# VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.

PAGE 1 TO PAGE 54

CONDENSED TRANSCRIPT AND CONCORDANCE PREPARED BY:

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BSA	VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITIO	NOF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.
	Page 1	Page 3
(1)	The State of Ohio, )	(1) OBJECTIONS
	County of Cuyahoga.) SS:	
• •	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS	(3) ATTORNEY PAGE-LINE
	····	(4) BYMR. DiLISI 25-04 (5) BYMR. DiLISI 31-24
(6)	CAROL E. PHILLIPS, )	(6) BY MR. DILISI 32-05
	et al., )	(7) BYMR, DILISI 33-02
	Plaintiffs, )	(8) BYMR. DiLISI 35-02
	-vs-) Case No. 323242	(9) BYMR. DiLISI 35-16
	DEL McDONALD JOHNSON, ) Judge Timothy McGinty	(10) BY MR. DILISI 38-10
	Defendant.)	(11) BYMR. DiLISI 39-05 (12) BYMR. DiLISI 39-12
• •	/ideotaped deposition of ROBERT D. ZAAS,	(12) BY MR. DILIGI 39-12 (13) BY MR. DILISI 39-19
	M.D., a witness herein, called by the plaintiff as	(14) BY MR. DILISI 39-23
	if upon cross-examination under the statute, and	(15) BYMR. DiLISI 40-16
	taken before Suzanne Lamparter, Court Reporter and	(16) BYMR. DILISI 41-13
	Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio,	(17) BYMR. DiLISI 42-05 (18) BYMR. DiLISI 50-21
	pursuant to the agreement of counsel, and pursuant to the further stipulations of counsel herein	(19) BY MR. DILISI 50-21 (19) BY MR. DILISI 51-07
	contained, on Wednesday, the 15th day of October,	(20) BY MR. DILISI 51-15
	1997, at 6:00 p.m., at the offices of Dr. Zaas,	(21) BY MR. DILISI 51-17
	26900 Cedar Road, City of Beachwood, County of	(22) BY MR. PARIS 50-04
	Cuyahoga and the State of Ohio.	(23)
		(24) (25)
(25)		(23)
	Page 2	Page 4
	Page 2 APPEARANCES:	(1) PROCEEDINGS
(2)	APPEARANCES:	(1) PROCEEDINGS (2)
(2) (3)	APPEARANCES: On behalf of the Plaintiffs:	<ul> <li>(1) PROCEEDINGS</li> <li>(2)</li> <li>(3) MR. PARIS: Rich, sometimes what</li> </ul>
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BSA VIDEOTAPED DEPOSIT	IONOF ROBERTD. ZAAS. M.D. XMAX(
Page 5	Page 7
(1) the record so he's not rustling through his	(1) testify as an expert witness?
(2) file.	(2) A First I had to go to college and I finished
(3) THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Just say off the	(3) at Western Reserve University, they now call it
(4) record for me.	(4) Case Western Reserve, a four-year program, with a
	(5) bachelor of science degree which I received in
(6) ROBERT D. ZAAS, M D., a	(6) <b>1953.</b> From there I went to medical school, to the
(7) witness herein, being of lawful age, having been	(7) University of Chicago School of Medicine, that's
<ul><li>(8) first duly sworn according to law, deposes and</li><li>(9) says as follows:</li></ul>	(8) also four years, and I graduated there with an
(10)	<ul> <li>(9) M.D., a doctor's degree, M.D. degree in 1957, and</li> <li>(10) there - so far that's four years of college and</li> </ul>
11) DIRECT EXAMINATION	(10) there is that that's four years of conege and (11) four years of medical school.
(12) BYMR. PARIS,	(12) From then on I had six additional years
(13) Q Doctor, my name is David Paris. I represent	(13) of post-graduate training, that means internship
(14) Dan Solomon Will you tell the ladies and	(14) and residency, at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in
(15) gentlemen of the jury your full name?	(15) Cleveland, the University Hospitals in Cleveland,
(16) A My name is Dr. Robert David Zaas. I spell	(16) Akron General Hospital in Akron, and Indiana
(17) my last name Z-A-A-S,	(17) University in Indianapolis. So from the time that
(18) Q And we're here at your office this evening,	(18) I graduated high school until the time I completed
(19) Game 5 of the American League Championship?	(19) training was a total of 14 years, four each of
(20) A No, sir, Ithink you're incorrect.	(20) college and medical school and six for residence
(21) Q What game is it?	(21) training.
(22) A I think it's Game 6.	(22) Q So when did you finish up your training in
(23) Q Okay. I stand corrected.	(23) orthopedic surgery?
(24) A <b>Is</b> there any objection?	(24) A Well, that kind of got complicated because I
(25) MR. DiLISI: We will stipulate	(25) was interrupted just before I finished because of
(25) MR. DiLISI: We will stipulate Page 6 (1) that it is Game 6.	<ul> <li>(25) was interrupted just before I finished because of</li> <li>Page 8</li> <li>(1) the Vietnam war. So I had to go and spend two</li> </ul>
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- (25) background that gives you the credentials to
- Page 5 to Page 8

BSA VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITIO	NOF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D. XMAX(3)
Page 9	Page 11
(1) What it means to me as a doctor is that	(1) Q Tell me about those responsibilities.
(2) I have completed all of that training, was	(2) A Well, for years I have always been a member
(3) recommended by the doctors that trained me, and	(3) of the committee for continuing education.
(4) was able to pass two sets of examinations, both	(4) Doctors just don't go to medical school, learn
(5) written and oral, in the given field given by	(5) what they learn, and then treat their patients
(6) other experts, and then after being successful in	(6) with it. So many things happen. Ithink
(7) every phase, including the examination, Ithen	(7) everybody knows just from looking at television
(8) would agree to limit my practice to orthopedic	<ul><li>(8) that every year something new comes up.</li><li>(9) We have got to go to courses. We have</li></ul>
<ul> <li>(9) surgery. I was said to be board certified.</li> <li>(io) Q To which major medical organizations,</li> </ul>	(10) to take post-graduate education. We have to have
<ul><li>(11) societies and associations do you belong?</li></ul>	(11) continuing education and my part of it has been
(12) A Well, I belong to the American Medical	(12) here $=$ l've either been on the committee or now
(13) Association, Ohio State Medical Association, the	(13) I'm chairman of the continuing education committee
(14) Academy of Medicine of Cleveland. But Ialso	(14) for all of northeastern Ohio. We are talking
(15) belong to a group of organizations whose	(15) about Cleveland Orthopedic Society from Toledo to
(16) membership is only for orthopedic specialists and	(16) the Pennsylvania border, from Lake Erie to
(17) that again includes the American Board of	(17) Mansfield.
(18) Orthopedic Surgery, the Ohio State Orthopedic	(18) And we arrange programs. Like I'm
(19) Association, the Cleveland Orthopedic Society,	(19) responsible for making the final okay on it, for
(20) which I have been every officer. I'm past	(20) bringing in experts in a given field to teach the
(21) president. Right now lagreed to stay on as	(21) rest of us the latest upgraded new things in
(22) chairman with the continuing education committee.	(22) orthopedics and I'm very active in that.
(23) Q And at which hospitals in our community do	(23) Q You still maintain a full-time active
(24) you have staff and courtesy privileges?	(24) orthopedic practice?
(25) A I try to limit all of my hospital	(25)A Correct.
Page 10	Page 12
(1) admissions, my surgical scheduling, my teaching	(1) Q And a significant percentage of your time is
(2) responsibilities to Mt. Sinai. Mt. Sinai is	(2) still involved in performing orthopedic surgery?
(3) affiliated with the medical school at Case Western	(3) A Oh, yeah. The only time I - again, my
(4) Reserve, but we also have a training program in	(4) teaching responsibilities have really been on the
(5) the hospital where doctors rotate through the	(5) Wednesday mornings. Sometimes I make rounds
(6) Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and	(6) the residents, which means we have a clinical
(7) Mt. Sinai, going on to become specialists in my	(7) conference on Tuesday afternoons and once and
<ul><li>(8) field. I do all of my surgery at Mt. Sinai.</li><li>(9) Q And tell me about your teaching</li></ul>	(8) sometimes twice a month on Saturday mornings
(10) responsibilities.	from
(11) A I'm part of the faculty of that university	(9) 9:00 to 12:00 or sometimes 8:00 to 12:00, but I
(12) orthopedic training program again for doctors who	(10) teach = everything else for six or seven days a
(13) are going to become orthopedic specialists. In	(11) week, depending who is here, is strictly the
(14) fact I had a class I gave at 7:00 o'clock this	(12) practice of orthopedic surgery, treatment of
(15) morning. We're sitting here now, it's 6:13 p.m.,	(13) patients.
(16) but Wednesday morning from 7:00 to 8:00 l have a	(14) Q Now the injury that we're going to be
(17) class.	(15) talking about this evening involving Dan Solomon
(18) $\mathbf{Q}$ It's probably the seventh inning of the	(16) is a fractured ankle, more specifically referred
(19) ballgame.	(17) to as a bi-malleolar fracture?
(20) A Not at 7:00 in the morning.	(18) A Right. I call it a bad fracture. There are
(21) Q No, no, as we're speaking now.	(19) fractures that only involve one part of the ankle.
(22) Are you involved in continuing education	(20) When you get a double bone fracture in which the (21) ankle itself dislocates, that's a bad one.
<ul><li>(23) courses and the teaching of continuing education</li><li>(24) to doctors?</li></ul>	(22) Q And is that an injury that you have
(25) A Oh, yes.	(22) diagnosed and treated over the years as an
	(24) orthopedic surgeon on many occasions?
	(25) A Oh, sure, all kinds of different types.

(25) A Oh, sure, all kinds of different types.

BSA	VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITIO	NOF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D. XMAX	<b>(</b> (4)
<ul> <li>(2)</li> <li>(3)</li> <li>(4)</li> <li>(5)</li> <li>(6)</li> <li>(7)</li> <li>(8)</li> <li>(9)</li> <li>(10)</li> <li>(11)</li> <li>(12)</li> <li>(13)</li> <li>(14)</li> <li>(15)</li> <li>(16)</li> <li>(17)</li> <li>(18)</li> <li>(19)</li> <li>(20)</li> <li>(21)</li> <li>(22)</li> <li>(23)</li> <li>(24)</li> </ul>	Page 13 There are different types of injuries depending where the mechanism is. If you step in a hole, you get a little bit of a different type of fracture of the ankle as compared to when you get tackled by a middle linebacker or get hit in a compression type of injury, like come down from a fall or the floorboard of a car, something like that. But that's not an uncommon injury, a broken ankle. The type he sustained, however, was one of the bad ones. It was not a minor fracture. Q You have treated those kinds of injuries before? A Many, many. Q You have performed surgery on them, on those injuries before? A Yeah, usually at 2:00 o'clock in the morning, but yes, I have done lots of those. Q And you have followed patients in your career with these type of injuries over a period of years to see how they do? A I have patients, right, even up to the current time that may have gone back as long as 20 years ago, sure. Q Now at my request did you examine Dan Solomon?	Page 15 (1) saw him, that he had been a passenger in an (2) automobile and that automobile struck another car (3) from the front end on March 25, <b>1996</b> , and as a (4) result of the injuries of the accident he suffered (5) a fracture of the right ankle, and that he was (6) taken in – the emergency vehicles came and he was (7) taken from the vehicle, he was taken over to (8) Hillcrest Hospital, and that's when X-rays showed (9) that he had a fracture dislocation of the right (10) ankle, the type that we call bi-malleolar fracture (11) with associated subluxation. Kind of big long (12) words, but what it involves is bones on both sides (13) of the ankle were broken and the entire ankle (14) joint was out of place. (15) Q Okay. (16) MR. PARIS: I want to go off the (17) videotape for a second while we get the (18) model so that we can demonstrate what we are (19) talking about. (20) (21) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the (22) record at this time.) (23) (24) BY MR. PARIS: (25) Q What is that you're holding in your hand,	
(2) (3) (4) ( (5) / (6) ( (7) / (8) / (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) ( (20) (21) (22) / (23) (24)	Page 14 A I guess it was your request. I'm not sure who. I guess your office did refer him. Yes, I did. Q All right. And when did you first see Dan? A April 2, <b>1997.</b> That's about six months ago. Q When you see a patient, you typically want to know why he's there and what happened to him? A I never met him before. I was not aware or familiar with his problem. I go through kind of like a triple type of evaluation. I take a history, I get details of what's been done for him, what his symptoms are, what about his past. The second part is your actual physical testing and the third part is trying to get either laboratory studies, X-rays, whatever other diagnostic parts, even old records, to fill in. But it's the history, physical, laboratory and old studies. Q Okay. So basically let's tell the jury what it is that you learned from Dan Solomon when you saw him in April. A I saw him April 2, <b>1997.</b> At the time that I saw him he was still <b>16</b> years old or he was going to be <b>17</b> the next month. He told me that the year earlier, on March <b>25, 1996,</b> about a year before I	Page 16 (1) Doctor? (2) A We have a model skeleton of an ankle. It (3) happens to be a left ankle, but it will show (4) exactly what we're talking about. (5) Q All right. (6) A But the ankle is basically made up of the (7) shin bone, which is called the tibia. That's this (8) big one. And then the little side support bone (9) called the fibula. (10) You can see how the two bones come down (11) into these two little lower hook-like bony (12) structures, sort of like a rider on a horseback, (13) you know? The stirrups, they come down on either (14) side, and that kind of locks the bone into the (15) foot bone at the base of the ankle. It's called (16) the talus, T-A-L-U-S. (17) Normally the ankle allows rocking (18) forward and backward, but really no side-to-side (19) movement. Now in the case of Daniel, what had (20) happened to him must have had a severe impaction (21) below – either his foot was driven forward or (22) knocked underneath him and in so doing, the corne (23) of this big bone right here, they call it the (24) medial malleolus, the whole hook of the tibia was (25) completely broken off.	n

Page 19 (1) I'll be able to show you on the X-rays what I (2) mean. Then a splint was applied. A piece <b>d</b> (3) plaster was put around behind the leg to keep it (4) at least in place rather than being completely out (5) of place. (6) If you leave an ankle completely (7) dislocated very long you can lose the circulation (8) and therefore you can lose the leg, so at least it (9) was reduced or put into alignment. (10) Q Then what happened the next day? (11) A The next day he was transferred to Mt. Sinai (12) Hospital where he was treated by Dr. Mark (13) Froimson, F-R-O-I-M-S-O-N. (14) Q He's also an orthopedic surgeon? (15) A He's an orthopedist on the staff doing (16) mostly trauma work. Trauma work means that he
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· · ·
(16) mostly trauma work. Trauma work means that he
(17) works out of the emergency room a lot. He does a
(18) lot of injury and fracture cases, yes.
(19) Q What did Dr. Froimson do for Dan?
(20) A Hetook him to surgery and did what they
(21) call an open reduction. That means doing an
(22) incision or operation over the medial bone, the
(23) inner bone, the one that big piece was knocked
(24) off, put it back into the correct position, then
(25) put two screws in to hold it into place. That's
Page 20 (1) called open reduction, internal fixation with two
(1) called open reduction, internal fixation with two (2) screws.
(3) Q And Daniel of course was knocked out when
(4) they did that surgery?
(5) A Oh, that requires a general anesthetic,
(6) absolutely correct.
(0) QOkay.
(8) A Then they put a cast on afterward.
(9) Q Then what did Dan tell you about how long he
(10) was casted?
(11) A Well, Dan <sup>-</sup> then there was a long period of
(12) time he kept coming back to see Dr. Froimson, but
(12) time he kept coming back to see Dr. Promison, but (13) he remained on crutches. He had a cast on his
(14) right leg for 12 weeks, but it wasn't the same
(14) right legion 12 weeks, but it wasn't the same (15) cast. He had to come back, have a cast change,
(16) have some X-rays, then have another cast put on.
(17) But from March 1996 he stayed on crutches for,
(18) what, three months, something of that sort, and
(19) then what he told me is that after it was decided
(20) after the three months that the bone had healed
(21) enough to take the cast off, what he remembers is
(21) that if he put his right ankle down or leg down
(22) that the put his fight and e down of leg down (23) and tried to stand on it without a cast, he had
(23) and the to stand on it without a cast, he had (24) terrible pain because it had just been immobilized
(25) for a long time, the ankle was still painful, and

BSA	VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION	NOF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D. XMAX
	Page 21	Page 23
(I) <b>e</b>	ven though he was allowed to start some	(1) A And he had no bone or joint problems before
mover		(2) this.
	wasn't easy. He even had to go through a	(3) When I examined him he was 16, just
	ourse of physical therapy to get his ankle noving.	(4) becoming 17 on April 2, 1997, and the only thing
	nen he continued to see follow-up	<ul><li>(5) that I found abnormal was his right leg and ankle.</li><li>(6) Everything else was normal as far as the</li></ul>
	isits with Dr. Froimson until just before I saw	(7) musculoskeletal bones and joint structures.
	im. Ithink he saw Dr. Froimson in March of	(8) And the first thing I noted, there was
(8) 1	997.	(9) some muscle weakness of the right posterior calf
(9) Q	Okay. And did you get the impression that	(10) muscle compared to the left. There was the
	he therapy helped to him regain mobility of that	(1I) surgical scar that Dr. Froimson had done the
(11) a		(12) surgery through along the medial side of the right
	Yeah, he told me that it was improving and	(13) ankle, there was also some swelling around the
	e also told me that at least to the point that he ad gotten, that while his ankle was still hurting	<ul><li>(14) scar and when I touched a portion of the scar,</li><li>(15) there was a lot of exquisite local pain and I</li></ul>
	im and he couldn't do, like, sports or physical	(16) could feel that there was the heads of two screws,
. ,	nings, he could go to school. He was going to	(17) that I still could feel that. In other words when
	igh school. He told me he could get around	(18) the bone was fixed Dr. Froimson put two screws in
	airly well, but that was just coming and going to	(19) and you could feel the heads up under the skin.
	lass, coming home and moving around, and he was	(20) That was causing some local pain and swelling.
	ot a sports competitor very much, and he said he	(21) measured the right ankle. It was a half inch
	ouldn't try no matter what. And the other thing nat he had noticed is that when the cast was	<ul><li>(22) bigger than the left ankle.</li><li>(23) Q What do you attribute that to?</li></ul>
	rst taken off he had a lot of swelling of the	(22) A Ithink it was from the after effect of the
	nkle. Then as the months went by while he still	(25) injury, probably developing some post-traumatic
	as pain when he's on his feet too much, the	
(1) 51	Page 22 welling is not completely gone, but it got better	Page 24
	nd better, less and less.	(2) there.
	ne same thing with stiffness. He had	(3) QOkay.
	hat feeling that he had a lot of stiffness in his	(4) A It's all due to the injury. What - his
	nkle when the cast came off and a little bit of nat came back.	(5) biggest problem was range of motion and
( )	e also told me that what he was most	<ul><li>(6) dorsiflexion. He could tiptoe pretty good.</li><li>(7) Q What do you call that?</li></ul>
	omfortable wearing were like these lightweight	(8) A That's called plantar flexion. In other
	oots. I'm not talking about heavy <b>12-inch</b>	(9) words he could put his ankle downward like you're
	unting boots, but the lightweight hiking type	(10) toe walking through a range of about 50 degrees
. ,	oots. I call them the six-inch boots. And at	(11) from neutral, but he could only dorsiflex or bring
	east it gives him some support. He had the	(12) his ankle up about ten degrees.
	eeling that his ankle was still weak and by aving that boot around him, which is still	<ul><li>(13) Where that comes into play, talking to</li><li>(14) the jury, remember what happens here, if you want</li></ul>
	omewhat lightweight, he could go to school with	(15) to squat down you have to be able to have your
	So he was really better off wearing a boot.	(16) ankle come all the way up because if you bend you
(17) Q	Okay. Did you examine Dan?	(17) knee and then you want to squat down to get on the
(18) A		(18) floor, how do you get to the floor? You have got
	Tell us about the examination and what you	(19) to get your ankle up so you can get back over. He
(20) <b>fc</b>	well, my examination = by the way, he never	<ul><li>(20) couldn't do that.</li><li>(21) Remember the normal ankle could be</li></ul>
	ad any problems with his ankle before this.	(22) dorsiflexed or brought up through a range of about
(22) <b>Q</b>		(22) doisinexed of brought up through a range of about (23) 25 degrees. The injured ankle could be brought up
	When he was injured he was 15 years old.	(24) only about ten degrees. So he had some problem.
(25) <b>Q</b>	Right.	(25) He couldn't get down and squat and move entirely

<ul> <li>Page 27</li> <li>(1) ankle that was causally related to the March 25,</li> <li>(2) 1996 accident within medical certainty.</li> <li>(3) Q You reviewed the Mt. Sinai records -</li> <li>(4) A Correct.</li> <li>(5) Q - the Hillcrest Hospital records and Dr.</li> <li>(6) Froimson's records?</li> <li>(7) A Right, all of which basically</li> <li>(8) corroborated - gave me some dates, but said</li> <li>(9) exactly the same thing that Daniel had told me.</li> <li>(10) Q All right. We have some X-rays also that</li> <li>(11) you have had a chance to review?</li> <li>(12) A Yes.</li> <li>(13) Q Perhaps we should spend afew minutes</li> <li>(14) reviewing those with the jury.</li> <li>(15) MR. PARIS: Let's go off the</li> <li>(16) videotape until we set up.</li> <li>(17)</li> <li>(18) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the</li> <li>(19) record at this time,)</li> <li>(20)</li> <li>(21) BYMR. PARIS:</li> <li>(22) Q The X-ray to the far left is marked as</li> <li>(23) Exhibit 1, and can you identify that film, Doctor?</li> <li>(24) A Yeah, the X-ray that my red pencil is</li> <li>(25) pointing to here, that is marked March 25, 1996.</li> </ul>
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(24) A Yeah, the X-ray that my red pencil is
(25) pointing to here, that is marked March 25, 1996.
Page 28
(I) Q That was taken at Hillcrest Hospital
(2) emergency room?
(3) A Right. That is the X-ray taken at Hillcrest
(4) emergency room right after the accident of
(5) March 25,1996 and again you have to look way up
(6) on top there. It says Hillcrest and gives an
<ul><li>(7) identifying name.</li><li>(8) Q What does that show in terms of the injury?</li></ul>
(9) A It's even harder if you're not familiar with
(10) what you're looking at. You see kind of a bag of
(1) bones over here. Here's the tibia coming down an
(12) here's the fibula. Here's the end of the fibula
(13) twisted way over inward. Here's that hook or
(14) malleolus of tibia way off and the whole ankle
(15) joint is just pointing all the way inward and is
(16) out of place. That's called a fracture
(17) dislocation. Both malleoli are broken, so it's
(18) called a bi-malleolar fracture.
(19) Q Okay.
(20) A Now it's so distorted it makes it difficult
(21) to see that it's really an ankle.
(22) But right after the emergency room
(23) people aligned this back up again, we get
(24) Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 2, and this is a picture
(25) also taken at Hillcrest Hospital. Actually, the

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Page 29 (1) date was March 26th on this picture. Idon't (2) know. (3) Q It's after midnight. (4) A Okay. Thank you. Because it either was not (5) read until March 26th or was maybe taken a little (6) bit later on. (7) Q I may stand corrected on that, but if it's (8) from Hillcrest, it was taken on the day of the (9) accident. (10) A Okay. And this one, the doctor actually did (11) a very nice job. Now he has the tibia and the (12) talus at least lined up. (13) Can you switch back to the left when I (14) tell you? (15) Look at that compared to what this was. (16) Q Right. (17) A This is all crooked, going this way, and (18) he's brought that bone over, and we're going to go (19) to the right again, and now he's got it lined up. (20) What he wasn't able to reduce, though, (21) is this great big fragment right here. It's (25) lined up, but it doesn't match right here. It's	Page 31 (1) Medical Building, where we are sitting. (2) Dr. Froimson had to order these. These were one (3) of the checkup X-rays while he was still in a (4) cast. You could still see this haze around it. (5) This is called a fiberglass cast and the picture (6) is taken right through it. (7) Now we see the ankle really lines up (8) very nicely. The fibula looks good and what you (9) are going to first notice is two screws are (10) holding that malleolus bone in. You can still see (11) the fracture line. It's kind of nicely lined up, (12) almost - I will circle it even though you don't (13) really have to, this line that goes right straight (14) into the joint. The only thing that bothers me (15) about this X-ray if he was my patient, there seems (16) to be little - a little defect right here in the (17) joint as if some of the bone were compressed or (18) impacted away. If you look at the surface of the (19) tibia, it's straight until you get to this corner. (20) Now that there is missing bone. (21) Q In other words, the bottom of the shin bone (22) where the fracture is, there is somethingthat is (23) not normal now? (24) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (25) A Right.
Page 30(1) almost as if a piece of a jigsaw puzzle is laying(2) close to, but not really completely normally in(3) its bed right here.(4) Q Can you circle that area? Okay.(5) A In other words, there is still trouble here(6) even though it is lined up better.(7) The fibula looks very good, just about(8) what we call normal anatomic. That's the little(9) bone that was broken.(10) But the big problem is this big bone(11) right here. The big hook that was knocked off the(12) tibia still ain't right.(13) Q Understood.(14) A That's the best way of saying it.(15) QOkay.(16) A Then remember that the day after this he(17) underwent surgery from Dr. Froimson, and I have a(18) whole series of X-rays, a whole pack of X-rays. I(19) just happened to pick out some that seem to be(20) clearer, but they all show about the same thing(21) after the injury.(22) Q Exhibit 3 is taken April 11th, after(23) surgery?(24) A Right. Yeah, April 11, 1996, Exhibit 3.(25) It's an X-ray of Daniel Solomon done at Mt. Sinai	Page 32 (1) Q   have to rephrase the question. (2) What abnormality do you see and (3) precisely what is the anatomical position of the (4) abnormality? (5) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (6) Goahead. (7) Q Go ahead, Doctor. (8) A My concern when I saw this is that the (9) fracture had broken through into the joint and (10) instead of having a nice straight roof of the (11) ankle joint, there seems to be a hole here or a (12) defect like some of the bone is missing. We call (13) that impaction. Bone is soft and if you have a (14) severe compression injury you can get the sharp (15) ends back together again, but the part that gets (16) compressed in like an old sponge will never (17) completely come out. (18) If you want to come back on the picture (19) over here a second, if you look at the ankle right (20) there, right where kind of = I use the word (21) crotch of the bone right here where the tibia (22) comes together right here, something is missing (23) there. It's not the fact that it's gone or taken (24) away. It just looks like it was pushed in. So (25) it's not exactly in the same shape it was before

BSA VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION	N OF ROBERT D. ZAAS. M.D. XMAX(9)
Page 33 <ol> <li>it was broken.</li> <li>MR. DiLISI: Move to strike.</li> <li>Q Is that the fracture site?</li> <li>A Yes, sir.</li> <li>Q Okay.</li> <li>A Now I'm going to go back and put some more</li> <li>recent X-rays on, kind of like moving to the last</li> <li>chapter with the X-rays.</li> <li>Q Okay. We have Exhibits 4 and 5?</li> <li>A Correct.</li> <li>Q And 4 is on the left and 5 is on the right.</li> <li>What does Exhibit 4 show, Doctor?</li> <li>A We're on camera?</li> <li>Q Yeah.</li> <li>A Okay. Exhibit 4 is the last X-ray that I</li> <li>could find in the X-ray folder of Daniel Solomon.</li> <li>That was on March 3, 1997. That's only about a</li> <li>month before I saw him.</li> <li>Q All right.</li> <li>A And six months ago or seven months ago. And</li> <li>the same right ankle. You still see the screws,</li> <li>a fracture line right here, you don't see any</li> <li>fracture line anymore. At least that's healed and</li> <li>the fibula has healed. But again I kept looking</li> </ol>	Page 35 (1) we are in focus for the jury. (2) MR. DiLISI: I want to make sure (3) it's clear that I'm moving to strike this (4) testimony. I object to it. (5) Q Go ahead, Doctor, (6) A Now you look straight across on the broken (7) right one and there is a very high pushed-in area (8) here, and again the only way you can compare it is (9) to go back to the other one, and it isn't there. (10) Again when I examined him I was not (11) really directly aware of that until everything (12) could be brought together to me, all of the films (13) from Hillcrest, Mt. Sinai and the Beachwood (14) office. (15) Q Understood. (16) MR. DILISI: Objection. Move to (17) strike. (18) MR. PARIS: Let's go off the (19) video and we will get re-set up. (20) (21) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the (22) record at this time.) (23) (24) BY MR. PARIS: (25) Q Let's talk a little bit about what the
Page 34 (1) at this and something looks wrong because if you (2) go across the roof of the tibia, all of a sudden (3) right where the base of the fracture was there is (4) a very high bend as if some of that bone had been (5) pushed up and in, and when Ifirst saw that I (6) wasn't sure if it was real, if it was a normal (7) shape, or if it was the result of a deformity or (8) abnormality that was created by the force of this (9) fracture. But Dr. Froimson had obtained X-rays of (10) the left ankle, the other ankle * (11) Q The normal ankle? (12) A * in comparison and they were in the (13) folder, which made it very easy to figure out. (14) If you look at the left leg, which is (15) Plaintiffs' Exhibit 5, it is Mr. Solomon's left (16) ankle. Not the broken right ankle. The one that (17) was never injured. Now we look right across the (18) tibia here. That's a very sharp line on both (19) views. I'm aligning it here. See the roof has a (20) very slight slant up and around. (21) And let's go back to the right one. (22) QWe have to go slowly for the videographer, (23) Doctor. (24) A Right. (25) Q Are we infocus here? I want to make sure	Page 36 (1) future holds for - well, let me ask you a couple (2) of opinions, Doctor. (3) First off in your opinion, do you have (4) an opinion to a reasonable degree of medical (5) certainty as to whether this motor vehicle (6) accident of March 25, 1996 was the direct and (7) proximate cause of the injuries that you diagnosed (8) for Dan Solomon? (9) A I have an opinion. (10) Q What's your opinion? (11) A My opinion - in my opinion the fracture (12) dislocation of the right ankle was directly and (13) proximately caused by the March 25, 1996 accident. (14) There was no other extenuating, preexisting, or (15) follow-up conditions involved. (16) Q And do you have an opinion to a reasonable (17) degree of medical probability as to whether all of (18) the medical care and treatment that Dan received (19) from the time of this accident up to the present (20) time was reasonable and necessary by virtue of (21) those injuries? (22) A I do have an opinion. (23) Q What's your opinion? (24) A In my opinion all of the treatment that he (25) received at Hillcrest, Mt. Sinai, from

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Page 37 (1) Dr. Froimson, as well as from the X-rays, (2) laboratories, was reasonable and was necessary for (3) the treatment of his very complicated fracture. (4) Q Do you have an opinion to a reasonable (5) degree of medical certainty as to whether Dan's (6) injury is permanent in nature? (7) A I do have an opinion. (8) Q What's your opinion? (9) A In my opinion he will have permanent after (10) effects, some permanent disability which could (11) become even worse in the future as a result of (12) this accident. (13) Q Well, first let's talk a little bit about (14) the permanent injury. What is the permanent (15) injury? (16) A The permanent injury with a bi-malleolar (17) fracture is that the actual surface of the ankle (18) joint, the surface where two parts of the bone (19) come together have been damaged and it is not very (20) difficult to comprehend because we all understand (21) what happens to any other mechanical object when (22) this one surface is damaged and you get friction (23) or rubbing of the two surfaces together, whereby (24) in a normal situation it should be just quiet, (25) smooth, and <b>you</b> can hardly hear anything going	Page 39 (1) Q So Doctor, in your opinion to a reasonable (2) degree of medical certainty is Dan going to have (3) post-traumatic arthritis in that ankle in the (4) future? (5) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (6) A In my opinion he probably will. (7) Q Okay. And is that as a direct and proximate (8) result of this fracture that you discussed? (9) A Yes, it is. (10) Q And Doctor, is Dan going to have pain in (11) that ankle in the future? (12) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (13) <b>A</b> He will probably – (14) Q Let me rephrase the question. (15) In your opinion to a reasonable degree (16) of medical probability is that arthritis that (17) Dan's going to get in the future going to be a (18) source of pain and disability to him? (19) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (20) A Yes, in my opinion it will be. (21) Q Why? (22) A Post – (23) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (24) A Post-traumatic structural or arthritic (25) changes manifest themselves or present themselves
Page 38 (1) together. So there is damage to the interior of (2) Daniel's ankle joint. He will get post-traumatic (3) changes. He will very likely get post-traumatic (4) arthritis. (5) Q Now if X-rays were taken of him this week or (6) last week or two weeks ago that don't show any (7) post-traumatic changes or post-traumatic (8) arthritis, does that mean he's not going to have (9) post-traumatic arthritis? (10) MR. DiLISI: Objection. (11) A No, I think that's normal. I mean I (12) wouldn't expect that to show up on an X-ray, (13) actual bony changes that we call post-traumatic (14) arthritis, for quite a while. It may be months, (15) it may be years. (16) But if you look at his X-rays very (17) carefully today, even the ones that have already (18) been taken, and then compare them with the normal (19) side, he already has post-traumatic changes. (20) There are post-traumatic structural changes is kind of like (22) another word of saying post-traumatic arthritis. (23) Arthritis usually implies, however, that there has (24) been worn down structures and reaction to the (25) area.	Page 40 (1) by causing some stiffness, then for a long period (2) of time individually determined by one person to (3) the other, you can't always tell how long it takes (4) this to occur, usually they are okay until they (5) start to over something, try to run or be on their (6) feet too long, and then as the months and years go (7) by you find that you don't have to be on your feet (8) quite <b>so</b> long and it comes quicker or the swelling (9) comes after every day instead of only (10) occasionally, and those are the types of (11) post-traumatic changes he can expect in the (12) future. (13) Q In your opinion to a reasonable degree of (14) medical probability is Dan going to need medical (15) care and treatment in the future? (16) MR, DiLISI: Objection. (17) A Yes, he does in my opinion. (18) Q Let's start with the removal of the (19) hardware, the screws that are in his ankle. In (20) your opinion to a reasonable degree of medical (21) certainty do you have an opinion as to whether or (22) not he's going to need those screws removed? (23) A Well, it's my recommendation – I (24) recommended to him back in April of <b>1997</b> that he (25) probably should have the screws removed. Not that

(1) your opinion to a reasonable degree of medical

(2) probability for follow-up treatment with an

(3) orthopedic surgeon in the future or physical

(4) therapist in the future?

(5) MR. DiLISI: Objection.

(6) A He definitely should have long term

(7) follow-up with an orthopedist because he already

(8) has what I call a deformity of his ankle, which

(9) means it's only going to get worse as the future

(10) goes on, and the determination of what could be

(11) done for him afterward, the only way to do that

(12) determination would be to follow him up. That was

(13) sort of the major thing that I told him when he

(14) was here. I don't know exactly how long it's

(15) going to take all of these complications to become

(16) foremost or at least very disabling to him. The

(17) only way you can ever tell is he has to be seen (18) once and forever.

(19) Physical therapy is not really a major

(20) player in the ankle. It was good for him when he

(21) first got out of the cast, but from now on

(22) physical therapy isn't going to be that much of a

(23) thing. He's going to have to try to keep his

(24) strength up in his leg by himself.

(25) MR. PARIS: Okay, Doctor. Thank

- (1) treating doctor as far as the ankle injury is (2) concerned?
- (3) A Uh-huh. Again, I think I explained he's an
- (4) orthopedic surgeon. One of his specialties has
- (5) been trauma. He has other specialties also, but
- (6) he's been on call he does have a regular call
- (7) time at Mt. Sinai.
- (8) Q Okay. You didn't get involved or you didn't
- (9) even see Daniel until one year after the accident,
- (10) right?
- (11) A That's correct.
- (12) Q And Dr. Froimson did a good job, do you
- (13) agree with that?
- (14) A Beautiful job.

(15) Q You don't have any criticisms or complaints

- (16) about his work or treatment?
- (17) A No, he was very careful, and as a matter of
- (18) fact I don't think it even came through as clear
- (19) because Dr. Froimson, on each visit, kept getting
- (20) X-rays, kept watching him very carefully, making
- (21) sure that nothing happened to the fixation or
- (22) anything like that. So I just showed you some
- (23) portions of the X-rays. He actually was much more
- (24) detailed than that.

(25) Q Okay. Infact, Doctor, you conclude that

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<ul> <li>Page 45</li> <li>(1) the fracture of the right ankle went on to solid</li> <li>(2) union?</li> <li>(3) A Yes.</li> <li>(4) Q And in your examination and from looking at</li> <li>(5) your report that you provided, you note that</li> <li>(6) Daniel had no complaints of pain when he moved his</li> <li>(7) right ankle?</li> <li>(8) A Correct. Moving the ankle wasn't painful</li> <li>(9) when I saw him.</li> <li>(10) Q By the way, I think you said Daniel was 16</li> <li>(11) when you examined him, but about to turn 17?</li> <li>(12) A Was that correct? That's what I said, yeah.</li> <li>(13) Q Did you take note of how tall he was if you</li> <li>(14) recall?</li> <li>(15) A I recall he was about as tall as I am.</li> <li>(16) About 5'10'or 11.</li> <li>(17) Q Do you know how much he weighed?</li> <li>(18) A No, I didn't weigh him. I weigh 185 and he</li> <li>(19) weighs less than I do, so he's slender.</li> <li>(20) Q Would you agree that he's still growing?</li> <li>(21) A Probably not very much. People - boys that</li> <li>(22) are going on to 17, and you can tell from looking</li> <li>(23) at his ankle growth plates, he doesn't have that</li> <li>(24) much more to go. He may have in inch or so, but</li> <li>(25) not a lot.</li> </ul>	Page 47 (1) Solomon? (2) A Correct, other than the X-rays, right. (3) Q Could I take a look at that? (4) MR. DiLISI: Off the record as a (5) courtesy to the jury. (6) (7) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the (8) record at this time.) (9) (10) BY MR. DiLISI: (11) Q Doctor, I believe earlier you stated that (12) you reviewed Dr. Froimson's records. Did you (13) review his typewritten notes and his records as (14) well? (15) A There was some notes, office records I (16) believe they are. Yeah, that's all I saw. (17) Q Doctor, I'll hand you what we have marked as (18) Exhibit M, which purports to be a complete copy of (19) Dr. Froimson's records. If you could, take a look (20) at those. (21) MR. DiLISI: And again we can go (22) off the record. (23) (24) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the (25) record at this time.)
<ul> <li>Page 46</li> <li>(1) Q Would you agree that it was your</li> <li>(2) recommendation, was it not, that he try to develop</li> <li>(3) some muscles in his right calf, so forth?</li> <li>(4) A Right, because one of his areas of weakness</li> <li>(5) I felt was the atrophy that had developed in his</li> <li>(6) calf muscle as a result of the immobilization and</li> <li>(7) the actual trauma, yeah.</li> <li>(8) Q And you indicated that you did take a</li> <li>(9) history from Daniel?</li> <li>(10) A Right. He was there, his mother was with</li> <li>(11) him too, but Daniel told me essentially.</li> <li>(12) Q And medical histories are generally</li> <li>(13) important, are they not?</li> <li>(14) A I think they can be, uh-huh.</li> <li>(15) Q Did Daniel Solomon tell you that he was</li> <li>(16) involved in another accident in July of 1996</li> <li>(17) shortly after the March of 1996accident?</li> <li>(18) A No, I wasn't aware of that, at least at that</li> <li>(19) time.</li> <li>(20) Q He didn't tell you that he felt an increase</li> <li>(21) of pain in his right ankle after that accident?</li> <li>(22) A No.</li> <li>(23) Q And Doctor, by the way, I see you have some</li> <li>(24) records in front of you. Am I correct in assuming</li> <li>(25) that that is your entire file relating to Daniel</li> </ul>	Page 48 (1) (2) BY MR. DiLISI: (3) Q Doctor, I've handed you what I have marked (4) as Exhibit M. (5) A Correct. (6) Q You have had an opportunity to look at those (7) records? (a) A Correct. (9) Q Are those records you reviewed in connection (10) with your preparation of your report? (11) A Yeah, I've seen those. I don't know if I (12) saw every X-ray report as it is in here because (13) Dr. Froimson did put those on his records. I (14) don't know if I received that, but I saw his (15) office record. (16) Q The office notes that are typed up? (17) A Correct. (18) Q Showing various visits on various dates, so (19) forth? (20) A Right. The last, March 3, 1977, and the (21) first, March 26, 1996. (22) Q And also in reviewing those records I noted (23) that there was a letter from a KathleenTimko, who (24) I guess is a physical therapist with Mt. Sinai. (25) A I don't know if she is there anymore. I

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(1) think she was at that time. I don't remember. I	(1) that's normal. "Patient also reports right wrist
(2) don't remember seeing her lately.	(2) pull and had it wrapped in Ace bandage."
(3) Q It's dated August 30, 1996?	(3) Q Doctor, does it appear to you that whatever
(4) A Yes, I have that.	(4) happened in that auto accident to Dan's right
(5) Q Okay. I just wanted to see if you had that.	(5) ankle plays any role at all in your opinions?
(6) By the way, Doctor, it's my	(6) A No.
(7) understanding that after Daniel was treated at	(7) MR. DiLISI: Objection.
(8) Hillcrest Hospital he went home that evening and	(8) A Not even my opinion. It's clearly etched in
(9) then returned to Mt. Sinai the following day.	(9) X-rays that all of the deformities, the screw, the
0) Does that sound right to you?	(10) fracture were all there way before September of
1) A Ithink that was correct, yeah. Yes, it was	(11) 1996 – July of 1996.
<ol> <li>splinted securely in plaster.</li> </ol>	(12) Q And whatever happened to him on a Saturday
<ol> <li>Q I have some questions for you about this</li> </ol>	(13) night seemed to be back to normal within a few
<ol> <li>hardware or the screw removal.</li> </ol>	(14) days?
5) Would you agree that the removal of the	(15)MR. DiLISI: Objection.
6) screws could be done as an outpatient procedure?	(16) Q At least based on the report?
17) A Absolutely. Fully agree.	(17) MR. DiLISI: Objection.
8) Q Are you aware that Dr. Froimson recommended	(18) A There is no other comment after that.
<ol><li>removing the screws earlier this year and that</li></ol>	(19) Q At least based on the record that the jury
Daniel Solomon did not follow that recommendation?	(20) is going to have; is that right?
1) A No, but I certainly also have recommended	(21) A As far as I can see, yeah.
22) that, it be removed.	(22) MR. PARIS: Okay. Thank you,
23) Q You haven't removed those screws, have you?	(23) Doctor. Nothing further.
24) A Not yet, no.	(24) MR. DiLISI: Nothingfurther,
25) Q Doctor, although nothing is certain or very	(25) Doctor. Thank you.
Page 50 (1) few things are certain, would you agree that there	Page 52
(2) is a good shot that removing the screws would take	(2) (Whereupon, discussion was held off the
(3) away Daniel's present symptoms?	(3) videotaped record at this time.)
(4) MR, PARIS: Objection.	
(5) A Yeah, I think it would take away some of his	(5) MR. PARIS: You will waive the
(6) symptoms, the symptoms that arose from that local	
	(6) reading of the transcript?
(7) swelling on the inner side. That would have	(7) THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'llwaive the
(8) nothing to do with the interior of the joint	<ul><li>(7) THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'llwaive the</li><li>(8) reading of the transcript.</li></ul>
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VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.

BSA

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- (1) CERTIFICATE(2)
- (3) The State of Ohio, )
- (4) ) SS:
- (5) County of Cuyahoga. )
- (6)
- (7) I, Suzanne Lamparter, a Notary Public within
- (8) and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and
- (9) qualified, do hereby certify that the within-named
- (10) witness, ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D., was by me first
- $(1\,I)~~$  duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth,
- (12) and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid;
- (13) that the testimony then given by the
- (14) above-referenced witness was by me reduced to
- (15) stenotype in the presence of said witness,
- (16) afterward transcribed, and that the foregoing is a
- (17) true and correct transcription of the testimony so
- (18) given by the above-referenced witness.
- (19) I do further certify that this deposition
- (20) was taken at the time and place in the foregoing
- (21) caption specified and was completed without
- (22) adjournment.
- (23) | do further certify that | am not a
- (24) relative, counsel, or attorney of either party, or
- $(25)\;$  otherwise interested in the event of this action.

### Page 54

(1) IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

- (2) hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland,
- (3) Ohio, on this 22nd day of October, A.D., 1997.
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7) Suzanne Larnparter, Notary Public in and
- (8) for the State of Ohio.
- (9) My commission expires December 14, 1997.

(10) -----

- (11)
- (12)
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- (17) (18)
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- (25)

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TACKLA & ASSOCIATES

(216) 241-3918

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### Base Systems Applications

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screws to video

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