defendants dominated them until

Summation - rebuttal - Bensing

5214

1 they gave up everything they had to perform labor and services
2 for OneTaste.

3 And, yes, they did it gradually. Day by day by day.
4 They whittled them down by taking away their money,
5 controlling their relationships and, yes, indoctrinating them
6 with so-called spiritual teachings and practices, shaming
7 them, humiliating them, subjecting them to sexual abuse. And
8 why? To lower their boundaries, to break them down, to remove
9 their willpower, to make sure they had fully surrendered, to
10 be willing to do what Rachel and Nicole directed them to do,
11 to keep working, keep OMing, keep giving Reese Jones hand
12 jobs, have make outs, make sales.

13 You know, Ms. Bonjean can pull out clips of
14 testimony and say there's no evidence but that completely
15 ignores the totality of what these women said to you. These
16 defendants are not guilty because I say they're guilty or
17 because Ms. Gupta does or because Ms. Bonjean and Ms. Cohen
18 say they're not. They're guilty because the evidence you've
19 seen at this trial prove they're guilty.

20 Ms. Cohen said to you yesterday you can't look at
21 this company through a regular lens. I'm not sure what that
22 means, but the Judge is going to instruct you that you can use
23 your common sense. And if you look at the evidence in this
24 case, if you look at it critically but with common sense, then
25 you cannot reach the conclusion that defense counsel is asking

1 you to reach because you do not get reasonable doubt from
2 facts that are irrelevant. What you have heard yesterday and
3 today from defense counsel is an attempt to distract you from
4 the evidence, from what happened in this case: A conspiracy
5 to extract labor from victims based on psychological, sexual,
6 reputational and financial harm.

7 So let's start with the question you heard defense
8 counsel ask many times in this trial, whether the victims were
9 free to stay or free to go.

10 Members of the jury, I submit that in this case,
11 that is a complete red-herring. Neither the government nor
12 any of these victims ever suggested to you that anybody was
13 physically incapable of leaving OneTaste. There were no
14 chains on wrists. There were no locks on doors. In fact,
15 every single one of these victims did leave. This is not a
16 kidnapping case. It's a forced labor conspiracy. The
17 question is not could they leave. It's why did they stay, why
18 did they work.

19 The defendants are arguing that there is no force or
20 more aptly for this case, no serious harm, that this was just
21 high school tactics, a case of being kicked out of the group
22 chat, name calling, a demanding boss, cross-fit.

23 Members of the jury, that is not what you heard from
24 these victims. That is a gross mischaracterization of what
25 these women testified to, to the coercive reality that caused

1 them significant trauma.

2 You heard from these women. Many of them testified
3 that they are still recovering, that there are lasting effects
4 on their sex lives, their personal relationships, making sense
5 of the world. You heard from nine victims on that stand. You
6 saw scores of documents confirming what they told you. You
7 saw financial records demonstrating OneTaste's gain and,
8 ultimately, Nicole Daedone's \$12 million gain on the backs of
9 these victims' labor.

10 I'm not going to go back through all of the victims'
11 testimony that Ms. Gupta went through with you yesterday, but
12 you sat through it yourself. When they told you that they
13 stopped trusting themselves, they lost themselves, they lost
14 their identities, they were psychologically, physically,
15 financially and sexually broken down, and by the end of that,
16 by the end of that abuse, of course, the answer is I did what
17 Rachel told me, I did what Nicole told me. That's the entire
18 conspiracy. They're being whittled down into the various
19 things that they identified it as brainwashing, loss of
20 identity, loss of self esteem, exhaustion. That is serious
21 harm that left them feeling like they had no choice.

22 Ms. Cohen said to you repeatedly yesterday that when
23 you're considering serious harm, when you're considering
24 what's reasonable, you have to look at the circumstances of
25 OneTaste.

Summation - rebuttal - Bensing

5217

1 On the one hand, these defense attorneys are calling
2 it a business, a startup. And on the other hand, they're
3 saying you can't look at it like a regular business.

4 Members of the jury, they can't have it both ways.
5 OneTaste was a business. It certainly was not a
6 not-for-profit. Everything you heard about happened in the
7 workplace. The men and women who testified, they were not
8 laboratory subjects. They were human beings and employees and
9 for them, this was their livelihoods. The defendants were
10 their bosses and their landlords, and they exerted an immense
11 amount of control over these men and women even before they
12 engaged in the extreme forms of psychological coercion that
13 drove people to their brink.

14 So do not let the defense normalize what happened
15 here by conventional or unconventional standards. And don't
16 let them make light of it. OneTaste does not get an out
17 because it's OneTaste.

18 It is not okay to teach your employees that their
19 spiritual purpose is to fuck the war out of men and that if
20 they stray from the past set by OneTaste and by Nicole
21 Daedone, they will be spiritually ruined. It is not okay to
22 instruct your employees to rub your boyfriend's penis every
23 morning. It is not okay for your boss to break up
24 relationships as a sign of surrender. And surrender to what?
25 To do more work, to serve Nicole, to serve OneTaste, to serve

1 orgasm, to serve Rachel Cherwitz.

2 It is not okay to rub your employees' genitals
3 without their consent. It is not okay to instruct your
4 employees to go have sex, to be so in control of their bodies
5 and their time and their minds to dictate that for the purpose
6 of decreasing tumescence and increasing sales. It is not okay
7 to demand that women open up the most sensitive part of their
8 bodies to have their genitals touched day in and day out from
9 men off the street, investors, VIPs, you name it.

10 And the government is not manipulating anything by
11 not using the word "stroking." That is the defendants' word.
12 But what this was was touching a woman's clitoris or a man's
13 penis.

14 It is not okay to be told that money is the third
15 dimension, to take out credit cards, to engage in work trade,
16 let your debt pile up while you go deeper and deeper into
17 OneTaste. It is not okay for your boss to be your spiritual
18 coach and then tell you to go to Sex Addicts Anonymous
19 meetings like they did to Becky to the point where she
20 believed she was a sex addict when she wasn't. Or to tell
21 Michal to go to NA or AA meetings when she didn't have an
22 addiction.

23 And Ms. Bonjean just asked, well, why would OneTaste
24 do this, why would they direct them to these NA and AA
25 meetings if it's outside of OneTaste.

Summation - rebuttal - Bensing

5219

1 It's about control, members of the jury. To be told
2 you are an addict, you are a virus, you are less, you aren't
3 surrendering, you are standing in the way of serving orgasm,
4 or serving orgasm means selling courses.

5 It is not okay to have your boss enforce
6 around-the-clock work schedules where you either get no
7 vacations or you have to barter or beg for them, to be
8 constantly surveilled on group chats with people reporting
9 back to Rachel.

10 (Continued on next page.)

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Rebuttal - Ms. Bensing

5220

1 MS. BENSING: (Continuing) And like many, many of
2 the witnesses testified that they did, to never have alone
3 time, to report even when you go to the bathroom, to have to
4 report to your bosses, fear inventories or withholds, to have
5 no time or energy or space for independent thought. It is not
6 okay to reduce these women, and all of them testified to some
7 form of this; to intense feelings of guilt, shame, depression,
8 anxiety and paranoia.

9 Members of the Jury, where are the facts,
10 Ms. Bonjean just asked you. Those are the facts. This is
11 isn't high school bullying. This isn't a sorority. At least
12 not any high school or sorority that I've ever heard of.

13 So, let's be clear: You do not have to be a child
14 to be subject to abuse. You do not have to be uneducated to
15 suffer abuse. You do not have to be chained down or in a
16 locked room to suffer abuse.

17 The Defendants argue that these were grown women,
18 these were adults. And they were educated, they were smart.
19 They did walk in here with degrees and careers and they were
20 clearly thoughtful, conscientious people. Members of the
21 Jury, that just shows how powerful the coercion was in this
22 case. You heard from people who were from all walks of life
23 and they were all coerced. They were all traumatized by this.
24 And not just after the fact. They all, each and every one of
25 them, testified to performing labor or services after they had

1 been psychologically damaged.

2 And I submit to you that in addition to the totality
3 of these women's testimony, you can infer from their actions
4 alone what kind of mental state they were in.

5 Because you may have been thinking to yourself,
6 during this trial: This sounds crazy. Why would Christina
7 dedicate herself to learning the fine art of pouring
8 Nicole Daedone a glass of water? Why would Max work with no
9 pay, picking up Nicole Daedone's used condoms? Why would
10 Becky or Max or Michal or Anthia pour their hearts out to
11 Rachel Cherwitz, only to have her subject them to verbal,
12 physical, sexual abuse? Why did all these women agree to OM
13 or have sex with people decades older than them, people who
14 were a gender who they weren't even attracted to or they found
15 repulsive, or agree to have make-outs with VIPs all for little
16 or no money and certainly not enough money to help them be
17 free of the cycle they were in?

18 You may ask yourself who in their right mind would
19 stay after enduring all of this. But Members of the Jury,
20 that's common sense. These women were not in their right
21 minds. The answer is: They kept working day after day
22 because they were damaged because of the serious
23 psychological, financial, sexual and reputational harm and
24 trauma the Defendants and other members of OneTaste's inner
25 circle had inflicted on them, the harm they were already

Rebuttal - Ms. Bensing

5222

1 suffering, and the harm they feared they would continue
2 suffering.

3 Choice wasn't even part of the equation for them.
4 Choice wasn't something they were in a psychological state to
5 even consider, and that means they could make no reasonable
6 choice. Losing your job or your friends or your family or
7 your belief system or your lover or your home, any one of
8 those things can cause serious damage to a person. Losing all
9 of them, losing yourself, the witnesses who came in told you
10 how that destroyed them.

11 And I also want to say there seems to be a big
12 misconception here. This case is not about what is in the
13 victims' minds. It's a conspiracy case. It's about the
14 Defendants. It's about their intent. So the question for you
15 is not whether these victims should have been stronger or
16 whether they should have had the guts or resources or
17 wherewithal to leave sooner or say no. It's not about whether
18 these victims actually suffered serious harm and whether they
19 actually caused them to work. That is absolutely not the
20 question of this trial.

21 The Judge will instruct you on the law and, again,
22 her instructions govern. But those instructions will confirm
23 that the question for you is what the Defendants intended.
24 The question for you is whether the Defendants agreed to use
25 psychological, sexual, and financial pressure tactics to get

Rebuttal - Ms. Bensing

5223

1 women, any one of these women, to perform services for them.

2 And the answer to that question is obviously yes.

3 And on that, the Defendants have argued that these
4 women are a small minority of the hundreds of OneTaste
5 employees and thousands of OneTaste customers. You know, I'm
6 not sure that the actual evidence presented in this trial
7 supports that statement. But even if it did, this is another
8 one of those arguments that is completely irrelevant. If you
9 have a doctor who cures hundreds of patients but seriously
10 harms one or two or even three, you still harmed those three.
11 And by the way, the only doctor that you heard of if in case
12 is Max Pixley.

13 Also, on the law of conspiracies, Ms. Cohen said to
14 you yesterday that you'll hear from the Judge that conspiracy
15 is characterized by secrecy and OneTaste was the very opposite
16 of secret. Of course OneTaste wasn't secret. But the
17 strategy of the company's leadership to manipulate people to
18 do their bidding for little or no pay was. You didn't see
19 anything about that in the disclosure forms. You didn't hear
20 a single witness testify that they came in knowing that Nicole
21 and Rachel would be gas-lighting them, shunning them, shaming
22 them, manipulating them, and attempting to financially ruin
23 them at the expense of their personal well-being.

24 Consider a couple of concrete examples.

25 You heard from Max Pixley that when they moved to

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1 New York, they expected to get paid for their work. But when
2 they arrived, they didn't get paid for months.

3 You also heard from Rob Kandell and Chris Hubbard
4 that even from the early days of OneTaste, the plan was to
5 manipulate people for their labor. That is the illicit
6 agreement that we're talking about. No one is suggesting that
7 OneTaste itself or anything about it was secret. That's
8 nonsensical.

9 And the Judge will tell you, you can infer a
10 conspiracy's existence from the circumstances of this case and
11 the conduct of the parties involved.

12 And I want to emphasize something else about the law
13 here. If you believe that the Defendants agreed to unlawfully
14 extract even one form of labor or service from even one
15 victim, any single one, then they are guilty. Here, you have
16 seen overwhelming evidence that the Defendants agreed to get
17 labor and services from a number of people, but it only takes
18 one.

19 By the way, one other thing I want to say on
20 conspiracy. Ms. Gupta painstakingly went through with you
21 yesterday the evidence of conspiracy, so I'm not going to
22 repeat it. But Ms. Bonjean threw up on the screen just now
23 Government Exhibit 2148-D -- this is the amends chat between
24 Yia Vang and Rachel Cherwitz -- and she argued that it was
25 irrelevant. But just to be very clear, the part that is

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1 relevant is where Yia Vang says: Reese - I didn't like
2 stroking him all the time. Maddie/Michelle - I pinned them
3 against each other with Reese, colluding with both to increase
4 the tumescence between them. I like Maddie more than
5 Michelle, so I was harder on Michelle.

6 Put that in context of the very real, very powerful
7 testimony that you heard from Michelle.

8 She testified, in response to the question: How did
9 performing these sex acts with Reese Jones you described
10 affect you during this time period?

11 Answer: God. Heavily. I think it -- the thing I
12 remember most is it, like, wearing me down emotionally. I
13 think it took so much kind of like putting up my shield in
14 order to withstand something that felt so uncomfortable and
15 against what I wanted to be doing, especially to share that
16 job with my female partner. And I knew, like, neither of us
17 wanted -- really wanted to be sexual with a man, especially an
18 older man. It felt weirdly, like, degrading. I felt, I
19 guess, kind of unmoored. It removed me from reality in a big
20 way. And I am going to say I felt pretty numb during that
21 time period. I don't think I felt the effects of it until
22 much later, which was an immense amount of depression and
23 anxiety and trauma.

24 This was not some sort of sweet gig as Ms. Bonjean
25 just described it. This was sexual abuse.

1 Next, I have to address the argument that the
2 Government somehow cherry-picked the evidence in this case.
3 And I submit to you that that doesn't withstand even a moment
4 of scrutiny. These witnesses got up there and testified for
5 hours, explaining their experiences at OneTaste, the good and
6 the bad. And I submit to you that much of what the Defendants
7 did in these summations was to play fast and loose with the
8 testimony in this case. For example, they put up a bunch of
9 times when the victim said they chose to do X, Y and Z thing,
10 but they didn't show you the context behind any of those.

11 For example, when Ms. Cohen put up those slides
12 about when the victims chose to do various things, most of
13 that was choosing to get involved in OneTaste. Of course all
14 of the victims chose to get involved in OneTaste. That's why
15 they're here. That's how they got involved in this
16 organization. That doesn't tell you anything.

17 Another example of this is that audio recording they
18 played of Lyndsi Keves. And Ms. Cohen herself pointed out
19 that was only a couple months into Lyndsi's time as a OneTaste
20 student. She was in a new relationship with another student
21 that she was in love with. Of course she's going to say
22 positive things about the company at that point. What matters
23 is what happened to her after the, quote, emotional and verbal
24 abuse she sustained from Rachel Cherwitz. And that's at
25 transcript page 2963.

1 Let's take another example. Ms. Cohen stood up here
2 and told you that what is important here is what people were
3 telling Rachel and Nicole. And I disagree with that, which
4 we'll get to later. But she stood up here and told you that
5 Becky didn't tell Rachel she didn't want to participate in
6 that OM demo that Rachel forced her to. Ms. Cohen said all
7 Becky said was that during the demo, she was, quote, faking it
8 and trying to do the right thing. And then Ms. Cohen asked
9 you how did that come across to Rachel, who does this all the
10 time? How could she know that she was doing anything wrong?

11 Members of the Jury, Ms. Cohen is misrepresenting to
12 you. She's asking you to ignore the evidence. What did Becky
13 actually testify to on that? Ask for page 304 of the
14 transcript if you have any doubt there. When Rachel demands
15 that Becky do the demo, she told you that she said: No, no, I
16 don't want to right now. And then Rachel, her boss, demanded
17 that she get up there, and so Becky did. She undressed from
18 the waist down. She tried to disassociate. Rafael Martinez
19 started stroking her. And Rachel brushed him aside and
20 started stroking Becky herself. Becky did not consent to
21 that.

22 Page 305 of the transcript, Becky said: I was not
23 into it. I was freaking out. I didn't want to be there and I
24 said no.

25 And then Becky described trying to fake it, trying

1 to do the right thing. And after Rachel stopped, while Becky
2 was lying there on the table with her genitals exposed, Rachel
3 started laying into her, calling her a virus, telling her her
4 orgasm is broken, that she's infecting everyone. That's at
5 page 306 of the transcript.

6 That's what the evidence actually was on that
7 assault.

8 Let's take another example. Ms. Cohen stood up here
9 and told you that Michal told you she was psychologically
10 coerced on day one, that on day one she was forced to do X, Y
11 and Z things even though she had never even met Rachel and
12 Nicole. Well, that is not her testimony. That is nowhere in
13 the record. Ms. Cohen made that up. Michal Neria did not
14 testify to that. Instead, she described how in her first
15 intro to OM class she OMed with a person she didn't know and,
16 after that OM class, she continued to be interested in OMing.
17 The coercion and abuse happened after she got involved,
18 Members of the Jury.

19 Let's take another example. Ms. Cohen attempted to
20 claim that on cross-examination Anthia Gillick walked back her
21 testimony that in late 2014 Rachel Cherwitz instructed
22 Ayries Blanck and Anthia Gillick to have sex with 30 men in
23 30 days. Ms. Cohen tried to make it seem like it was their
24 plan. But again, that's simply not true. Look at the
25 transcript, pages 3959 to 3965 on direct and page 4122 on

1 cross. Ms. Gillick clearly testified that that was
2 Rachel Cherwitz's direction.

3 We'll take another example. And I'll only do a
4 couple more. But I submit to you that the point is that the
5 Defense attorneys have not been careful with the record.

6 Ms. Cohen said to you yesterday that Max Pixley's
7 testimony was that they never took a vacation while working
8 for OneTaste and that that was somehow incorrect. But again,
9 that is entirely false. What Ms. Cohen pointed you to was a
10 trip that Max took before they started working for OneTaste.
11 You know, Ms. Cohen made a big deal --- and Ms. Bonjean, I
12 think, said today, too -- that, you know, some of these things
13 came out on cross-examination, not direct examination. But
14 that's true. We did not ask witnesses about vacations that
15 they took before they started working at OneTaste because that
16 is irrelevant.

17 The Defense also told you yesterday that the
18 Defendants are not guilty because Rob Kandell said he did not
19 think he committed a crime. Well, that's not how this works.
20 You should listen carefully to Judge Gujarati and her
21 instructions and I expect that she will tell you that you are
22 the judge of the facts and she is the judge of the law.
23 Rob Kandell is the judge of nothing. His opinion about the
24 law means nothing. The way it works in this courthouse and in
25 this country is that you look at the evidence, you listen to

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1 the witnesses, you consider what these Defendants did to them
2 and you alone decide who did or did not commit a crime. So
3 when the Defense tells you that you should accept
4 Rob Kandell's opinions on the law or his opinion on
5 manipulation or his opinion on cross, that is just another
6 attempt to distract you from the evidence.

7 Ms. Bonjean briefly talked about Antonios, the
8 Defense witness that you heard from. Members of the Jury, I
9 want you to think about all the ways that he actually
10 corroborated what Dana's testimony was. He said that there
11 was a time when he thought he was going to leave the coaching
12 program; that's consistent with Dana's testimony. He
13 confirmed that she turned up at his door randomly to have sex
14 with him; that's what she testified to. And she told you that
15 she did that because she was directed to. And so the Defense
16 makes much of his testimony that he came up on the stand
17 talking about a random sexual encounter that he had 15 years
18 ago and they're saying, well, look at the timing of what he
19 testified to. But Members of the Jury, he told you he talked
20 to the FBI in 2021. He wasn't even clear on that timing. I
21 submit to you that his testimony only supports what Dana
22 testified to. And by the way, her testimony about being
23 directed to have a sexual encounter with a customer from
24 OneTaste was supported by the testimony of all of the other
25 victims in this case.

1 So, this is another irrelevant argument in light of
2 everything I've just discussed, but I do want to spend a few
3 minutes on these so-called policy documents, the consent
4 documents, the waiver forms, the policies that the Defense
5 spent a lot of time in going through in all of those
6 cross-examinations. And I think what they're arguing is
7 actually something broader, that the victims who you heard
8 from got what they signed up for, they were simply pushed to
9 grow. But Members of the Jury, you can't waiver your way out
10 of a crime. The issue is not whether these women could have
11 sued the company. This is a criminal case. This is a case
12 about serious harm, any harm, including nonphysical harm,
13 including psychological harm, including financial harm,
14 including reputational harm, including sexual harm.

15 So, what is the argument that the Defense attorneys
16 are really making here? That the victims signed up for
17 serious psychological harm? That they asked for this
18 consciously or unconsciously? Think about what that means
19 when they asked all these victims all these questions about
20 consent policies and wanting to get involved in the OM
21 practice and wanting to move into communal living. They are
22 arguing that they asked for it, that whatever happened after
23 that, the Defendants get carte blanche because the victims got
24 involved in the first place. That is not how this works.

25 I will give you an analogy. Just because you show

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1 up to a date and agree to have dinner with your date and agree
2 to let them walk you home and even agree to let them come up
3 for a drink and even kiss them doesn't give them permission to
4 sexually assault you.

5 Just because the Defendants got involved in OneTaste
6 did not give the -- just because people got involved in
7 OneTaste did not give the Defendants license to strip away
8 their sense of financial security, psychological security, and
9 sexual security. And I submit to you that that is common
10 sense. A person who is not in a sound mental state is not in
11 a position to make choices. A person who is not in a sound
12 mental state cannot give permission, cannot consent.

13 The witnesses explained this to you. Chris Hubbard,
14 he's the guy from the early warehouse days. What did he tell
15 you? He raised concerns. And what were his concerns? Quote:
16 One of the ideas I got -- one of the ideas I was trying to
17 convey is that you only get to people's yes if they have a
18 free no. If somebody can't freely say no, then they also
19 can't freely say yes. They can't consent. That's in the
20 transcript at page 842.

21 Christina Berkley testified very similarly. She
22 described the concept of consent and informed consent. You're
23 saying yes, quote, but you don't know all of the facts of what
24 you're saying yes to. And some of what was happening or what
25 was going on was this covert influence. And so it wasn't like

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1 you were consenting or saying yes or choosing, fully knowing
2 all of the things that were going to be happening at the same
3 time to influence what your choice would be. And then she
4 went on to describe all of the psychological tools that these
5 Defendants used. That's at pages 1400 to 1403 of the
6 transcript.

7 Dana testified to the same thing. She was asked
8 again and again whether she consented to something. And what
9 did she say? I'm struggling with the term consent because in
10 my mind there was coercion over a period of time. That's at
11 transcript 1544.

12 Lianna testified to the same thing. She was asked:
13 What role, if any, did consent play outside of the two-day
14 period of the coaching program? Very little, she said.

15 So, let me be absolutely clear: A signature on a
16 piece of paper does not make a crime legal. Consent is not a
17 box that you check or a form that you sign. Consent must be
18 freely given and it must be informed. And the evidence in
19 this case shows that these forms were signed in a context of
20 manipulation, psychological and financial coercion, deception
21 and abusive power. That is not consent. That is control.

22 But it is worth highlighting that when you actually
23 dig into these forms, they are a joke. First, Ms. Gupta went
24 through yesterday with you that it is very clear that these
25 forms were just damage control. And Ms. Cohen argued

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1 yesterday to you, sure, that's no different than any company,
2 they analyze and put policies in place as they grow. The
3 problem with that is that the policies Ms. Cohen showed you
4 yesterday were blank, unsigned and, more fundamentally, not
5 used.

6 Take the ethics committee that you heard about that.
7 You heard how that actually went in practice. Every single
8 time Rob Kandell asked to OM or have sex with a subordinate,
9 he was approved. I showed picture after picture of the
10 testifying victims in this case and almost every single one of
11 them, he had engaged in sexual activity with even though he
12 was their superior at the company. That's how effective the
13 OneTaste ethics policy was.

14 And then you heard about some other policies. The
15 Defense I think put into evidence a couple of OM house rules,
16 a couple codes of conduct. But what did the testifying
17 witnesses actually say about those?

18 Dana couldn't remember any of them. That's at
19 transcript 1624.

20 Anthia Gillick testified that she was unaware of any
21 code of conduct. That's at transcript 4262.

22 Michal didn't remember the OM house rules. That's
23 at transcript 2810.

24 Becky testified that this was legalese and that was
25 separate from the reality of what's happening in real life.

1 That's at transcript 789.

2 Becky testified, as Ms. Gupta went through with you
3 yesterday, that the sexual harassment and overtime policies
4 were actual jokes.

5 Ms. Cohen pulled up yesterday the one video of
6 Rachel Cherwitz talking about red, yellow, green in one course
7 and she said to you that happened at every course. Well,
8 Members of the Jury, Ms. Cohen was not careful with the
9 evidence yesterday. You heard absolutely no testimony that
10 that happened at every course.

11 As Lianna testified, the consent was for the
12 clients, not for the employees more deeply involved in the
13 organization.

14 It's the same thing with the waiver forms. First of
15 all, a number of these were unsigned, undated. But even more
16 telling, these aren't safety protocols. These aren't codes of
17 ethics. They're liability waivers designed not to protect
18 participants but to shield the company. They fundamentally
19 don't address what these women went to. They treated it like
20 a trip down a ski mountain.

21 And these forms, they were not even comprehensive.
22 If you take Defense Exhibit 20-A-E, Lianna Lifson signed that
23 waiver for a three-day window, September 7th to 9th, 2012.
24 Well, first of all, she signed it on September 8th, so after
25 the time period that it was supposed to start.

1 The same thing happened with Becky. That's in
2 Defense Exhibit 21-J.

3 But even if those didn't only cover a three-day
4 period, what kind of meaningful consent is this?

5 Robert Kandell testified on cross-examination that
6 before he left OneTaste in 2014, he digitized, quote, boxes
7 and boxes of hard copy consent forms. Where were they? The
8 Defense didn't have to admit a single exhibit -- the burden is
9 on the Government -- but they did. And it is a handful of
10 policies for only a handful of victims for only a handful of
11 dates. The Defense attorneys are not being careful with the
12 record. Do not fall for it.

13 You also saw some employment agreements in this
14 case. Not much, but a few. They were Government Exhibits
15 3743, 3768 and 3772. This is for Lianna, Becky and Michelle.
16 And if you have any questions about OneTaste paperwork, put
17 those agreements up side by side when you're deliberating.
18 What is the date on all of them? October 1st, 2013. That is
19 no coincidence. Three different employees already working for
20 OneTaste suddenly get employment agreements on the same date.

21 But then you heard that Michelle got a separation
22 agreement only 17 days later, on October 18th. That's in
23 evidence at Government Exhibit 3771.

24 And I want you to think back. That was one day
25 after that group chat in Government Exhibit 1332-R that I put

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1 into evidence through Rob Kandell where Yia says, quote: We
2 just hired all these people legally. She's talking about the
3 October 1st agreements.

4 And Kandell said: We cut and do things illegally.
5 Our growth is based on very risky practices.

6 Rachel Cherwitz, by the way, is an active
7 participant on that discussion.

8 And what did Yia say? We've gotten scarce and
9 fearful of the 3-D legal stuff and it's outweighing what the
10 purpose of what we actually do is. People are starting to use
11 money as a way to threaten the flow of orgasm.

12 And one day later, they fire Michelle.

13 Kandell told you about the risky practices he was
14 referencing; sales techniques, the way they paid people, the
15 way they switched around 1099s and W-2s.

16 And what did Michelle believe about all of this,
17 about why she was being fired? This is the in the transcript
18 at 2436: I was falling apart, having an emotional and nervous
19 breakdown and that was no longer useful to them. That's what
20 they made her believe.

21 So, what does this one example tell you? Michelle
22 was broken down, depressed, anxious, traumatized. That's what
23 she testified to about the end of her time period in
24 Las Vegas. And she had recently said no to Nicole; she got an
25 employment agreement that was terminated a little under two

1 weeks later.

2 The company, including Rachel Cherwitz, is
3 discussing illegal sales practices and then they send Michelle
4 to LA. And what did she do after they took away her
5 employment agreement? She continued to work. She was
6 absolutely broken down, but she felt compelled and coerced to
7 work. She ran the Turn0ns, she did the OM demos, she did back
8 of house, she helped Aubrey Fuller with tasks for Nicole.
9 That's in the transcript at 2438. She wasn't paid for any of
10 it.

11 Members of the Jury, that one example proves this
12 forced labor conspiracy. That is what the OneTaste forms show
13 you.

14 So to the extent that these policies are relevant at
15 all, they are relevant to show the Defendants' intent. Again,
16 that is what this case is about. It may be that the company
17 never implemented these, that they were meaningless to these
18 victims, but they should have been meaningful to the executive
19 team, to Rachel Cherwitz and Nicole Daedone.

20 So, if you want, if you care about these policies,
21 you can take a look at Government Exhibit 3224. That was the
22 OneTaste coach and trainer association code of conduct in
23 effect in 2013. And you will see in there that OneTaste
24 coaches agreed not to, quote, push clients beyond their
25 boundaries, that they agree not to exploit their authority,

1 that they agree not to offer illegal services or sexual
2 entertainment in exchange for money.

3 Members of the Jury, compare that to what you heard
4 in this case.

5 Kandell's definition of -- even Kandell's definition
6 of manipulation: Manipulation is directing someone towards
7 the higher goal, past their own perceived self-abilities and
8 self-limitations.

9 And by the way, you heard Ms. Bonjean try to say
10 that this was somehow a positive view of manipulation,
11 whatever that means. But his testimony could not have been
12 clearer: We would direct people past their comfort zones into
13 situations, either through sales or through connections with
14 others or courses, to further the goal of the organization.
15 And they used various techniques to do that.

16 I asked him: Who would you do that to?

17 He said: Pretty much anyone on staff that we could
18 get to do something we wanted them to do.

19 That's transcript page 3384.

20 (Continued on the next page.)

21

22

23

24

25

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1 (Continuing.)

2 MS. BENSING: He said Nicole did that. He said
3 Rachel did that. And by the way, when I asked him who was
4 in charge of sexual services, he said Nicole and Rachel.

5 That is pushing people beyond their boundaries,
6 contrary to OneTaste policy. That is exploiting authority,
7 contrary to OneTaste policy. And agreeing not to offer
8 illegal services or sexual entertainment in exchange for
9 money, that is this entire case, members of the jury, that
10 is what Nicole and Rachel did to these women for years and
11 years. Completely contrary to their policies.

12 So members of the jury, I want to discuss another
13 defense argument that is entirely irrelevant. That because
14 they put on the screen a series of smiling faces of these
15 women that means that there was no forced labor conspiracy
16 here. That because these women posted on social media or
17 the OM hub, that means they weren't victimized.

18 First, that argument makes no sense on its face.
19 In many instances these women were doing their job: They
20 were going out with other Coaching Program students, they
21 were posting for their work. This was labor. They were
22 supposed to be turned on women.

23 As Becky testified: The expectation was to kind
24 of talk to anyone that you see and tell them -- and
25 proselytize, really, for the company. That's at transcript

1 page 113.

2 And as Michelle testified about those photos that
3 Ms. Bonjean just put up on the screen: The dramatic affect
4 of what the defendants had on her life was fucking painful.
5 And honestly, I really did believe in the mission. I
6 thought we were helping people. I thought we were doing
7 something that was going to change the world. And that
8 doesn't make an excuse for abuse and manipulation. You
9 know, so you can show all these pictures of me where I
10 ostensibly look like I'm good and I don't have acne and I'm
11 having a good time, but everybody knows that makeup and
12 camera filters do a lot and can make it look like you're
13 having a good time when you're not. And I was also -- I was
14 deeply ashamed of everything I had gone through.

15 That's at transcript pages 2643 to 44.

16 If you have any doubt about the scheme in this
17 case, about the manipulation, about what the defendants
18 actually did to these women, ask for their testimony and, in
19 particular, I would encourage you to ask for Michelle's
20 testimony, but really the testimony any of them.

21 But this case is about the defendants. And you
22 saw evidence that this thing about the OM hub post was going
23 to be a tactic used by the defendants a long time ago. I
24 don't have many slides for you today, but I do have a
25 couple. And I want to pull up Government Exhibit 2030-D.

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1 This is part of the exhibit that Ms. Bonjean just went
2 through with you. This is the one where Van Vleck, the
3 defendant's co-conspirator, agrees earlier in the text
4 thread, where you saw that, yes, she was sitting with Nic.
5 She agrees with Kenan Wang's statement that I'm sure there
6 are places that Ayries felt coerced in some way. She says:
7 Totally. Van Vleck said: Rachel is having to see what her
8 actions do. We for sure were not clean.

9 And after admitting that, what does Van Vleck say?
10 I've collected her OM hub posts that show she was having a
11 great time.

12 Members of the jury, even Joanna Van Vleck,
13 sitting with Nicole Daedone, acknowledging what she agreed
14 was coercion, knew that happy photos --

15 MS. BONJEAN: I am going to object to that.
16 That's -- that's --

17 THE COURT: Hold on.

18 MS. BONJEAN: It didn't come in for the truth.

19 THE COURT: Wait a minute.

20 (Pause in proceedings.)

21 THE COURT: I think Ms. Bonjean is thinking you
22 are talking about one member, one of the two people you
23 spoke about. I'll sustain that, but if you make clear who
24 you are talking about.

25 MS. BENSING: Let me be very clear.

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1 In that text exhibit, Kenan Wang says: I'm sure
2 there are some places where Ayries felt coerced.

3 And Joanna Van Vleck said: Totally.

4 She acknowledged the coercion, members of the
5 jury. Even Joanna Van Vleck, sitting with Nicole Daedone,
6 knew that happy photos, OM hub posts, doesn't erase what she
7 agreed was coercion.

8 We can take that down.

9 So I do want to also address notice. You've heard
10 a lot about this from the defense attorneys, the idea that
11 these women should have put the defendants on notice of
12 their own forced labor. The idea that these women wanted
13 this or that they should have spoken up or that they did
14 something wrong and they should have done more. You should
15 outright reject this. You will not hear the judge say that
16 these victims had to do a thing. And that is important.
17 The law does not require a victim of a crime to put up
18 resistance, to report it right away, to report it to anyone,
19 ever, at all. There is no requirement that a victim subject
20 herself to the scrutiny and the burden that comes to
21 reporting something like this. What the law does require is
22 that the defendants not conspire to commit forced labor.

23 And by the way, Ms. Cohen told you yesterday --
24 and this is another instance where she flat out
25 misrepresented the record to you, but she told you yesterday

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1 that nobody came forward to report a crime, nobody called
2 the FBI. Well, first of all, that's irrelevant, as I've
3 just explained, but second, it's just not true. You can
4 look at page 1635 of the transcript. Dana testified she
5 called the Federal Government; not the other way around.
6 You know, these victims didn't have a playbook for this, for
7 being abused and manipulated. So the concept of somehow
8 blaming them for not doing enough to stop the defendants'
9 actions is absurd, but it is in line with everything you've
10 heard about how these defendants treated these women
11 throughout the conspiracy. And the arguments that these
12 defense attorneys are making really double down on what the
13 defendants told the victims day in and day out: There is no
14 such thing as a victim, because if there's no such thing as
15 a victim, there's no such thing as a perpetrator. We can do
16 anything we want and you take responsibility for it. You
17 TurnON.

18 Members of the jury, of course these victims
19 weren't speaking up. They were subjugated. They were
20 afraid. They didn't want to be accused of being disloyal.
21 But if you were at all persuaded by the idea that victims
22 have to tell their perpetrators anything, you did hear that
23 the defendants knew exactly what was going on. That was
24 everything Ms. Gupta went through yesterday with you.

25 But just to hit a few instances, Chris Hubbard

1 testified during the Warehouse years he warned Daedone about
2 forcing people to do stuff.

3 In 2012, Becky wrote to Cherwitz: I feel
4 panicked, misled and manipulated. That's Government
5 Exhibit 3501-3.

6 In 2013, Justine Dawson in an update to Nicole
7 Daedone told her: Lianna is having a hard time. We talked
8 about her not making decisions to disconnect from
9 resentment. She heard it and went to a meeting. We'll see
10 how it goes. That's Government Exhibit 1512.

11 In 2015, Cherwitz knew Michal felt victimized.
12 The documents show it. Michal said she was feeling
13 vulnerable, raw, deeply uncomfortable. That's Government
14 Exhibit 4514-AR. And yet Cherwitz kept pushing her.

15 That same year, Daedone knew Brooke felt ashamed
16 and was told she was, quote, off stroke. That's Government
17 Exhibit 2033-DR.

18 And as to Michelle, she was shaky about being
19 brought into the next stage of play with Reese. That's
20 Government Exhibit 4501-KD. And when Michelle eventually
21 said no, what did happen? She was demoted and eventually
22 fired and then continued to work for OneTaste.

23 As to Dana, Cherwitz knew Dana was terrified and
24 broke while still signing her up for expensive courses.
25 Dana testified that she gave Rachel Cherwitz her last \$20.

1 That's in the transcript at 1239 to 40.

2 And by the way, Anthia also testified about this.
3 She testified about a document that she wrote in the spring
4 of 2015, before she even left OneTaste, where she expressed
5 many of the same concerns that she testified about before
6 you. That's at transcript pages 4228 to 4229.

7 And the defense objected to that document coming
8 in, but you have testimony about it. You can look at
9 transcript page 4230 to 4233. She testified that in 2015,
10 prior to even leaving OneTaste, she had documented her
11 concerns on the following topics: That people were shamed
12 at OneTaste, encouraged to isolate, had fear and paranoia,
13 that Rachel berated people, about whether it was acceptable
14 to speak up against people in power at OneTaste, about
15 whether her body was in her control versus her bosses'
16 control, about whether people were exhausted and pushed past
17 their breaking points, about whether she learned not to
18 trust herself.

19 Members of the jury, nobody saw themselves as
20 victims until the FBI came knocking? That is nowhere in the
21 record and, in fact, the record establishes the opposite.
22 And these are just a few examples.

23 And then you saw Government Exhibit 4504-C. And
24 these are the last slides I have.

25 You can pull that up.

REBUTTAL - MS. BENSING

5247

1 These are text exchanges that you saw between
2 Chris Kosley and Nicole Daedone. And Chris Kosley is
3 reporting on what he heard Lianna tell him: So part of
4 where she's so angry is what she calls --

5 MS. BONJEAN: That's hearsay objection to this,
6 without purpose.

7 MS. BENSING: Your Honor, this is in evidence.

8 THE COURT: One moment.

9 (Pause in proceedings.)

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 You may continue.

12 MS. BENSING: He says: So part of where she's so
13 angry -- and he's talking about Lianna -- is with what she
14 calls, quote, a culture of manipulation, places where she
15 saw RC -- who you know as Rachel Cherwitz -- or Hemsy -- who
16 you know as Rachael Hemsy -- or whoever, essentially
17 directing people on what to do. And she points to the
18 people who left over the course of time. Maddie, Drea,
19 Becky, Pixley, et cetera. That it exemplifies this pattern
20 of which she feels a part of naturally.

21 That is certainly notice, members of the jury.
22 And Nicole Daedone isn't surprised. She blames the victim.
23 Look at what she says.

24 Lianna is just stuck unnecessarily. Suffering
25 unnecessarily. And you can see how a shift in

REBUTTAL - MS. BENSING

5248

1 consciousness, not circumstances, would alleviate so much
2 pain. She should just shift the way she views it.

3 And they go back and forth on this. And then
4 Nicole says -- and she's talking about these women: Either
5 they wake up and help or they get traumatized.

6 You heard in this trial what waking up and being
7 asleep meant. Being asleep meant not working for OneTaste,
8 not being on your purpose.

9 Nicole Daedone knew exactly the harm she was
10 wreaking on these victims. Either they wake up and get help
11 or they get traumatized.

12 And then she goes on to say: We are like burglars
13 who got recruited for the FBI.

14 Members of the jury, you heard no evidence that
15 Nicole Daedone was recruited for the FBI, so what is she
16 saying here? She knows she's harming them. Burglars break
17 into homes. And it doesn't matter if what she's saying is
18 that she somehow was doing this for a good purpose. You
19 heard Ms. Bonjean talk a little about this and I want to be
20 very clear. You can believe in something and still be
21 guilty of a crime. Religious or spiritual motivation for
22 committing a crime does not exonerate you. This is a basic
23 concept. The ends do not justify the means. Because the
24 law says as long as they agree to use serious harm or
25 threats of serious harm or put these victims in a situation

REBUTTAL - MS. BENSING

5249

1 where they would make them believe that they would really
2 suffer if they stopped serving this organization through
3 their labor, then they are guilty.

4 Just because you have beliefs does not mean that
5 you have a right to prey on people's vulnerabilities and
6 induce them to go into debt. It doesn't mean you can sit
7 next to them and open new lines of credit so they can
8 purchase expensive courses that you know full well they
9 cannot afford, and then up sell them again and again,
10 plunging them deeper into debt. It does not mean that you
11 can insist that they engage in sexual acts with men that
12 they find disgusting, claiming it is for their better good.
13 It doesn't mean you can call them viruses and shame and
14 humiliate them until they have repeated breakdowns.

15 It is irrelevant under the law if they really
16 believed in the mission of orgasm. It is irrelevant under
17 the law if they thought they were entitled or in service to
18 some higher power to emotionally abuse, financially
19 manipulate, and psychologically damage these women for their
20 own purposes, to further Orgasm to make sales or to make
21 money. They weren't.

22 And to be clear, there is nothing spiritual about
23 having all of these women work away for you, catering to
24 your needs, so that you can sell off your company for
25 \$12 million.

REBUTTAL - MS. BENSING

5250

1 On a related note, the Government is not
2 suggesting that you are not allowed to be around people who
3 share your beliefs or to have sex with whoever you want or
4 to enjoy having an orgasm. It is not your role to decide
5 whether orgasmic mediation is good or bad and Ms. Bonjean
6 and I agree, it is not your role to decide whether or not
7 you think OneTaste was a cult. It is not your role to
8 decide anything in this courtroom about our collective
9 culture attitudes regarding sex or anything that Ms. Bonjean
10 just went on about. None of that matters. All of that is a
11 distraction.

12 Nobody is asking you to convict on ideas.
13 Ms. Daedone is allowed to believe and teach whatever she
14 wants. She is not on trial for her lectures. She's on
15 trial because she, Rachel Cherwitz, Rob Kandell and others
16 used aspects of her teaching to force OneTaste employees to
17 provide labor in combination with many, many other tactics.
18 In the same way that a Nazi, to use Ms. Bonjean's analogy,
19 is free to express abhorrent ideas, but can't use those
20 ideas to justify crimes.

21 You are here to decide whether the defendants in
22 this case conspired to commit forced labor; whether the
23 leaders of this company, Nicole Daedone and Rachel Cherwitz,
24 coerced and compelled these women through serious harm to
25 believe that they had no reasonable choice not to work.

REBUTTAL - MS. BENSING

5251

1 THE COURT: Ms. Bensing, I don't want to interrupt
2 you, but we are getting close to 5:30. We can stop for the
3 day and pick up tomorrow morning? I don't want to rush you,
4 and I also don't want to keep the jury late today.

5 MS. BENSING: I really want to finish today, Your
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: I think I'm going to make the decision
8 for you, then. I think we're going to stop because it
9 really is just about 5:30.

10 MS. BENSING: Okay.

11 THE COURT: And the jury has been so attentive
12 today and I just think that there's no reason in rushing.
13 We are going to be back tomorrow.

14 So we will resume tomorrow, same plan as always.
15 If art at 9:30.

16 You have heard some of the summations, but we
17 haven't finished that yet and you also haven't heard my
18 instructions which you will hear after all the summations
19 are done. So it is not yet the time to talk about the case,
20 so do not talk about the case with anyone, including among
21 yourselves. If anyone approaches you and tries to discuss
22 the trial with you, please let me know immediately through
23 Mr. D'Agostino. Don't read, listen to, or watch any news or
24 other media reports of the trial. Don't conduct any
25 independent research about the case, the matters in the

1 case, or the individuals involved in the case. Don't talk
2 to the parties, the attorneys, the witnesses about anything.
3 And, again, I really appreciate your attentiveness today as
4 always. Keep an open mind. And have a good evening and
5 I'll see you tomorrow at the usual time.

6 (Jury exits.)

7 THE COURT: Everyone may be seated.

8 We almost got there, but I really didn't want to
9 keep this jury long today. They've sat and listened for a
10 long time, even though we were a short day, it was a lot.
11 And in any event, they have to be back tomorrow.

12 Approximately how much time do you have left?

13 MS. BENSING: Oh, maybe just ten to 15 minutes. I
14 was really almost there.

15 THE COURT: A couple of things.

16 One is that I take it that no party is seeking
17 that the jury be retained to determine the forfeitability of
18 specific property if the jury returns guilty verdicts, and,
19 of course, I don't have any prediction nor would I offer
20 one, nobody has submitted any proposed special verdict form
21 or any other documents, so is that correct?

22 MS. FARRELL: I don't know if that's correct, Your
23 Honor. We have been trying to work out -- so there are two
24 bank accounts that were seized. There is some money left,
25 about a million dollars. And it's the -- it's Ms. Daedone's

1 decision whether to have the jury make that determination or
2 the Court and, as I understand it, that decision has to be
3 made before the jury retires to deliberate. I understand,
4 we have been trying to work this out with Ms. Bonjean this
5 week, but I think she's obviously been focused on her
6 closing.

7 THE COURT: And nobody certainly had proposed any
8 jury instruction, any special verdict form, anything along
9 those lines, or raised any issue.

10 MS. FARRELL: That's correct, Your Honor. We have
11 the materials prepared. We will file them tonight if we
12 can't reach agreement.

13 THE COURT: And you thought that that was a good
14 time to do it? Yes, the rule requires before, but no
15 mention of this ever? I mean, it's --

16 MS. FARRELL: We apologize, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: -- pretty extraordinary, frankly, in a
18 case like this where the jury has been given a certain time
19 estimate, where we have, for months, you know, you have been
20 going back and forth on jury instructions. The deadline for
21 a verdict form was months ago. Really wondering why anyone
22 thought that this would be the way to do this.

23 MS. FARRELL: We apologize, Your Honor. Honestly,
24 it was an oversight and we're trying to fix it now.

25 THE COURT: I mean, you are seeking specific

PROCEEDINGS

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1 property or a money judgment?

2 MS. FARRELL: It's specific property. It's these
3 two accounts that have been seized. We will submit the
4 paperwork tonight and try to work it out with Ms. Bonjean,
5 as well.

6 THE COURT: I don't know if anyone wants to be
7 heard on that.

8 That's fine. Not necessary.

9 Let me just ask for the parties' input, which I
10 may or may not follow, but on deliberations. There's a
11 couple of options. They'll start deliberating tomorrow.
12 The charge, I don't know, will take me maybe an hour, if
13 that, to read, although I will try for the sake of the court
14 reporter to read slowly, which means that they will be, you
15 know, deliberating tomorrow.

16 I can tell them that we won't stay past 5:30. I
17 can tell them a different time. I can tell them they can
18 let us know. But it is Friday and I don't know that we
19 necessarily want to leave it entirely up to the jury.

20 So I will listen to the parties if they have a
21 view on this. Anybody?

22 MS. BENSING: We would just defer to the Court,
23 Your Honor.

24 MS. BONJEAN: I think we would just -- I guess we
25 would just like to see the normal getting out time.

PROCEEDINGS

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1 THE COURT: You don't want to spend Friday night
2 here in this courtroom, I take it?

3 MS. BONJEAN: We definitely don't, but --

4 THE COURT: Yes. I won't be an offended by that.
5 I don't think anybody really wants to spend a Friday night
6 in a courtroom.

7 Ms. Cohen?

8 MS. COHEN: Yes, we agree. Just regular time.

9 THE COURT: I think that's reasonable, so I think
10 we'll let the jury know we will be on the regular schedule.

11 Thank you all. We'll see you tomorrow. It might
12 be worthwhile coming 15 minutes before, 9:15. We're
13 adjourned.

14 (Trial adjourned to Friday, June 6, 2025, 9:15 a.m.)
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