



Domestic and International Financial Investigations

PO Box 10728, Naples, FL. 34101 :: Tel: 239 304 1639 :: Fax: 239 304 1640

Transcript
Sworn Statement
of
DAVID JOHNSON
Prepared By
Bill E. Branscum

Key

INV. BILL BRANSCUM – Bill E. Branscum, Investigator, Oracle International

DAVID JOHNSON -- Fictitious Name, Victim identified as Witness A

[UI] – Unintelligible

[SL] – Sounds like

1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** This is the sworn statement of DAVID JOHNSON. Today's date
2 is the 25th of October 2008; the time is 10:28 in the morning. The statement is being taken at
3 the Orlando International Resort & Spa in Orlando, Florida. Mr. JOHNSON, would you
4 acknowledge for the tape that you are aware that I am video recording this statement?

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay, I have introduced myself to Mr. JOHNSON as Bill E.
7 Branscum, a private investigator employed by the Law Firm of Robert Bernhoft, the Firm
8 having an interest in an individual known variously as Troy David Stafford and Troy David
9 Stratos.

10 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Mr. JOHNSON, you're aware that it's a sworn statement.

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

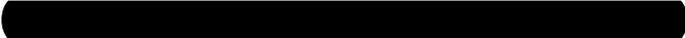
12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You're aware that when we get to the end of it you're going to be
13 asked to swear or affirm that the statement is true and correct to the best of your knowledge
14 and belief?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. What is your full name?

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** My full name is DAVID Ray JOHNSON.

18 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Could you spell those for me please?

19 **DAVID JOHNSON:** 

20 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And how old are you?

21 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I'm 26.

22 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And your date of birth?

23 **DAVID JOHNSON:** 3-23-82

24 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Can you tell me a little bit about you, you know, where you're from?

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I'm a re - I was born in Fort Hood, Texas; I was raised in Big Lake,
2 Minnesota. My family still resides in Big Lake, Minnesota. I have since traveled doing modeling and
3 acting to LA, Miami, Chicago, New York, and Japan. I am still trying to do the modeling/acting thing.
4 Family is very, very important to me. I will end up in Minnesota, but I'm just trying to travel while I'm
5 younger.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Did there come a point in time when you met Troy Stratos or
7 Troy Stafford?

8 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. It was September of 2007.

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And by what name did you know him?

10 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Troy Stratos.

11 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How did you meet?

12 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I worked in a wings place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and he was a
13 customer that stopped in a couple times.

14 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** When you say "wings place," you mean, like a restaurant?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. I was a server.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Do you remember the first time you met him?

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. Stopped in with Richard Hack. He acted very flirtatious, but
18 shy. Very much like a school kid would when they had a crush, very quiet. And then when he
19 left he gave me a \$20.00 tip from like a \$20.00 bill and he gave me his number. I disregarded it
20 and didn't contact him. And he ended up stopping by another time, like a few - like, a week
21 later; same type of situation, very shy. I talked a lot and listened and same thing. Tip, number,
22 and I disregarded it and then said he was leaving town for a couple of weeks.

23 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Now, when you say that he was ~ it was flirtatious, I mean, was
24 that directed at you, or directed at Richard Hack, or both?

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** It was directed toward me. Very quiet and whispering to Richard
2 when I would walk away and just very, for lack of a better word, immature. Not directly
3 hitting on me, but obviously acting out of nature.

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Have you had a lot of experience with that sort of thing?

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. Through modeling, photographers, agencies, stuff like that, I'm
6 used to a lot of flirtation from guys and girls and more or less people will be much more direct than
7 this, and so I've handled myself in a lot of different situations.

8 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. So you - you met him a couple of times. He said he was
9 leaving town. Did you see him again after that?

10 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I did. It was Mr. Richard Hack that stopped by a couple of weeks
11 later and asked me to deliver some food to Mr. Stratos's house after my shift was over. Richard was
12 going to wait for me and read his book. He has his own book that he wrote. He was reading. And
13 said that he - Troy was back in town. He came back from Boston because he was looking at
14 filming some stuff up in Boston. He was a producer/director and he just flew in that night, so it
15 would be nice if I came by and talked and everything.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you - did you go by and do the Wings and visit with him or
17 how did that work out?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I followed Richard. Talked with Troy. Richards ended up
19 leaving. We talked for a few hours. He let me like - he was still a bit shy and he said he was jet
20 lagged, so he was quiet. And I talked about my family. I talked about what I was doing
21 travelling. I was very new to Fort Lauderdale. I was actually just like a month into living there,
22 a month to six weeks, and I didn't know anyone besides my roommate that I drove down with.
23 And just - I talked about my family, what my aspirations were, why I moved, stuff like that.
24 Then he put his two cents in about his family, where he came from, how his stepmother was a

1 very famous singer and how he was extremely close with his grandparents and how his
2 grandfather actually had faith in him -- started him off. He was very successful in his
3 investments with his grandfather's starting money, and at AOL, and then turned it into gas money, and
4 it was sitting in a gas dock, and it was climbing daily.

5 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** He lead you believe he was very wealthy?

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Into the hundred million dollar - like, in the first night he did not put a
7 figure on it, but later on he would talk about billions dollars' worth of stock. His house was fairly nice.
8 It was a million-plus-dollar house and it was all his stuff and that's what he was saying.

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** What happened that first night? How did that wind up?

10 **DAVID JOHNSON:** We talked for a couple of hours, few hours, and then it concluded. I
11 had to work the next day, so I left and that was that.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you see him again after that?

13 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. We ended up, I believe, having dinner and he brought me to a
14 fairly nice place and just kind of showed - showed me around after dinner, Fort Lauderdale area,
15 because he said he was shopping real estate and how his plans on developing these areas and what I
16 thought and just more or less kind of what I liked as ideas. So we talked more and more and it was
17 around that time where he was like, "Well, you have some really, really good ideas" and he had already
18 known from our private - previous conversation that I was not happy serving tables at a Wings place
19 not making any money. So a job offer came forth and I could, you know, just kind of go into real
20 estate, and then when the time came when he was working on his movies and TV shows and stuff, I
21 would have my opportunity in working behind the scenes or maybe in front of the camera depending on
22 my work ethic and talent.

23 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. So essentially, he's offering you an opportunity to go from
24 working as a waiter in a wings establishment to being involved in developing properties and having an

1 opportunity to at least have your shot at being in movies and TV, whatever the production things are
2 that he's doing?

3 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I mean, it was an incredible amount of pay increase,
4 responsibility, and just a lot. The sky is the limit as far as opportunity. He showed me his plans. I mean,
5 he even had somewhat of diagrams and stuff like that that are drawn up and it was - it was
6 overwhelming, but very, very a good idea, I felt.

7 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. What went on from there?

8 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Business kind of turned into a personal relationship. I ended up very,
9 very on - early on ended up moving in with him and we lived together. I kind of disregarded my
10 roommate that I moved down in Florida with. I wasn't really - it was very, very upsetting if I hung out
11 with him and Troy didn't want to meet him either, so I was kind of torn in between because Troy
12 doesn't allow many people into his life because he is so successful and has a lot of money. People
13 always ask him for things or expect things from him and he didn't like that in his personal life, his
14 everyday life, so he excluded my friend and because he needed my attention constantly day and night, I
15 didn't see my roommate often at all, if ever.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So your relationship developed into a physical romantic relationship?

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. I mean, slept in the same bed, did what couples do, and he's - I
18 mean, over time I knew because this was my very first experience with a male that he comforted me.
19 He was like, "This is" - he represented himself as more or less a guy's guy, "but not marching in" - this
20 is kind of a quote - "but not marching in the gay pride. I don't fight for gay rights, but you just -
21 you are who you are and you don't have to beat yourself up about it." So in any aspect he always
22 referred to homosexuality as - in a negative connotation. Also, he's very much a racist. He doesn't
23 like people of any color, Middle Eastern or black or anything like that. He always - he's against it.
24 Like, I'm from Minnesota. I know when someone is joking or not joking, like they were - dislike
25 other people and he has a hatred for that - them and himself. He does not like who he is.

- 1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** What race is he?
- 2 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I believe he's partially black, because his father, I believe, was half-
- 3 black, so he has a darker tone to his skin.
- 4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** What would lead you to believe that he's racist?
- 5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Because when you see - like, they weren't even funny. They were
- 6 pure comments. When you're in Florida a lot of - there's neighborhoods that are mostly African-
- 7 American and a lower economic standpoint. They'd be walking across the road and, you know,
- 8 they're broke. They don't represent themselves as, you know, proper or anything like that and he
- 9 would just say the most slanderous things just to me and just how he hated it and how - and
- 10 that was another part of his turning Fort Lauderdale around was getting rid of that, getting rid
- 11 of those people, getting rid of the lower class.
- 12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you - did you say this was your first homosexual
- 13 relationship?
- 14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.
- 15 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you discuss any of this with family members or anything?
- 16 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Surprisingly to myself, I was able to bring myself to tell my
- 17 mom, who is number one in my life, and not much after that I told my best friend. I mean, I'm
- 18 from a town of 3,000 people. We're not the most open-minded people and I knew that I was
- 19 toying with the fact that some - my best friend or my mom could take it badly.
- 20 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How did she - how did your mom take it?
- 21 **DAVID JOHNSON:** My mom has always been supportive in any manner, whatever I
- 22 wanted, as long as it was, you know, legal or, you know, whatever. She supported me. She
- 23 loved me and she wanted me to be happy.

1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you - I mean, during the period of this relationship did you
2 in – when you would introduce him to people you knew or he introduced you to people he
3 knew, I mean . . .

4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** That was the thing is the one thing he did was he's homophobic,
5 so the people he didn't want knowing he was gay, like, his family or any of his straighter
6 friends or business associates I wasn't introduced. I either didn't meet them or it was met – the
7 other people who a whole another group of people, so it wasn't an intimate thing. He's
8 extremely self-conscious on how he's represented in front of certain people. But as for his gay
9 friends and group, I was fine. I was known as his boyfriend in his small little town manners,
10 more or less. I opened up my entire life to people and myself that didn't know me as gay at all
11 and very, very quickly. Yeah, he did pressure me into that. He's like, "Don't you think this is
12 real?" He played mind games and so that kind of nudged me to do - introduce him and tell my
13 friends and family so quickly.

14 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How long did the – did your personal romantic relationship last?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** All said and done, it was about six months.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you do other things that couples normally do? I mean, did you get
17 bank accounts together, buy things together?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. The bank account was opened very early on when he instantly
19 offered me a job and me putting in my two weeks at the restaurant, I needed to know that I would have
20 income to pay my apartment. That was with my roommate. Like, I am on that lease. I have always
21 fulfilled my financial obligations to friends or creditors or whatever. I have a very high credit score. We
22 just signed that lease, so I couldn't stick him with my part of the rent. So we opened a bank account. He
23 said that - and we opened it with, like, \$500.00 or something and he said that I would be paid through

1 that account, like he could just easily click and transfer money from his business accounts and stuff and
2 put it into ours.

3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. And did everything, at least initially, work out the way he
4 represented that it would?

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** There were some little things, like the first time I was supposed to be
6 paid was a little bit late and just - it wasn't to this - the level of what it was. It was more or less I had to
7 come to him saying, "I need this much money to pay rent," like I needed \$800.00 so I'd get \$800.00. It
8 wasn't like what we had discussed. For a pay period, I signed a confidentiality agreement saying I
9 couldn't speak with anybody with the business conducted outside of who was being dealt with. Then I
10 had an employment contract that was coming stating that I was going to make six figures for my
11 services as a consultant and then moving into film and TV. That was my ultimate goal. That document
12 never actually came forward, so when I harped on, "Hey, I got this" I would, you know - I would get
13 just enough to cover that for the time being.

14 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Did you buy cars or property together, anything like that?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** That was part of the job. Like, we spent a large portion of time looking
16 at property along the beach and speaking with real estate agents, just shopping day and night. He could
17 wake up in the middle of the night and I would drive him out to the beachfront and we would walk the
18 property and just discuss things. And one of the properties he wanted for himself to remodel and tear
19 down two houses and make one large house and develop it and move there. He ended up going
20 to - one real estate lady put on, like, two . . . about twenty-some houses under kind of contract
21 writing up the papers and she ended up using - a personal friend of hers is a real estate lawyer,
22 so she recommended that person. And he went there and I went there and we talked things
23 over. He picked out his favorite ones and he opened up trusts or LLCs to put these houses in
24 because he didn't want to - he wanted to run it on his company and not his personal. So he put
25 - opened like four or five of them with \$5,000.00 apiece. From what I understand, it's a

1 minimum to open these up. I mean, we had been shopping around for quite some time, so I
2 thought this was a good step in actually finalizing, you know, starting the real deal instead of
3 just walking and talking with people. So that was his start of, you know, the bigger things.

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Throughout this period of time did he - did he ever meet anybody
5 in your family?

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I had already told my morn about him because I flew up to
7 Minnesota personally and told her in person and said that everything was going really well. I
8 met this person and - I mean, it was not an easy thing for me to do. She, although I know
9 surprised, she'll get as smooth as a parent can take it and very supportive. I think it was about a
10 - a few weeks to a month later where my parents have - they plan their vacations. They work
11 very hard. They plan them six months in advance. They planned on going to Vegas.

12 So Troy, with all his resources and loves gambling, is huge at Mandalay Bay and has
13 his own little crew and upgrades them, and picks them up in the limo and arranges all this. It
14 was supposed to be a surprise and it was a surprise. The main surprise was me and him actually
15 flew there and I was - you know, I got to go on vacation with them. At first, Troy didn't meet
16 them like he was kind of toying with the idea, but the day they were going to leave is when he
17 decided, "Well, I want to meet them. I want to meet them." So I called my Mom when she is in
18 the limo on the way back, as he arranged transportation, took care of everything, and said,
19 "Can you please extend your vacation, call in sick," blah, blah, blah.

20 So my stepdad and mom did. It was inconvenient as it is, because we were there three,
21 four days. He stayed in the hotel room, did his own thing, gambled his ass off, and didn't want
22 to meet them because everyone asked him to stuff. It's the reason he didn't want to meet them
23 initially, but it's like "If they're important to you, I want to meet them. Can you get them to
24 come back?" They come back. They stayed an extra, I believe, day. We saw a show.

1 Everything went really, really well. He said, "I really love your son. I'm not taking
2 advantage of him. I know there's an age gap. It's his first, real guy/guy relationship," and he
3 just - he sold her, like he really hit all the concerns that a mother would naturally have. He
4 even right there first meeting her said, "You know, I'm not - I don't like the fact that he's - I'm
5 black or like the fact that - I don't like the gay lifestyle" and just saying this in the very first
6 meeting with my mother. They're all contradictory to actually who he is, so my mom even
7 thought that was weird, but that's - I mean, people have their niches. But she loved him. He
8 was kind in her eye - in her exact words, "He has kind eyes and a warm heart" and it was a
9 very, very good meeting of people.

10 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** When did that happen?

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** That was sometime in late November or early December.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. So you met September '07. By late November, early
13 December this relationship had gotten to the point that he's, you know, introducing himself to
14 your mother and explaining that his intentions towards you are strictly for the best and that he's
15 not taking advantage of you and all those things.

16 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I mean, it was like I - you know, there's an age gap and I'm
17 somewhat impressionable but, you know, I've been around a little bit. He [SL] rep'd himself as
18 just caring, warm-hearted.

19 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Were you aware that he was involved in a situation in Hawaii
20 that did not go well?

21 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. I mean, I Google people when I meet them, especially if
22 they seem - when I meet a - someone represents themselves as a director, producer, agent,
23 anything, in my business there's a legitimate thing you have to follow, like, just to see if they're
24 real or not because I've run into bullshit all the time. I Googled him. I saw his web site, his

1 official web site. I saw his MySpace and a lot of friends, family, slide shows, the plans,
2 business plans, everything that he told me about.

3 Then I also saw the whole Dennis Rush lawsuit judgment-type thing, but he had his
4 own spin on it to where he and Dennis were going to put forth this collection for Nancy
5 Wilson's music and kind of the greatest hits concert, just tours kind of thing. Dennis Rush put
6 forth the money. He actually said that it went south because his mom is an ex-drug
7 user/alcoholic and she fell into that again, so she couldn't do the concerts and the music. He
8 covered for her.

9 He put his ass on the line and said, "Hey, we can't do this anymore" and left her out of
10 it. She had no - you know, she just kind of went into rehab and just tried to get better and stuff.
11 He put his ass on the line saying, like, "This is my fault we don't have the resources," stuff like
12 that. We so he got sued over that for covering for his own mother. I can relate to that, because
13 I'd do anything for my mom, I mean, if she had a problem. I mean, some things were a little bit
14 weird, but i can relate to putting your mom before yourself. So the judgment and he's trying to
15 negotiate with Mr. Rush about a reasonable amount of money and they were still trying to hash
16 that out.

17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did there come a time when you - when you actually bought a
18 house?

19 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. It was around Christmastime and he had already kind of
20 done some contracts. I mean, we moved a little bit further in all of his ideas and things - the
21 people around him, I mean, he had some money because he had bought cars. He had - we were
22 renting from Hertz daily, which is more than any car payment that you'd ever really want, and
23 we rented for two solid months now, Hummers and Escalades, stuff like that. He's like, "I

1 want to do something for you as more or less like a Christmas gift and to show that you're part
2 of this, really part of this."

3 I will purchase the house that - he was - we were staying in, because he's planning on
4 moving to the beach. I was planning on moving with him, but I couldn't own a piece of
5 property because - my sister is 23. She already owns her own house and was growing up and I
6 wanted to step into that next portion of life. I want to, you know, whatever it is, own my own
7 house, have a job, be consistent. He was going to put a large sum down because otherwise I
8 would never qualify for the loan and then my income from him through our account would pay
9 for it. No problem. This would build the deepest credit. I would qualify for any credit card or
10 loans that I ever needed and I would just be at a higher maturity level of financial stability and
11 all that and purchase it from him. He bought that house cash.

12 I even asked the developer who built the house and he's like, "I've never seen it before.
13 He walked in and he bought it straight out, no loan." That's - I'm like, "Well, he's legit. I mean,
14 nobody can bullshit that they have a million dollars and put it on the table and buy a house."

15 So he drew up the papers. I had a very hard time with it at first. I talked at - conversed
16 with my mom because this was not something I had a hand in. It was literally, something .. I
17 guess, you have to put an offer in, so he drew up the offer himself and whoever helped him, the
18 salespeople. Then I was - we drove to a place like a week or so later and I - he went inside and
19 he didn't want me inside. I talked to my mom. I'm like, "I don't know about this. It feels weird.
20 I don't get it, but" - and my mom is like, "Yeah. You know, it's a different level. Like, we're
21 used to something simple. Minnesota. We plan a lot longer. We don't - you know, we save for
22 large things and he has a warm heart and kind eyes. He's pure. You know, he's very - he has
23 good intentions." I felt that at the same time, but I was just nervous with this extreme situation.

24 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How much were you actually going to pay for this house?

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** It was \$1,142,000.00. That was at the low end from where he
2 told me it was worth because I could buy it from him and he didn't want to take me, but he had
3 to make it a reasonable amount. He couldn't just make it, you know, \$100.00.

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. So this is December 2007 or thereabouts?

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. That was – I signed for the house December 20th. Just
6 looking at some notes here so - for dates.

7 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. So from September of '07, you're working as a waiter.
8 How much were they paying you?

9 **DAVID JOHNSON:** It was about \$6.00 an hour.

10 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So in September you're working as a waiter at six bucks an hour.

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** With very small gratuity.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And three months later you're contracting to pay a million dollars
13 for a house.

14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Right, which without a huge down payment I don't believe it
15 would have been possible.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did he actually make a big down payment?

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** From all the paperwork and the - I've contacted the - I'm sorry. I
18 don't know. The closing company that drew up the paperwork, no. He had no down payment.
19 It was, from what I found out, a stated income loan that was based on what he said he was
20 going to pay me and that's all it took for me to get approved.

21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Approved for a million-dollar loan?

22 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Which that doesn't happen in Minnesota with the small - we dealt
23 with an in-town bank and I've gotten a loan from Big Lake Bank and they will check your
24 underwear drawer before giving you any money. That's what my life experience has been.

1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** But you say you were out in the car or something while the
2 actual deal was done.

3 **DAVID JOHNSON:** From, like, he's – he had them [SL] drawn up and I know that
4 he had personal concerns, so he wanted me - and I sat out there for a good hour in the car. I
5 was nervous and I talked to my mom for most of that time and she had her concerns, too, but it
6 was like he put this hurry-up pressure on it. So it wasn't like I could say, no, I want to think
7 about this or anything like that. It was that time we had to do this and it was late at night. The
8 real estate place was closing for the weekend, I believe, or I forget. It was just like a now-or-
9 never type of thing. We had argued about it before. Like, I was fairly uncomfortable with, you
10 know, knowing that I can't physically do it myself, but it was like it's time. I mean, you did
11 agree to it. "Here, let's do this, let's do this. It's now, now, now," so I did it and it was just
12 absolutely stupid. I just can't believe that - I mean, it seemed like it had to have a lot of
13 legitimacy for me to get approved for something like this.

14 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Do you have any idea what the monthly payments would be on a
15 loan of about a million dollars?

16 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. It was around \$7,000.00

17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So, essentially, by getting you in this position to where you're on
18 the hook for \$7,000.00 a month, you had no other - I mean, you don't have a trust fund or
19 anything that's a big source of income out there of your own, right?

20 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No.

21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Basically, you've got what you make as a waiter.

22 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. My family makes combined, stepdad and mom, make
23 somewhere around \$60-70,000.00 a year combined. Whatever I've made and worked for, I -
24 the most I made by myself was like almost \$60,000.00 modeling. I just - I've worked for

1 everything I've had and I've filled all the obligations that I took forth and it was - that's how
2 much I trusted him because I knew I couldn't do this by myself.

3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Well, once you got yourself obligated then basically you were
4 "married" to him, for lack of a better word. I mean, you would have had no alternatives. You
5 couldn't leave him.

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean, things weren't bad. I mean, there were some times
7 I didn't get to hang out with my friend as much as I would want to, but that was all I really had
8 to complain about. It was he's still really kind and nice. Other than me separating from one of
9 my best friends, everything was fine. I was - I had some anxiety because I over-extended
10 myself financially more than I personally could handle, so I took a hands-on approach
11 immediately and wanted to, like, you know, mail things - the checks in and, you know, make
12 sure everything was done and done on time.

13 The very first month he's like, "Oh, well, Richard took care of it," because Richard did
14 most of the banking online and stuff like that, so when it was due he said, "Richard took care
15 of it for the first month." I'm like, all right. Well, I didn't like that. That wasn't the agreement,
16 but I mean he always did adjust agreements. Then the very last day of the month he said, "Oh,
17 well, Richard just told me this morning that he didn't actually send in the check, so here's the
18 money. Wire it in so we have a transaction saying it was done that day" and I got very, very
19 upset, but the one thing you can't do is yell at him because you'll lose.

20 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Why?

21 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Because he will take it that next step further. When I disagree or
22 talk with somebody I don't raise my voice. I don't yell. I don't call them by a name. I just -
23 there just needs to be a resolution to the problem. So me saying something, which I did, I'm
24 like, I want to do this myself. The original agreement was it was done on time. I do it. Make

1 sure it was done and there would be no issues. That was the one thing that helped me balance
2 out the fact that I – the loan was in my name. So I did say something, like, "This can't happen
3 again." And he did take it to the next level and he would yell and he'd freak out, like, "I was
4 lied to, too. Richard said he did this." He would always put the blame on someone else and he
5 was doing the best of his abilities to make things happen the way it was supposed to happen.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

7 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Then you just want to give up. You don't want to, like, beat a
8 dead horse because, you know, nothing is going to change about it. What happened, happened.

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So, basically, as near as you know, you bought the house from
10 Troy?

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** From Troy, yes.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So basically, you got put on the hook for a loan for money that
13 went to Troy?

14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

15 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

16 **DAVID JOHNSON:** And . . .

17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** At a time when nothing was selling in Fort Lauderdale?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Right. And this guy walks in and buys it cash. I didn't know - I
19 mean, later on I found out that he had mortgages on it. He did pay cash, but he did refinance it,
20 took all the equity out, and was falling behind on the payments. He had other people in his
21 circle because he had a group of people working for him. What he did was he had these people
22 move his stuff, furniture, run errands, do this, do that, but he was also like a family entourage
23 type feel where he was the head of the household, but everyone was kind of a [sounds like:]
24 family-esque. We hung out as friends. It wasn't just a 9:00 to 5:00. You'd watch movies. You'd

1 do whatever. I found out from one of the people it was like, no, it was - sometimes he was a
2 month late and he'd have to drive down to Miami from Fort Lauderdale just to drop a check off
3 so it wouldn't be, you know, too late.

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Now, this entourage of people that surrounded him did they
5 recognize you as being his boyfriend or what did you think you were?

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** He separated me a lot from them even, because aside from his
7 gay friends he had a couple of straight friends and one, Adam Roberts, a guy's guy. Loves
8 football, baseball, and that was his best friend. That was the person for two years drove Troy
9 around, washed his nice cars. He worked for him, but they were friends. Adam, like anybody,
10 you know, any guy wants to drive in a Lamborghini or, you know, do these really cool crib-
11 type things on MTV and - but he never let me really meet him at all. It took months until I
12 actually talked to him and it was very uncomfortable when I finally did get to meet him
13 because Troy didn't want anyone to know he was gay unless that person was gay, too. You
14 know what I mean? So, yeah, I was separated from certain people and then certain people were
15 allowed to know.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did there come a time when you got involved in another - in
17 financing of another property?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. The first one was getting paid for. It was a week late and
19 stuff like that, but I was handling it. Everything was not going as good as hoped, but going
20 well. Then he brought up the idea of - because a lot of the houses he was looking at were from
21 Glenn Wright. Glenn Wright was having a lot of financial difficulties and they had three or
22 four unfinished houses, so they needed to sell some of their old stuff in the time that things
23 aren't selling just to finish the other houses so they can try to sell those. So we got this
24 phenomenal deal on this Delray property and we drove up there. I saw the town and me

1 personally, I love – excuse me - I love Delray Beach. It's a family feel. You've got kids in the
2 golf carts driving down to the beach and it was phenomenal. When we looked at it and we
3 looked at the house, it was "You're - we do this, you're going to make money because you
4 already have immediate equity in this house because you're going to buy it for so much under
5 what it's worth. Then what we're going to do is we're going to give your mom a job and your
6 stepdad a job. They'll work for us and they get to move down to Florida right next to you" and
7 - which is my ultimate goal. Like, to - my mom works hard. My stepdad works hard. They
8 work odd hours, long hours, and not for a lot of money. My ultimate dream was, other than
9 maybe like owning a house and being a stable adult, was to take care of my mom. She took
10 care of me for 20-some years. There is going to be a transition period where I'm taking care of
11 her and I wanted it to be soon. With all this new great things happening, this was my
12 opportunity. I could put her in a house that's three times the size. I make money on the house,
13 equity. My credit gets even deeper and it's just a win-win situation for everybody, Glenn
14 Wright, me. Troy was just helping people out connecting people. I told my mom and she's like
15 - sent her pictures of the house. It was - I mean, it was a little bit odd on how things work, but
16 you make sense of it at the time.

17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** That was a significantly different level of life than anything you
18 were familiar with anyway.

19 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I mean, to even be sleeping in a million-dollar house when my
20 parents' house is worth like \$200,000.00 and they've worked a whole long time to get that, long
21 and hard. These houses are phenomenal. And he lived there; he bought it cash. He bought the
22 first one cash. I mean, I've seen pictures of Rolls Royces. As soon as he - made a house that fit
23 all his cars that are in California, he's shipping out and soon enough I'll be riding in a
24 Lamborghini.

- 1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Life looked good?
- 2 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Looked phenomenal.
- 3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So did you contract to buy the second house?
- 4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. I mean, it was the same situation. Put in the offer and - I
- 5 mean, it was pretty much put in and "You don't have to read this." I mean, I already trusted
- 6 with - and my feeling was I trust him with one, so I mean - and then this one has nothing but
- 7 beneficial factors. I can bring my family down and the sooner I can do that, the happier I'm
- 8 going to be. I mean, the house had a pool. Right? My family have no pool in their backyard. It
- 9 would be unbelievable. But anyways . . .
- 10 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Let me back up just a second. The first house that you bought -
- 11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes?
- 12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** - what was the address of that house?
- 13 **DAVID JOHNSON:** 2032 Northeast Sixth Terrace, Wilton Manors, Florida.
- 14 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And the second house?
- 15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** The second house was - excuse me - 812 Northwest First
- 16 Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida.
- 17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Now, the second house, how much do - how much were
- 18 you going to get for this house?
- 19 **DAVID JOHNSON:** We were going to buy it for a million, but then we were going to
- 20 pullout equity right away to put into the house, because it wasn't as - was as we wanted it, so
- 21 we were going to upgrade a few things and immediately pullout some equity. And then . . .
- 22 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And when you say, "immediately pullout some equity?"

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Take out - open a – I know these terms only because I've done
2 my research after the fact, but roll out a second mortgage or home equity loan right away on
3 top of - because the house was worth more than a million dollars.

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** And it was going to go towards the house and take care of a few
6 finishing things, furniture, stuff like - beds, all standard things, which I checked with my mom.
7 People do that to immediately make a home for themselves.

8 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. And did you follow through with that?

9 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I mean, I didn't know the numbers or anything of the
10 paperwork. It was the exact same situation where, "Well, hey, we're going to do the signing
11 today" and it was actually an hour before the appointment. And exactly as is and the closing
12 companies - I've talked to them afterwards and they're like, "I knew something was weird
13 because he's looking over your shoulder and you're kind of nervous and stuff like that." So
14 they said something after the fact when I talked to them that I was doing my own research,
15 because I wanted to figure out what - how these papers were put together, especially with no
16 frigging down payment. It was just baffling how I could get approved without a down
17 payment.

18 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did they have an explanation for you how you could get
19 approved with no down payment?

20 **DAVID JOHNSON:** They just said that it was my income that did it, the money I was
21 going to make, and then my employer was - I guess I had to verify it or whatever and . . .

22 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And your "employer" would have been?

23 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Troyco, Troy Stratos. He had his contact information and stuff
24 like that and it was . . .

1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Well, looking at this from the outside, what do you say to the
2 person that looks at this and says, you're a waiter. You make ten bucks an hour maybe, maybe
3 20. You've bought now two million dollars' worth of houses and an equity loan on top of that,
4 based on income that isn't real generated from a job that isn't real. I mean, isn't that pretty much
5 what happened here?

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. It's absolutely stupid, but that's the type of pressure and
7 smooth – I mean, he's just got an ability to smooth things over. When you get frazzled, he'll
8 find the best approach. He'll either pressure you and yell or he will talk nice and calm and
9 justified. And I did feel like I was working because I did a lot of hours of driving and looking
10 and, you know, I spend time in the offices talking to real estate agents, getting numbers. I did
11 things that I would rather be watching football. This is - it was work. It was stressful.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And just to be clear, when we say that the income wasn't real, the
13 job wasn't real, we're talking about what we know now.

14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

15 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** At the time you – did you believe that the job offer was real and
16 this is what you were going to do and this is what you were - I mean, did you believe that . . .

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I 100 percent believed that it was all real. That's why - and this is
18 one of our big arguments is I was pushing for the employment contract, because I signed a
19 confidentiality and I was promised that an employment contract, which made me so much
20 more comfortable with doing these loans it was going to happen. Like, we were just making it
21 and then he had to adjust a couple of things because that was the old standard thing he used in
22 California, so he had to make some stuff for Florida. And it just got delayed and delayed and
23 delayed.

1 It was absolutely real. It was just a matter like coming true, like just making it happen.
2 I was working and for some time I was paying the bills on time or paying the bills and it was
3 all legit. I didn't have a real concern, otherwise ' - but it didn't happen exactly the way it was
4 supposed to happen, but it was another version. So I wasn't past any grace periods. I was
5 working my ass off. Like, I was stressed and I was doing work that I didn't want to really be
6 doing. I didn't want to be looking at properties 'all the time, talking to developers, and real
7 estate, and getting numbers, and sitting in offices. We're talking about 12 hours some days.

8 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did there come a time when you realized it wasn't real?

9 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I mean, there was some - let's see. When people around
10 him were getting stressed, I was a higher priority than a lot of people he had around him
11 beforehand and he pretty much cut them off to where they relied on him for their little bills.
12 Again, much smaller bills. Car payments and stuff like that. But that was the weird part is why
13 are they looking for him to pay their car payments when he said they already – he bought their
14 cars cash. So that didn't add up. Things were falling through where - but they didn't ever say
15 anything like - because he would tell me right in front of me, "I bought his truck. What do you
16 think about his truck?" because we'd car shopped, too. We were car shopping all the time
17 because we wanted to stop renting. Test drove a BMW, Mercedes, Cadillac. Everything.
18 Anything and everything. Even put \$1,000.00 on an X5 and an M5, so that was . . .

19 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Those are BMWs?

20 **DAVID JOHNSON:** What's that?

21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** An X5 and M5 is a BMW?

22 **DAVID JOHNSON:** That's an BMW. And just putting money down on I'm like, well,
23 obviously we got our pay. I mean, who the hell is going to put money down and, you know,
24 risk losing the money, even though it's a small amount compared to the cost of the car. Who

1 does that type of stuff? Just like opening up those LLCs. Who drops \$125,000.00 if they don't
2 intend to finish it. I mean, that's just pure loss. So we car shopped a lot and just nothing ever
3 materialized of the real estate we looked at. This is not your . . .

4 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did he - other than the two properties you bought did you
5 contract or he contract to purchase any other properties?

6 **DAVID JOHNSON:** The furthest we went in was this ten million-dollar home on the
7 ocean where you actually sign an offer and it was accepted. This was for him, his own personal
8 property. It was unbelievably huge. Had a massage room. He actually signed an offer with a
9 real estate agent. Trying to think of the name of the real estate company. So he signs this offer
10 with this real estate agent and he's doing in all these - those 20-some houses with another real
11 estate agent. They're under the same real estate company. So what happens is he signs this
12 offer and they want the first down payment and he said, "I've changed my mind." The real
13 estate agent and the person selling the house get extremely upset and say, "We're going to sue
14 you." He, in turn, gets - takes it to that extra level, starts yelling, cursing, and doing all this
15 stuff and says - and then goes to the higher-ups of the real estate company and says, "You want
16 to sue me over this one property when I have 20-some in paper, you know, going to go
17 through? If you sue me over this, you're going to lose all this business." That nullified that.
18 That stopped that right there and so he's never, you know, fully performed on any of the
19 properties no matter how much time others and ourselves looked and shopped and did all that.
20 Automobiles either. It didn't make any sense why someone would waste their time, .money,
21 others' time, and just really wreck - you know, take all their time and just boss them around for
22 nothing.

23 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You seem to describe that a lot. I mean, you talk about having 20
24 properties under contract that would have required a lot of work by real estate people to put

1 together. They've never went through. You're talking about putting money down on cars that
2 never went through. You talk about, you know, your family was available in Vegas and he
3 didn't want to meet them until it required them to go to great lengths to be able to
4 accommodate him. Is that normal in this man's life?

5 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** I mean, he wants everybody to have to jump through hoops to
7 have to accommodate him?

8 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. And he doesn't make it easy. He actually tries to more or
9 less complicate it - it could be very, very easy. Like, for instance, they could have met him on
10 any day that they had planned to be there, but he pulled them on their way to the airport to
11 catch their plane back. It's - he wants to see what he can get people to do. Obviously, he's very
12 good at it because he can get you to do more than you'd ever imagine. I - this is my first male-
13 to-male relationship. I've never really imagined myself and then coming to my mom and my
14 best friend more or less compromising the possibility that my relationship with my family and
15 friends will be different from ever.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So what ultimately happened with the payments that you had to make
17 on these two houses?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** As soon as - well, that's the other thing is when I had my - another
19 meeting in March with my - my family came down in Florida for their vacation, my birthday, and Troy
20 was going to fly them. We're talking my sister and my sister's husband and her kid, mom, stepdad. It was
21 huge. It was going to be awesome. We had the house, the pool. They were going to get out of the bad
22 weather and everything was going to be unbelievable. The very first night they came down, my mom
23 had a handful of stories from Internet - people on the Internet saying, "This is -I met Troy. This
24 is what happened to me. Promise, promise, promise, and I'm stuck with bills or no income that

1 was promised to me" - excuse me - "and he's nowhere to be found." My parents were worried
2 about, you know, my situation. So they went out there and they anonymously got all these
3 stories from other people that I never even knew existed. I don't know who the hell they were.
4 And put it in front of me and we instantly - this - the second day they were there, it didn't turn
5 into a vacation. It was like a rescue mission for them. The second day we were there we went
6 straight to the FBI, walked in, put in a formal statement, gave them - showed them every bit of
7 paperwork that I could offer. I was unrealistic in the thing. I was hoping that they'd just jump
8 on it like TV, like they do, and this would be handled because, look, I've got all these people.
9 They're suffering. I showed them their stories, the FBI. This is my situation. Then I - they
10 found out some stuff about the Nicole Murphy thing and -. on the Internet and it was just - it's
11 like all these people and I'm like, "Can you please do something?" And we did that and I
12 packed my stuff up that I've had for . . .

13 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Let me stop you for a minute. When you said you went to the FBI,
14 you went to the FBI in?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Miami

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Miami. Okay.

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Like, we - I just researched and - I mean, being from Minnesota, I
18 never imagined contacting any FBI officials or anything like that, so I just searched on the web,
19 called. This is what you would do if you want to go - so we walked in, sat there. He took notes. Got
20 the story and he said, "Well, we're going to see if this, you know, is good enough of a case that we
21 can - we need to take cases that we can actually close and are, you know, of value," more or less.
22 He made it very real. I left there with a bad feeling what we just did didn't really make too much
23 sense, but it's all we could do.

24 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Do you remember the name of the agent you spoke to?

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** His name was Billy something and I do have somewhere - I do have
2 - I can get his number again.

3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay

4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Bill something.

5 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Did you - did you have a - so essentially your family did some
6 detective work on the Internet and figured out that Troy was a can artist?

7 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. That was, I guess, for their word was - it's just like - at the
8 time it was just like, he's a liar.

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** And then - and - and so they basically, to use your words, they come
10 down to rescue you from this whole thing?

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. And the can artist part came through when we were looking at
12 those stories and then we were looking at my situation where I'm like, he's not gaining anything.
13 We looked at paperwork. We - I talked to the closing companies and I'm like "That's where he got
14 out of it. This is the benefit of everything that is bad happening to me, he did benefit somehow. He
15 just never showed me."

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How did he benefit from that?

17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** First house he got out of paying a mortgage that he was just going
18 to default on. He's going to lose the house, get nothing out of it. He did probably get a little bit of
19 money out of my loan because, you know, maybe it was - it was probably more than he owed
20 and just getting out of that situation because he was under pressure. He was making it late.
21 And then the second one, the second house that HELOC was put into our joint account and
22 immediately taken out within a three-hour period. That kind of raised a red flag.

23 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** How much money was that?

24 **DAVID JOHNSON:** That was \$169,000.00.

1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So you've got \$169,000.00 home equity loan on top of the
2 mortgage and within hours he had taken that money. Did you get any of that money yourself?

3 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No. I didn't. I mean, it was supposed to go towards the house in
4 fixing it up and making it a home and, you know, buying furniture and stuff like that, but never
5 went to shopping for any of that. Never did anything.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Now, in March when your family came down, showed
7 you what they had found, you packed up -- you went to the FBI. Where did you go from there?

8 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Went up to Minnesota

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You went home?

10 **DAVID JOHNSON:** What's that?

11 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You went home.

12 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. I went up and lived with my family and he tried
13 everything. What he normally does is he'll appeal to your giving. So when Richard Hack
14 stopped by and saw that my stuff was packed up, he called Troy immediately and it was
15 actually while I was at the FBI. Richard kind of barged in on my sister and my sister's husband
16 and my sister's husband is like, "Should I kick this guy's ass?" I mean, he's a little old man and
17 he's walking around looking at everything and I didn't want them to know that I was going to
18 leave until I was gone. So Troy calls me up and we're yelling for hours back and forth. All of a
19 sudden he calls me again. He's like, "**I'm** having anxiety and my heart issues" and he has a
20 doctor in his hotel room and he ends up having to go to the hospital and "Can you just see me
21 in person and care for me?" and he just appeals to your nurturing side. Normally, I - to tell the
22 truth, like, at that time I actually thought about it, too. I thought of going to see him and just
23 saying goodbye and making sure he was all right. It was my mom and it's like, "**No.** What? Are you
24 kidding me? Don't even think about it."

- 1 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Does he have a warehouse or something somewhere?
- 2 **DAVID JOHNSON:** It shut off again.
- 3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Oh, did it? Thank God for this one.
- 4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** He does have a storage unit in Fort Lauderdale. I stopped by it to
5 see if I could get anything. I'm like, I'm - I got my clothes and I've got very minimum things
6 because I wanted to wash my hands of anything that we purchased together. I'm just like, it's his. I
7 don't want anything but to get out of these loans and I want to move on with my life. That's how I
8 presented myself to him, like, I'm done. And so he had the people around him that - just tell them
9 that he's - you know, his entourage. "I'll pay you this. Just move my stuff out of this house and do
10 this." They put it in storage and now - I mean, I'm talking to - one kid's name is Socrates and he's a
11 hard-working guy. He's an ex-Marine. He's engaged, just a very quality person. And he told me,
12 like, "You ought to put this and this, and he put his files in this storage unit, and he put some
13 electronics in the storage unit, some artwork, stuff of higher value and some things that I know
14 were personal, very top-notch personal things of his, like sentimental from what I grasped. I don't
15 think he has a heart inside of his chest."
- 16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You know where this storage unit is?
- 17 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. It's right in Fort Lauderdale. It's called [sounds like:]
18 Cambridge Storage and I did have access to it except he - I believe he changed his lock and the - he
19 hasn't paid his bill from - I was there a couple months ago just checking in and they put an
20 additional pad [Tape-recording device turns off.]
- 21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** end of the tape. This is Tape 2 of the statement of DAVID
22 JOHNSON. The date is still the 25th of October. We had a time lapse because we actually had to
23 pick up some more tapes. The time is 12:52. DAVID, I believe you were talking about the storage
24 facility.

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes. He has been – left the country for a little while to do whatever he
2 may do. He left everyone under the impression he was going to cash out his gasoline and oil stock. I
3 have a person that was part of his entourage that I've actually confided in a lot of information and he's
4 told me his situation and how Troy has pretty much left him, you know, in the dust. But before Troy
5 left, he put valuable, like, electronics, artwork, and some files that were of obvious importance because
6 he locked his - all his valuable stuff up in his storage locker, Cambridge Storage in Fort Lauderdale,
7 Florida.

8 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Now, do you have access to that storage locker? If the bill was paid
9 would you ordinarily have access to that storage locker?

10 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I do have the storage locker number. I know the codes because there's
11 a code to get up to the elevator. Unfortunately, they did change the padlock so I don't have a key to it.
12 There is an additional padlock because he has not paid his bill.

13 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** So I know I could stand right in front of it, but I don't believe I could
15 actually get it open without a lock card.

16 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Now, do you know of any other people personally that Troy
17 has defrauded or taken advantage of?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** It's the weirdest thing. In this small entourage of people the most
19 he's done is had people jump through hoops and work for him without payment. It was - I was a - I
20 feel like I was a different kind of case where he actually stole from me more than my time and my
21 work. He had people quit jobs and - actually, I take that back because he did have a couple people
22 – "I'm going to buy you a vehicle." There are two people. One is Ken Petke. He was a mover. He
23 was a manager - or a manager at a moving company called Two Men and a Truck. He's like, "Hey,
24 we're going to make you a company. You can have your own moving company that's - I'll buy you

1 a moving truck and I'll buy you a Ford F-150 as a personal truck," and so when the time came, just
2 Troy's way of doing things, he put the down payment down.

3 They ended up taking a loan out in Ken's name. This is a man with, I believe, two
4 daughters, a wife, and is scraping by. He quits his company, works for Troy. Works for Troy;
5 doesn't get paid. Just working - he ends up working getting his job back and then working for Troy
6 just to make sure his truck payments would get paid. Of course, those ran through and both of them
7 were taken from him. Now he is - he owes on what is - because they auctioned them off. He owes
8 the difference. So now he's probably looking at bankruptcy. He has two kids and he's screwed.
9 Then there's another guy named Adam Roberts -- exact same situation. "I'm going to buy you a
10 truck." They show up. He puts about five or ten grand down and it's a \$60,000.00 truck. He works
11 for Troy. Doesn't get paid. They repossess his vehicle. Credit is just killed.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

13 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I mean, it doesn't make any sense to anybody when they do the
14 thing. Why would somebody put five or \$10,000.00 down on a vehicle if they don't plan on doing
15 the rest? What do they get out of that? Why do they want to hire me but not pay me. You know, get
16 you committed to something and then you're kind of stuck. You just want to work your way
17 through it and get through it and hopefully he comes through.

18 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** You know, when we talked before you said something about the
19 owner of Shadow Marine or something. What was that about?

20 **DAVID JOHNSON:** We were looking at some property, some huge property. One was a
21 - I believe it was about 50 million dollars of waterfront property for Troyco. He would do sound
22 stages and, like, studios more or less and it was - I'm sorry. I don't know his name right now, but he
23 owned Shadow Marine. We looked at one of his boats. We flew up to Jacksonville, Me and
24 Richard Hack and Troy Stratos flew up to Jacksonville, looked at, I believe, it was an 18 million-
25 dollar yacht/ship. He just shopped and shopped and shopped without ever doing anything. Just

1 promises, yeah. I mean, he said he was going to buy the 50 million-dollar property. It was beautiful
2 and it was underpriced. Just then kind of cut communication with them.

3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay.

4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** And it was weird when we were with this gentleman because he
5 was true, I believe, billionaire. I'm sorry, I don't have his name on me right now, but Troy turned
6 into a kid when he was looking at all his motorcycles, and cars, and his airplane, and his helicopter,
7 and the true vast fortune of what this guy actually had. He just turned into somewhat of a child like,
8 "Ooh, look at this, look at that. I mean, I have this and this and this in LA. I have Lamborghini,
9 Rolls Royce, and all this in LA," but when he was in the presence of somebody that was real he
10 turned into somebody else, like their best friend. He wasn't "the man" in that situation. You know
11 what I mean?

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Yeah. Did you have any other property involvement besides the two
13 properties and the home equity loan? That was the extent of what you got yourself extended on
14 with him, right?

15 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No. There was two additional things. I co-signed with the
16 developer, [SL] Mitch Casso We took out a signature loan, which he justified with Mitch as a gift-
17 take type of thing. "Hey, we're going to buy this property and we're going to make this all good, but
18 I need you to do a little bit of a kick-back. There's a \$25,000.00 signature loan." I'm learning about
19 this more and more how loans work. So Mitch is hard up and I'm hard up over that. I mean, that's
20 small potatoes compared to my other stuff, but - so we have a signature loan. He also is on that
21 loan, Mr. Mitch Casso And then we also leased a property, but we closed that lease and it was all
22 agreed upon. I have a signature saying that I have no liabilities towards that rental property.

23 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** What happened to the \$25,000.00 that you got with the signature
24 loan?

1 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Mitch Cass got to keep \$5,000.00 of it. He immediately took it out.
2 \$20,000.00 was put in my joint account with Troy and taken out the exact same day it was put in.

3 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Who took it out?

4 **DAVID JOHNSON:** I believe it was Richard Hack worked for Stratos and went into what, I
5 believe, was their joint account.

6 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Did you get to keep any of that money?

7 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No.

8 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** But you have the liability for the loan?

9 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yeah. Mitch Cass knew that we were - even though Troy kept it hush-
10 hush, I mean, it was very obvious. We were always together. He felt that Troy would never do
11 something negative to me. I mean, we were living together and doing all these - we're a couple. So he
12 wouldn't do this loan without my name on it so, of course, Troy didn't care about that, so we both
13 signed for it. The thing that I'm realizing is my - couldn't stretch my credit anymore, so we needed
14 Mitch to get this.

15 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** At the end of the day-and I may have asked you this - but what did you
16 get out of all of this? You know, like, what you talk about Mitch being able to take \$5,000.00 off of the
17 top of the loan. Did you get anything like that?

18 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No. The only thing that I got was the wine-and-dine experience, some
19 expensive dinners. The thing that sold me like this guy is for real that's - as for right now when I'm
20 living with my family and stuff like that, I have absolutely nothing to show for it.

21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Is there anything that I haven't asked you about that you want to talk
22 about, anything that you think is important?

23 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Well, I do want to - I am very thankful that this process is going on. I
24 think he's been wrecked - ruined way too many lives already. I believe the more public that this goes
25 the sooner it'll stop, less people get hurt, and I want him to get what is coming to him. Then also, I just

1 know his personality. I got really close to him, like where I know what his buttons are. I know how
2 emotional it is and you just - mentally you want to stay on his good side because you hope he'll
3 come through with - for you, no matter when it is, a year from now, two years from now or
4 tomorrow. So that's the standpoint of what he keeps everybody in. No one ever puts their name on
5 it and says, hey, this is what he did because, you know, you're - immediately will never ever -
6 situation will never be resolved by him. I'm past that whole thing.

7 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Do you know what "perjury" is?

8 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

9 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** So you understand that when you make a sworn statement you
10 have an obligation to tell the truth?

11 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes.

12 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Okay. Has anybody offered you anything or threatened you
13 anything, given you anything to get you to make this statement?

14 **DAVID JOHNSON:** No.

15 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Do you feel threatened or intimidated in any way?

16 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Absolutely not.

17 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Well, mindful of your obligation to tell the truth in a sworn
18 statement do you swear or affirm that the statements that you made as commemorated in
19 videotape are true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

20 **DAVID JOHNSON:** Yes

21 **INV. BILL BRANSCUM:** Well, I do thank you very much, the time is now 1:04 in the
22 afternoon.