## **EXHIBIT C**

The State of Ohio, ) County of Summit. ) SS: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS Member Williams, et al., Plaintiffs; No. CV-2016-09-3928 vs. Judge James Brogan Kisling, Nestico & Redick, LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

Videotaped deposition of ROBERT PAUL HORTON, one of the Defendants herein, taken before Mary Lou Mellinger, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, at the offices of Thomas A. Skidmore Co., L.P.A., One Cascade Plaza, 12th Floor, PNC Center Building, Akron, Ohio, commencing at 9:09 A.M., Monday, February 25, 2019, pursuant to notice of counsel.

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**EXTO** 

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1		care they might start out with, you and the client	1	Q	So generally speaking, though, it's the same thing
2		would talk back and forth?	2		you do today?
3	Α	Say that again.	3	Α	I help my, I help my clients get the care that they
4	Q	Sure. You never sent somebody to get care that they	4		need.
5		didn't agree to get, did you?	5	Q	And that's what you were doing at KNR?
6	Α	No.	6	Α	Yes.
7	Q	You would have had a discussion with them about the	7	Q	You were helping them get the care they needed, true
8		types of potential care, and you and the client	8	A	Yes.
9		together would talk about who they would go see,	9	Q	You didn't send somebody to a chiropractor or a
10		fair?	10		medical doctor if you didn't think they were hurt,
11	Α	Yes.	11		did you?
12	Q	It's the same thing you do today, basically?	12	Α	Everybody represented to me that they were hurt. So
13	Α	Yes.	13		I mean, if somebody said "I'm not hurt," I'm not
14	Q	Okay. And so if you have somebody come in today at	14		going to tell you to go anywhere.
15		Slater & Zurz with soft tissue injuries, do you ask	15	Q	Okay.
16		them "Do you have a primary care? Do you have a	16	Α	I probably if they told me that they weren't hurt,
17		chiropractor?" What's the sort of process?	17		I wouldn't I'd say "You're not going to be my
18		MR. SKIDMORE: Objection. One thing I'm	18		client," I guess is the best thing to say.
19		concerned about today is what he does at	19	Q	And certainly the people, either the chiropractors or
20		Slater & Zurz is really kind of off limits.	20		physicians that you referred KNR clients to, you
21		MR. MANNION: Okay.	21		believed that those chiropractors and physicians
22		MR. SKIDMORE: That's their proprietary	22		would take good care of your clients, fair?
23		information and I'd prefer you guys stay away	23	A	They would treat them, yes.
24		from that.	24	Q	They would take good care of them, fair?
25		MR. MANNION: I will. No problem.	25	A	I mean, I guess that's a question you're going to
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1		have to ask the client if they took good care of	1		which chiropractor or physician to see. You would
2		them. We would recommend doctors to people, and, you	2		not recommend somebody if you thought that that
3		know, you think they're going to get good care, you	3		physician or chiropractor was not going to provide
4		hope they're going to get good care, but that's a	4		good care, fair?
5		question for them.	5	A	True. You know, you send a client to see somebod
6	Q	But those are doctors that you all had had experience	6		and they might hate that person, but then you have a
7		with providing good care to your clients, fair?	7		person who really likes that person. So I mean, you
8	Α	We had experience with those doctors providing care	8		use that to guide, I guess, a little. Does that make
9		to the clients, yes.	9		sense?
10	Q	Providing good care to the clients, fair?	10	Q	Sure. And if they don't like the chiropractor or the
11	A	Again, you're going that's a question that I	11		physician, you can recommend somebody different?
12		presume they got good care because, you know, if they	12	Α	Yes.
13		didn't get good care, then people would tell me and	13	Q	That could potentially have ramifications with the
14		then we would address it with the clients, so	14		insurance company if they switched doctors, true?
15	Q	And you wouldn't be sending a client to somebody that	15	Α	I don't know if that's true.
16		you didn't think would provide good care, would you?	16	Q	Okay. Have you ever told anybody that?
17		Too many negatives?	17	A	I don't recall.
18	A	Yeah.	18	Q	Okay.
19		No, I guess it depends on how you define "good	19	A	It's a possibility.
20		care." I mean, I think I see where you're going, but	20	Q	Okay. It depends on the adjuster?
21		again, if they got good care or not while they were	21	Α	Yeah, probably.
22		there from a subjective standpoint is something	22	Q	Okay. I mean, do you recall saying a little bit
23		you're going to have to ask them.	23		off track here that one of the things you told
24	Q	, ,	24		adjusters all the time is "Just because you say it,
25		mindset when you were talking to the client about	25		it doesn't make it true"?

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1		to get that reduction?	1	Α	Um-um.
2	Α	Yes.	2	Q	Of your recorded statement.
3	Q	Okay. If you look at Exhibit M, so if you see if she	3	Α	I know what it says.
4	- 1	had paid it by April 30th, it was only going to be	4	Q	Okay. You already read it?
5		\$778?	5	A	Yeah.
6	Α	Right.	6	Q	Okay. So you agree, it says you didn't have a script
7	Q	And once it passes that date, it's automatically	7		for when you talked to clients, you said "A script?"
8		968, correct?	8		"Yes."
9	Α	That's what it says, yeah.	9		"Answer: No."
10	Q	Okay. And you were able to negotiate that back down	10		And "You didn't take a written script with you
11		to 800 because we're only a couple weeks past the	11		when you met with clients, did you?"
12		prior date?	12		"No."
13	Α	Presumably, yes.	13		And "My statement was correct?"
14	Q	Okay. By the way, did Attorney Pattakos ever ask	14	Α	Yep, yes.
15		you I forget if I asked this earlier whether	15	Q	Okay. "There was no written script of the questions
16		there were written scripts for people to follow at	16		you asked and how you interacted with a client with
17		KNR?	17		how you refer somebody to a chiropractor, fair?"
18	A	I do not recall him asking. That's not to say that	18		Your answer was "Yeah, fair. Not that I recall.
19		he did or did not, but I have no recollection of it.	19		I didn't use one." True?
20	Q	And you don't recall telling him that there were, do	20	A	
21		you?	21	Q	And you didn't see anybody else use one either, true?
22	Α	I don't have a recollection of it. Again, "script"	22	Α	
23		is a well, I've explained it.	23	Q	Okay. "To establish what treatment any one client
24	Q	Well, if you look at page 17 of your recorded	24		would need, we'd have to look at that individual
25		statement	25		case, ask that individual client about it, ask that
		Page 96			Page 97
1		individual lawyer about it," correct?	1		were already treating with either a family doctor or
2	Α	Yes.	2		a chiropractor, and they continued to do that
3	Q	And you certainly never forced anybody to use a	3		throughout the case, true?
4		specific chiropractor, true?	4	Α	
5	Α	•	5	Q	
6	Q	You might have recommended somebody or referred	6		their family doctor, to go see somebody else, did
7		somebody, true?	7		you?
8	Α	Yes.	8	A	Never forced, no.
9	Q	But you never said "No, this is your only choice, you	9	Q	Some primary care physicians, in fact, many of them
10		have to go here or I'm not going to take your case,"	10		didn't like getting involved in motor vehicle
11		anything like that, true?	11		accidents, true?
12	Α	True.	12	A	Yes.
13	Q	Never forced that, true?	13	Q	And for that reason, you often had to recommend
14	A	True.	14	À	somebody, true?
15	Q	And never sent them to a chiropractor that you	15	A	Yes. Okay. And oftentimes it would be a chiropractor?
16		thought was going to do them harm or not provide good	17	Q A	Most often.
17	A	service, true?	18	Q	What are some of the things when you were at KNR that
18	Α	True.  And you represented over a thousand claimants, for	19	V	were important to you with respect to well, let me
19	Q	which you negotiated settlements while you were at	20		strike that.
20		KNR?	21		Would you agree that typically you would use
20					chiropractors at KNR who would agree to letters of
21	٨	It's probably higher but yeah			
21 22	A	It's probably higher, but yeah.	22		And the Contract of the Contra
21	A Q A	It's probably higher, but yeah.  Okay.  You said over a thousand, so	23	Α	protection? Yes.



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1	Α	I do.	1	Q	And you do that same thing, true?
2	Q	Okay. Do you think he's a good lawyer?	2	Α	Yep.
3	A	I do.	3	Q	And you did that at KNR as well?
4	Q	And you certainly think that he has his clients' best	4	Α	Yes.
5	350	interests at heart, don't you?	5	Q	That's a benefit to the client, isn't it?
6	Α	TO THE STATE OF TH	6	A	Yeah, to not have to worry about their bill when
7	Q	If you look at, if we could just go through this, do	7		they're treating, yes.
8		you see number five, Attorney Lynett testifies, "Many	8	Q	Okay.
9		of my clients do not have personal medical insurance,	9	Α	And to get them the treatment.
10		or the personal means that would allow them access to	10	Q	If you look at number eight on the next page and
11		the care they needed without my help," fair?	11		you could feel free to read any of them.
12	Α	Fair.	12	Α	Yeah, I've never seen this.
13	Q	And that describes the clientele both where you are	13	Q	After you read
14		at now and when you were at KNR, true?	14	Α	I'm sorry. Sorry.
15	Α		15	Q	That's okay. Now, eight, "I have also been
16		population, yeah.	16		recommended to clients by healthcare providers
17	Q	He goes on in number six, "To provide the best	17		like" is it Minas or
18		possible service for my clients, I have recommended	18	Α	Minas.
19		to my clients doctors and facilities that will treat	19	Q	Minas, I never remember that.
20		them for their injuries, with the understanding that	20	A	Nobody does.
21		these providers will not try to collect payment for	21	Q	" Minas Floros, DC, who are treating individuals
22		those services from my clients until my clients'	22		that are similarly situated to my clients, in that
23		claims have been settled or adjudicated;" did I read	23		they did not have personal medical insurance, or the
24		that correctly?	24		personal means that would allow them to get the care
25	Α	Yep.	25		they needed without the assistance of an attorney;"
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1		did I read that correctly?	1	Q	Yeah.
2	Α	You did.	2	Α	No, I'm not.
3	Q	Okay. Do you have anything I mean, that's what	3	Q	If you give me two, I give you one, or vice versa?
4		happens in the personal injury arena, isn't it, that	4	A	I am not aware of conversations or agreements that
5		sometimes attorneys refer to chiropractors and	5		have been in place that I'm not privy to, if that
6		sometimes chiropractors refer to attorneys?	6		makes any sense.
7	Α	Yes.	7	Q	Okay. Well, no one has ever told you I'll strike
8	Q	And you were never aware of any quid pro quo	8		that.
9		relationship between Doctor Floros or any	9		You are not aware of any agreement between Akror
10		chiropractor and KNR, Nestico or Redick, were you?	10		Square Chiropractic and/or Doctor Floros and KNR,
11	Α	No.	11		Nestico and Redick, are you?
12	Q	And you certainly don't have one now, do you,	12	A	Correct.
13		yourself	13	Q	In fact, you use Doctor Floros, don't you?
14		MR. SKIDMORE: Objection.	14	A	No.
15	Q	at Slater & Zurz?	15	Q	Never?
16		MR. MANNION: I mean, I know he doesn't.	16	A	No. He doesn't like me.
17	Q	I'm just getting it on the record that you don't, I	17	Q	Oh. You used to use Doctor Floros?
18		mean, that's not something you did at KNR, it's not	18	Α	I wouldn't say "use." I would have as clients
19		something you saw KNR do, and it's not something you	1207255	_	patients of his, but
20	43	would do, true?	20	Q	Okay. You've defended
21	A	Can you rephrase that?	21	A	Few and far between.
22	Q	Sure. You're not aware of any quid pro quo	22	Q	He's been your expert in a case at deposition before?
23		relationship?	23	A	I have taken his deposition one time.
24	Α	The state of the s	24	Q	Okay. And that was for one of your clients?
25		thing?	25	Α	It was.

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1	Q	Well, is that why you use those reports?	1	Α	Yes.
2	A	2000 0 2000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2	Q	And perhaps used TENS units or electrical stimulation
3		doctors and chiropractors, yeah, I would.	3		at the chiropractor's office?
4	Q		4	A	Yeah, a lot of them do.
5		client?	5	Q	And they report that it helps, some of them, true?
6	Α	Yes.	6	Α	Some of them do, yeah.
7	Q	Now, you're not aware of any attorney, owner or other	7	Q	And if they tell you it's not helping, you tell them
8		employee of KNR conspiring with any chiropractors or	8		to stop it, I assume?
9		any other third party vendors to inflate billings,	9	Α	I don't know if I've ever had that conversation. I
10		are you?	10		think they a lot of times will make the determination
11	Α	No.	11		on their own if it's not helping to stop it. I
12	Q	Okay. You wouldn't condone that?	12		don't I don't I don't I always well, I
13	Α	No.	13		tell people, you know, get the care that you need,
14	Q	And you never heard anyone say that they were going	14		you know, if it works it works, and if it doesn't,
15		to do that, did you?	15		don't do it, I guess.
16	Α	No.	16	Q	But the decision on whether a TENS unit is needed or
17	Q	You've had patients use TENS units, fair?	17		not, that's a decision between the healthcare
18	Α	Yes.	18		provider and the client, true?
19	Q	And clients I should say?	19	Α	I would say, yeah.
20	Α	Yeah; yeah. Yeah. I think we all use those terms	20	Q	At KNR you didn't tell people "Go get a TENS unit,"
21		interchangeably.	21		did you?
22	Q	It's a patient of the doctor and a client of yours?	22	Α	No, I don't think so.
23	A	Yes.	23	Q	I mean, I'm saying you're not a doctor, right?
24	Q	And you certainly have had patients who have had TENS	24	A	I'm not a doctor.
25		units prescribed by their doctor, true?	25	Q	Okay. Did you ever tell Monique Norris, or anybody
		Page 112			Page 113
1		that you can recall, "Hey, I think you should go get	1	Α	You're asking me about the medical care between a
2		a TENS unit"?	2		doctor and a patient, and I can't tell you if what
3	Α	I would say "Follow your prescribed course of care."	3		the doctor says or doesn't say I mean, I don't
4	Q	Okay.	4		know if it's the doctor's policy to do it or because
5	Α	And if that included getting a TENS unit, then that's	5		it's helpful, I don't know. That's an answer to the
6		what the doctor says.	6		question I can't answer.
7	Q	And to determine whether a TENS unit is required or	7	Q	Okay. For you to know whether or not something was
8		reasonably necessary for any particular patient or	8		reasonably medically necessary, you'd have to ask the
9		client, you'd have to look at you'd have to talk	9		doctor on each one of those cases?
10		to that particular medical doctor, look at those	10	Α	I would have to the doctor would have to tell me
11		particular medical records, talk to that particular	11		that.
12		patient, true?	12	Q	And you've seen all sorts of different charges for
13	A		13		TENS units I'm sure?
14	Q		14	A	Yeah.
15		TENS units?	15	Q	Okay.
16	A		16	A	I mean, I couldn't tell you what they are, but
17	Q		17	Q	Sometimes claims people try to negotiate those down
18		you?	18	, <b>.</b>	and sometimes they don't?
19	Α		19	A	Claims adjusters?
20	23.043	what the patient needs.	20	Q	Claims adjusters.
21	Q		21	Α	Sometimes they'll tell you what they're going to pay,
22	42	differently, true?	22		and sometimes they don't tell you what they're going
23	A		23	^	to pay. I mean, it depends on the conversation.
24		to say yes or no.	24	Q	And sometimes when you settle a case, they don't
25	Q	Okay.	25		necessarily break it down by hey, this much goes to



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1		in a debate with you on the record here. I	1	Q	Okay. And this particular provider was Doctor Joshu
2		redacted the name of the patient. If you	2		Jones. Do you know Doctor Jones?
3		want to talk about this off the record later	3	A	I do.
4		so we don't delay this, that's fine.	4	Q	Okay. Have you used him, Doctor Jones?
5		MR. PATTAKOS: Okay. So as far as we	5	A	In what sense?
6		know, though, this is just some random	6	Q	I mean, has he treated patients/clients of yours?
7		patient from Doctor Ghoubrial's practice	7	A	Yeah, I believe so.
8		right now, that's fair?	8	Q	Okay. And you see down at the bottom where it says
9		MR. MANNION: I'm not answering your	9		inject trigger points, an \$800 charge?
10		questions, okay?	10	Α	Yes.
11		MR. PATTAKOS: Well, what is it?	11	Q	And can you tell us what Nationwide said as far as
12	Q	Showing you Exhibit U, Mr. Horton, and	12		the provider reimburse?
13		MR. PATTAKOS: Object.	13	Α	Where does it say that?
14	Q	And you see at the top it says Explanation of Review,	14		MR. SKIDMORE: Objection.
15		Provider Copy?	15	Α	It says 800.
16	Α	Anglight Control of the Control of t	16	Q	So according to this, if it's correct, Nationwide
17	Q	And you see it says the Billing Provider, Clearwater	17		reimbursed \$800 for the trigger point injections, the
18	~	Billing Services?	18		exact amount, true?
19	Α	Yes.	19	Α	That's what it says.
20	Q	And do you understand that's where Doctor Ghoubrial		Q	And if you look on the next page, it looks like
21	· **	and Doctor Gunning treat or practice?	21		Nationwide also reimbursed the total cost of \$500 for
22	Α	Sept. 19 Control of the Control of t	22		the TENS unit, true?
23	Q	Sure. But do you understand that Doctor Ghoubrial	23		MR. SKIDMORE: Objection.
24	~	and Doctor Gunning are with Clearwater?	24	Α	That's what it says.
25	Α	Yes.	25	0	According to this document?
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1	Α	Yes.	1		MR. MANNION: Were you looking to take a
2		MR. PATTAKOS: Has anything else been	2		break, Peter, or
3		redacted from here other than the patient	3		MR. PATTAKOS: No, you know what, it's
4		name, Tom?	4		fine. I was just asking because he changed
5		MR. MANNION: No, of course not.	5		the tape, if everybody else is okay.
6	Α	And this is all it appears to be medical payment	6		MR. MANNION: What time do we have?
7		coverage, which is I mean, it's a little bit	7		MR. PATTAKOS: 11:39.
8		different, but	8		THE WITNESS: Let's roll, keep going.
9	Q	Explain.	9	Q	
10	A	I don't know how insurance companies approach these	10	13000	Doctor Ghoubrial, even though the records suggest
11		things so I can't tell you, but there is a difference	11		Doctor Gunning. Are you aware that she testified to
12		between med pay coverage and liability coverage.	12		that?
13		There's a contractual obligation on the part of the	13	A	No.
14		insurance company to do things.	14	Q	The records seem to suggest that Doctor was it
15	Q	But	15		Floros in her case recommended, referred her to
16	Α	And that I think, to avoid particular claims against	16		Doctor Ghoubrial, her chiropractor referred her to
		them, take into consideration I mean, I don't	17		Doctor Ghoubrial.
17		know. You have to ask the insurance company. But	18	Α	Okay.
		from a practical standpoint, med pay is looked at	19	Q	Is that something you've seen before?
17		differently than liability coverage.	20	Α	Yes.
17 18		differently than hability coverage.	0.1	Q	Okay. You don't make that determination, do you?
17 18 19	Q	They still have to be reasonable and customary	21	~	only. Tou don't make that determination, do you.
17 18 19 20	Q		22	A	No.
17 18 19 20 21	Q A	They still have to be reasonable and customary		-	No.
17 18 19 20 21 22	70	They still have to be reasonable and customary charges, true?	22	Α	



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1		you that I don't know. I mean, I can't tell you. It	1		chiropractor, medical doctor or healthcare provider
2		wouldn't be of common practice.	2		sending any payments to KNR, its employees or its
3	Q	I mean, do you recall ever doing it?	3		owners, for referral of any claimant to that
4	A		4		healthcare provider?
5		specific recollection of it now, but it was not	5	Α	Correct.
6		something that would have normally been done, if that	6	Q	And you're certainly not aware of Akron Square
7		makes sense.	7		Chiropractics or any other chiropractor or other
8	Q	That would usually come from another healthcare	8		healthcare provider making a payment or a kickback to
9	- 2	provider?	9		KNR, Nestico or Redick, true?
10	Α	Yes.	10	Α	Correct.
11	Q	Okay. Would you tell a patient right at the	11	Q	Would you agree KNR voluntarily discounted their fees
12	0.25	beginning "I'm going to get you treating with Doctor	12		in the vast majority of the cases that you settled
13		Ghoubrial"?	13		while working there?
14	Α	I don't think so.	14	Α	I suppose it would depend on how you define "vast
15	Q	Okay.	15		majority," but yes, we regularly reduced our fees.
16	A	I mean, I can't think of a specific instance where I	16	Q	If you look at paragraph 33 of your affidavit, can
17	15.5	would or would not I mean, where I did that, but	17	2.30	you just read that?
18		if somebody again, I'm completely guessing here, I	18	Α	Yeah, "vast majority of cases." I mean, if I handled
19		have no clue. If somebody didn't want to go see a	19	0.0	1500 cases, if you define "vast majority" as
20		chiropractor, but wanted to go to a medical doctor	20		predominantly, then, yeah.
21		and didn't have one, maybe in that circumstance, but	21	Q	Probably over at least over a thousand of those?
22		I don't know.	22	A	Oh, yeah.
23	Q	Okay. You don't recall doing that?	23	Q	Okay.
24	A	Correct.	24	A	I guess almost on every case.
25	Q	Oh, well do you agree you're not aware of any	25	Q	Okay.
20	<u> </u>	Page 128			Page 129
,		SACTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	1	Α	Yeah.
1	Α	Very rarely, with how the business works, you are	2	Q	"When discussing the distribution of settlement
2		taking a full fee on anything, but	3	V	proceeds with my and KNR's clients, I obtained client
3	Q	Okay. And you would agree that almost every time that fee was enough to cover the cost of both the \$50	4		approval before deducting those fees and costs from
4		investigation fee and the cost of a narrative report	5		the settlement proceeds;" did I read that correctly?
5			6	Α	Yes.
6		if there was one?	7	0	And you did that with every case you settled at KNR,
7	Α	I couldn't tell you one way or the other. I mean,	8	Q	didn't you?
8	-	potentially, but	9	Α	
9	Q	You never did an analysis like that?	10		Number 25, "I only asked my and KNR's clients to sign
10	A	No.		Q	the settlement memorandum if I believed the fees,
11	Q	But the fee usually wasn't a \$50 reduction, was it,	11		expenses, and payments to the client were fair and
12		it was usually more than that?	12		
13	Α	I would say that's accurate.	13	Α.	reasonable and the client agreed to them," true?
14	Q	You'd agree that usually the reduction in the fee was	14	A	True.
15	-	200 or more at least, usually?	15	Q	And that's you stick by that today, don't you?
16	Α	Probably.	16	A	Yes.
17	Q	Okay.	17	Q	And that would have been true
18	A	I mean, I can't say for certain, but	18	Α	Well, hold on a minute. Okay. Yeah. I was just
19	Q	To know what it was in any case, of course you'd have	19	0	making sure it didn't
20	127	to look at	20	Q	Okay.
21	A	The specific reduction, yeah.	21	A	there wasn't anything else in there.
22	Q	Okay. When you went over settlement memorandums		Q	Okay. And so that statement you gave under oath back
23	.50	if you would look at paragraph 24 and 25.	23		in 2017, and you agree with it today as well, true?
24	A	Of my affidavit?	24	A	
25	Q	Of your affidavit.	25	Q	Okay. And you certainly would have done that same