

***Exhibit E***

A508ED2

ALLEN SHUSTER

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ALMEDA

-----X

JANE DOE, No. HG11558324

Plaintiff,

-v-

THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT

SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC., a

corporation, et al.,

Defendants.

-----X

VIDEO DEPOSITION

OF

ALLEN SHUSTER

PATTERSON, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

10:01 A.M.

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.  
COURT REPORTERS  
(800) 288-3376  
www.depo.com

Nancy Anne Flynn, RPR  
FILE NO.: A508ED2

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ALLEN SHUSTER

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

1 **Allen Shuster**  
 2 **Body-of-Elder letter, categories one and two in that** 10:07  
 3 **Notice. Am I correct in that, Counsel?** 10:07  
 4 MR. SCHNACK: Yes, they are identified as 10:07  
 5 topics one and two in that Deposition Notice. 10:07  
 6 MR. SIMONS: All right. So I will, again 10:07  
 7 with everyone's permission, attach that 10:07  
 8 Deposition Notice as Exhibit 1 to your 10:07  
 9 deposition, Mr. Shuster. 10:07  
 10 (Deposition Notice February 15, 2012 10:07  
 11 1:00 P.M. was marked as Deposition 10:07  
 12 Exhibit Number 1 for identification.) 10:07  
 13 **Q Similarly, you will be the designated** 10:08  
 14 **representative to testify as to the correspondence** 10:08  
 15 **of December 3rd, 1993 and the matters of policy** 10:08  
 16 **related to that, again from the February 15, 2012** 10:08  
 17 **1:30 Deposition Notice. Am I correct in that as** 10:08  
 18 **well?** 10:08  
 19 MR. SCHNACK: Yes. 10:08  
 20 MR. SIMONS: Let me mark that as Exhibit 10:08  
 21 2 then. 10:08  
 22 (Deposition Notice February 15, 2012 10:08  
 23 1:30 P.M. was marked as Deposition 10:08  
 24 Exhibit Number 2 for identification.) 10:08  
 25 **Q Then additionally, certain of the** 10:08

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1 **Allen Shuster**  
 2 **categories designated in the Deposition Notice for** 10:08  
 3 **February 16 at 10:30 will be within your purview,** 10:08  
 4 **which I understand generally to be category one,** 10:09  
 5 **Corporate administrative structure, category two,** 10:09  
 6 **Managerial staff functions. But not as to the legal** 10:09  
 7 **department?** 10:09  
 8 MR. SCHNACK: Yes, topic two only as to 10:09  
 9 the legal department, so that would not be 10:09  
 10 Mr. Shuster. 10:09  
 11 MR. SIMONS: And topic three, the service 10:09  
 12 department, would include Mr. Shuster's subject 10:09  
 13 matter; is that correct? 10:09  
 14 MR. SCHNACK: Yes. 10:09  
 15 MR. SIMONS: And then number four we've 10:09  
 16 had considerable discussion back and forth, and 10:09  
 17 there's a number of objections. 10:09  
 18 MR. SCHNACK: I'll allow you to ask 10:09  
 19 questions on that and then we can address it 10:09  
 20 further if we need to. 10:09  
 21 MR. SIMONS: To the extent that questions 10:09  
 22 are permitted that category four will be 10:09  
 23 included then. And category five is also 10:09  
 24 included; am I right? 10:09  
 25 MR. SCHNACK: Yes. 10:09

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1 **Allen Shuster**  
 2 MR. SIMONS: And category six is also 10:09  
 3 included? 10:09  
 4 MR. SCHNACK: Yes, subject to the 10:09  
 5 objections. 10:10  
 6 MR. SIMONS: And for the record, counsel 10:10  
 7 and I have exchanged both correspondence and 10:10  
 8 discussions with regard to the nature and 10:10  
 9 extent of objections to all of these Deposition 10:10  
 10 Notices which we will not burden the record 10:10  
 11 with at this time, but are certainly 10:10  
 12 acknowledged. 10:10  
 13 And then as to category seven, that is 10:10  
 14 also within Mr. Shuster's purview. 10:10  
 15 MR. SCHNACK: In part, to the extent it 10:10  
 16 relates to what happens in the service 10:10  
 17 department, yes. Otherwise, again, to the 10:10  
 18 extent it involves the legal department that's 10:10  
 19 going to be off limits. But we will have a PMK 10:10  
 20 from the legal department here later today or 10:10  
 21 tomorrow, depending on when you get to it. 10:10  
 22 MR. SIMONS: Very good. So let me mark 10:10  
 23 this Deposition Notice as Exhibit 3 then. 10:10  
 24 (Deposition Notice was marked as 10:10  
 25 Deposition Exhibit Number 3 for 10:10

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1 **Allen Shuster**  
 2 identification.) 10:10  
 3 **Q Mr. Shuster, do you have an official job** 10:11  
 4 **title at present?** 10:11  
 5 A Yes, I do. 10:11  
 6 **Q What is that?** 10:11  
 7 A Assistant overseer of the service 10:11  
 8 department. 10:11  
 9 **Q To whom do you report as your supervisor?** 10:11  
 10 A The overseer of the service department. 10:11  
 11 **Q And who is that at present?** 10:11  
 12 A His name a Gary Breaux. 10:11  
 13 **Q Who in turned does Mr. Breaux report to?** 10:11  
 14 A It's called the branch committee. 10:11  
 15 MR. SCHNACK: Talking about currently? 10:11  
 16 MR. SIMONS: Yes. 10:11  
 17 **Q What is the branch committee?** 10:11  
 18 A It's made up of twelve elders that 10:11  
 19 represent the United States branch territory among 10:12  
 20 Jehovah's Witnesses. 10:12  
 21 **Q Are there twelve separate territories** 10:12  
 22 **within the United States or is it twelve elders who** 10:12  
 23 **represent the territory of the United States?** 10:12  
 24 A Twelve elders who represent the 10:12  
 25 territories of the United States. 10:12

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1	Allen Shuster	
2	<b>Q As assistant overseer, what are your</b>	10:12
3	<b>general duties and responsibilities?</b>	10:12
4	A We have within the department several	10:12
5	desks. We have a number of desks. I work with the	10:12
6	various schools that Jehovah's Witnesses conduct	10:12
7	throughout the United States.	10:12
8	We have a program of constructing Kingdom	10:12
9	Halls and Assembly Halls throughout the branch	10:12
10	territory. I oversee that. I also oversee the desk	10:12
11	that distributes convention assignments for our	10:13
12	district conventions.	10:13
13	<b>Q How long have you held this position?</b>	10:13
14	A The position of overseeing certain	10:13
15	aspects of this work, for probably eleven years.	10:13
16	<b>Q And prior to holding the position of</b>	10:13
17	<b>assistant overseer, what was your previous</b>	10:13
18	<b>assignment?</b>	10:13
19	A I worked as what is called a contact	10:13
20	within the service department.	10:13
21	<b>Q What is a contact?</b>	10:13
22	A Contact is an elder who consults or is	10:13
23	consulted with by a number of different elders	10:13
24	within the department.	10:13
25	<b>Q Have you been an elder since 1979?</b>	10:13
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1	Allen Shuster	
2	A Yes.	10:14
3	<b>Q How long have you been performing</b>	10:14
4	<b>services and duties here at the national</b>	10:14
5	<b>headquarters?</b>	10:14
6	A Since '76, 1976.	10:14
7	<b>Q Have you served as an elder in a</b>	10:14
8	<b>congregation?</b>	10:14
9	A Yes, I have.	10:14
10	<b>Q Where was that congregation or those</b>	10:14
11	<b>congregations located?</b>	10:14
12	A In New York City.	10:14
13	<b>Q What was the time frame of your service</b>	10:14
14	<b>in that regard as an elder in a congregation?</b>	10:14
15	A I stated from 1979 until transferring up	10:14
16	here to Patterson, so that would have been in one	10:14
17	congregation from 1979 to 1995, and then from 1995	10:14
18	to the present here at Patterson.	10:15
19	<b>Q Is your position a compensated position?</b>	10:15
20	A No, it is not.	10:15
21	<b>Q Are you in your own mind, not asking for</b>	10:15
22	<b>a legal conclusion, but in your own mind do you work</b>	10:15
23	<b>as an employee of one of the Jehovah's Witnesses</b>	10:15
24	<b>entities?</b>	10:15
25	A No, I do not.	10:15
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1	Allen Shuster	
2	<b>Q As part of the service department</b>	10:15
3	<b>currently, are you within the Watchtower Bible and</b>	10:15
4	<b>Tract Society of New York, Inc.?</b>	10:15
5	A No.	10:15
6	<b>Q Is the service department presently</b>	10:15
7	<b>operated through the Christian Congregation of</b>	10:15
8	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses?</b>	10:15
9	A Yes.	10:16
10	<b>Q Has that been true since 2001?</b>	10:16
11	A That's correct.	10:16
12	<b>Q Is there currently a line of</b>	10:16
13	<b>communication -- actually let me rephrase that.</b>	10:16
14	<b>Is there currently a line of authority</b>	10:16
15	<b>between Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New</b>	10:16
16	<b>York and Christian Congregation of Jehovah's</b>	10:16
17	<b>Witnesses?</b>	10:16
18	MR. SCHNACK: I am going to object to the	10:16
19	form of the question. I don't know what you	10:16
20	mean by line of authority between those two	10:16
21	entities.	10:16
22	You can answer if you can.	10:16
23	MR. SIMONS: I think your objection is	10:16
24	well taken. It's not well phrased.	10:16
25	<b>Q Do any persons holding positions within</b>	10:16
		Page 16

1	Allen Shuster	
2	<b>Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York</b>	10:16
3	<b>exercise supervisory authority over your service</b>	10:16
4	<b>department within Christian Congregation?</b>	10:16
5	A When you say exercise authority, can you	10:17
6	put that in context, what do you mean by exercise	10:17
7	authority?	10:17
8	<b>Q Are persons who are serving within</b>	10:17
9	<b>Watchtower Bible and Tract Society New York, Inc.</b>	10:17
10	<b>presently holding authority to implement or impose</b>	10:17
11	<b>policies, procedures or decisions upon Christian</b>	10:17
12	<b>Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses?</b>	10:17
13	A I believe so.	10:17
14	<b>Q And tell me what your understanding is of</b>	10:17
15	<b>the relationship between those two entities?</b>	10:17
16	A I mentioned earlier that there is a	10:17
17	branch committee. I do believe some of those	10:17
18	members of the branch committee are members of the	10:17
19	New York corporation.	10:17
20	<b>Q What is the general role of the branch</b>	10:18
21	<b>committee?</b>	10:18
22	A They oversee the spiritual activities as	10:18
23	well as the administering of the properties at the	10:18
24	three complexes here in New York State.	10:18
25	<b>Q Is the service committee one of multiple</b>	10:18
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ALLEN SHUSTER

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1	Allen Shuster	
2	<b>committees within the branch committee?</b>	10:18
3	A When you say service committee?	10:18
4	<b>Q The service department.</b>	10:18
5	A The service department. Your question	10:18
6	again?	10:18
7	<b>Q Is that one of multiple departments or</b>	10:18
8	<b>entities within the branch committee?</b>	10:18
9	A It is one of a number of departments that	10:18
10	the branch committee has oversight of.	10:18
11	<b>Q And speaking in terms of the composition</b>	10:18
12	<b>of the branch committee, how large a committee is</b>	10:18
13	<b>it?</b>	10:19
14	A Twelve members.	10:19
15	<b>Q And how are its members selected?</b>	10:19
16	A It's, I'm not privy to the deliberations	10:19
17	of the branch committee, so I'm not sure I can	10:19
18	answer that.	10:19
19	<b>Q And not asking as to any individual who</b>	10:19
20	<b>might have been appointed to the branch committee,</b>	10:19
21	<b>but generally just speaking procedurally, how are</b>	10:19
22	<b>branch committee members selected, by what authority</b>	10:19
23	<b>or process?</b>	10:19
24	A Members of the branch committee	10:19
25	collectively, I should say the collective branch	10:19

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1	Allen Shuster	
2	branch committee guidelines.	10:21
3	<b>Q Is that series of guidelines applicable</b>	10:21
4	<b>to the service department of the Christian</b>	10:21
5	<b>Congregation?</b>	10:21
6	A Parts of it are.	10:21
7	<b>Q What other areas -- well, let me ask you,</b>	10:21
8	<b>have you ever seen the branch committee guidelines?</b>	10:21
9	A Yes.	10:22
10	<b>Q And do you use it daily in your, or at</b>	10:22
11	<b>least from time to time, in your work?</b>	10:22
12	A From time to time.	10:22
13	<b>Q What are the general subject matters</b>	10:22
14	<b>covered under the branch committee guidelines?</b>	10:22
15	A Matters having to do with branch	10:22
16	facilities, branch personnel, the managing of the	10:22
17	spiritual activities within a specific branch or	10:22
18	branch territory. Just general operation	10:22
19	guidelines.	10:22
20	<b>Q Are the branch committee guidelines the</b>	10:22
21	<b>same for every branch throughout the world or are</b>	10:22
22	<b>there separate branch committee guidelines for</b>	10:23
23	<b>different geographical areas?</b>	10:23
24	A Same throughout the world.	10:23
25	<b>Q Are the contents of the branch committee</b>	10:23

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1	Allen Shuster	
2	committee, makes recommendations as to who should be	10:19
3	added in the case of deaths. And so those	10:19
4	recommendations are made to the governing body of	10:20
5	Jehovah's Witnesses.	10:20
6	<b>Q And what is the governing body within the</b>	10:20
7	<b>administrative structure? I'm not asking for</b>	10:20
8	<b>spiritual or theological information here, I'm</b>	10:20
9	<b>really look administratively, what is the governing</b>	10:20
10	<b>body?</b>	10:20
11	A The governing body is a committee that	10:20
12	oversees the worldwide activity of Jehovah's	10:20
13	Witnesses.	10:20
14	<b>Q Does the branch committee have any sort</b>	10:20
15	<b>of written policies, procedures that it follows?</b>	10:20
16	A Yes.	10:20
17	<b>Q Is there some form of either a manual or</b>	10:20
18	<b>other documentary compilation that the branch</b>	10:21
19	<b>committee is guided by in its work?</b>	10:21
20	A Yes.	10:21
21	<b>Q What is that called?</b>	10:21
22	A It's called branch organization.	10:21
23	<b>Q And is that, is the appropriate term a</b>	10:21
24	<b>manual or would it be some other term?</b>	10:21
25	A I think the terminology is guidelines,	10:21

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1	Allen Shuster	
2	<b>guidelines approved by the governing body?</b>	10:23
3	A Yes.	10:23
4	<b>Q And would those branch committee</b>	10:23
5	<b>guidelines apply to the Bible and Tract Society of</b>	10:23
6	<b>New York, Inc.?</b>	10:23
7	A I guess my question would be, when you --	10:23
8	can you say that one more time?	10:23
9	<b>Q Yes.</b>	10:23
10	A I want to make sure I have the question	10:23
11	correct.	10:23
12	<b>Q Do the branch committee guidelines apply</b>	10:23
13	<b>to the entities within the Watchtower Bible and</b>	10:23
14	<b>Tract Society of New York, Inc., the divisions I</b>	10:23
15	<b>should say?</b>	10:23
16	A I would think so.	10:23
17	<b>Q Do they also apply to the Christian</b>	10:23
18	<b>Congregation?</b>	10:24
19	A Yes.	10:24
20	<b>Q I know there are other entities such as</b>	10:24
21	<b>Watchtower of Pennsylvania. Would the branch</b>	10:24
22	<b>committee guidelines apply to these other entities</b>	10:24
23	<b>as well?</b>	10:24
24	A Yes.	10:24
25	<b>Q Other than the service department, what</b>	10:24

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FEBRUARY 15, 2012

1 Allen Shuster  
 2 are the other departments that have existed both -- 10:24  
 3 well, let me break this down actually, I'm sorry. 10:24  
 4 Prior to the formation of Christian 10:24  
 5 Congregation, going back to Watchtower of New York, 10:24  
 6 what were the various departments within Watchtower 10:25  
 7 of New York prior to 2001? 10:25  
 8 A I don't know that I can name them all. I 10:25  
 9 know the service department came under the direction 10:25  
 10 of Watchtower Corporation of New York. I know 10:25  
 11 certain other departments did. I can't say with 10:25  
 12 certainty I know. 10:25  
 13 Q All right. We talked about the legal 10:25  
 14 department earlier. Recognizing that you are not 10:25  
 15 here in that capacity, but do you know of your own 10:25  
 16 knowledge whether or not the legal department prior 10:25  
 17 to 2001 was operated through the Watchtower Bible 10:25  
 18 and Tract Society of New York, Inc.? 10:25  
 19 A I don't know. 10:25  
 20 MR. SCHNACK: I can tell you it was, 10:26  
 21 Rick. 10:26  
 22 MR. SIMONS: It was? Okay. 10:26  
 23 MR. SCHNACK: And it still is. 10:26  
 24 Q In your work in the service department, 10:26  
 25 if you have a question that involves legal issues 10:26

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1 Allen Shuster  
 2 presently, do you go to the legal department of 10:26  
 3 Watchtower New York or do you have a separate legal 10:26  
 4 department within Christian Congregation? 10:26  
 5 A The legal department here at Patterson. 10:26  
 6 Q Is that Watchtower New York? 10:26  
 7 A As Rick has stated it is -- I'm sorry, 10:26  
 8 Bob. 10:26  
 9 MR. SIMONS: Let me mark as our exhibit 10:27  
 10 next in order a document called Affidavit of 10:27  
 11 Allen Shuster (handing). 10:27  
 12 (August 11, 2011 Affidavit of Allen 10:28  
 13 Shuster was marked as Deposition Exhibit 10:28  
 14 Number 4 for identification.) 10:28  
 15 Q First of all, turning to the last page of 10:28  
 16 this document, page 8, is that your signature after 10:28  
 17 the August 11, 2011 date? 10:28  
 18 A Yes. 10:28  
 19 Q And this Affidavit was prepared and 10:28  
 20 submitted in connection with the litigation of the 10:28  
 21 case we are here for today; is that correct? 10:28  
 22 A Yes. 10:28  
 23 Q From time to time, have your duties and 10:28  
 24 responsibilities included participating and 10:28  
 25 providing Declarations in various lawsuits? 10:28

Page 23

1 Allen Shuster  
 2 A When you say Declarations, you mean? 10:28  
 3 Q Affidavits, Declarations, documents of 10:28  
 4 this kind in which there is a series of information 10:28  
 5 followed by your signature, and on court related 10:29  
 6 paperwork? 10:29  
 7 A Yes. 10:29  
 8 Q Do you have an estimate as to how many 10:29  
 9 times that you have executed some sort of Affidavit 10:29  
 10 or Declaration for a court proceeding? 10:29  
 11 A I'd have to give you a rough estimate, my 10:29  
 12 guess is four or five times. 10:29  
 13 Q The case that this Affidavit pertains to 10:29  
 14 that we're here today involves childhood sexual 10:29  
 15 abuse claims and allegations. In the other matters 10:29  
 16 in which you have provided an Affidavit, has the 10:29  
 17 subject matter of those cases, to your knowledge, 10:29  
 18 also involved childhood sexual abuse claims? 10:29  
 19 A Just the one that you referenced earlier, 10:29  
 20 I referenced earlier. 10:30  
 21 Q In Florida? 10:30  
 22 A In Florida. 10:30  
 23 Q Are you aware of a case in San Diego 10:30  
 24 County in California? 10:30  
 25 A Yes, my mistake. 10:30

Page 24

1 Allen Shuster  
 2 Q So that would qualify as well? 10:30  
 3 A Yes, that would be another one. 10:30  
 4 Q Any others that come to mind? 10:30  
 5 A I don't want to make a mistake here. I 10:30  
 6 don't think so. 10:30  
 7 Q Turning to page 3 of your Affidavit, 10:30  
 8 paragraph 7, Jehovah's Witnesses who serve as 10:30  
 9 appointed elders are recognized as ordained 10:30  
 10 ministers and congregation elders. If you could 10:30  
 11 assist me, is there a distinction between ordained 10:30  
 12 ministers and congregation elders, as you are using 10:31  
 13 it in this paragraph? 10:31  
 14 A No, there is not. 10:31  
 15 Q Looking down at paragraph 10, 10:31  
 16 "Congregation Elders are expected to keep confession 10:31  
 17 and other spiritual communications confidential." 10:31  
 18 Is there a written definition, to your knowledge, in 10:31  
 19 any of the materials that you reference in your work 10:31  
 20 or have been familiar with in your work, as to what 10:31  
 21 constitutes a spiritual confidential communication? 10:31  
 22 MR. SCHNACK: I'm sorry, you're asking if 10:31  
 23 there is a written definition of that? 10:32  
 24 MR. SIMONS: Yes, of what is a spiritual 10:32  
 25 confidential communication. 10:32

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