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SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA

APR 15 2005

GARY M. BLAIR, Executive Officer
BY CANNE & Wagner
CARRIE L. WAGNER, Deputy Clerk

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA SANTA MARIA DIVISION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

V.

Plaintiff,

MOTION FOR THE ADMISSION
OF ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE
PURSUANT TO EVIDENCE CODE
SECTION 1108 AND 1101(b)

Defendant.

Date: TBA
Time: TBA
Dept.: SM2 (Melville)

### I. INTRODUCTION

On December 20, 2004, the people filed a motion seeking the admission of evidence of prior sexual acts of the defendant pursuant to Evidence Code section 1108 and 1101(b). On March 24, 2005, the Court ruled the testimony of certain witnesses, including Ralph Chacon, were admissible.

On April 7, 2005, former Jackson security guard, Ralph Chacon, testified before the jury and described several incidents involving sexual acts perpetrated by the defendant Jackson with certain young boys.

For purposes of this motion, the incidents described by Ralph Chacon in his

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testimony will be referred to as the "bathroom," "the Arcade" and "the Peter Pan display" incidents.

By this motion, the People seek to admit the testimony of security guard Kassim Abdool, who was present and worked with the witness Chacon on the night of the incidents described by Mr. Chacon.

## II. KASSIM ABDOOL'S PROPOSE<mark>D TESTIMO</mark>NY

Mr. Kassim Abdool began his employment at Neverland Valley Ranch around June of 1991, as a security guard. He terminated his employment in 1994. He was in charge of the graveyard shift and he supervised security guard Ralph Chacon.

During the graveyard shift in either 1992 or 1993, he saw the defendant and the child known to him as "Jordie" exit the main residence in swimming trunks and go into the Jacuzzi.

Later he heard Jackson yell, "Security." "Security." Eventually, Bucky, the Chef, delivered drinks to Jackson and the child.

Later, he saw the defendant and Jordie walking in their swimming trunks and enter the males restroom connected to the recreation room. After approximately 45 minutes, he saw Jackson and Jordie exit the restroom. He observed Jackson carrying Jordie "piggyback" style from the restroom to the house. Jackson was wearing a robe or towel around his waist and Jordie a towel-like robe over his body. He could not see whether the child was naked or not.

When Jackson and the child entered Jackson's house, he heard Jackson double lock the door. Based on his experience, this was highly unusual behavior by defendant Jackson as the security guards were routinely responsible for locking up the main residence.

After Jackson and Jordie entered the house, he went to the recreation room and restrooms to turn out the lights. He entered the same men's restroom that Jackson and Jordie had earlier entered and exited. Upon entering, he observed the floor to be wet and two wet bathing trunks on the ground. The trunks were side by side.

Later that evening, Mr. Abdool and Mr. Chacon were making their rounds and

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discovered a set of French doors open and unlocked. When he asked Chacon to enter the residence to check the area, Mr. Chacon refused. Mr. Chacon continued to object and even ignored a direct order to enter the house. Mr. Abdool found this very unusual as Chacon was always a very obedient security guard. The French door incident was reported to their supervisor Lt. Jim Wade.

On another occasion, also on the graveyard shift, he saw Jackson and Jordie return Jackson's "Moon Rover" golf cart. He saw Jackson and Jordie looking at a Peter Pan display near the breezeway connecting the house to the adjacent building housing Jackson's office. Jackson was positioned behind Jordie. Abdool briefly glimpsed Jackson hug the child. As soon as defendant put his hands around Jordie, he walked off. What he saw was a two-second glimpse.

On another occasion, he believes during 1993, he and Mr. Chacon were in the security office. Jackson called Abdool and asked him to go to Jackson's car and get a jar of Vaseline from the center console of the vehicle and bring it to his bedroom.

Chacon and Abdool opened the unlocked door of the black SUV, retrieved the Vaseline and headed for Jackson's bedroom. When Jackson opened the door to his bedroom, Jackson was wearing only his pajama bottoms, appeared sweaty, aroused and Abdool observed Jackson to have an erection under his pajama bottoms. There was a young boy, who he believed was Jordie, in the bedroom with Mr. Jackson.

On May 9, 1994, Mr. Abdool appeared before the L.A. Grand Jury and testified about the "bathroom" and "the Peter Pan" incidents.

He also testified at the Grand Jury he was frightened about cooperating with the Grand Jury. He described the atmosphere at the ranch as one of "intimidation" from the armed security Jackson had recently brought to the ranch. Mr. Abdool requested law enforcement explore the possibility of the Witness Protection Program for him and his family. Later, after his Grand Jury testimony, he received numerous death threats.

Prior to Mr. Abdool's testimony before the Grand Jury, he was contacted by attorneys Steve Cochran and Robert Sanger. He met with them in Mr. Sanger's office. The

attorneys wanted to provide transportation, hotel accommodations and legal representatives for him and Chacon in connection with their trip to Los Angeles to testify.

Attorney Cochran further requested to know what Mr. Abdool would say before the Grand Jury. He declined to tell them and declined their offered services.

Several days later, Mr. Abdool was contacted by Bill Bray. Bray told Abdool his four-month old proposal for pay raises for him and other security guards was suddenly approved. His salary was raised from \$1,760 a month to approximately \$3,300 a month

## III. DISCUSSION

Rather than repeat the legal authorities and analysis previously submitted in connection with the People's original Evidence Code section 1108 and 1101(b) motion, we request the Court consider those materials incorporated by reference into this motion.

Mr. Abdool's offer of proof covers three incidents. Two of the three incidents relate directly to observations and events already ruled admissible by the Court and presented through the testimony of security guard Ralph Chacon.

Mr. Abdool's proposed testimony bears directly upon his participation and independent observations made as to the conduct and behavior of the defendant Jackson in the restroom with the young boy. He observed the defendant and the young boy enter the Jacuzzi. He later observed them enter the restroom clad only in bathing trunks. Approximately 45 minutes later he saw the defendant exit the restroom with the young boy mounted on his shoulders or back, "piggyback" style. He continued to watch Jackson carry the child into the main residence and heard the door lock. All of these observations are entirely consistent with the account testified to by Ralph Chacon.

Mr. Abdool's subsequent entry into the same restroom area and observation of the two wet trunks lying side-by-side on a wet floor not only constitute strong circumstantial evidence of the defendant's misconduct, it also constitutes further corroborative and confirming evidence of the defendant's misconduct with the young boy as outlined in Ralph Chacon's testimony.

Similarly, Mr. Abdool's observations placing Jordan Chandler and the defendant

together viewing the Peter Pan display also corroborates Mr. Chacon's testimony. Whether the momentary glimpse of Jackson placing his arms around the young boy constitutes conduct within the purview of 1108, it is nonetheless admissible to demonstrate the presences of the two together and in the setting and relationship as described by Ralph Chacon.

The third incident described in Mr. Abdool's offer of proof also involves the child Jordan Chandler. Chandler was observed arriving with Jackson in Jackson's SUV. Chandler is in Jackson's bedroom when Abdool was requested to obtain the Vaseline and bring it to Jackson.

Abdool's observations of the sweating, aroused, penis-erect Jackson with a young boy in the room, is strong circumstantial evidence of the type of propensity evidence favored by Evidence Code section 1108.

## IV. **CONCLUSION**

In light of Mr. Chacon's testimony placing the "restroom" and "the Peter Pan display" incidents before the jury, the proposed testimony of Kassim Abdool is admissible as direct evidence of his observations corroborating the testimony of Ralph Chacon as to the setting and events described by Chacon. That portion of his proposed testimony dealing with his observations in the restroom and the admissibility as circumstantial evidence of the defendant's misconduct.

The third incident should be admitted pursuant to evidence code section 1108 and 1101(b).

DATED: April 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS W. SNEDDON, JR

District Attorney

Attorney for Plaintiff

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# PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA** 

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to the within-entitled action. My business address is: District Attorney's Office; Courthouse; 1112 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

On April 15, 2005, I served the within PLAINTIFF'S SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE PURSUANT TO EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1108 AND 1101(b), on Defendant, by THOMAS A. MESEREAU, JR., ROBERT SANGER, and BRIAN OXMAN by personally delivering a true copy thereof to counsel in court. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Santa Barbara, California on this 15th day of April, 2005.

Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr.

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Ì **SERVICE LIST** THOMAS A. MESEREAU, JR. Collins, Mesereau, Reddock & Yu, LLP 1875 Century Park East, No. 700 Los Angeles, CA 90067 FAX: [CONFIDENTIAL] Attorney for Defendant Michael Jackson ROBERT SANGER, ESQ. Sanger & Swysen, Lawyers 233 E. Carrillo Street, Suite C Santa Barbara, CA 93001 FAX: (805) 963-7311 Co-counsel for Defendant OXMAN & JAROSCAK Brian Oxman State Bar Number 072172 14126 East Rosecrans Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 Tel.:(562) 921-5058, Fax: (562) 921-2298 Co-counsel for Defendant