

Dr. Paul Weston's Deposition

ROLAND PRINCE, Plaintiff v. PAUL WESTON, PH.D. Defendant

Q. Dr. Weston, are you opposed to the war in Iraq?

A. What the hell does that have to do with anything? I don't--

Q. In your sessions with Alex Prince, did it repulse you to hear him recount the story of the bombing of the madrasa?

A. My personal feelings are irrelevant. I wouldn't allow them to influence my treatment of a patient.

Q. Dr. Weston, you are not a military man. It's not a stretch to think you would view the accidental killing of schoolchildren as an inexcusable tragedy.

A. I think I just said my personal feelings are irrelevant here. If you are trying to imply that I thought Alex was a murderer, you're wrong. He turned to me because his training... his defenses for processing this... tragedy, as you call it...were failing him. If his defenses were working, he never would have walked through my door.

Q. So you saw him as a man in crisis?

A. Obviously he was a man in crisis. But in therapy, these crises are an opportunity to illuminate a patient's real problem.

Q. Well that sounds like a dangerous game. Is it part of your treatment plan to push your patients to the brink of suicide, just to illuminate a problem to make it clear enough for you?

A. You're being offensive... I won't answer—

Q. You have to. You're under oath, Dr. Weston.

[At this point in the proceedings, Dr. Weston stands. The lawyers call for break.]

Q. So it's difficult for you, knowing when to stop. Boundaries are hard for you, aren't they?

A. We were talking about a treatment plan. Not about boundaries. They're two separate concepts.

Q. Excuse me, Dr. Weston. Let me be clearer, boundaries would be defined as setting limits – on patients and your personal behavior, then. That's a challenge? –

A. No –

Q. Is it true that setting limits has been a stumbling block in your career, Dr. Weston?

A. [stammering, unintelligible] What did... No—

Q. Emotions getting in the way. What can you tell us about Laura Hill?

A. This isn't about Laura Hill.

Q. You were aware of the affair between Laura Hill and Alex Prince.

A. You know I cannot comment on the content of Laura Hill's sessions.

Q. Fine. Did you talk about it with Alex?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the way you felt about Laura Hill affect the way you felt about Alex?

A. What are you asking me? Do you want me to say that the affair affected my treatment of him? Is that what you want me to say... Is that what you're looking for—that's what this whole thing is about.