# BEFORE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REGELIN CASTILLO,

Applicant,

V.

ADJ14349577

APPLICANT,

DEFENDING SELF-INSURED

ADMINISTERED BY SEDGWICK CLAIMS

Defendant(s).

Defendant(s).

REGELIN CASTILLO

TAKEN ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021

Reported By: Kristiaan Ruiz CSR No. 13984



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BEFORE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD
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                            STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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      REGELIN CASTILLO,
                                        ) WCAB No.: ADJ14349578
                                                     ADJ14349577
5
                 Applicant,
6
                 v.
      ADVENTIST HEALTH WHITE MEMORIAL;
      PERMISSIBLY SELF-INSURED
      ADMINISTERED BY SEDGWICK CLAIMS
8
      MANAGEMENT,
                Defendant(s).
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                 DEPOSITION OF REGELIN CASTILLO, taken before
16
           Kristiaan Ruiz, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the
17
            State of California, with principal office in the
            County of Los Angeles, commencing at 10:02 a.m.,
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19
            Thursday, October 7, 2021, taking place remotely.
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APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:
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15
     ALSO PRESENT:
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     Amanda Coombe
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     Erica Arellano
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16		(None.)	
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21		INFORMATION REQUESTED	
22		(None.)	
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                 Thursday, October 7, 2021, 10:02 a.m.
                        Los Angeles, California
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                           REGELIN CASTILLO,
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     called as a witness on behalf of the Defendant, having been
 6
     first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
         THE WITNESS: I do.
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9
                             EXAMINATION
10
    BY MS. PARKINGTON:
11
              Ms. Castillo, my name is Michelle Parkington, I'm an
12
     attorney, and my firm has been retained to represent the
13
     interest of the insurance company in connection with your
14
    workers' compensation claim. This proceeding is basically an
15
     informal question and answer session. I'll be asking
16
     questions and you will answer those questions to the best of
17
    your knowledge and ability. Neither myself, nor your
18
     attorney, want you to guess at any answer here today, but I
19
     am entitled to your best estimate.
          The difference between an estimate and a guess is that,
20
     if I were to ask you to guess as to the length of the desk in
21
22
    my office, you wouldn't be able to because you've never seen
23
     it before, but if I were to ask you to estimate the length of
24
    a table sitting in front of you, you'd be able because you
25
    can see it. Do you understand the difference between an
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- 1 estimate and a guess?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Now, we are in an informal surroundings here today,
- 4 but the testimony that you're going to give is the same as if
- 5 you were testifying in a court of law; that means the penalty
- of perjury applies. In the State of California, it can bring
- 7 criminal charges against you if it finds that you lied here
- 8 today. Now the court reporter is trying to take down
- 9 everything that's being said, so it's very important,
- 10 especially since we are on Zoom, to speak loud enough, and
- 11 clear enough, for everyone to understand.
- 12 It's also very important to not speak at the same time
- 13 as anyone else because the court reporter won't be able to
- 14 hear anything at all. Please wait for a question to be fully
- asked, or for someone to finish speaking, before responding.
- 16 Please also avoid any nonverbal responses or gestures, such
- 17 as nodding or shaking your head or uh-huh. Please answer in
- 18 the affirmative or the negative by using either yes or no,
- 19 and please also avoid gesturing to body parts. Be as
- 20 descriptive as possible so the court reporter can get an
- 21 accurate transcript.
- Now, if you don't understand one of my questions, I'd be
- 23 happy to rephrase it for you. If you don't hear one of my
- 24 questions, I'd be happy to repeat it, but if you do answer
- one of my questions, I'm going to assume that you both heard



- 1 and understood it; is that fair?
- 2 A Yes. Thank you.
- 3 Q In about two weeks, the court reporter will have had
- 4 the opportunity to transcribe her notes into a booklet. You
- 5 will be given a copy of that booklet and can make any changes
- 6 or corrections that you'd like. If you do make any changes
- 7 or corrections, I can comment on those at the time of trial,
- 8 and if you testify differently here today than you do at the
- 9 time of trial, I can comment on that as well. If, at any
- 10 point, you need to take a break, please let us know. Do you
- 11 have any questions about anything so far?
- 12 A I'm good. Thank you.
- 13 Q Okay. Have you had any drugs, alcohol, or
- 14 medication in the twelve hours preceding this deposition?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Okay. Would you please state your full name?
- 17 A Regelin Pimentel Castillo.
- 18 Q Do you have a driver's license or photo
- 19 identification card with you?
- 20 A Yes, I do, but I have to go get it quickly. I'm
- 21 sorry.
- 22 Q That's okay. We can give you a second to do that.
- 23 We can go off the record for a moment. Would you please hold
- 24 it up to the camera, and, Counsel, I will not read the
- 25 numbers into the record.



- 1 A I'm showing you my driver's license.
- 2 Q Yes, thank you. It's because you have a blurry
- 3 thing on. I'm only picking up your face.
- 4 A No problem. Let me take it off real quick. I'm in
- 5 my bedroom, that's why.
- 6 Q That's what we're all dealing with, I get it. Thank
- 7 you. Okay. Have you ever used or gone by any other name?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q What is your current home address?
- 10 A 27003 Mountain Willow Lane, Santa Clarita,
- 11 California 91387.
- 12 Q Do you live with anyone at that address?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Who?
- 15 A My husband and my older daughter.
- 16 Q How long have you lived there?
- 17 A Eleven years.
- 18 Q Do you own or rent?
- 19 A Own.
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q How much is it per month?
- 23 A Estimate three thousand.
- Q What is your date of birth?
- 25 A 7/23/1965.



1 Q Where were you born? Manila, Philippines. What is your social security number? 3 0 550 --Α MS. PARKINGTON: Hold on one sec. Natalia, you're muted. 5 MS. FOLEY: We do that off record, please. 6 MS. PARKINGTON: That's fine. We can go off the record, 8 please. 9 (Off the record.) 10 MS. PARKINGTON: Okay, back on. 11 O What's the highest level of education that you've 12 completed? 13 Α College. 14 Q Where was that done? Loma Linda University La Sierra Campus in Riverside, 15 Α California. 16 17 And what year did you complete that? 0 18 Α 1985. 19 What year did you come to the United States? Q 20 1981. Α 21 What is your husband's name? Q 22 Abel Castillo. Α Does he work? 23 O 24 Α Yes. 25 0 Where?



1	A	Government worker.
2	Q	How long have you been married?
3	А	Thirty-six thirty-four years, sorry.
4	Q	And how many children do you have?
5	А	Two.
6	Q	What are their ages?
7	А	Thirty-two and twenty-nine.
8	Q	Which one lives with you?
9	А	The oldest.
10	Q	Have you ever served in the military?
11	А	No.
12	Q	Do you own a car?
13	А	Yes.
14	Q	What kind?
15	А	A Honda.
16	Q	What model?
17	А	Odyssey.
18	Q	Do you make any payments on it?
19	А	It's paid.
20	Q	What year is it?
21	A	I don't remember. My husband is the one that
22	Q	Okay. What is your current source of income, if
23	any?	
24	A	I do not work at the moment.
25	Q	Do you have any strike that. Are you getting any



- 1 benefit from the insurance company or from the state?
- 2 A Clarify your question. What do you mean by
- 3 insurance company?
- 4 Q I'm asking for any sources of income. So it could
- 5 be the workers' compensation insurance company, it can be any
- 6 other insurance company.
- 7 A It's the workers' comp company.
- 8 Q In relation to the workers' compensation claims
- 9 against Adventist Health?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q How much are you receiving, do you recall?
- 12 A Yes, seventeen hundred.
- 13 Q Do you have any other sources of income coming in
- 14 from any other insurance company or government agency?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Have you ever been convicted of a felony?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Have you ever filed a previous workers' compensation
- 19 claim?
- 20 A Currently, for the current one, yes.
- 21 Q Have you -- other than the ones that are currently
- 22 pending against Adventist Health, have you ever had filed a
- 23 previous workers' compensation claim?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Have you ever been involved in a lawsuit?



1 Α No. Have you ever had your deposition taken before? 0 3 No. Α When did you start working for Adventist Health? 4 Q 5 With White Memorial it was September 1988. Α 6 Are you still working there? Q 7 No, I'm not. Α When's the last day that you worked? 8 Q 9 February 19, 2019. Α 10 And why did you stop? Q 11 Because of all the pain that I'm having in my body, 12 and stress. 13 I'm sorry, I missed that last part. Q 14 And stress. Α 15 When you stopped working in February of 2019, did Q 16 you have a doctor's note at that time to go off of work? 17 Α No. 18 Have you worked anywhere at all since February 19, 0 19 2019? 20 Α No. 21 Okay. While you were working at White Memorial, how many hours a week, on average, did you work? 22 23 Eight to ten a day, so around forty to forty-five Α sometimes, or fifty hours a week. 24



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25

Were you paid salary or hourly?

ı			
	1	А	Hourly.
	2	Q	What was your hourly rate when you stopped
	3	working?	
	4	А	\$32.33.
	5	Q	Did you get paid overtime?
	6	А	When it's approved, yes.
	7	Q	What was your supervisor's name?
	8	А	The last one was Paola I forgot her last name.
	9	Q	How long was she your supervisor for?
	10	А	About three years.
	11	Q	Anyone else that you regularly reported to?
	12	А	No one else.
	13	Q	Did you get along with her?
	14	А	Not really.
	15	Q	Why not?
	16	А	She was a difficult boss, but we get along in
	17	general.	
	18	Q	What do you feel made her difficult?
	19	А	Very abrupt.
	20	Q	Was she always like that?
	21	А	Yes.
	22	Q	Was she like that with everyone?
	23	А	Yes.
	24	Q	Did you supervise anyone?
	25	А	No.



- 1 Q Did you get along with your coworkers?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Did you ever receive any written or oral reprimands
- 4 or write-ups that you recall?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q When or what were the situations that you can
- 7 remember?
- 8 A I don't remember when.
- 9 Q What was it for or they for?
- 10 A Just to be blunt, petty.
- 11 Q Who was being petty? You were being petty or they
- 12 were being petty?
- 13 A The supervisor.
- 14 Q So was that -- sorry, I forgot your supervisor's
- 15 name. That was your supervisor you're talking about who
- 16 wrote you up?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Okay. What did she say that you did, or why she was
- 19 writing you up?
- 20 A She just doesn't like everything at any time; she
- 21 changes her rules all the time; she changes her opinion on
- 22 things all the time.
- 23 Q Can you give me an example, like, what kind of
- 24 things was she changing her rules about that you got in
- 25 trouble for?



- 1 A Just the way she doesn't like the margins are in my
- 2 report, or the way a phrase is written in my report, she just
- 3 likes it differently each time she chooses to.
- 4 Q What was your job title?
- 5 A I was a medical staff coordinator.
- 6 Q Did you have that position the entire time that you
- 7 were at White Memorial?
- 8 A Twenty-five years.
- 9 Q And what did you do in that position?
- 10 A It's a eight-hour job, attending meetings,
- 11 coordinating that has to do with those meetings, meeting with
- 12 my physician chairman and members of the committee, liaison
- 13 for the physician administration and the administration of
- 14 the hospital, and involves creating reports, and also giving
- 15 reports, and also liaison from the physician administration
- 16 to the nursing management or administration management
- 17 levels.
- 18 Q Okay. So was a lot of your job at a computer or
- 19 writing?
- 20 A Yes. It started with writing, and then, with the
- 21 implementation of using laptops, I started doing that in the
- 22 last ten years of my working there.
- 23 Q Did you sit for most of your shift?
- 24 A Ninety-five percent of the time.
- Q While you were working for White Memorial, were you



- 1 employed anywhere else?
- 2 A No.
- 3 Q Okay. You understand that you have two separate
- 4 claims filed?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. One is for specific injury; is that
- 7 correct?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q And what is that date of injury?
- 10 A For the --
- 11 Q For the specific injury?
- 12 A The right knee is 9/17/2018, and for the cumulative
- 13 trauma, which was claimed in 2021.
- 14 O And you understand the nature of a cumulative trauma
- 15 claim, like, what that means versus a specific injury?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Okay. So starting with the 9/17/18 injury, what
- 18 happened?
- 19 A I was stepping out of my building, and I tripped
- 20 over a door mat that was covering an uneven surface, and I
- 21 fell both on my knees.
- 22 Q And what parts of your body were involved? What did
- 23 you injure in that fall?
- 24 A Both my knees, more on my right knee, and also my --
- 25 both my wrists, my hands.



1 Q Anything else for that injury alone? Yes. When I fell and I landed more on my right 3 knee, so that also affected my right hip. Were there any witnesses? Q 5 Α Yes. 6 Who? 0 I don't remember their names. 7 Α And -- I'm sorry about that. Continue. 8 Q That's okay. They just happened to be right there 9 Α because it's a busy area; it's a walking area. 10 11 0 Did you report the injury to your employer? 12 Α Yes. 13 When? Q 14 I was told to go to HR the next day. Α 15 And did you? Q 16 Yes. I reported to the plant director, plant Α 17 services director, that -- after my injury on that day. 18 0 And when you reported it, did they offer medical 19 treatment? 20 HR sent me directly to the industrial clinic. Α 21 Did they just have one on site there? 0 22 Α Yes. 23 Q Did you miss any time from work immediately after 24 that injury? 25 Α No.



- 1 Q Okay. Now let's talk about the cumulative trauma
- 2 claim. Just to reiterate the nature of a cumulative trauma
- 3 claim, is that they are injuries that occur over a period of
- 4 time rather than on one specific date. So what body parts
- 5 have you injured as a result of cumulative trauma?
- 6 A For one is my left shoulder, the other one is my
- 7 right knee, and my elbows, my lower back.
- 8 Q Anything else?
- 9 A And the compensation that I have been -- have had my
- 10 right shoulder is also affected.
- 11 Q Okay. Any other body parts or conditions?
- 12 A My whole back in general, including my upper back.
- 13 Q Any other body parts or condition?
- 14 A I think -- I think that's it.
- 15 Q Okay. Did you report anything related to the
- 16 cumulative trauma with your -- strike that -- to your
- 17 employer?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q When?
- 20 A At the time of my pain started.
- 0 When was that?
- 22 A For the left shoulder it was in 1993, when I started
- 23 feeling more and more pain, and, as you know, my right knee
- 24 was September 17, 2018, and as a result of the pain that I
- 25 been having in my shoulders, it affected my whole back, lower



- 1 and upper back, including my elbows, and actually my hands,
- 2 my fingers.
- 3 Q You suffered a shoulder injury back on June 6, 1993;
- 4 correct?
- 5 A Correct.
- 7 A When I reported my injury, they were both shoulders,
- 8 but my left was -- suffered more of the pain, from the
- 9 injury.
- 10 Q Did you have surgery on either shoulder after that
- 11 injury?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q And did you have a settlement for that injury?
- 14 A I don't remember. Yeah, I don't remember.
- 15 Q Okay. I know it was a long time ago. It looks like
- 16 you had a settlement in 2000, with future medical care for
- 17 your left shoulder awarded; does that sound familiar?
- 18 A That is correct. That is correct.
- 19 Q And did you continue to treat for your left shoulder
- 20 over the year?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And did you treat with Adventist that whole time for
- 23 that future medical care?
- 24 A Yes.
- Q Okay. So I believe you said that you went right to



- 1 the industrial clinic at White Memorial, excuse me, right
- 2 after the September 2018 injury, right?
- 3 A That's correct.
- 4 Q Okay. And have you been treating at that same
- 5 facility since then?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Okay. Have you treated for any of your injuries
- 8 outside of Adventist health system?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q What about chiropractor Eric Gofnung, is he with
- 11 Adventist as well?
- 12 A No, he's not.
- 13 Q He's outside of it?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Okay. And are you currently treating with him?
- 16 A I was sent to him to be evaluated.
- 17 O So was it a one time thing then?
- 18 A Yes, it's with this claim.
- 19 Q Okay. So you only saw him -- I have it's May 28,
- 20 2021, so was that the only time that you saw him?
- 21 A It was just for evaluation.
- 22 Q So where are you currently treating?
- 23 A I currently see Dr. John Itamura at Kerlan-Jobe,
- 24 which is affiliated with White Memorial, as well as
- 25 Dr. Nasser Mizban, who is my work comp primary, and Phillip



- 1 Merritt, also at Adventist Health, at Glendale Adventist.
- 2 Q What kind of treatment are you currently
- 3 receiving?
- 4 A Dr. John Itamura for my shoulder. I follow up with
- 5 him for pain management, and Dr. Phillip Merritt I follow up
- 6 with him for post surgery and check up on my right knee.
- 7 O With Dr. Itamura what shoulder?
- 8 A Left shoulder.
- 9 Q So are your left shoulder and right knee the only
- 10 body parts that you're treating for, or are you still
- 11 treating for any other body part?
- 12 A Currently, those are the two.
- 13 Q Are you still treating with Dr. Mizban or are you
- 14 treating -- did you transfer over to Dr. Merritt from
- 15 Dr. Mizban?
- 16 A Dr. Mizban is my primary work comp physician, so
- 17 he -- I report to him every six weeks, and I report to him
- 18 when I've seen -- whenever I see Dr. Itamura and Merritt.
- 19 Q When was your surgery?
- 20 A For my right knee, it was June 2020.
- 21 Q Okay. So what kind of treatment specifically are
- 22 you doing right now? Like, physical therapy, or is it just
- 23 medication with pain management, or are you just following up
- 24 with the doctors? What kind of treatment plan are you
- 25 currently on?



- 1 A Post surgery I was treated with -- I was sent for
- 2 physical therapy, and I completed those, and Dr. Merritt told
- 3 me to, as well as the other doctors, the other two doctors,
- 4 they recommended that I start strengthening exercises. I've
- 5 been doing that since the beginning of this year. Prior to
- 6 that, I've been to physical therapies, both ordered by
- 7 Dr. Itamura and Dr. Merritt, as well as Dr. Mizban.
- 8 Q Okay. So for your left shoulder, you said you first
- 9 started -- strike that. Did you first start having issues
- 10 with your left shoulder in 1993 when you had that specific
- 11 injury?
- 12 A I've had issues prior to that, but that was the date
- 13 that I reported it to HR.
- Q Okay. So when did your left shoulder problem
- 15 start?
- 16 A It started about a year after I was employed, and
- 17 with all the duties that I had been doing, it was on and off,
- 18 and then it became more and more a problem.
- 19 Q Have you ever had surgery to your left shoulder?
- 20 A No.
- 21 O Has it ever been recommended, to your knowledge?
- 22 A It was discussed as an alternate treatment, but
- 23 never given as a positive treatment for that time being.
- Q How often do you have pain in your left shoulder?
- 25 A Almost all the time.



- 1 Q So daily?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q On a scale of one to ten, with one being almost no
- 4 pain at all and ten being excruciating pain where you would
- 5 have to go to the emergency room because you would not be
- 6 able to function, what level would you say the average level
- 7 of pain in your left shoulder is?
- 8 A About a seven.
- 9 Q Does it ever get worse than that?
- 10 A Yes, and that's the time I would have my pain
- 11 medication, my pain shot.
- 12 Q When it gets worse, what level does it reach?
- 13 A I would say eight, nine.
- 14 O And what kind of movements or activities aggravate
- 15 it or cause it to be worse, if there's anything you can
- 16 pinpoint?
- 17 A Anything above my shoulders, pushing, pushing up or
- 18 pulling down from above my shoulders, repetitive motions,
- 19 sleeping on my left side, driving, typing, filing, and I'm
- 20 saying this is when I used to be working, and even now, with
- 21 what I have to do on a daily basis, it aggravates my
- 22 shoulder.
- 23 Q What kind of things do you do now that aggravate
- 24 it?
- 25 A Driving, doing house work, groceries, lifting



- 1 heavier than fifteen pounds.
- 2 Q And what, if anything, alleviates that pain or help
- 3 lower it?
- 4 A I take pain medication.
- 5 O How often?
- 6 A At some point, where I can still manage it, then I
- 7 take at least three doses of Advil during the day.
- 8 Q So do you -- then do you take Advil on a daily basis
- 9 or it's as needed so it might be less often?
- 10 A It's more as needed.
- 11 Q Okay. So is it daily or a couple times a week?
- 12 A At least a couple times a week.
- 13 O And is that over-the-counter Advil or is it a
- 14 prescription?
- 15 A Right now it's over-the-counter Advil. I was taking
- 16 some prescription medications.
- 17 Q But not anymore?
- 18 A Because it was making my blood pressure go up.
- 19 Q And the Advil doesn't cause that spike in your blood
- 20 pressure?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Okay. Do you know when you are not taking those --
- 23 strike that. So is your blood pressure what would be
- 24 considered normal then so long as you're not taking that
- 25 medication?



- 1 A It's in the norm range when I don't take the
- 2 prescription medication.
- 3 Q And since you stopped working, has your shoulder
- 4 pain gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?
- 5 A It stayed the same.
- 6 Q And prior to your employment with Adventist Health,
- 7 did you ever have any shoulder injury or any problems with
- 8 your shoulder?
- 9 A No.
- 10 O Okay. Now for your right knee, when did you first
- 11 start noticing pain in your right knee?
- 12 A Immediately that evening, after the injury.
- 13 Q After the September 2018 date of injury?
- 14 A That day, September 17, I started having pain that
- 15 evening.
- 16 Q And has your -- strike that. Have your symptoms
- improved since your surgery?
- 18 A It's somewhat improved, but I still have swelling,
- 19 stiffness, clicking of my joint.
- 20 Q And using the same scale of one to ten that I
- 21 described before, what number would you give to the average
- 22 level of pain that you have in your right knee?
- 23 A Six.
- 24 Q And does it get any worse than that?
- 25 A Yes.



- 1 Q If it gets worse, what level does it get to?
- 2 A Seven.
- 3 Q And is there any sort of movement or activity you
- 4 notice that aggravates the knee pain?
- 5 A Yes, walking.
- 6 Q How far would you say you have to walk for it to be
- 7 aggravated?
- 8 A Half to a mile.
- 9 Q And how often do you have knee pain?
- 10 A Whenever I do the walking, or stooping down,
- 11 squatting, standing for a period of time, driving, it's my
- 12 driving leg.
- 13 O And is there anything that alleviates the pain or
- 14 makes it better, any treatment or medication?
- 15 A I just take Advil if I have to. I've been doing
- 16 some strengthening of my muscles, that's been helping.
- Q Okay. And prior to the 9/17/18 injury, did you ever
- 18 have any prior injuries to your right knee?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Did you ever have any pain or problems with your
- 21 right knee prior to that date?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Okay. And you -- sorry. You also mentioned your
- 24 left knee; is that correct?
- 25 A No.



- 1 Q Okay. And your wrists, are you still having
- 2 problems with one or both of your wrists?
- 3 A Once in a while, when my elbows get stiff and my
- 4 fingers get stiff.
- 5 Q Okay. So I'm not asking for your medical opinion,
- 6 but does it feel like your problem is more in your elbow than
- 7 in your actual wrist or does it feel separate?
- 8 A It's triggered. The pain is triggered in my elbow,
- 9 my wrist, my hands, when my shoulder is in pain.
- 10 O Okay. So outside of having pain in your shoulder,
- 11 are there any, I guess, independent symptoms or problems that
- 12 you feel like you have in your elbows, wrists and fingers, or
- does it feel like it's all tied together?
- 14 A They're all tied together.
- 15 Q Okay. And when you do have that pain, on that same
- 16 scale of one to ten, what level would you say it's at?
- 17 A I would say it's between a four and a five.
- 18 Q And how often does that happen?
- 19 A It happens automatically, almost instantly, when my
- 20 shoulder is inflamed.
- Q Would you say it's daily?
- 22 A I would say it's about daily, yeah.
- 23 O Is it worse on one side or the other?
- 24 A They're both the same.
- 25 Q When did you first notice the problems with your



- 1 elbow, wrist, finger?
- 2 A I've noticed it even before I reported my injury of
- 3 the left shoulder in 1993.
- 4 Q Prior to your employment with Adventist Health?
- 5 A No. I'm sorry, I thought you were gonna say some
- 6 more.
- 7 Q Sorry. And prior to your employment, did you ever
- 8 have any injuries or problems with your elbows, shoulders,
- 9 hand -- sorry, strike that -- elbows, hands, wrists?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q And has that pain gotten better, worse, or stayed
- 12 the same since you stopped working?
- 13 A It stayed the same.
- 14 Q And do -- like, when you take Advil, does that
- 15 help?
- 16 A It helps.
- 17 Q Okay. Did you also mention your right shoulder or
- 18 is it just your left shoulder?
- 19 A At the time of my report, it was both shoulders, but
- 20 since the left shoulder has more symptoms, they treated me
- 21 more on my left than my right.
- 22 Q Okay.
- 23 A Going forward.
- Q I'm sorry, hold on. I need to go off for like ten
- 25 seconds.



- 1 A Okay.
- 2 Q Okay. So talking about your right shoulder, you
- 3 said that it -- that began at the same time as your left
- 4 shoulder; is that correct?
- 5 A Both my shoulders at the time of my report, yes.
- 6 Q And you're talking back in 1993?
- 7 A That's correct.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 A May I add a few things?
- 10 O Of course.
- 11 A Just going back to your question about, you know,
- 12 any conditions that I felt at the time of my working and my
- 13 start of work, I was also -- because of the use of computers,
- 14 I also started to have headaches, and the eye exam that I
- 15 had, I had to wear prescription glasses, but when I'm close
- 16 to a computer, I don't need it. It's astigmatism is what I
- 17 developed.
- 18 Q When did -- or when were you first diagnosed with
- 19 astigmatism?
- 20 A It was in -- it was after 1993 that I started to
- 21 wear -- I don't know exactly the date.
- 22 Q So do you use glasses, wear glasses at all?
- 23 A Because of the astigmatism, I don't need it when I'm
- 24 very close to the screen; however, HR was able to provide me
- 25 a non-glare screen protection, which I use on my desktop and



- 1 a laptop.
- 2 Q Does that help with your eyes and with headache?
- 3 A Yes, it helped me, but I continue to wear my
- 4 prescription glasses for farsight distance, for far
- 5 distance.
- 6 Q How long have you been -- I'm sorry.
- 7 A I have to use my bifocals.
- 8 Q A lot of people have to use bifocals, so. So when
- 9 did you first start wearing glasses? Was it in the
- 10 nineties?
- 11 A In the nineties.
- 12 Q Okay. So going back to your right shoulder, if
- 13 that's okay, I don't know if there's anything else you want
- 14 to add.
- 15 A I'm good.
- 16 Q Okay. So has your left shoulder been worse than
- 17 your right shoulder overall?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q Okay. So on the same scale of one to ten, what's
- 20 the average level of pain in your right shoulder?
- 21 A About a four.
- 22 Q Are you right or left-handed?
- 23 A I'm right-handed.
- Q And does the pain ever get worse than four out of
- 25 ten?



- 1 A For my right shoulder?
- 2 Q Yeah.
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q What kind of movements or activities make it
- 5 worse?
- 6 A Same; typing, filing, working with credential --
- 7 physician credential files, as well as patient medical
- 8 records, answering the phones, typing.
- 9 Q Has that gotten better or worse since you stopped
- 10 working?
- 11 A Not really. When my left shoulder inflames, it's an
- 12 electrical connection. Both my right and left shoulder will
- 13 start hurting, years of compensation.
- 14 Q And have you ever had any -- prior to your
- 15 employment with White Memorial, any injuries or problems with
- 16 your right shoulder?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Okay. And I believe the last thing you mentioned
- 19 was your back; is that correct?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 0 What part of your back?
- 22 A My, in general, pretty much my whole back.
- 23 Q Is it worse in one part of your back or are your
- 24 feelings pretty consistent?
- 25 A Well, with all the sitting down ninety-five percent



- 1 of the time, my lower back suffers from all that sitting
- 2 down, and ninety-five percent of the time, when I'm working
- 3 at the computer and files, both my shoulders and upper
- 4 back.
- 5 Q When did you first notice pain in your back?
- 6 A It was the first time when I reported in 1993.
- 7 MS. FOLEY: Counsel, I apologize, can I take a short
- 8 break, just for a break for five minutes?
- 9 MS. PARKINGTON: No problem. Yeah, we'll all take a
- 10 break, come back in five minutes.
- 11 (Off the record.)
- 12 BY MS. PARKINGTON:
- 13 Q Back on the record. We were talking about your
- 14 back, and you first started noticing pain in your back at the
- 15 same time as your shoulders back in 1993; is that correct?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Okay. So on the same scale of one to ten that we
- 18 talked about, what's the average level of pain in your
- 19 back?
- 20 A Seven.
- 21 Q And is that consistent in your upper and lower back
- 22 or do they differ?
- 23 A It differs. My upper back would be eight.
- Q And is there anything that helps alleviate that
- 25 pain?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q What is that?
- 3 A Massage, Advil. I was given muscle relaxants, and
- 4 pain medication, such as injection, cortisone shot to be
- 5 specific.
- 6 0 Who did that?
- 7 A My orthopedist at the time, Alexander -- Charles
- 8 Alexander, which continued with other orthopedists after he
- 9 left White Memorial.
- 10 Q When was that? The time of the injections, I mean.
- 11 A It started when I -- after I reported my injury in
- 12 1993.
- 13 Q Okay. So have you been treating on and off for your
- 14 back since about 1993 then?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Has your back pain gotten better, worse, or stayed
- 17 the same since you stopped working?
- 18 A Stayed the same.
- 19 Q Have you ever had any injuries or problems with your
- 20 back outside of your employment?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Have you ever been involved in a car accident?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q When?
- 25 A 2015 and 2017.



1 Q Did you suffer any injuries in either of those accidents? 3 Α I suffered back pain, my spine specifically. After both accidents? Q 5 Α Correct. 6 Q Do you feel like your back pain was worse after you 7 were in those car accidents? 8 Α No. Did you get medical treatment after this accident? 10 I'm sorry, you cut out. Can you repeat your Α 11 question? Can you guys hear me okay? 12 Q 13 Α I can hear you. 14 Sorry, I think my internet was glitching out. Did Q 15 you receive medical treatment after either of those car accidents? 16 17 Yes, I did. Α 18 Okay. All at White Memorial? Q 19 Yes. Α 20 Q Or through the system? 21 Α Correct. 22 Okay. Have you ever been hospitalized for any Q 23 injury or illness? 24 For illness, yes. Α 25 Q What was that?



- 1 A First off, my two cesarean sections delivery in
- 2 eighty-nine and 1992, and then I had my hysterectomy in 2012,
- 3 and then I had my right knee surgery in 2020.
- 4 Q Any complications after any of those surgeries?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 A Well, with my right knee I did, I should say that.
- 8 Not from the surgery, but as continuing problems that I'm
- 9 still having.
- 10 Q Right. I just mean, like, with the hospitalization
- 11 and any problems with the surgery itself, just if anything
- 12 weird happened in the hospital. Any injuries to any body
- 13 part such as, like, a trip and fall at home, or playing a
- 14 sport?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Okay. Have you ever broken a bone?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Do you have -- have you been diagnosed with high
- 19 blood pressure?
- 20 A That's correct, yes.
- 21 Q When were you first diagnosed with high blood
- 22 pressure?
- 23 A It was -- I don't exactly remember the date, but
- 24 when I started feeling sick, my blood pressure was high
- 25 during my employment. I don't remember the date.



- 1 Q Has it been more than a couple of years?
- 2 A Yes, more than.
- 3 Q And do you take any medication right now for your
- 4 blood pressure?
- 5 A Yes, I do.
- 6 Q What do you take?
- 7 A Losartan.
- 8 Q Daily?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And do you take regular blood pressure level?
- 11 A Yes, I do.
- 12 Q And would you say right now that your blood pressure
- is well controlled?
- 14 A My diastolic is still high; it's still in between
- 15 mid eighties to nineties.
- 16 Q Has your doctor said anything that, you know, to
- 17 help keep that under control, is there anything other than
- 18 your medication that you're directed to do or not to do?
- 19 A Stay away from salty foods, up my dosage from twenty
- 20 to fifty milligrams a day.
- 21 Q Other than the high blood pressure, any other
- 22 chronic health condition, chronic meaning long term as
- 23 opposed to acute, which is just something like the flu, high
- 24 blood pressure is a common example, diabetes is another
- 25 common example; any other chronic health conditions?



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1
        Α
              No, I do not have chronic.
              Okay. Do you smoke?
 3
         Α
              No.
              Have you ever smoked?
         0
 5
              No.
         Α
 6
         0
              And I just wanted to clarify, did you resign your
     employment at Adventist Health?
8
         Α
              Yes, I resigned.
9
        MS. PARKINGTON: I don't think I have anything else at
10
     this time. Counsel, do you have anything, Natalia?
11
         MS. FOLEY: No, I don't have any questions.
12
         MS. PARKINGTON: Okay. Then can we stipulate to relieve
13
     the court reporter of her duties associated with the
     transcript under the Code of Civil Procedure; that the
14
15
     original and one copy will be transmitted to your office
16
    where you'll make arrangements for Ms. Castillo to make any
17
     changes or corrections, and advise my office within
18
     forty-five days of its receipt; and if the original is lost
19
     or destroyed, a certified copy may be used in lieu thereof.
20
        MS. FOLEY: So stipulated.
               (Deposition concluded at 11:24 a.m.)
21
22
23
24
25
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State of Cal	ifornia )	
County of Lo	s Angeles )	
	I certify or declare under declaration	
of penalty o	f perjury under the laws of the State of	
California t	hat the foregoing testimony is true and	
	ject to any changes or corrections I have	
made herein	or attached hereto.	
	Executed in the state of California,	
	WITNESS	

State of California )
County of Los Angeles )

## CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETER Or PERSON READING DEPOSITION TO WITNESS

I, the undersigned reader/interpreter, do solemnly declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I have truly and correctly read; the foregoing transcript to the witness, translating the English language into his/her native tongue (as indicated in the foregoing transcript) to the best of my ability;

That all corrections and changes indicated by the witness have been incorporated herein and initialed by the witness;

That upon completion of said reading, the witness did confirm to me that he/she had understood the reading.

\_\_\_\_\_

INTERPRETER

State of California )
County of Los Angeles )

The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter CSR 13984, a court reporter in and for the State of California, does hereby certify:

That any witness(s) named in the foregoing proceeding was(were), before and/or during the commencement of proceeding, duly sworn or affirmed to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

That said proceeding was stenographically (or otherwise) reported by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction.

The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter further certifies to be neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action nor in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name October 26, 2021.

Certified Shorthand Reporter

Kristijum Rus