



Estate of George Romero

v.

Ashley Williams

**2021 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE
HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION**

**SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION**

By: Jon Grode & Paul W. Kaufman

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Message from the Chairs

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Young Lawyers' Division Mock Trial Executive Committee, welcome to the 2021 Pennsylvania Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition. This is the 37th year of one of the top secondary level academic competitions in the nation! The competition, which commenced in 1984, is sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA/YLD). It provides high school students with firsthand experience of the American judicial system. The Mock Trial Competition is one of a series of law-related and civic education (LRCE) programs conducted by the PBA to demystify the law for Pennsylvanians, including Freedom's Answer, I Signed the Constitution, Project PEACE, Law Day, and Stepping Out for Seniors (called "Adulting" in some locations). As Pennsylvania looks to fulfill the civic assessment requirements of Act 35 come the 2020-21 school year, these programs, along with the Mock Trial Competition, may provide opportunities for students to "pass" their civic assessment. Questions about LRCE programs may be directed to PBA staffer Susan Etter at Susan.Etter@pabar.org.

As you begin to prepare your cases, you will notice that this year's competition will look a little different than years past. Like each of you, as we all face this global pandemic together, we seek a sense of normalcy. Although the procedural aspects of this year's competition will be virtual, we are working hard to ensure that the competition's spirit is what you have come to know and love. That will not be an easy task. To accomplish this, many people have had to give a lot of time, energy, and a little bit of their own ingenuity to figure it out. We would be remiss if we did not take a few words to thank them.

First and foremost, Paul W. Kaufman and Jonathan A. Grode. To those of you who pass through Wisawe, know that these two gentlemen are the "mad scientists" that bring our town to life. Beyond their time writing our problems, sorting out disputes, and helping plan this competition, they also serve in various capacities ensuring the National Competition occurs. Our own Paul Kaufmann is the current Chair of this year's national competition. As if we had not asked enough of him, when called upon, Paul also took on the monumental task of helping us design a series of rules that make this competition work in the virtual world we currently live in.

That paragraph, however, does not do them justice. They are not only dear friends to the Mock Trial Community, but two of the smartest and most generous attorneys in the Commonwealth. Without them, our competition would be less, and for their time, energy, and passion, this paragraph does not fully express our gratitude.

Next, we thank the Mock Trial Executive Committee, to whom spend countless hours devoting time to making this happen. This group of dedicated volunteers has debated rules, reviewed technical options, and attempted to anticipate the challenges of a virtual competition and address them head on. We thank the amazing PBA, including Maria Engles, who work to support this program. And last, but certainly not least, we thank the hundreds of volunteers – such as our regional and district coordinators – who have already begun to embrace the changes that face us this year head on. Our regional and district coordinators have already started meeting with us, asking questions, and thinking about how they will make this competition as good as ever. Without their spirit, this show could not go on. We do ask, however, as you work through this year's competition, please be mindful that these volunteers, many of them young lawyers starting their

careers, are giving their time to make this competition happen. They love the legal profession and want you, our competitors, to see it as they do. There will be challenges, but together we can overcome them.

Finally, as you read this year's problem, there is one final change we want to note. Historically, we have denoted the gender of our characters as "her/his" or "s/he." This year, in an effort to be more inclusive, we have moved to gender neutral pronouns. This change – which is consistent with both the AP Stylebook and a substantial majority of other state mock trial competitions – ensures that every student who wishes to compete in this competition feels fully welcome.

To our competitors, good luck! We hope you enjoy this year's problem.

Message from the Case Authors

This year's case, *Estate of George Romero v. Ashley Williams*, is one that the case authors are particularly proud of. Written by Paul W. Kauffman and Jonathan A. Grode in 2014 for the National Competition, it has been modified – and Wisawe'd - for our competition. It was one that has always been dear to our state committee and one could say, it is a zombie problem in many ways.

In these crazy times, it is important to know that our goal, more than ever, is not only to provide the same high-quality product that we aim for every year but also to give everyone a chance to get away from it all. We are hoping that our Halloween release of this case will be in the spirit of this goal, providing both a trick and a treat for all of our teams. Like every national problem, this one had principal authors, but it also had a great many people whose contributions have meaning. We are very grateful for the technical assistance provided by Dr. Ali Javaheri, the immense work done by the National Case Committee, and the mock trial eyes put on the case some years ago in a preliminary form by Talia Charme-Zane, Veronica Finkelstein, and Jonathan D. Koltash.

Mr. Grode and Mr. Kaufman have cowritten the Pennsylvania problems since 2011, and they co-wrote the national problems in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2015. Mr. Grode also adapted and modified the 2007 mock trial problem and wrote the 2008, 2009, and 2010 mock trial problems. Mr. Kaufman was a four-time Delaware state champion mock trialer in high school.

Mr. Kaufman, who is not only a member of the Pennsylvania State Mock Trial Executive Committee, but also the Chair of the National Mock Trial Committee, would like to thank his wife, Sarah, who puts up with more mock trial than any woman should, and he apologizes to Daniel and Joshua for cutting into *Skyrim* time and Ginger and Izzy for belly rubs denied. Mr. Kaufman also especially thanks the Jons, who make every minute of the pain worthwhile. He is likewise deeply grateful to the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and in particular to Civil Division Chief Gregory B. David, for their remarkable, continuing support of mock trial and civics education, even as his obligations grow.

Mr. Grode would like to thank his loving wife, Jayne Bird, for her understanding that mock trial authorship is the true zombie virus and that there is no cure. In addition, Mr. Grode thanks his Firm, Green and Spiegel, LLC, for their ongoing and continued support of both state and federal high school mock trial competitions.

We thank this year's Competition Co-Chairs, Jonathan D. Koltash and Jennifer Menichini Drahus, for their efforts in organizing and implementing the many facets of this competition. Additionally, we thank David Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator, a past winner of the Isidore Starr Award for Excellence in Law-Related Education from the American Bar Association and a winner this year of a Philadelphia Bar Foundation lifetime achievement award, for his continued involvement and experienced guidance in implementing the 2020 Mock Trial Competition. Trevaskis is entering his 36th mock trial season.

We also thank the incomparable Jane Meyer.

We thank the hundreds of volunteers who annually contribute their time and energy to the overall organization and running of the program. And last, but certainly not least, we thank the PBA staff, headed by Executive Director Barry Simpson and Deputy Executive Director Fran O'Rourke, and the many PBA staff members who provide valuable time and talent throughout the mock trial season. Without their assistance, this competition would not be the tremendous success that it is each year. Special thanks go to Maria Engles, the PBA/YLD Coordinator, whose contributions to the program are so numerous as to defy description. We hope you find these materials interesting, and wish you all the best of luck.

We hope you will enjoy trying the case as much as we enjoyed writing it. Although it was tried first in Wisconsin, this case was always written for you.

Miscellany

Case Questions and Final Case Posting

Questions concerning these case materials should be sent using the email below to David Keller Trevaskis at the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). Case material questions will be answered by the Mock Trial Executive Committee. Questions regarding mock trial procedure, including any questions involving the Rules of Competition or Rules of Evidence, should be directed to your District or Regional Mock Trial Coordinators.

Answers to appropriate questions will be posted periodically in a supplemental memo on the mock trial website www.pabar.org, under the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) link.

You may begin submitting questions anytime. The deadline for submitting questions is noon on **Monday, January 4, 2021**. The final update will be posted no later than **Wednesday, January 6, 2021**.

Questions must be sent in writing using email. Please be sure to include return contact information in the event we need to reach you to clarify a question. No questions will be considered unless submitted under this procedure. Questions E-mail:

david.trevaskis@pabar.org

Note on Names (and Disclaimer)

All characters in this case are fictitious. While the names of characters bear names reflecting important figures in zombie culture and certain other aspects of the case have been chosen to honor individuals, works of fiction and non-fiction, and cultures who have contributed to or been a part of traditional and modern zombie lore, any further similarity to those persons or characters, and/or to any other actual persons is strictly coincidental.

As always, we've buried these nuggets for you throughout the case. We'd be surprised if you can find them all, but you might have fun trying. And who knows? Maybe you'll find your next great movie, book, or video game. Just don't expect to sleep as well at night after you do.

Case Summary

Life changes in the blink of an eye. George Romero was on the top of the world: his energy drink business was succeeding wildly; he was hanging out with his friends at the East Coast's largest zombie run; and he was on the dance floor, having a blast. But minutes later, in a flash, he was dead.

Much about that ghoulish night is a mystery. What we do know is that George Romero's heart stopped beating within thirty minutes of consuming a chemical prepared for him by Ash Williams, his dear friend and longtime business associate. The plaintiff contends that the chemical concoction was a mixture of caffeine and hallucinogens that predictably overwhelmed George's heart; a heart weakened by years of drug abuse and physical neglect. Williams had allegedly learned of Romero's plans to leave their business, taking with him the unique, highly valuable intellectual property that Williams had developed, leaving Williams with nothing. According to the plaintiff, Williams convinced George that he had to market their company's newest drinks and misled him into believing he was drinking an antidote to their active ingredients when he was, in fact, drinking a concentrated form of those very chemicals.

The defense contends that plaintiff's allegations are nothing more than suspicion and speculation. The defense points to George's history of drug use, their amphetamine dealer's presence at the dance, and the weakened state of his heart as proof that even the best-conceived antidote to caffeine would not have saved him. Williams strenuously denies that they would ever try to poison their friend, and Williams maintains that Romero knew the truth: that he was taking an antidote to the caffeine, but that nothing about the plan – *his* plan – was 100% safe.

At trial, the plaintiff calls Max Brooks, George's half-sibling and confidant; Ali Khan, the Chief Operating Officer of their business; and Toni Moore, the medical examiner who determined that George had been poisoned. The defense calls Ash Williams, to tell their own story; Ricki Grimes, another of George's friends and the company's general counsel; and Chris Redfield, a forensic toxicologist who disputes Moore's conclusions.

The Estate of George Romero v. Ash Williams is a story of a trust misplaced. Or it is a story of murder by another name. A criminal jury has found Ash Williams not guilty, but is Ash actually innocent?

Trial is joined.

12. Defendant Williams knew all the ingredients in the Salus products; decedent Romero did not.
13. As decedent Romero's supposed friend of many years, Williams was aware that Romero suffered from a life-threatening heart condition. Accordingly, Williams was aware that further stimulant use by Romero would likely kill him.

The Antidote Arrangement

14. Williams would not allow Romero to discontinue use of the stimulants in the energy drinks they marketed. Specifically, Williams insisted that Romero consume the company's new energy drinks during the "Zombiepocalypse" event that served as a very public launch of those products.
15. The two reached a deal: Williams would synthesize a chemical that would reduce the effect of the stimulants on Romero, in essence reversing the effects of those in the drinks already, and Romero would take it as needed.

Williams Poisons Romero

16. In early 2019, Williams began to believe that Romero was intending to leave their partnership, taking valuable intellectual property with him.
17. Jealously guarding their secrets, Williams began to plot Romero's death.
18. The day before Romero's death, Williams synthesized a different chemical, one different in appearance from the "antidote."
19. Instead of synthesizing an antidote, Williams concentrated the active ingredients in the energy drinks, creating a chemical that would markedly *increase* the toxic effects of the energy drinks on Romero.
20. Williams gave this chemical in a vial from Salus LLC to Ricki Grimes, a confidant of both Williams and Romero.
21. Williams knew or reasonably foresaw that Romero would take the supposed antidote – in fact, the poison – during his efforts marketing the energy drinks the following day.
22. As Williams predicted, Romero took the "antidote" from Grimes.
23. The concentrated chemicals Williams produced caused near-immediate, massive caffeine toxicity in Romero, triggering hallucinations and cardiac arrest.
24. Williams intended Romero to drink the poison, and Williams intended Romero to die.
25. Williams' poison was the direct and proximate cause of Romero's death.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Max Brooks, in their capacity as executor of the estate of George Romero, respectfully demands:

1. That judgment be entered in their favor and against defendant Ashley Williams;
2. That compensatory damages in excess of \$10 million be awarded;
3. That punitive damages be awarded;
4. That costs be awarded; and
5. That all other remedies just and proper be granted.

/s/ Daryl Dixon

Daryl Dixon, Esquire
Negan Michonne LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

The Antidote Arrangement

14. Denied. It is specifically and vigorously denied that Defendant forced Romero to drink anything, and Defendant states by way of further response that Defendant warned him not to drink Loki's Mask.

15. Admitted.

Williams Poisons Romero

16. Denied.

17. Denied.

18. Denied. The day prior to Romero's death, Defendant synthesized additional caffeine antagonist serum.

19. Denied.

20. Denied as stated. Defendant gave the caffeine antagonist serum to Grimes, as they had done on several prior occasions.

21. Denied as stated. Defendant knew Romero might want or need the caffeine uptake antagonist serum.

22. Denied as stated. Romero took the caffeine uptake antagonist serum.

23. Denied.

24. Denied. By way of further response, to the contrary, Defendant wanted only good health and long life for their dearest friend.

25. Denied. By way of further response, Romero's death was a tragedy brought on by consumption of amphetamines supplied by someone other than Defendant and/or Romero's consumption of large quantities of energy drink in very short periods of time while dehydrated and exercising vigorously.

WHEREFORE, defendant Ashley Williams respectfully requests that judgment be entered in their favor and against plaintiff.

/s/ Seth Grahame-Smith
Seth Grahame-Smith, Esquire
Bennett Darcy Wickham LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Ashley Williams

<p>ESTATE OF GEORGE ROMERO, by and through its Executor, Max Brooks,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>ASHLEY WILLIAMS,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p>)</p>	<p>COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE 61st JUDICIAL DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Docket No.: CP-64-CV-2014-2019</p>
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DECISION AND ORDER

Before the Court are several motions, including defendant’s motion for summary judgment. That motion will be granted in part, and judgment will be entered for defendant on plaintiff’s negligence claims. Plaintiff will be permitted ten days in which to file an amended complaint containing only the surviving intentional tort claims.

In this action, plaintiff, the estate of decedent George Romero, claims - in essence - that Romero was poisoned by a former business associate, Ashley Williams. The estate asserts that Williams prepared a highly concentrated dose of caffeine and/or hallucinogens, which caused a cardiac arrest in decedent. In the alternative, the plaintiff claims that the chemical was a negligently prepared antidote that had the same effect.

Defendant responds that, if this is a negligence action, decedent assumed the risk that the antidote would fail. The Court agrees. Although we cannot, of course, hear decedent’s version of the conversation leading to his consumption of this particular chemical on this particular day, the record is undisputed that he accepted an “antidote” prepared by defendant, knowing full well that the defendant is not a medical professional and that the antidote had been tested precisely once, on a different person and under different circumstances. The record is likewise clear that the decedent knew both the defendant’s academic qualifications and their limitations and chose to rely on this home-brewed remedy despite those limitations.

Under the circumstances, defendant owed decedent no duty beyond ordinary care, and there is no evidence that they took less than ordinary care in preparing this alleged antidote. The decedent went in eyes open, knowing the slapdash nature of the production and testing process, if it can even be called that. That the decedent would choose to trust his health to an incompetent individual and an inept procedure may be tragic, but it was his tragic choice to make. As to plaintiff’s contention that defendant was engaging in an unauthorized practice of medicine, that is a matter for the Board of Medicine, not this Court. For present purposes, it suffices that defendant never claimed to be a physician or accepted payment of any kind in exchange for the provision of what plaintiff alleges was medical care.

The result is starkly different for plaintiff’s wrongful death claim. On summary judgment, the Court must view all facts in a light most favorable to the plaintiff. Accordingly, assuming for purposes of this motion, as we must, that the vial prepared by defendant contained a

concentrated toxin, there is no evidence that decedent consented to consuming it. This is not *Romeo and Juliet*, decedent chose to drink the liquid thinking it was an antidote to the caffeine he had been ingesting, not a concentrated dose of the same toxins. It is for the jury, not the Court, to determine whether this was an intentional poisoning. If it was, verdict will be for plaintiff. If it was not – regardless of whether it was an instance of Williams’ ineptitude or an inevitable result of Romero’s own actions – their verdict must be for the defendant.

Defendant also contends that the record is insufficient to permit a claim of wrongful death to proceed and/or that this suit violates the protections of the Double Jeopardy clause of the United States Constitution. The burden of proof in this action is preponderance of the evidence, and accepting all facts in a light most favorable to the plaintiff, this burden is easily met. Nor is there any double jeopardy problem here. Defendant was tried criminally and acquitted, and thus Williams faces no risk of imprisonment. However, criminal charges require proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Many things which cannot be proved conclusively are more likely than not. Indeed, legal history is replete with examples of this kind of jurisprudential “split decision.” Defendant’s counsel is ordered to show cause why it should not be sanctioned for bringing such a frivolous argument.

There is also a concern expressed by Ricki Grimes regarding their ability to testify in this action. As an attorney, Grimes fears sanction for violation of the attorney-client privilege, Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6, or both. This claim is understandable but misplaced. As far as the Court is aware, Grimes was an attorney for Salus LLC, not a personal attorney for Ashley Williams. Accordingly, the privilege is not Williams’ to assert. Moreover, had Salus wished to assert its privilege, it could have done so instead of permitting Grimes to cooperate with law enforcement. And if Williams wished to assert a privilege based on facts of which the Court is not aware, the time was then. As the Court sits today, Grimes has given statements to both police and in discovery in this action. Once waived, the privilege cannot be reclaimed. If there ever was a privilege for Williams to assert, that opportunity has long since passed.

Next, both parties move *in limine* regarding whether the jury should be told that the defendant was criminally charged. The Court reaches no firm opinion. The parties may seek admission or object to admission of this evidence at trial.

Finally, there are allegations that certain items of possible evidence were destroyed by parties, negligently or intentionally. With respect to these allegations, the Court declines to place its fingers on the scales of justice; the parties can present relevant and otherwise admissible evidence and the jury will weigh that evidence.

In order to avoid jury confusion regarding the claims that are to be tried, plaintiff shall file an Amended Complaint within ten days stating only its wrongful death claim. Defendant shall answer same within five days of plaintiff’s filing.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Colson Whitehead
Colson Whitehead, J.

9. On October 18, 2020, following a one-week trial, a jury acquitted Ash Williams of the charge of murder in the first degree.
10. The factual information contained in Stipulations 6, 7, and 9 is stipulated; its admissibility is not. Whether the information in those stipulations becomes part of the record for the jury will be determined by the Court's rulings at trial as to the admissibility of the information contained in those stipulations. If the Court rules that the charge and acquittal are inadmissible (or if no party offers evidence of the charge and/or the acquittal, in which case there is no opportunity for the Court to rule one way or the other), then the information in those stipulations is deemed not to be part of the record.

Evidence of the factual information in Stipulations 6, 7, and 9 may be propounded by requesting the Court to permit counsel to read them into evidence or may be solicited in the testimony of any witness (Stipulation 9) or of Ashley Williams (Stipulations 6 and 7).

11. Each witness at the trial has re-read their affidavit the morning before testimony at trial, and no witness sought to supplement or amend their statement.
12. Exhibit 2 is Ash Williams' copy of a document signed by all charter members of the Students for Preservation from Zombies at that organization's founding. It was recovered by the Pennsylvania State Police, framed, from Williams' office at Salus LLC when that office was searched pursuant to a warrant in the criminal action.
13. Exhibits 1, 7, 10 and 11 are the copies of those documents kept in the files of Salus LLC.
14. Exhibit 3 is the executive summary excerpted from the fifteen-page autopsy and coroner's report prepared by Toni Moore. It was the first two pages of the document provided to the District Attorney of Laurel County.
15. The custodians of records for Salus LLC include all corporate officers and members of the Boards of Directors.
16. Exhibits 8 and 9 were retrieved by their respective Internet Service Providers in response to a search warrant in the criminal action.
17. Exhibit 12 is a record of Raj-Singh Laboratories, produced at the request of Chris Redfield for purposes of the criminal litigation. It was introduced at Williams' trial and at the pre-trial hearing on Williams' motion to dismiss the possession with intent to distribute charge.
18. Effective September 30, 2020, Salus LLC was sold in its entirety to PopCap Co. for a sum of \$750,001. In accordance with the terms of Salus's charter and its venture capital agreement, Gilgamesh Investments received \$500,000 from the sale. Ash Williams and the Estate of George Romero each received \$120,000. \$10,001 was donated to the Students for Preservation from Zombies, Alpha Chapter, Kalmia University.
19. Salus's "key man" policy paid out in accordance with the terms of the second sentence of paragraph 2 of Exhibit 10, based on the sale price of \$750,001.

20. Pursuant to the terms of Pennsylvania's "Slayer Statute," referenced in Exhibit 10, a court determines by preponderance of the evidence whether there was an unlawful, intentional killing. That is the same question and same burden of proof as this case. Thus, if the jury finds that Ash Williams intentionally killed George Romero, then Williams is a "slayer" for purposes of Pennsylvania law (and the "key man" insurance contract). If the jury does not so find, then Williams is not a "slayer" for either purpose. Both Williams and Max Brooks are aware of this fact. Either may be asked about this rule during their testimony, and both are bound by this articulation of that rule as though it were set forth in their statements.

/s/ Daryl Dixon

Daryl Dixon, Esquire
Negan Michonne LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Seth Grahame-Smith

Seth Grahame-Smith, Esquire
Bennett Darcy Wickham LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Ashley Williams

Stipulated Glossary of Terms

The following is a glossary of terms used in the case compiled by the parties. The terms used in the declarations and exhibits are to be given the following, stipulated meaning at trial.

Analog	In chemistry, an organic compound that is similar in substance to another organic compound. Laws that ban possession of organic compounds (e.g. cocaine) frequently ban possession of their analogs as well.
Antagonist	In literature, the individual or thing hindering the protagonist; the “bad guy” of the story. In chemistry, a substance that reduces the effectiveness of another substance or inhibits or slows a process.
<i>Apiaceae</i>	In botany, a member of the carrot or parsley family in the order <i>Apiales</i> .
<i>Arguendo</i>	For the sake of argument. Something accepted <i>arguendo</i> is agreed to only for the purposes of arguing a broader or other issue, but is not actually conceded to be true.
Arrhythmia	In medicine, any disturbance in the rhythm of the heartbeat
Bespoke	Custom made
Beta Blockers	A class of drugs targeting the beta receptor of cells in the heart muscles, commonly used to treat high blood pressure, angina, and arrhythmia.
Catalyst	In chemistry, a substance that causes or accelerates a chemical reaction without itself being affected by that reaction
Cardiac	Of or pertaining to the heart
Cardiac Catheterization	A minimally invasive cardiac test that can recognize a variety of cardiac pathologies by inserting a catheter (flexible hollow tube) into the heart.
Cardiac Hypertrophy	A thickening of a portion of the heart that can cause cardiac arrhythmia, which can lead to death. See Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy below.
<i>Carpe diem...</i>	“Seize the day, trusting as little as possible in the future.”
Cohort	A group or company. In statistics, a distinct testing universe.
Diplomate	A person who has been certified as a specialist by a board of a profession

Disinhibition	In medicine, a temporary loss of inhibition caused by an outside stimulus
Dissociation	In medicine, the splitting of a group of mental processes from the main body of conscious thought, such as in amnesia or hysteria
Double-tap	The act of firing a gun twice in rapid succession. A shooter “double taps” to make certain that the bullet(s) was/were actually lethal to the target.
Ex Post Facto Clause	A rule in both the United States and Pennsylvania constitutions that forbids the legislature from passing (and courts from enforcing) a law increasing the penalties for or changing the legal status of acts taken in the past.
<i>Fiat justitia...</i>	“Let there be justice, though the world will perish.”
Gross Revenue	Revenue from all sales. This is determined before deducting operating costs, costs of goods and payment of taxes.
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy	One of a group of diseases affecting the myocardium. In hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a portion of the myocardium is thicker than normal, without explanation. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a leading cause of sudden cardiac death and disabling cardiac conditions in young athletes.
Hypertrophy	Thickening.
Intellectual Property	A form of property that is intangible. Commonly used to refer to patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets such as industrial formulae.
“Key man” Insurance	A form of insurance that insures against the death of an important person or persons within a business.
Lividity	Discolored, bluish in appearance. Used in pathology to indicate bruising or congestion of the blood vessels.
LOBO	In the book and movie <i>World War Z</i> , a combination axe and shovel crafted by the U.S. military to combat zombies. Short for “lobotomizer.”
\$mm	Dollars (in millions)
Mescaline	Chemically, 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethylamine, a hallucinogenic organic compound illegal in the United States and elsewhere most commonly found in the drug commonly known as peyote.
Metabolize	In physiology, to break down food, chemicals, or substances in the body.

Myocardium	The muscles of the heart.
<i>Nunc Pro Tunc</i>	“Now as then.” In the law, a request to have something treated as though it occurred earlier (e.g. a filing after the deadline treated as timely).
<i>Prima facie</i>	“At first face.” Legally, a matter that appears evident “on its face,” and that is sufficient if not rebutted with other evidence.
Psychoactive	Having a profound effect on mental processes.
Regression Analysis	In statistics, a procedure for determining the relationship between a dependent and independent variables
<i>Res Ipsa Loquitur</i>	“The thing speaks for itself.” Legally, something self-evident, such as a consequence that was necessarily caused by some act of negligence that need not be identified with particularity.
Rule of Lenity	Legal canon holding that when construing any ambiguous criminal statute, a court should resolve the ambiguity in favor of the defendant.
Sudden Cardiac Death	A death from cardiac causes heralded by abrupt loss of consciousness within one hour of onset of acute symptoms.
Uptake	In physiology, the absorption and metabolizing of a substance. Typically, once metabolized, these substances no longer have the same physiological effect, so inhibiting uptake/metabolism normally increases the effect of a substance or the duration of that effect.
Zombie	The body of a dead person given the semblance of life. In traditional fiction and religion, the zombie is created supernaturally. Modern zombie fiction often attributes the cause to a virus. Zombies typically cannot be killed except by beheading them or destroying their brains with bullets or blows to the head.

1. The testimony of the witnesses;
2. Documents and other things received as exhibits;
3. Any facts that are stipulated--that is, formally agreed to by the parties; and
4. [Any facts that are judicially noticed--that is, facts I say you must accept as true even without other evidence.]

The following things are not evidence:

1. Statements, arguments, and questions of the lawyers for the parties in this case;
2. Objections by lawyers;
3. Any testimony I tell you to disregard; and
4. Anything you may see or hear about this case outside the courtroom.

You must make your decision based only on the evidence that you see and hear in court. Do not let rumors, suspicions, or anything else that you may see or hear outside of court influence your decision in any way.

You should use your common sense in weighing the evidence. Consider it in light of your everyday experience with people and events, and give it whatever weight you believe it deserves. If your experience tells you that certain evidence reasonably leads to a conclusion, you are free to reach that conclusion.

There are rules that control what can be received into evidence. When a lawyer asks a question or offers an exhibit into evidence, and a lawyer on the other side thinks that it is not permitted by the rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. This simply means that the lawyer is requesting that I make a decision on a particular rule of evidence. You should not be influenced by the fact that an objection is made. Objections to questions are not evidence. Lawyers have an obligation to their clients to make objections when they believe that evidence being offered is improper. You should not be influenced by the objection or by the court's ruling on it. If the objection is sustained, ignore the question. If it is overruled, treat the answer like any other.

Also, certain testimony or other evidence may be ordered struck from the record and you will be instructed to disregard this evidence. Do not consider any testimony or other evidence that gets struck or excluded. Do not speculate about what a witness might have said or what an exhibit might have shown.

- **Direct and Circumstantial Evidence**

Evidence may either be direct evidence or circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw, heard, or did. Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should consider both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give. You may decide the case solely based on circumstantial evidence.

- **Credibility**

In deciding what the facts are, you may have to decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You are the sole judges of the credibility of the witnesses. “Credibility” means whether a witness is worthy of belief. You may believe everything a witness says or only part of it or none of it. In deciding what to believe, you may consider a number of factors, including the following:

1. the opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things the witness testifies to;
2. the quality of the witness's understanding and memory;
3. the witness's manner while testifying;
4. whether the witness has an interest in the outcome of the case or any motive, bias or prejudice;
5. whether the witness is contradicted by anything the witness said or wrote before trial or by other evidence;
6. how reasonable the witness's testimony is when considered in the light of other evidence that you believe; and
7. any other factors that bear on believability.

In deciding the question of credibility, remember to use your common sense, your good judgment, and your experience. Inconsistencies or discrepancies in a witness’ testimony or between the testimonies of different witnesses may or may not cause you to disbelieve a witness’ testimony. Two or more persons witnessing an event may simply see or hear it differently. Mistaken recollection, like failure to recall, is a common human experience. In weighing the effect of an inconsistency, you should also consider whether it was about a matter of importance or an insignificant detail. You should also consider whether the inconsistency was innocent or intentional.

After you make your own judgment about the believability of a witness, you can then attach to that witness’ testimony the importance or weight that you think it deserves.

The weight of the evidence to prove a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testified or the quantity of evidence that was presented. What is more important than numbers or quantity is how believable the witnesses were, and how much weight you think their testimony deserves.

- **Spoliation**

I will now instruct you in a legal concept called “Spoliation.” All individuals and parties have an obligation to preserve evidence that could be important in a case from the time that they can anticipate that litigation was a distinct possibility. If they do not take reasonable steps to preserve this evidence, and the evidence is lost, they are said to have “spoliated” that evidence. That just means that they are responsible for the fact that it no longer exists and that no party can review it or use it to try and prove its case.

There may be instances in this action where someone is accused of having spoliated evidence. If you find that the individual accused of spoliation was aware that litigation was a distinct possibility and that the information would have been relevant to this litigation, you may, but are not required, to infer that that individual or party destroyed that evidence or allowed it to be destroyed because producing it would have been unfavorable to that party's interest.

Let me give you an example you will not hear, by way of illustration. If you hear evidence that a company destroyed a document containing profit projections, or allowed it to be destroyed, you may, but are not required, to infer that the profit projections contained in the document would have been unfavorable to the company's interest in litigation.

* * *

POST-TRIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Wrongful Death**

In this wrongful death action, the Plaintiff, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate, claims that the Decedent wrongfully died as a result of the intentional act of the Defendant.

Whenever the death of a person is caused by the wrongful act of another, and the act is one which would have entitled the Decedent to recover damages if the Decedent had not died, the personal representative of the estate of the Decedent may bring an action for wrongful death. The personal representative has a right to recover compensatory damages for the wrongful death.

- **Burden of Proof**

This is a civil case in which the plaintiff seeks damages.

The Plaintiff has the burden of proving its case by what is called the "preponderance of the evidence." That means Plaintiff has to prove to you, in light of all the evidence, that what it claims is more likely so than not so. To say it differently: if you were to put the evidence favorable to Plaintiff and the evidence favorable to Defendant on opposite sides of the scales, the Plaintiff would have to make the scales tip ever so slightly to its side. If the Plaintiff fails to meet this burden, the verdict must be for Defendant. If you find after considering all the evidence that a claim or fact is more likely so than not so, then the claim or fact has been proved by a preponderance of the evidence.

You may have heard of the term "proof beyond a reasonable doubt." That is a stricter standard of proof and it applies only to criminal cases. It does not apply in civil cases such as this, so you should put it out of your mind.

In determining whether any fact has been proved by a preponderance of evidence in the case, you may, unless otherwise instructed, consider the testimony of all witnesses, regardless of who may have called them, and all exhibits received in evidence, regardless of who may have produced them.

This case is bifurcated, so damages are not at issue. As such, the Plaintiff need not prove the extent of the injuries or damages at this time.

In determining whether any fact has been proved by a preponderance of evidence in the case, you may, unless otherwise instructed, consider the testimony of all witnesses, regardless of who may have called them, and all exhibits received in evidence, regardless of who may have produced them.

- **Issue in the Case**

The Plaintiff claims that the decedent, George Romero, was killed by the intentional conduct of the Defendant, Ashley Williams. The Estate has the burden of proving its claims. The Defendant denies the Plaintiff's claims.

Thus, the issue for you to decide, in accordance with the law as I give it to you, is:

Was Defendant's intentional, wrongful conduct the factual cause of George Romero's death?

- **Factual Cause**

In order for the Plaintiff to recover in this case, the Defendant's conduct must have been a factual cause in bringing about harm. Conduct is a factual cause of harm when the harm would not have occurred absent the conduct. To be a factual cause, the conduct must have been an actual, real factor in causing the harm, even if the result is unusual or unexpected. A factual cause cannot be an imaginary or fanciful factor having no connection or only an insignificant connection with the harm.

To be a factual cause, the Defendant's conduct need not be the only factual cause. The fact that some other causes concur with the actions of the Defendant in producing an injury does not relieve the Defendant from liability as long as the Defendant's own actions are a factual cause of the injury.

- **Actions of Agents**

All individuals are liable if they instruct others to act on their behalf and the others do so. It is not a defense that the defendant did not personally harm George Romero, if the defendant provided the means for another to do so on the defendant's behalf. If, however, another person acted on their own accord and harmed George Romero, the defendant is not liable for those actions.

- **Sympathy and Prejudice**

Please keep in mind that this dispute between the parties is, for them, a most serious matter. They and the court rely upon you to give full and conscientious consideration to the issues and the evidence before you. Neither sympathy nor prejudice may influence your deliberations. You should not be influenced by anything other than the law as I have stated it to you and the evidence in this case, together with your own judgment and evaluation of that evidence.

All parties stand equally before the court, and each is entitled to the same fair and impartial treatment in your hands. Please keep in mind that you are bound by the law, and your sole job in this case is to be judges of the facts. You are to use your common sense and collective experience to determine the facts in this case and to balance the competing interests in accordance with the law with which I have just instructed you.

List of Witnesses

The plaintiff and the defendant must call each of their respective witnesses. Brooks and Williams are permitted to sit at counsel table as representatives of the plaintiff and defendant, respectively.

For the Plaintiff, Estate of George Romero:

- **Max Brooks:** Sibling of Decedent and Executor of Estate
- **Ali Khan:** Former Chief Operating Officer of Salus LLC
- **Toni Moore:** Expert Witness (Forensic Pathology)

For the Defendant, Ashley Williams:

- **Ashley Williams:** Defendant
- **Ricki Grimes:** General Counsel of Salus LLC
- **Chris Redfield:** Expert Witness (Forensic Pathology/Toxicology)

STATEMENT OF MAX/INE "MAX" BROOKS

1 My half-brother George Romero lived his life like jazz - spontaneous, erratic, and beautiful. We
2 shared a mom, but George's dad was some Richie Rich cardiologist. Mine was a mechanic. My
3 childhood growing up in Roxboro was tough, but even though he was five years older than me,
4 George was always there. Sure, he had his flaws – we all do – but George knew there was
5 something better out there for him. He's dead for one reason: Ash Williams.
6

7 People tend to forget, but I was there from the beginning. I saw how serious his addiction was.
8 George was always an immediate gratification sort of person. Late in high school, George's
9 friend Nick Frost introduced George to Adderall. Frost had a prescription for it. The effect was
10 awful. Morning after morning I would find George still wide awake, watching a zombie flick or
11 playing Resident Evil or something. And yeah, I saw the irony.
12

13 Still, George was, like, a natural genius. He got into Kalmia University, and everyone was
14 happy. In the spring of 2013, I came home from my 7th grade dance, and Mom was at work. I
15 guess George didn't hear me come in, because I found him in his room, snorting a white
16 substance. I screamed! George tried to calm me down, saying that he had just crushed the pills
17 to give him a better high, but he was a drug addict and needed to be stopped. I didn't want to
18 betray him, but I told my mom and his dad, and we convinced George to go to rehab. He went
19 over Spring Break, so it wasn't a full treatment, but this way, no one at school learned of it.
20

21 The place he went was really nice, and they did a lot of tests, one of which showed a serious
22 heart condition, either from the drugs or genetics. It wasn't itself life-threatening, probably, but it
23 could be disastrous if he started taking Adderall or other high-powered stimulants again.
24 Fortunately, George promised to never touch the stuff. He called it his "return from the undead"
25 and told me that I saved his life. By the time he went off to Kalmia, George was back on track.
26

27 When I visited George for the first time in November 2013, there was no partying going on, and
28 no drugs. He was staying in a substance-free, co-ed dorm, and I met his new best friend, Ash
29 Williams for an ice cream before the Homecoming game. Ash was a total geek, and I thought
30 they would keep George studying and clean. George was excited about this student group that
31 they wanted to start dedicated to zombies. He was majoring in anthropology, focused on cultural
32 understanding of death and undeath, so it was a natural connection. I friended Ash on
33 Facebook. I think I was like Ash's 20th friend. So pathetic, but I needed Ash to help me keep an
34 eye on George. It was wrong to go behind George's back, but over private messenger, we had
35 a long conversation about George's problems and his heart condition. Ash promised me that
36 they would let me know if anything odd started to happen. Ash told me I was pretty smart for a
37 14-year-old, which made me happy.
38

39 That summer, George got totally obsessed with energy drinks. It sounded too close to Adderall
40 to me, but he wasn't really drinking them. He had some crazy scheme in mind for making them
41 himself. I played along, figuring it would pass. But by Fall 2014, he was totally obsessed, and he
42 had dragged Ash into it! He even started taking different classes so he could spend more time

43 working, and Ash stopped talking about vet school entirely. They spent all their time huddled in
44 this crazy, mad scientist looking shed that they “rented” in back of a local tire shop. By that
45 summer, they finally had their “formula,” which they called Zeus’s Thunderbolt. After all that, the
46 secret ingredient was parsley! Whatever. I helped whip up some pitch material for them anyway.
47 I’m pretty handy with Photoshop.

48
49 Things kind of took off from there. They spent most of the Fall 2014 in a new, bigger lab space,
50 bottling ‘Bolt and working out labels and stuff. By December, they were selling it all over
51 campus, and in January and February, 2015, George was taking weekend trips to other
52 colleges in the area to market it. He was a natural, but I was worried about all of the travel and
53 him keeping up with school. I didn’t know how he got the energy.

54
55 Then I visited around President’s Day, and I found Nick Frost lurking in George’s dorm room
56 and that same glossed-over look in George’s eyes. I was convinced George was on something
57 more than an energy drink. George told me that he had to go sell ‘Bolt at a big, private party
58 hosted by Zeta Iota Pi. Because it was an over-18 event, I couldn’t come. But I couldn’t just sit
59 still! I found Ash and cussed them out. Ash said they had no idea that George was taking
60 anything and that sales were through the roof because George and Nick made a great sales
61 team. I was about to go to my mother with the news, but Ash offered a compromise. They said
62 that if I “gave George some room” that Salus would give me a job during the summer doing
63 graphic design. I was hesitant, but I knew it would be a good way for me to keep close watch on
64 my brother and also give me something good to put on my résumé. So, I bit my tongue and
65 went back to the dorm room. When George got back near dawn he seemed better. He told me
66 how he sold out of energy drinks in two hours! I didn’t ask about Nick.

67
68 The company kept growing, and Ash was doing some amazing things in that lab, because by
69 April 2016, Salus had three new energy drinks ready. The one that really sold was called
70 Poseidon’s Trident. That summer, I and made some logos and promotional materials for the
71 School of Business’ Business Plan Competition. Even though Salus didn’t win, one of the
72 judges really liked to the product. Soon, Salus had the backing of some real money.

73
74 Yet success was a curse, too. George dropped out of school to focus on Salus, and Ali Khan
75 and Ricki Grimes kind of took over. Khan was a corporate drone, and Ricki was just looking to
76 cash in on George’s success. This wasn’t George’s special project anymore; it was a real
77 business. They all pushed George so hard! George was running around like crazy, going from
78 campus to campus and meeting with distributors and chain stores. He was everywhere there
79 was a crowd: Three Rivers Art Festival, The Roots Picnic, Made in America, Musikfest, The
80 Flood River Music Festival. He loved the limelight, and he was great at it, but I could see the toll
81 it was taking. Mom was happy that he was having success, but I wondered: at what cost?

82
83 Months went by at that breakneck pace, and I knew something was wrong. When we talked,
84 George was either totally amped or completely drained. He blamed it on a lack of sleep and a
85 go-go lifestyle, and Ash kept telling me on IM that George was never better. But when they left
86 for South America in September 2017, I knew George was going to be thrown to the wolves.

87 Ash was the only one who even pretended to care about his well-being. Who knows? Maybe
88 back then they even did. But the calendar of events never shrank, and when George didn't have
89 a sponsored event to attend, he would hawk drinks outside Beaver Stadium and spend all night
90 partying!

91
92 My nightmare became a reality in March of 2018 when George was supposed to be talking at a
93 conference in Vegas. Instead he was the cover story on WISA-TV, dancing half naked on some
94 statue, yelling crazily before passing out. I even saw Nick Frost in the background, but of course
95 Nick disappeared as soon as George crashed to the floor. Khan, surprisingly, showed some
96 compassion and helped me and mom get George checked into a celebrity rehab clinic.

97
98 George was there for 3 months. Nick had been dealing him Adderall and other drugs, too. The
99 doctors told us that with his condition, if he was not careful, he would die before he was 30.
100 Meanwhile, with Ash out of town and George out of play, Ali finally took over. They cleaned
101 house, firing virtually the entire sales staff. They even let me go, which I couldn't understand
102 because the entire idea was to get rid of bad influences!

103
104 I ended up writing Ash a really long email, giving them all of the details of George's drug abuse
105 and an update on his heart condition. I told them that if they didn't want blood on their hands
106 that they would help me stop George from taking not only drugs but also those energy drinks.
107 All I got back was a curt, "Can't do that, sorry", which made no sense at all. I thought that Ash
108 really cared.

109
110 Rehab was great for George. When he got out in June, 2018, he vowed to not repeat his
111 mistakes, and his counselors helped recognize his addictive personality. He was determined to
112 get out of the energy drink business, to remove the temptation to relapse. He went straight to
113 the Salas HQ in Wisawa and told the Board that he wanted to sell the business to PopCap, for
114 his health. Instead, Ash gave this crazy, over-the-top speech about how they shared a dream
115 together and how they would not betray the essence of their friendship for thirty pieces of silver
116 and a bunch of other weirdness. George was unanimously outvoted. So, he went back to his old
117 job, even though he was terrified of what it would do to him. I became his only advisor. He
118 couldn't trust them anymore.

119
120 Ash came back from South America in September 2018 with a ton of ideas and new materials.
121 But while Ash was formulating the drinks, which George believed would revolutionize the
122 industry, George had other ideas. He called his plan "Operation Dawn of the Living." Ash and Ali
123 were really leaning on him to start ramping up the marketing, but George knew that he couldn't
124 put himself in that place again. He was afraid for his life.

125
126 Instead, George had been in serious discussions with PopCap. George was co-owner of all of
127 the patents and stuff over the formula, so if he went to PopCap, it could compete directly with
128 Salus, 100% legally. So in January, 2019, he started bringing key pieces of information and
129 documentation from Ash's research to me for safe-keeping. That way, if anyone looked, he
130 would not get caught red-handed. But when the time was right, I would deliver the "suitcase" full

131 of data to PopCap. If Salus was willing to turn their back on me and George, turnabout was fair
132 play. With the money that George would get, he wouldn't have to worry about working again.
133 The pressure to use drugs would disappear. It was perfect!

134
135 Every time I saw him, George would give me something for the suitcase: a thumb drive, a
136 report, or a vial to keep in my fridge. I warned George to be careful, and sure enough in March
137 of 2019, George told me on Facebook IM that he was worried that Ali and Ash were on to him.
138 We didn't stop, though. When George's weekend pad in Philly was ransacked in May 2019, I
139 started to think that he might be in danger. The robbers didn't take anything of value – all that
140 was missing was George's laptop. But we didn't tell the cops; that would mean admitting our
141 plan, and the formulae weren't done yet. Less than a week after the break-in, Ali and Ash came
142 to my house and grilled me for what seemed like hours about George, his intentions, whether he
143 was stealing company secrets. I kept my mouth shut, but their questions were very specific:
144 times, places, names. The kinds of things you could only know if you'd stolen his laptop.

145
146 Ash's behavior was nuts: sweating profusely, shouting, and swearing, accusing George and me
147 of some kind of conspiracy with PopCap and the Bolivian government. And they were using
148 really bizarre language, saying that this idea had "infected" us and how we were "carriers" of a
149 virus that could kill the whole company. They wouldn't let it go! I'd never seen Ash like that, and
150 it was terrifying to see their true self. Then, in the middle of the, like, third rant about the
151 infection, Ash ran around the table, eyes unnaturally open. Ash screamed out "Don't make me
152 invoke Rule 10!" and then poked me hard, right in the forehead, twice. Then Ash broke down
153 weeping, murmuring "Please don't make me...." Ali had to drag them out of the room.

154
155 By July, "Dawn of the Living" was ready to go. George got us all spots at the Zombiepocalypse,
156 one of the largest zombie runs ever! Zombie runs are awesome: they're like "Tough Mudder"
157 and other extreme 5K or longer races with obstacles, only they have people playing zombies
158 chasing you, too! All participants get belts with flags, like in touch football, and the "zombies" try
159 to grab them while you run/climb/swim/crawl past them. If you lose your flags, you are
160 "infected," and you become a zombie, too, trying to grab the flags of the remaining humans. It's
161 super competitive! At Zombiepocalypse, the paying participants started as humans, and their
162 entrance fees helped pay other people to start as zombies. It was first rate: professional lay-out,
163 crazy obstacles, theatre quality make-up, the whole nine yards. The Big Z was a two-day event
164 scheduled for August 24th and 25th in the woods around Penn's Peak concert hall near Jim
165 Thorpe. There were unique, obstacle-filled 5K zombie runs in the morning and afternoon of
166 each day. There were cash prizes for any humans left alive at the end, and there was a huge
167 dance party on Saturday night for anyone alive half-way. Salus was the exclusive sponsor; the
168 only drinks that were going to be served were water, Trident, and Salus' newest stuff, Thor's
169 Hammer and Loki's Mask. If one of us were to win the Zombiepocalypse, the marketing buzz
170 would be incredible.

171
172 The Salus Board thought doing the event was proof of George's loyalty, because he would have
173 to drink Salus's products all weekend, but he told me that on Monday the 27th, while everyone
174 was recovering from the weekend, he was going to sign the deal with PopCap.

175 We were all worried about what Hammer and Mask could do to George's heart, but George and
176 Ash had a plan. Ash called a meeting at the lab with me, George, and the lawyer, Ricki. Ash
177 pulled out a vial of this deep purple liquid, explaining that it was an antidote to elevated levels of
178 caffeine. It was basically the opposite of what Salus did in its drinks. They ran a test of the stuff
179 on Ricki using a small dose, and it worked perfectly. Ash told me that the three of them had
180 decided that George, Ricki and me would participate in the race. Ricki and I would carry the
181 antidote, and if George started having issues, we would administer it. George said that if he was
182 having issues, he couldn't be trusted to dose himself. He had admitted that he had a problem.
183 George winked at me, so I knew this was part of his plan.

184

185 On August 24th, the five of us met again at the lab. When George and I arrived, Ash, Ali, and
186 Ricki were already together, talking in hushed tones over an open box with two vials in it. Ash
187 explained that each contained the antidote. The liquids looked different from one another to me;
188 one was orange, the other purple. I asked Ash why there was a difference and they said that
189 they had to make each dose separately, the active ingredient is a red color, and that the
190 difference was natural variation. I also asked Ash why they were not going to the race and they
191 said, "it's safer for the business if I'm not there," in like this really sinister way. I snapped a
192 picture of the box when no one was looking. I was sure I kept it on my phone, and I vaguely
193 remember showing that CSI person the photo when George died, but when the DA asked for it,
194 I couldn't find it. It's an old phone, so I must have deleted it to save space sometime in 2019.
195 Anyway, Ali brought the vials to the race.

196

197 That morning, we joined the "humans" at the start of the run. Unfortunately, by mid-afternoon, I
198 got separated from George and Ricki. I was frantically running toward a safe zone to find them
199 when I slipped off a high obstacle and got "infected". So after I got checked out by the medics, I
200 had to join the zombie horde. Worse, the vial of antidote I was carrying broke in the fall.

201

202 That night, at dinner, all of the zombies learned that we would crash the midnight human party
203 at Penn's Peak. I was taken to the makeup station and zombified, and around 11:00 we
204 trucked out to the backstage area at Penn's Peak to get into position. Everyone was drinking
205 Hammer and Mask, Salus's newest energy drink products, and they were definitely making it a
206 lively event! George looked ok at first, but then I saw something that made me sick: Nick Frost.
207 Nick approached George and tried to put something in George's hand, but George refused
208 whatever Nick was trying to give him. I was really proud of my brother! Then I lost sight of him in
209 the crowd.

210

211 When I next caught a glimpse of him, George's behavior was different, more erratic. He had a
212 Hammer in one hand and a Mask in the other, although I did not see him drink them. He was
213 dancing feverishly and appeared to be losing control. But Ricki just stood there! Finally, when
214 George started yelling loudly, Ricki took George aside and dumped the orange concoction into a
215 bottle of water. When I saw George chug it down, I was momentarily relieved. Unfortunately, it
216 did nothing to change his behavior. In fact, when I saw him again a few minutes later, he was
217 even more manic! The DJ's lights were bright, and George started blinking a lot and shielding
218 his eyes. His shirt had nearly soaked through, from the dancing I guess, so he tore it off with

219 both hands, spraying the buttons everywhere. Even the girls dancing around him seemed to be
220 less excited by him and more concerned about his behavior.

221
222 I wanted nothing more than to run in there and rescue my brother, but I had to wait for the
223 organizers of the race to give us the signal. Finally, about 15 minutes later, we were given the
224 go ahead. I rushed to my brother, and went to grab him and take him out of the party so he
225 could calm down. For some reason, maybe it was the makeup and all, but he didn't recognize
226 me. He let out this scream of raw terror – a sound like nothing you've ever heard – and reached
227 for my face as if he was going to scratch my eyes out. All of a sudden he gasped and his eyes
228 went wide. He shouted, "the antidote is actually the zombie virus!" and fell to the ground. He
229 never moved again.

230
231 I had lost my best friend, my brother, and my life that day. When I heard that criminal charges
232 were being filed against Ash, I was not surprised. I knew there was something funny with the
233 antidote that Ricki was carrying. We were all pawns in Ash's gambit, and the king was dead as
234 a result.

Max Brooks

Signature

10/9/2019

DATE

STATEMENT OF ALI KHAN

1 My name is Ali Khan, and I am employed by Gilgamesh Investments, a venture capital firm run
2 by Simone Pegg. Before joining Gilgamesh in 2004, I spent ten years working for distributors,
3 including PepsiCo and InBev. I have two degrees from St. Joseph's University: an executive
4 MBA I received in 2009, and my 1994 bachelor's in Operations and Supply Chain Management.
5

6 I first met George, Ash, and Ricki in late 2016, after they lost a start-up competition at Kalmia
7 University. Gilgamesh specializes in high risk/high reward start-ups, and an old friend of
8 Simone's, Shinji Mikami, let us know that there was a prospect we might like. I had just left a
9 similar investment, Ishtar Libations, which failed. That was a rough one, and I was targeted by
10 the SEC and fined civilly for accounting irregularities. Ishtar's chief compliance officer even went
11 to jail over it. I guess I deserved the anonymity of Wisawe.
12

13 Like many start-ups, Salus was a good idea saddled with the wrong people. Ash was the brains
14 but so sciencey it was hard to imagine them getting a date, much less making a sale. George
15 was the opposite, a dervish with a megawatt smile and no brains. And then there was Ricki.
16 Nice kid, but WAY over their head, barely out of law school and trying to navigate corporate
17 structuring, contracts, and labeling regulations.
18

19 On the other hand, their angle was unique, and energy drinks are hot right now. Even holding
20 things together with duct tape, Salus had seen real growth. With an older, more expert manager
21 on board, it could work, *if* they could keep rolling out product: the energy drink market is
22 explosive, but it's fickle. Unless you're Red Bull or Monster, you have to create "buzz," and
23 that's basically impossible with a single, steady product. New companies need to roll out
24 products every year or so. At least, that was my theory, based on experience with other kinds of
25 beverage products. I never really worked in energy drinks before.
26

27 Anyway, I go where Simone tells me to go. Sure, the financial statements were mostly wishful
28 thinking, but Simone gave Salus the capital that it needed: a half-million dollars, plus my
29 services. We bought out Dr. Romero and picked up Ricki Grimes' shares, and I joined the Board
30 and was named Chief Operating Officer, which is funny since we didn't even have a CEO.
31

32 The first six months were chaos as I fought to professionalize the operation over the resistance
33 of George, Ash, and Ricki. Then in mid-summer 2017, Ash announces that they are going to the
34 Andes for a year – and spending half the venture capital to do it! With what we'd already put into
35 debt service for the buyout, there wouldn't be enough to keep the lights on. I vetoed it, but when
36 I told Simone, she explained that I was missing the point: if the company needed new product, it
37 needed a pipeline. She cut a check for another half million over the phone. I think Ash knew that
38 their proposal would force more capital: Ash thinks several moves ahead. A real cold character,
39 that one.
40

41 Ash's departure had a silver lining: with George on the road, Ash out of touch, and Ricki working
42 for a non-profit, I was finally able to run the business. That's when I realized how wasteful their

43 practices had been. Ash was a competent researcher, but the lab rental was way above normal
44 market values, and Ash was paying premium prices for local products. Still, Ash was a paragon
45 of prudence compared to George. His “payroll” records were often just lists of names and cash
46 payments. Only half had reasons, and if he even bothered to answer his cell phone, he would
47 say he was paying for “access,” talking to an “influencer,” or getting “preference leaders,” which
48 I think he read in a Marketing for Dummies book. George’s effort was great, but it was largely
49 wasted.

50
51 I took my concerns to the Board (minus Ash) in the first week of March 2018. George showed
52 up, which was unusual, and he had Ash’s proxy, which more or less meant control of the room.
53 Ricki didn’t want to do anything “harsh,” so the meeting was a waste of time. George half-
54 heartedly agreed to keep better records, but he spent most of the meeting playing some kind of
55 game on his company iPhone. It never occurred to me then, but when I look back on it, he was
56 probably on drugs. I drafted a resignation letter, but I thought the better of it: who else would
57 hire someone on the SEC banned list? Instead, I begged Ash to reassign the proxy to me or to
58 Ricki. I thought I had no chance, because Ash and George were so close, but I got back a
59 message a week or so later. Ash reassigned the proxy to Ricki, and they told me to watch
60 George carefully and not to let him endanger the company.

61
62 It was like Ash saw Vegas coming. On March 13, 2018, George was supposed to be taking a
63 couple days off before a *huge* speech at the Food and Beverage Association of America’s
64 national convention. I got the call near midnight on Sunday: WISA-TV had video of George,
65 topless, ranting in Latin from on *top* of the Cleopatra statue on the barge at Caesar’s. I pulled
66 out my phone, and there he was, front page, with one of our sales team, Nick Frost, rooting him
67 on. I took the first flight to Vegas and spent Monday getting George checked into one of those
68 fancy rehab places. Turns out he was not only using amphetamines, but ecstasy, too. And Nick
69 was nowhere to be found. I gave the speech in George’s place, but under the circumstances,
70 who was even listening? It was a disaster.

71
72 I spent the next three months working 70 hours a week cleaning up the sales force while trying
73 to reassure our customers that our product didn’t make you lose your mind. One of the
74 company’s founders could not be reached, and the other was in rehab, but if profits dipped,
75 we’d lose any chance of getting other venture capital involved. Simone was having real
76 concerns about the investment, and if I led two failing companies in a row, I wouldn’t get a
77 chance at a third. Still, we held out. Revenue dipped sharply, at first, but not as much as I
78 feared.

79
80 I kept costs down and the bottom line steady by firing George’s useless sycophants. Nick Frost
81 was the first to go. In his exit interview, though, the little worm threatened to go public with the
82 details of George’s drug abuse if we tanked his recommendation or didn’t let him “clean out his
83 own desk.” I didn’t have a choice, and I was overjoyed when he landed at PopCap, our main
84 competitor, a couple weeks later. A pox on both their houses.

85

86 Late in May 2018, I got a call from Ash, who had finally come out of the jungle and seen what
87 had happened. Ash was really shaken up, and they kept saying how they trusted George and
88 now he'd put the company in jeopardy. They even asked if we should work behind his back to
89 get rid of him! I would have loved that, but the Board was stacked in George's favor, and I knew
90 Ash wouldn't have the guts to see it through. So I told Ash no, that the public relations damage
91 would be tremendous. Together, though, we quietly increased the value of the company's "key
92 man" insurance policy in case anything went wrong with George. We took the value from
93 \$150,000 to \$1,500,000. I knew Ash felt bad not trusting George, and it was expensive, given
94 George's heart condition, but it was worth it. The higher payout would allow the business to
95 continue in case either George or Ash died, or it could allow the investors to recoup their money
96 if the business closed. Ash was really comforted knowing that the "dream would go on," even if
97 something happened to one of them.

98
99 George got out of rehab in June, a month later, and out of the blue, he calls a Board meeting.
100 He had a full binder for each of us, showing how much profit we could make... if we sold out to
101 PopCap! Now, I had known George for nearly two years, and there's no way that he could have
102 run those numbers himself, much less created a full color marketing pamphlet disguised as a
103 proposal! And he kept going on about their safety record, and their testing facility, real think-of-
104 the-children stuff! I wondered what New Age junk they were feeding him in there. It was a set-
105 up, timed to catch us off guard. Luckily for me and for Gilgamesh, though, his effort backfired:
106 Ash was incensed that he would have been talking with another company and called him out on
107 his supposedly-homespun materials. George claimed that Max, his brother/sister, made them,
108 but we all knew that was a lie: Max is great with graphics, but the financial projections could only
109 have come from PopCap. It was offensive, really, to everything we'd built, and I was glad that
110 Ash told him so so that I wouldn't have to. In the end, George didn't even vote for his own
111 motion.

112
113 An hour later, Ricki was in my office and Ash was on the line. According to the company's
114 charter, the intellectual property was owned by Ash and George personally, and the company
115 licensed it from them... without a non-compete agreement. That meant that George could just
116 leave, and he could take the secrets of Salus with him. Ash was furious, calling George's
117 proposal a "deadly virus" for which there was "no treatment." Ash worried it would "infect"
118 others. I was upset, too, but with Ricki: this legal screw-up endangered the entire financial future
119 of Salus! We talked for hours, but there weren't good options. George held the cards, even if he
120 was too dumb or high to know it. We agreed to keep an eye on him, and Ash agreed to step up
121 security.

122
123 I kept waiting for the other shoe to drop, but it didn't. When Ash got back to the U.S. in the fall,
124 we were able to see first-hand the better ingredients for our next line of drinks. I suggested that
125 we cash in on the *Avengers: Endgame* craze, and that's how Thor's Hammer and Loki's Mask
126 were born. In early 2019, we used the last of the company's reserves to hire Umbrella, a
127 national leader in scientific research, to test and test-market the drinks. This wasn't college kids
128 on a Friday night: the samples went to their labs and focus groups for a real workout.

129

130 In the meantime, George kept selling, and he kept the professionals I had hired to work under
131 him. Sales recovered, although the “buzz” was gone. The more I talked to the people in the
132 field, though, the more I was convinced that George’s heart wasn’t in it. Without our product –
133 and other things – he just didn’t have the energy to do the only job he was any good at doing.
134

135 That’s when I started to see signs of an impending defection. For example, George’s security
136 passcard was used to access the offices at odd hours, and one night I cruised by his desk and
137 noticed that his copy of the Umbrella results was missing. The next day, a black and white copy
138 was there... but the original, in color, was nowhere to be found. When I checked the logs of his
139 computer, they showed that he had saved a bunch of research files to a thumb drive... but not
140 one Salus owned. I took my findings to Ricki, and we brought them to Ash together. I would
141 have thought a scientist would listen to empirical data, but at first, Ash resisted the idea that
142 George was getting ready to sell us our secrets to our competition. In the end, though, Ash got
143 this intense voice and said that if we got “real evidence,” Ash would “not hesitate to address the
144 problem once and for all” because they “would not let our dream die.” On the one hand, that
145 was good news for me and for our investors. On the other, emotion like that is trouble. Ash was
146 as cool an operator as I’d ever known, icy really. That’s the most upset I had ever seen them.
147

148 Well, not quite. There was that one day where Ash flipped out on Max. I told Ash to be the “bad
149 cop...” boy was that a mistake! I’d never been in a business meeting that included shouting,
150 weeping, *and* assault before! It’s one thing to be the bad cop, entirely another to go *Training*
151 *Day* on someone, making up “rules” or something. After that, I made sure Ash wasn’t invited to
152 any more important meetings. It was out of character, sure, but I was not going to risk that
153 happening again.
154

155 We got the Umbrella results at the end of March 2019. They were mixed: almost every
156 demographic had Hammer outselling Thunderbolt by 1.5:1 or even 2:1, but the adverse
157 reactions were four or five times higher. There were cardiac issues, like heart racing and
158 sudden flushed feelings, and also some mental symptoms, including one or two hallucinations.
159 One person died shortly after testing, and some people blamed Loki’s Mask. Ricki was
160 concerned about liability, but we agreed that insurance and really strong labeling could fix those
161 issues. George was focused on the adverse events, especially the death, and he tried to hold
162 the process up. I had to explain that adverse events are fairly normal, and that 1-3% isn’t that
163 shocking. And Ash convinced the Board that there was no more money coming from Gilgamesh
164 or anyone else without new products. That was key. George argued that we could still sell to
165 Pop Cap, but one look from Ash drained the color from his face.
166

167 After that, Ash, Ricki and I had a number of discussions about George. I also spoke with
168 Simone, who knows people in the investigative services field. I talked things through with Ash,
169 and in May 2019, George’s weekend apartment in Philadelphia was burglarized. Sometime after
170 that, Ash and I learned that he had been emailing with executives at PopCap regularly. I will not
171 discuss my conversations with Ash, Simone or any third parties we might or might not have
172 retained, and I will not discuss how we learned that information; I have been denied immunity,
173 and I therefore invoke my Fifth Amendment right to be free from self-incrimination. Ash and I

174 discussed all major decisions, and I can tell you that Ash was getting more and more upset with
175 what George was doing and not doing.

176
177 Ash and I were talking every day, and even though Ash and I thought that George was about to
178 stab us in the back, George kept doing good things. For example, in June 2019, he got us set
179 up as a sponsor at Zombiepocalypse. It was basically the perfect play for us: a mountain full of
180 highly motivated, twenty-something rich people, desperately needing an “edge.” Plus, George,
181 Ricki, and Max could all compete. If one of them won somehow, everyone would think Hammer
182 was the reason! It was a stroke of genius.

183
184 In order for it to work, though, George would have to be drinking our stuff, which he hadn’t
185 touched since rehab. We had let it slide for the old products, but to have the head of Marketing
186 refuse to use a new product is suicide. Luckily, either George or Ash came up with a solution.
187 Ash used an ingredient to do the opposite of what we normally wanted: it counteracted the
188 caffeine. If George took the chemical, we hoped that George could drink Hammer and still be
189 ok. Ash warned him to go light on the Loki, though, or avoid it altogether. When we told Max and
190 Ricki, Max acted very oddly, sneaking behind us with their phone out. So I brought both vials to
191 the race, and no one had the chance to share them with PopCap on the way.

192
193 Before I left for the race, I swung by the lab to pick up the vials. Ash was just staring into space.
194 I thought Ash looked worried about the big launch, so I tried to cheer them up. But they looked
195 past me and said in this really strange voice, “What will we do if he takes everything? Do we
196 have to just let him destroy all we’ve built?” I kinda shrugged and left, crept out.

197
198 Up at the entrance to Penn’s Peak, I set up at this tent thing they called the “W,” and I got a
199 couple of our marketing staff to help string up banners and the like. After sundown, the place
200 filled up with the runners who had not been caught yet and a few “professionals” to help get the
201 party started. At 9pm, George climbed up on the stage and announced our new drinks. He
202 slugged down a Hammer and grabbed another, then started tossing them into the crowd. Within
203 minutes, the whole tent was dancing and drinking. It was awesome marketing, but a night with a
204 bunch of muddy, bloody kids half my age, dancing to that noise they call music... it wasn’t that
205 appealing. I decided to make the long drive home, catching a glimpse of Nick Frost as I left,
206 talking with George near the W tent. I didn’t much care for that, and I gestured to Ricki to make
207 sure they kept an eye on that situation.

208
209 I got the call around 4 or 5 the next morning. Simone had seen a news report, and she woke me
210 up. Once it was confirmed, I went back to the office and started damage control. I swept through
211 the office, shredding any loose paperwork, cleaning out my own files regarding George, and
212 trashing unused samples, keeping it organized and professional for whatever came next. It was
213 all I could do. I didn’t do much in Ash’s lab, though. I wouldn’t know what chemicals would mix
214 with what!

215

216 The police arrived a week or so later. At first I thought it was routine, but I quickly realized it was
217 a lot deeper trouble. I'm no fool; I went straight to the detective, told her everything I knew, and
218 made sure that Salus cooperated completely.

219
220 I was shocked that Ash was charged, but I was even more shocked when they were acquitted.
221 The police don't arrest people for murder without a reason, and when I heard the detective's
222 version of how Ash killed George, I was convinced. I wouldn't have pegged Ash for the killing
223 kind. Ash always seemed very loyal to me. But I guess someone like that doesn't take kindly to
224 betrayal. I mean, the company was everything to Ash, and I'll never forget the expression on
225 their face when George suggested that it all go to PopCap. If looks could kill...

Ali Khan

Signature

October 12, 2020

DATE

STATEMENT OF TONI MOORE

1 My name is Toni Moore, and I run Big River Pathology, which has been the contract medical
2 examiner for Carbon County, Pennsylvania since 2002. I have testified regarding cause of death
3 – be it natural, accidental, intentional, or toxicological – dozens of times and have investigated
4 hundreds more. We don't have a huge number of suspicious deaths in Carbon County, so I pay
5 the bills with a private practice in clinical pathology. Since 2006, BRP has also contracted for me
6 to work as the Medical Examiner in suspicious death cases from neighboring and remote
7 counties which also do not have a full-time medical examiner. I am a diplomate of the American
8 Board of Pathology, and I served for three years as an appointed preceptor for that
9 organization, drafting board examination questions. I am a member of the American Academy of
10 Forensic Sciences, and I am a consultant for the hit TV show, *Murder Most Foul!*, which airs
11 Sunday nights on The Nashville Network. My full curriculum vitae is attached.

12
13 I learned of George Romero's death when I was awakened by a call from the State Patrol at
14 about 1:30 in the morning on August 25, 2019. I retrieved my kit from my office and arrived at
15 the site just after 4 a.m. The scene was a madhouse, with "zombies" chasing "humans" all
16 around. The State Police and National Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations
17 officers were barely able to keep the area under control. I was directed to the "Winchester
18 Tavern," which turned out to be a large tent at the top of a hill with a temporary wood plank floor.
19 The place was covered in advertisements for those energy drinks I always see at the truck stop
20 in town, like Lightning Bolt or Sledgehammer or something. The ones with the cartoon gods on
21 the can. I fought my way up the hill after successfully convincing several "humans" that I was a
22 real coroner, not a part of their idiot show there to "vaccinate" the zombies. I mean, really. The
23 fundamental lack of understanding of vaccine science in this country is the true terror.

24
25 As I approached, I developed my initial impression. The deceased was a mid- to late-twenties,
26 Latino male, well-groomed generally but disheveled in appearance. He was not wearing a shirt,
27 and there were marks all over him. Several were resuscitation-related, but many appeared to be
28 scratches from his activities that day, including several that could have been caused by ladies'
29 nails. There were definite signs of a struggle, but I later concluded these were the artifacts of the
30 very friendly dancing and/or the "zombie run." No wounds appeared to be the cause of death.

31
32 I spoke with the individuals present – Ricki Grimes and Max Brooks – the latter of whom
33 appeared to be suffering from grievous physical wounds, subsequently determined to be make-
34 up for their role as a zombie. They described Romero's last minutes. Grimes and Brooks agreed
35 that Romero appeared agitated and was profusely sweating in the moments before his death.
36 Of particular interest was in Brooks' statement that Romero had screamed out. Brooks stated
37 that Romero was also acting erratically and showed signs of loss of balance and fine motor
38 control. Grimes disagreed in this regard.

39
40 The description that Grimes and Brooks gave of the dancing and laser lights reminded me of
41 "rave" parties I read about in a *Murder Most Foul!* script, and I knew from my training in forensic
42 toxicology that such events often involve illicit drugs. I therefore I asked whether Romero had a

43 history of drug use. Grimes nodded affirmatively, but Brooks was silent. I immediately drew
44 blood from Romero and placed the samples with my kit. I then directed the State Police and
45 Forest Service officers to canvass the area and take statements from the participants about
46 what had occurred, although little came of those efforts other than the eventual arrest of a
47 known local dealer named “Winter” or “Snow” or something – for distributing amphetamines. I
48 understand that the effort to obtain statements was also frustrated by confusion over whether
49 these individuals were law enforcement or playing some role in the zombie fantasy.

50
51 I understand from the police reports, which I relied upon in forming my opinion, that the
52 “Zombiepocalypse” hosts had hired professional dancers to provide atmosphere and that some
53 other patrons may have brought controlled substances. The odor of tobacco clung to every
54 fabric, and there was anecdotal evidence of partygoers consuming drugs. Virtually all of them
55 were also downing those so-called “energy drinks,” which are almost as bad, in my opinion.

56
57 Back to the scene. I asked Grimes and Brooks whether Romero had consumed any illicit
58 substances. Grimes denied it, but Brooks told me that Grimes had given him a vial of some kind
59 of chemical that he had taken minutes before he died! Grimes nodded and pointed to an area
60 near one exit where there was a small pile of broken glass, the largest intact piece of which was
61 immediately recognizable as the curved bottom of a test tube. It was resting open side up, and
62 there was a very small amount of yellowish liquid left in it. After a moment’s consideration, I
63 used a Jovovich R-E test strip from my field kit. It was positive for mescaline, a powerful
64 hallucinogenic chemical. You’ve heard of peyote, yes? That’s just the name of the cactus;
65 mescaline is the hallucinogen that gives peyote its reputation!

66
67 Not only did the test strip show mescaline, but the result shot through the roof, above the
68 highest concentrations the field kit can register. Neither ERP nor Vilas County can afford a full-
69 service chemical analysis lab, so we contract with an outside facility – Raj-Singh Laboratories –
70 for chemical and toxicological testing. I suppose I could have tried to save it for them, but in
71 reality, I doubt there would have been enough liquid there for one test, much less an “A” and “B”
72 sample. Raj-Singh requires two samples to validate results; that kind of exactitude is precisely
73 why we use them! With that vial broken and the liquid almost entirely gone, there is no way to
74 know for sure the precise composition of what was in there. But our field kit told me what I
75 needed to know: a hallucinogen was present. After the police searched Salus, I ran the field test
76 against a concentrated vial of the active ingredients in that Mask drink. It had the same result.

77
78 Later, I was able to test Romero’s blood and tissue samples. His “A” samples contained traces
79 of mescaline and almost superhuman levels of caffeine. I’d never seen a blood sample that
80 high. Romero’s primary blood sample also tested positive for amphetamines, although “B” came
81 back negative. By that time, the body had been returned to the family and cremated. Because
82 only confirmed tests are scientifically valid, I did not include the amphetamines in my report.
83 Romero’s stomach also contained a significant quantity of polysaccharides most often found in
84 pill coatings. The chemicals in question are common in over the counter ibuprofen, as well as
85 the most commonly prescribed beta blockers and amphetamines (for ADHD). Based on

86 stomach contents, the mescaline reached Romero's system through ingestion, but it is
87 impossible to say in what concentration it was consumed.

88
89 Yes, the judge in the criminal matter found that the mescaline readings were actually from that
90 "St. Simon" cactus extract that Williams claims is in that drink of hers/his, but that's not a reason
91 to throw out the charge! The "St. Simon" cactus is a close relative of the peyote cactus, the
92 Peruvian torch, *and* the San Pedro cactus, the most common sources of mescaline! It doesn't
93 take a master's degree in biochemistry to see that the St. Simon cactus would probably have
94 the same psychoactive effects as those two. Williams should have been charged with a
95 thousand counts of possession with intent – one for each can of that poison Salus was selling!

96
97 I know that I sound a little crazy comparing energy drinks to poison. But I'm not. People think of
98 caffeine as this pleasant buzz you get from a cup of Folgers, but medically, caffeine looks a lot
99 like cocaine: both increase alertness, cause euphoria, and increase energy, true, but both *also*
100 can cause anxiety, flushing, fidgeting, and rambling speech. In larger doses, caffeine can cause
101 mania, disorientation, disinhibition (wild behavior), delusions, hallucinations, and psychosis. And
102 they can kill you the same way, too: amphetamines, cocaine, caffeine and other stimulants
103 cause rapid heartbeat. That feels good when you take your first sip of morning joe, but if the
104 heart is overstimulated, it can lose its rhythm. A cardiac arrhythmia lasting more than a handful
105 of seconds can lead to sudden cardiac death, which is what killed George Romero.

106
107 Stimulant-induced sudden cardiac death is especially common in individuals with compromised
108 hearts, and stimulants also cause the body to heat up. Combined with physical activity or in a
109 confined space, this can lead to heat stroke or other heat-related complications secondary to
110 dehydration. That's one reason mixing energy drinks and alcohol is a bad idea.

111
112 But these monsters sell this stuff to kids, whose physiology is even more vulnerable. Kids think
113 that they're drinking the equivalent of Gatorade when they're really pounding down espresso
114 after espresso. Then they can't sleep, insomnia leads to additional mental and physical
115 problems, and it leaves them tired. So what do they do? They drink more "energy" drinks!

116
117 That's what happened to my nephew, Michael. All he wanted was to be able to keep up in
118 school and play video games, but the energy drinks led him right into that vicious cycle. He
119 passed away in June 2012, just after finals, playing baseball with his friends. It was ruled a
120 suspicious death, so I had to sign off on his autopsy.

121
122 The FDA should be ashamed. We need more prosecutions of the so-called beverage chemists
123 who poison our bodies and kill our children. They're as bad as cigarette companies!

124
125 Right, the Romero case. Sorry. George Romero experienced stimulant-induced sudden
126 cardiac death. The levels of caffeine in his system were so high that it's almost impossible to
127 imagine he ingested it all. Even the worst energy drinks are not that concentrated! You'd have to
128 drink gallons of Monster to hit these levels. In a long-time user, the measured levels are
129 possible, yes, but they would likely have had seriously negative effects. No one tests things this

130 way for ethical reasons, but even a long-term user could have been manic, disoriented, and
131 probably hallucinating. But every witness whose report I've read said that he was coordinated
132 and lucid while dancing. That strongly suggests that he took in a significant additional dose
133 shortly before death, in a concentration higher than a shot of energy drink.

134
135 With those caffeine levels, it would have only taken a small shock to his system to throw him
136 into arrest. I'm not sure there would have been such a shock from the "zombies," though:
137 Romero had been chased by them all day, and he would have noticed Max's absence during
138 the "humans only" party, so he had to know that Max would have been a zombie by then.

139
140 But Ash Williams didn't just poison him with caffeine. Ash had an insurance policy: mescaline, or
141 whatever bio-similar compound is in that cactus extract, is one of the most potent hallucinogens
142 out there. We cannot know for sure how much cactus extract was in each can of that drink. But
143 we can make an educated guess. Based on its place in the label, it was likely about 50
144 milligrams per can. If we assume that the extract behaves identically to traditional mescaline,
145 and we assume the test strip is accurate, a person of Romero's body weight would have had to
146 have consumed more than 300 milligrams of the mescaline equivalent to reach the levels the
147 test strip suggested. That means he would have had to ingest six cans of that Mask drink, and
148 Brooks says that he was staying away from it. Plus, if the body recognized a toxin over time,
149 whether caffeine or mescaline, it might well have tried to purge it through vomiting. Even when
150 dehydrated, the body knows not to digest poisons.

151
152 The vial that we found could easily have contained half a gram (500 milligrams) or more of that
153 extract with room to spare for caffeine or a high dose of a caffeine uptake antagonist. If Romero
154 ingested that, already caffeine intoxicated, he would have begun experiencing severe
155 hallucinations within minutes. Reality would have almost completely disassociated, and he
156 would not have remembered that he was at a "zombie run." The appearance of a "zombie" loved
157 one could easily have caused sheer terror, especially if he had a history of zombie-based fears.
158 That could trigger arrhythmia, and someone who had that level of caffeine toxicity would be at a
159 far higher risk. And someone with those levels and with pre-existing damage to the heart?
160 Williams might as well have given him a lethal injection.

161
162 In preparation for my testimony in the criminal case and this one, I reviewed the statements of
163 the individuals testifying and Exhibits 3-7 and 12. My testimony in the criminal matter was paid
164 by Carbon County; normally in a civil matter, I would charge between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for
165 my review and testimony. I have waived that fee in this case because of its importance to the
166 community. Based on my review, knowledge, and experience, it is my opinion within a
167 reasonable degree of forensic pathological certainty that George Romero was poisoned by Ash
168 Williams and that his sudden cardiac death was directly and proximately caused by that
169 poisoning. I'm sure of that beyond a reasonable doubt. I don't know what that jury was thinking.

J Moore
Signature

11/10/2020
DATE

STATEMENT OF ASHLEY “ASH” WILLIAMS

1 Have you ever seen pictures from a tsunami? Where the waves crash onto the beach and then
2 they pull back and everything is just gone? That’s what it was like to know George Romero.

3
4 I met George outside the student center at Kalmia University, in November or so, 2013. I was a
5 sophomore, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, and I was walking down the street, my head in
6 Schwartz’s *Computational Neuroscience*, when I heard this wild-eyed guy talking sports. But for
7 him, it was more like preaching. He was shifting between English and Latin or Greek or
8 something, and making these wild claims that the Philadelphia Eagles were just like Plato’s
9 Republic. Everyone was laughing, but I was entranced.

10
11 He caught me staring and invited me to join them. I wanted to study, but I could not help myself.
12 The group went back to his dorm room, and I was stunned: the place was a shrine to zombies! I
13 love science fiction and fantasy – Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman, even old stuff like Weis &
14 Hickman or Heinlein – but he was deep in: *Dawn of the Dead*, *28 Days Later*, *Resident Evil*, you
15 name it. Next thing I knew, it was 4 a.m. and I was still leafing through an early manuscript of
16 *World War Z* he had gotten somewhere. I had a new best friend. When George started the
17 Students for the Preservation from Zombies, SPZ, I was a charter member. Soon there were
18 hundreds! It was an infectious idea, and George learned the power of direct marketing.

19
20 After that, I worked long hours, but I made time to talk with George. He had these get rich quick
21 ideas; he wanted to be the next Zuckerberg. I was his reality check. And he helped me with
22 some thoughts I was having, too. The deeper I got into BioMed, the more I was drawn to
23 Botany, and specifically the field of traditional medicine. So-called primitive cultures used all
24 kinds of plants, herbs, and the like for performance and healing, but no academic was studying
25 those plants computationally, using algorithms to model and predict their interactions or explain
26 their effects.

27
28 Then, the day we got back from our summer break in September 2014, George came into my
29 room, even crazier than normal. He handed me bottles of all the energy drinks he kept around:
30 Red Bull, Monster, Rock Star, Amp.... and he had circled all the labels. They all had the same
31 things in them: amino acids, b-vitamins, sugar, and caffeine. What if, he said, we could do
32 better? I told him he was nuts, because beverage companies research constantly. There was
33 just no way that they’d have missed an ingredient that would sell.

34
35 But George kept pushing, especially about traditional plants. I told him it’s all the same to the
36 body: *yerba mate* is not coffee, but in the stomach and the brain, it’s just caffeine and its
37 metabolites. There are other plants that have bio-chemical effects, like *khat* and some cacti, but
38 those are illegal. That’s when it came to me: there weren’t chemicals to *add*, but maybe some
39 chemicals could *enhance* the ingredients that already existed.

40
41 George loved the idea, and I needed money to pay off student loans! We started right away.
42 George talked Professor Canadeo into an independent study project on cultural medicines, and

43 he read everything he could find on traditional herbs and botanical cures, collecting first dozens,
44 then hundreds of primary source references and cataloguing and translating them. I found what
45 I could about their chemical composition, and I used a software program to predict how they
46 would metabolize.

47
48 It took a couple months, but I finally figured it out: parsley. I know, disgusting, right? But caffeine
49 is ingested by an enzyme called CYP1A2, and parsley inhibits CYP1A2. So if you have enough
50 parsley, or turmeric, or related plants, in theory, caffeine should last longer. That's perfect for
51 energy drinks. George and I started to experiment, and we roped in another SPZer, Ricki
52 Grimes, a law student who George knew from back home. One night in January, 2015, we
53 decided to pool our summer job money and what was left of our living allowances to rent a small
54 lab space. It was an amateur operation, no doubt, but I spent hours there, trying combinations of
55 caffeine, water, parsley and turmeric to get a combination that worked. My grades suffered, but
56 by June, we had a formula. Meanwhile, Ricki hooked us up with the Law & Entrepreneurship
57 Clinic at Kalmia, and we incorporated as Salus LLC. George and Ricki chose the name: it's
58 Latin for "health" or "welfare."

59
60 That summer, we all worked crazy hours to build up seed money. In September 2015, I started
61 production of Zeus's Thunderbolt, our first drink, and by Finals week, it was ready to go. And
62 boy did it go! It was an instant, huge hit. People couldn't get enough! We bought all the plants
63 from growers at the Saturday farmer's market downtown, and found a bottler in nearby
64 Pulowech. Because we didn't have marketing or distribution costs, we sold it way cheaper than
65 Red Bull or Monster. I couldn't make enough of it, and demand continued through the spring
66 semester. By the end of the year, I was a very marginal student, but a much less indebted one!
67 That would have been enough for me, but George's dad, a local cardiologist, wanted his
68 anthropology major son to have a "real" job. So he kicked in a bunch of money, and George dug
69 into Salus full time. He even dropped out of school. I doubt that's what Dr. Romero had in mind!
70 But it was good, because Ricki was starting at a firm and didn't have much time for us.

71
72 I stayed at the lab while I scraped by in school, producing 'Bolt and trying to make something
73 better, while George went on the road, mostly to local colleges, selling what we'd made from the
74 back of a pickup truck we bought used. We lived off ramen noodles and peanut butter, putting
75 every dime back into production and research. By living cheap, we could afford different, rarer
76 *apiaceae*. That's the family that parsley's in. But so are carrots and over three thousand other
77 plants no one was testing except me. That's a lot of trial and error!

78
79 With college students as happy test subjects, I tried hundreds of combinations. I struck upon
80 three *apiaceae* that worked. I'm not going to tell you what they were, but they were the key
81 ingredients in Salus' next three products: Atalanta's Apple, a sports drink; Morpheus's Dream,
82 for creativity; and of course Apollo's Arrow. I think people were confused by Atalanta, and it
83 never really sold. Dream did ok, especially with artsy types. But it was Arrow that made our
84 name. It was an instant favorite, and it didn't taste like parsley! Some of our test subjects came
85 back a day or two later offering to pay *us* to test more. We took Arrow into the Kalmia annual
86 Business Plan Competition, and we impressed one of the judges – Shinji Mikami from Standard

87 Chartered Principal Finance – enough that she introduced us to Simone Pegg from Gilgamesh,
88 a venture capital firm. Gilgamesh bought in, on one condition: Ali Khan came on board as our
89 Chief Operating Officer. George hated having Khan – who he called the “babysitter” – around,
90 but I was happy to have some industry experience on board so I could focus on science.

91
92 And I was worried about George. He was selling on campuses, without the school’s permission.
93 Ricki and the Clinic said that was ok, and made sure we labeled things right, but he was on the
94 road all night, often from a party on one campus to a party at another. He said people bought
95 better when they were a little drunk, and the alcohol did help dull the parsley taste. But when
96 Arrow took off, people wanted him in ten places at once. He hired staff, but a lot of them were
97 just lazy losers he’d met at parties or members of big frats. It seemed like he was doing all the
98 real selling himself. It took a toll on him, and at times, he didn’t seem right: hollow eyed, calling
99 at all hours of the night, rambling and disconnected.

100
101 It was rough. I told him to pull back, especially since I knew he has some serious heart issues,
102 but he cared too much. Still, I couldn’t watch my friend wreck himself. I had to get away, I knew
103 Arrow would not be novel forever, and I was out of North American *apiaceae*. So I got
104 Gilgamesh to fund a year in the Andes in September 2017 so I could gather plants and consult
105 with natives. It was great to get away, and I tried not to think of the business. That was Ali’s
106 problem now. Internet connections were limited, so I would only read small emails and send
107 quick responses. I called every couple months, though, for really important issues. That’s when I
108 first heard about George using drugs, through emails from Ali and Max in March 2018. It killed
109 me to know that Salus had pushed him to such a horrible point. And he knew he had let me and
110 Salus down. I promised myself I would never again stand by and let my friend destroy himself or
111 our dream. I even had to take steps I thought I never would, like upping the company’s
112 insurance policy on George. It twisted me up inside, and I got very emotional talking about it,
113 saying things I didn’t mean. But in the end I had to do what was best for Salus.

114
115 I heard through Ali that when George came back to Salus, he was... better. More stable. But
116 while revenue had recovered, it had stopped growing. Part of that was the lack of new product,
117 my area. But part of it was our marketing. I was glad George wasn’t taking drugs or high doses
118 of caffeine, but he definitely did not have the drive he used to, and it’s hard to market effectively
119 if you can’t use the product. Rehab also led him to some crazy ideas, like selling out to PopCap
120 and closing the business. It was pretty clearly a set-up, probably by that jerk Nick Frost, but I
121 knew that when George recovered fully, he wasn’t going to be happy if he’d given up on his
122 dream job so easily.

123
124 It took months after I got back from the Andes to test all the samples, but by Christmas 2018, I
125 had what we needed: two new ingredients that could really improve our drinks. One plant, an
126 *apiaceae* unknown in North America, substituted well into Zeus’s Thunderbolt, which got us
127 Thor’s Hammer. Unfortunately, it made Morpheus’ Dream taste like kerosene, so I couldn’t
128 substitute it there. Luckily, I had an alternative. But I was nervous: it came from a close relative
129 of the Peruvian torch cactus (*echinopsis peruviana*). That plant contains mescaline, a powerful
130 hallucinogen found in peyote and other hard drugs. I wanted nothing to do with that! But its

131 cousin, the St. Simon cactus, *echinopsis pachanosimon*, was a great catalyst for our caffeine
132 enhancement, more efficient and better tasting than the turmeric we used in Morpheus' Dream.
133 And it wasn't banned! It substituted nicely into Dream, which is how we formulated Loki's Mask.

134
135 By then, I'm happy to say that Ali's hand was really being felt on the wheel, and we were way
136 past testing on college students for a few bucks of beer money! We retained The Umbrella
137 Corporation to run a robust study. The first few weeks were so exciting, watching real-time data
138 come in, and it was almost all positive. Then we noticed a really scary trend: a very small
139 number of subjects, maybe one or two in a few hundred, were having significant psychiatric
140 responses to the drinks, and especially to Loki's Mask. There were reports of paranoia,
141 delusions, and even hallucinations. One subject self-injured, and one had a heart attack or
142 something right there on the spot. We couldn't figure out what was going on, but I was horrified.

143
144 At the Board meeting about the results, I wanted to pull back production, but George and Ali
145 wouldn't let me. Ali told the Board that a 1% negative response rate is ok, and even 2 or 3%
146 isn't too bad as long as you have proper warnings. So Ricki wrote some up, but we had to work
147 fast: we needed to have the product on the shelves before spring finals.

148
149 I was worried about George, though. His energy levels were poor, and he was having second
150 thoughts. I carefully reviewed the Umbrella reports, but he gradually became obsessed, poring
151 over them, murmuring about how that could have been him. I was worried about my friend, but I
152 was also worried about Salus. You can't have the VP for Marketing consumed by the risks of
153 the product!

154
155 There were other reasons I worried, too. George was spending a lot of time in his office, which
156 wasn't like him at all, and at one of our Board meetings, he proposed selling the company again!
157 I couldn't believe he was ready to let his dream – our dream – die like that. Then I noticed that
158 my notes had been moved, some samples were missing... Ali and I started to think that he was
159 getting ready to jump ship on us. My guess is that Max was putting him up to it. Max never really
160 liked me, and then never understood our vision for Salus.

161
162 I know what Ali and Max have said about my behavior when we confronted Max in May 2019
163 about George's potential defection. As I explained in the criminal case, I had been
164 experimenting with new *apiaceae*, and I accidentally inhaled a form of the active ingredients in
165 Loki's Mask a hundred times more concentrated than we use in the drink. I was completely
166 incoherent for nearly thirty-six hours, and I vividly remember seeing colors... and very little else.
167 I'm told my pupils were the size of quarters, and when I woke up, my clothes were soaked in
168 sweat. But that wasn't the real me in that meeting. I'm a healer, not a fighter, I rarely raise my
169 voice, and I really don't like to touch people. Like, ever.

170
171 By August 2019, the product was ready for full-scale launch, and George had found an
172 awesome opportunity for getting our name out there: Zombiepocalypse, the most exclusive,
173 hard-core zombie run in the country. It was the place to be for zombie-obsessed young
174 professionals and corporate teams. Investment banks that competed as hard there as in the

175 markets! These people would be hosting summer programs, acting as role models and trend
176 setters for our target audience, elite college students. George was still a brilliant marketer; it felt
177 like a SPZ moment all over again. He had gotten us exclusive sponsorship of the Saturday night
178 rave, the End of the World Party. It was a perfect match, and if we won the run, too, we'd be the
179 toast of Wall Street in more ways than one.

180

181 But for it to work, George had to drink the new products. But they were way too powerful; for a
182 former drug user with a damaged heart, it was even possible that they could be dangerous. We
183 thought about focusing him on Arrow, or bringing someone else in, but he said that the new
184 products were our company and he had to be able to sell them.

185

186 We had to find a solution, and it was George's idea, I think: something to reverse the effects of
187 the *apiaceae*, to make Hammer just like other energy drinks, or better yet, weaker still. He
188 could drink tons but get half the buzz, instead of the other way around. So I spent a week or two
189 looking through my research on CYP1A2 antagonists, things like broccoli that actually break
190 down caffeine more quickly. Eventually, I struck upon an extract blend potent enough that, if
191 taken before or around the same time as Hammer, would serve as a kind of antidote to it. Even
192 so, I knew that things could go wrong fast. That was doubly true if he tried to drink Loki's Mask;
193 nothing in the antidote would counter its active ingredient.

194

195 I tried to convince George the antidote was too dangerous, but he said Ali would never go for it.
196 So I pulled an all-nighter making two vials: one each for Max and Ricki. There was no time for
197 lots of testing, or even a clear formula. The vials I made came out red, because of the active
198 ingredient, but one was more yellow-red and the other red-blue. I didn't have time to make one
199 for George, and we figured it would be best to have them in someone else's hands. Then I
200 stayed in my office and just stared into the distance, hoping for the best but fearing the worst. I
201 was distraught, because I knew George, and although he'd promised me he would not drink
202 Loki's Mask, I knew he could not be trusted.

203

204 The next morning was the worst of my life, and I only remember snippets of the next few days.
205 Max crying. Me crying. Ali, well, being Ali: running around the office shredding things and
206 sweeping the floors or whatever, like a broom was going to bring my best friend back. There
207 were police, and they all asked a lot of questions. Even the coroner was there for parts of it! The
208 coroner lost their temper every time energy drinks were mentioned, and some of those
209 conversations seemed to show up in newspaper articles citing "anonymous sources." I
210 remember when they came for our documents, for the samples and all that. I had to tell them
211 that there were no records regarding the antidote formulation: I did most of it from memory, and
212 I shredded the rest after a week or so, like Ali suggested. I remember us shutting down the
213 production line, and the hardest of all, putting our staff on leave. But it's all mud, really. I talked
214 to the police a bunch of times, and I know now that I must have said some things that were
215 wrong. I wasn't lying; I was just in a haze, you know?

216

217 Then I was charged with murder. That's when I learned all the crazy theories that Max had, and
218 even Ali turned on me. I couldn't believe it. They had this insane, convoluted tale of poison, the

219 Umbrella studies, and... well, you know the rest. It was in the papers. Thank god the jury saw
220 through it. It only took them an hour to let me free, after a week of trial. But here I am again.

221
222 I was trying to save a friend and a business. In the end, I saved neither. Gilgamesh sold Salus
223 to PopCap, and I guess I'm glad, because it paid my loans and my lawyer bills. And I'll have
224 enough for vet school if the insurance pays out. Maybe that's what George would have wanted:
225 we built Salus together, and those were the best years of our lives. I like vet school well enough,
226 and Pitt is awesome, but I'd trade it all to have him back, doing his job, with our dream rolling.
227 As the jury said: I'm no murderer.

Ashley Williams

Signature

Oct. 30, 2020

DATE

STATEMENT OF RICKI GRIMES

1 *Nunc pro tunc*. It's a legal term, from Latin, meaning "now for then". It's for when you can do
2 something today as if you did it in the past. That's how I feel about what happened with George.
3 If I could turn back time, George would be alive. But George was undone by his own devil:
4 addiction. For as long as I knew him, more than a decade, he would do anything for an edge, a
5 buzz. He fooled us so many times, made us think that he was finally in control. And on the day
6 he died, he fooled us all into thinking he knew his limits, that he'd listen to Ash, or that he could
7 stop at just one drink, or turn away from that one last pill. *Res ipsa loquitur*.

8
9 I met Ash and George at Kalmia. I was in law school there. We took Latin together, and he told
10 me about this meeting for a zombie club he was starting. A couple months later, I was
11 corporate counsel for Salus. Ten minutes talking *Zombieland* was all it took. George was so
12 cool, casually telling me that they needed help with some contract stuff and product labeling, but
13 couldn't afford a real lawyer, but if I helped him out, he would give me a percentage of the
14 company. My mom always told me, you can't say no to an opportunity you haven't explored.
15 *Arguendo*. George named the company Salus, after the Roman goddess of well-being and
16 security. Or something. Ironic, right?

17
18 The cool thing was I could get course credit for doing the Salus stuff. I joined the Law &
19 Entrepreneurship clinic, which helps, you guessed, it, start-ups! I drafted the contracts, wrote
20 the warning labels, and did all of the corporate stuff. To make sure George and Ash owned the
21 rights to the all of the intellectual property, I even created a new legal instrument – the "anti-non-
22 compete" clause, which made it so they could get out whenever they wanted with no
23 consequences. Slick! After a while, we even attracted venture capital investment from
24 Gilgamesh Investments. To make room in ownership, I sold my shares and used the cash to
25 pay off law school. Plus, my firm was really happy that I started out with a steady client. And I
26 didn't have to answer business questions anymore, since Ali was there!

27
28 George had a tougher time. He couldn't handle the pressure, especially as our new products
29 came out and were even better received. I think that is when he turned to drugs. But it got real
30 bad when Ash left for South America for research in the fall of 2017. George was all alone, and
31 he would call me at all hours just to talk. Ali was kind of a jerk, and they beat up on George
32 about every little thing, even while product was flying off the shelves! Ali even called a Board
33 meeting to slam him. Ash was absent, so George had to face these detailed questions about the
34 expense accounts. George was really nice about it, really. He told a couple jokes, and we
35 thought that was it. But Ali just kept pounding on him, especially after his spot-on Ali
36 impression! We all felt sorry for George, not the other way around! Looking back on it, not only
37 was Ali right, I bet George was high.

38
39 Two weeks later, George was supposed to be in Vegas on business with Nick, our regional
40 sales manager. Instead, I wake up to an email from Ali: George is on WISA-TV, swinging from
41 some statue screaming, "*Fiat Justitia, et pereat mundus!*" That just doesn't make sense. Salus

42 sent him to the best rehab clinic we could, for three whole months. When he came out, he was
43 as remorseful as could be. But, really, when it came to George, George couldn't be trusted.

44
45 While George was away, Ali cleaned house, and I helped, using Ash's proxy. They gave me that
46 after that Board meeting about George. They said phantom payments were scary, and that I
47 needed to make sure George didn't screw up the company. After Vegas, I was on board 100%:
48 We weren't going to hitch Salus' wagon to George's wings of wax. First, I wrote an awesome
49 *mea culpa* press release we published under George's name. I knew I should've gotten his
50 permission, but ethical or not, this was business. Then we fired Nick Frost and the rest of the
51 hangers-on. Nick threatened to sell an exclusive story to TMZ about George's addiction if we
52 didn't help him out. I knew it was blackmail, but he got a favor he didn't deserve, and loose ends
53 were tied up. It wasn't exactly ethical, but it was good business. We also got rid of Max, who
54 was under George's spell and who had only a few, limited skills. And we upped the value of the
55 key man insurance policy on George. That got Ash's loud approval, even though the cost was
56 through the roof. It was rough going, but we contained the damage and righted the ship.

57
58 Still, no one wanted George to disappear for good, except maybe Ali. George was too important
59 to the brand, and there was no way to buy his shares. So, we did our best to create a place
60 where he could succeed. This was especially important to Ash, who called me about a week
61 before they were due back from South America to tell me how critical it was that we make a
62 *bona fide* effort take care of George as well as the company. Ali may have been all about the
63 money, but to Ash and me, our friendship with George mattered more.

64
65 When George got out of rehab, he was a changed man. George admitted something I already
66 knew from Ash and Max: he had a serious heart problem. That's why he promised that no
67 matter what, he wasn't going back to drugs. He also told me that he had to separate himself
68 from Nick Frost for good. We believed him, partly because we wanted to, I guess.

69
70 Still, especially that first month, I know George was good to his word, because his energy was
71 way, way down. He was like a lobotomized version of his former self. We tried to get him to
72 start working hard again for Salus, but there was nothing that could get him going.

73
74 I guess that is why it came as such a surprise when George called a board meeting on the
75 Friday during the first week of July, 2018. It definitely was not his *modus operandi*, and the
76 presentation was totally unlike him. He came into the meeting with charts and diagrams and
77 data about how it was time to sell to PopCap, our biggest competitor. We wondered if he was on
78 drugs after all, because our George would never give up, especially when we were so close to
79 taking the industry by storm. Maybe rehab had changed him, but for Ash and me, and Ali for
80 that matter, it would've meant giving up the dream George himself had woven for us. Needless
81 to say, the vote didn't go well for George, and even Ash called him out for his 180. The meeting
82 afterward with Ali and Ash on the phone was really uncomfortable, especially after Ali wouldn't
83 shut up about what a stupid idea my "anti-non-compete" clause was.

84

85 After that, there was a definite rift among us. It didn't help that Ali started referring to George as
86 Judas and me as Tweedle Dumber. Ali was convinced that George must have already been
87 talking to PopCap about selling out, especially because there's no way that Max could have put
88 together that presentation. I didn't know what to believe, Ash was so fixated on perfecting the
89 new drinks that they might as well have not been there at all. But none of us really had full faith
90 in George. No one wished him gone, though, especially Ash. Ash always said we were family.
91

92 Amazingly, instead of being defeated, that Monday, he came back to the office his charismatic
93 old self. He told Ali and me that after a momentary lapse in judgment, he decided that he was
94 ready to give all he had to Salus. He even started staying late and coming into the office more.
95 Ali thought he was gathering trade secrets, but Ash and I weren't convinced. Ali proposed some
96 pretty... interesting... ideas to find out about George's intentions. I couldn't be a part of those
97 things they wanted to do, so I walked out of the meeting. I wasn't going to lose my license
98 because Ali got paranoid. I had hoped Ash would storm out with me, but they didn't.
99

100 When George's Philly apartment was broken into in May 2019, I was very concerned that there
101 may have been a leak of sensitive information. George said all that was taken was his laptop,
102 which was really specific, especially since he had a really valuable collection of zombie
103 memorabilia on the walls and shelves. That laptop had the preliminary data from the clinical
104 studies on the new drinks. There was a lot good in them, but there were some negative
105 physiological reactions to the new stuff, too. I worried it was Nick Frost, stealing our information
106 for PopCap. But Ash and Ali told me we had nothing to worry about, I guess because the laptop
107 was password protected.
108

109 Soon thereafter, Ash finally got Loki's Mask and Thor's Hammer perfected. We had some
110 serious concerns about liability, but I earned my paycheck by writing one of the best warning
111 labels ever, the perfect balance of identifying the risks without making the drinks seem
112 dangerous. And the timing of George's greatest marketing plan couldn't have been more
113 perfect. In a word: *Zombiepocalypse*.
114

115 Really, it was poetic. George, Ash and I had met at a zombie club meeting and now we were
116 going to use it to bring Salus back from the undead once and for all. The only problem is that if
117 George was going to be the public face of the Company, he had to be seen in public drinking
118 the new products. Good thing Ash had a plan: they created an antidote for our drinks, the exact
119 opposite of what we usually did. That way, if George had any issues, we could administer the
120 concoction and, presto, George would be fine. He could drink our new products!
121

122 We told George about the plan, and he was 100% on board. We had to hurry, but Ash is a
123 genius, so a week or two later, I was serving as a test subject. It was like being on *Mythbusters*
124 or something. George, Ash, and I were in the lab and I chugged, I don't know, maybe five
125 Hammers in 30 minutes or so. Way beyond the recommended dose, for sure. I was really wired
126 – like, flying off the wall wired, and my heart felt like it was pounding out of my chest. Then Ash
127 gave me a vial of this purple liquid. I drank it down. At first, there was nothing, but maybe 10 or

128 20 minutes later, I almost dozed off standing up! I started to think we could get into the sleep aid
129 business as well, but Ash said it doesn't work that way. Still, *prima facie* evidence of success!

130

131 So we had that problem solved, and if we could win the race, it would mean even more publicity
132 for Salus. So we put our best three-person team together. George had to be there. I played
133 soccer in high school and college. We decided Ash should stay at the lab, because, well...
134 actually, I am not really sure why Ash stayed back, but I remember there was a good reason at
135 the time. No big loss: Ash isn't exactly the outdoorsy type. The logical third was Max Brooks.
136 Max played basketball on weekends and has real hops. Max was reluctant, but as soon as they
137 saw that twinkle in George's eye, and Ash promised to give Max their old job back, they
138 committed.

139

140 The morning of the race, Ash armed us with the antidote. I remember Max questioning the color
141 of the vials. Mine was like burnt sienna or something, but Ash explained that some variation is
142 common in small batches. Ali brought them to the race, and it was awesome! There were Salus
143 banners everywhere, and everyone seemed to be as excited about the product as the event
144 itself. George, Max and I started running as soon as the whistle sounded. It was pure bedlam,
145 and the zombies were really convincing! After about an hour or two, Max got separated from us,
146 and George and I were on our own. George was running great, but he seemed really
147 preoccupied. I confronted him about it after the third time the brain-eaters nearly nailed us, and
148 he admitted that he was worried about that night. He asked me, "Can I trust Ash to keep me
149 right? With all that's been going on, do you think they even want me around anymore?" I told
150 George he was worried about nothing. That calmed him down, and he took a couple Advil to
151 help with soreness. He re-focused, and we made it to sunset without getting zombie-fied.

152

153 That night, the organizers threw one heck of a party. The DJ was jamming, and the only drinks
154 being served, besides water, were Arrow, Hammer, and Mask. The response from the crowd
155 was amazing. We had a hit on our hands! There was still no sign of Max, so we assumed that
156 they had been captured and zombiefied. At first, George, was doing really well, chatting to all of
157 the local reporters and hobnobbing with the organizers. But once he had to formally launch the
158 products, he started drinking more and more Hammers. You could see him losing control. About
159 half way through the night, I tried to give him my vial, but he refused. He said he was having too
160 much fun and was totally in control. I made the mistake of believing him.

161

162 But it got worse right after Ali left. I nearly dropped my drink! There was Nick Frost! I'd lost track
163 of George in the crowd, and there he was, with Nick, chatting like old friends. I saw Nick try to
164 put something in George's hand. George shook his head. George was turning to walk away,
165 and I saw Nick reach to put whatever it was into George's pocket. I can't be sure if he got there,
166 because it was chaos on the dance floor. But George didn't notice, or didn't fight him on it.

167

168 I lost sight of them when the DJ started playing a *Re: Your Brains* remix. When I caught sight of
169 him a few minutes later, he was twice as wired as he was before. He had a Loki's Mask in one
170 hand and Thor's Hammer in the other. He started break-dancing, badly, and ripped off his shirt,
171 which I guess someone spilled some water on, because it was soaked. I knew I had to get the

172 antidote to him right away. It was getting near midnight, and the crowd was building momentum.
173 I tried to press through, but I couldn't get to George. I finally broke through in time to see him,
174 eyes flared open, bellowing, "*Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero!*" I knew he was in
175 serious trouble. Finally, I managed to reach George and dump the vial of orange liquid from Ash
176 into a glass of water he drank. I heard Vincent Price's voice come on as *Thriller* started. The
177 place went insane, but I realized the little warning the organizers were giving us. I tried to pull
178 George toward an exit so we could run, but he was uncontrollable, pounding his chest while
179 sweat flew everywhere. Even the people hanging on him seemed a little scared. I tried to pull
180 the vial out of my pocket, to throw it in the trash can. Running with a hollow glass tube in your
181 pocket is a bad idea! Then Vincent was cackling, and as the clock struck midnight, the zombies
182 poured into the tent. People exploded toward the exits. The crowd was surging and thrashing
183 wildly, and as I got hit, the vial slipped out of my hand. I tried to grab it, but I missed. I think it got
184 trampled. The whole time, George didn't move. He had this glossed-over look, like he was on
185 something stronger than just a few energy drinks. But Ali's orders were clear - stay in the game
186 – and George was clearly zombie bait, so I bolted. It wasn't right, but it was business.

187
188 About a half hour later, I heard my name over the loudspeaker, and my blood froze. I sprinted
189 back to the dance floor, and George was lying there, motionless. Max, dressed as a zombie,
190 was sobbing uncontrollably. EMTs were there, but George was dead. Nick Frost, of course, was
191 nowhere to be found.

192
193 In the end, no matter how much Ash and I cared for George, there was no antidote to his
194 addiction, and no way we could have saved him. Addiction was a demon he just couldn't beat.
195 Like I said, if only *nunc pro tunc* was real...

Ricki Grimes

Signature

October 10, 2019

DATE

STATEMENT OF CHRIS REDFIELD

1 My name is Chris Redfield, and I am a forensic pathologist and toxicologist. Before entering
2 private practice, I served as the Medical Examiner of Sullivan, Tioga, and Potter counties,
3 Pennsylvania. I left that position effective January 1, 2006, when my medical license was
4 suspended for a year following revelations of substandard autopsy practices. Those offices
5 were badly underfunded and underequipped, which led to mistakes in several significant
6 criminal matters, including a homicide matter in which the wrong person was implicated and
7 spent nearly a decade in prison. Only one of the errors was mine personally, but I accept full
8 responsibility for the problems on my watch. I have been fully licensed since 2007 and have
9 participated in several dozen investigations and trials. Although I have not worked in those
10 counties since 2007, I do contract work as a Medical Examiner in Elk and Cameron Counties.
11 They recognize that just because I've made mistakes, I'm not a bad doctor, and they properly
12 fund their offices. I also maintain a robust consulting practice focused on industrial and forensic
13 toxicology. My full curriculum vitae is attached. Since 2007, I have testified in nine cases, and I
14 have been accepted as an expert in each of them. Before 2006, of course, I testified in criminal
15 cases several dozen times.

16

17 Let me get this out of the way now. Some people think I'm on some kind of quest to level the
18 score with Toni Moore, the ME from Carbon County who led the investigation into my offices
19 and who testified in favor of my suspension before the Board of Medicine. Toni and I have not
20 always seen eye to eye, but I have known Toni for two decades, and I have a lot of respect for
21 Toni's work. We've had our scrapes, but this is about science, or more particularly the lack of
22 scientific methods and scientific skepticism that Toni brought to this investigation. It's not
23 personal; it's professional. At least for me.

24

25 Science is fundamentally about testable propositions: you form a hypothesis, and you design
26 experiments or conduct studies to either verify or falsify that idea. The process of science is
27 inquisitive and open-ended; you can't be trying to find evidence to support your hypothesis, to
28 "prove your point." That's a mistake that Toni made. I feel bad about what happened to Toni's
29 nephew, but that doesn't make all energy drinks bad or all cardiac deaths drink-related.
30 Pennsylvania's code of ethics for coroners specifically forbids a Coroner from making comments
31 on the morality of the conduct of a person concerned in an investigation, and in my view, Toni's
32 comments about Ash Williams are unethical for that reason. I also have an issue with Toni doing
33 the death certificate in that case; coroners are required to recuse themselves from cases in
34 which there appears to be a conflict of interest. But of course, I haven't gone running to the
35 Board. Some of us know that professionals should act discretely in sensitive matters.

36

37 I was retained by Ash Williams to assess the opinion provided by Toni. I am paid a \$2500
38 retainer with an additional \$2500 if trial testimony is involved. Because this was a particularly
39 complex case, I was also paid just over \$3500 in hourly time at \$150/hour. My typical rate is
40 \$250/hr., but I reduced it in this instance because the matter became a civil case, and I had
41 already billed for the criminal component. For the two cases combined, I expect to bill between
42 \$12,500 and \$17,500 for my work on this matter.

43
44 In preparing to give my opinion in this matter, I reviewed the statements of the other individuals
45 who will be testifying and exhibits 3-7 and 12. I relied on them in forming my conclusions, which
46 are all within a reasonable degree of pathological and toxicological certainty.

47
48 There are several reasons that one cannot take seriously Toni's analysis in this matter. First,
49 Toni has a bias against energy drink makers. For good reason, perhaps, but still.

50
51 Second, as Toni properly and candidly admits, the scene in which the body was found was
52 challenging. I don't blame Toni for taking four hours to reach the scene – driving too fast on
53 forest roads in the middle of the night and you'll get to see me professionally – but we have no
54 idea what substances George Romero was lying in while he was on the floor, whether he was
55 moved, or whether others spilled their drinks at the scene of the incident.

56
57 Similarly, Toni did a fine, relatively complete autopsy on the medical end, but nothing was done
58 to ensure the integrity of Romero's possessions. That is a police function, but wouldn't you like
59 to know what exactly Nick Frost put in George Romero's pockets, and whether it was still there?
60 If Romero's pockets were empty, whatever was there was consumed. If instead that pocket held
61 a pill, or a business card for that matter, then it was not. Whether Romero popped a pill is
62 important information, especially in light of the Raj-Singh fiasco with the "B" sample.

63
64 Third, and this is really fundamental, the blood tests are not conclusive. Do they point to a
65 stimulant overdose? Sure. Toni would not make that mistake. But Romero was running all day
66 and dancing for hours in a congested environment, and Toni notes profound dehydration.
67 Dehydrated people feel more effect from toxins, especially those contained and metabolized in
68 liquids. No one can say how many drinks George had. Two drinks probably would not have
69 provided a sufficient dose of stimulant, even dehydrated and compromised, and four is
70 borderline for an individual of his height, weight, and tolerance, but if he had six or more or was
71 especially severely dehydrated? That definitely could do it, assuming he didn't vomit them all up
72 when his body recognized what was happening. The body often does that, but in some severely
73 dehydrated individuals, that response can be suppressed by the body's craving for liquid. In
74 others, the body's self-defense mechanisms win out. We don't know which Romero was.

75
76 Plus, people metabolize caffeine differently, and Salus's entire business was based on putting a
77 caffeine metabolism antagonist into their drinks. That could be a real issue; people taking drugs
78 that inhibit caffeine metabolism, like fluvoxamine, are at greater cardiac risk from caffeine
79 intake. I expect that the same is true for Salus's secret recipe, which has basically the same
80 metabolic effect. I can't say for sure; Salus didn't test the drinks' effects precisely enough for us
81 to be certain, and I was never given the full version of the Umbrella testing. I offered to test it
82 myself, but Ash said they did not have the money to pay for more of my time or Raj-Singh's.

83
84 It's also critical that we know if George Romero was taking amphetamines when he died. With a
85 pre-existing heart condition, "speed" alone could have killed him. Raj-Singh's testing did show
86 the presence of amphetamines, but it could not confirm them. That's above and beyond what's

87 required; we're not the Olympics, so "B" sample testing is not professionally or legally
88 mandated. "A" sampling is forensically sound. But with a negative "B" sample, Toni should have
89 sent Raj-Singh a "C" sample. Always take more blood than you think you need, I always say.
90

91 Even worse, though, is not mentioning the presence of a negative test in the autopsy report
92 itself. As a coroner, you cannot ignore the evidence or, worse, try to hide bad news from the
93 District Attorney. Toni knows that; it's one of the things Toni's investigation pinned on me!
94

95 Fourth, no one secured the scientific facilities of Salus immediately. That's not on Toni, of
96 course, but we don't know which chemicals were there, and we don't even have the formulae for
97 the antidote, which would be really valuable. There's simply no scientific way to prove Toni's
98 hypothesis that the vial contained a concentrated extract that Ash Williams prepared.
99

100 Finally, Toni committed the cardinal sin for coroners: taking a cause of death conclusion too far.
101 The further you get from the physiology, the more you're likely to be speculating incorrectly.
102

103 I might be able to tell more if I could examine the body, but I was not retained until after it had
104 been cremated. Still, Toni is competent, so I accept the conclusion that Romero experienced
105 sudden cardiac death, or SCD, following ingestion of some toxin.
106

107 But that's all anyone can say. Did the stimulant cause the SCD? Maybe! But the pre-existing
108 cardiac hypertrophy creates a realistic possibility that Romero simply dropped dead of
109 exhaustion and dehydration, plus the shock of seeing his sibling as a "zombie." Even healthy
110 people give out under those kinds of cardiac stresses.
111

112 Still, it's more likely than not stimulant-related. Heart troubles or not, you just don't see a lot of
113 folks in their mid-20s drop dead without stimulant involvement, usually cocaine or
114 amphetamines, which get the heart racing. But what stimulant was it here? We have no idea. It
115 could have been caffeine, from the drinks or a concentrated dose... it could have been
116 mescaline from a San Pedro or Peruvian torch cactus... I guess it could have been St. Simon
117 cactus or some other bio-similar... could have been amphetamines... and so on.
118

119 But this is what really steams me: there is *absolutely no way* that Toni can say that there was
120 "poison" in that vial or whatever other zany theories the DA was pushing. I know Toni wants the
121 jury to rely on a field test, but bluntly, that's malarkey. Field test strips are rated for certain
122 chemicals and for certain concentrations. For those chemicals, within that range of
123 concentration, they're completely scientifically valid. But if the concentration is above or below
124 those, their results are invalid. It says so right on every test strip: "This strip measures X
125 chemical at concentrations Y to Z. Any other result may be meaningful, but should be treated as
126 inconclusive." Or something like that. The specific language depends on the kit you use, but the
127 meaning is always the same: they test for what they test for, and that's it.
128

129 People think that if the strip fills completely, the chemical concentration must be higher than the
130 strip range. Toni knows better. If the reading goes above the limits, the results mean nothing.

131 The strip can *only* validly test certain concentrations. An “off the charts” result might mean
132 higher concentration, or a flawed strip, or a different chemical at a different concentration. All
133 we *really* know is that it’s not that chemical in the validated strip concentration range.

134
135 And a strip can only test those chemicals it is engineered to test. So a mescaline strip tests for
136 mescaline, not for bio-similar or analogs of mescaline. Those chemicals might impact our
137 bodies very similarly, because the difference may only be an extra chain of carbon or an oxide
138 tail. After digestion, they might not even be different at all. But those small differences pre-
139 digestion could be enough to throw off a test strip completely. The tail could wag the dog,
140 scientifically speaking. That is what I told Judge Kirkman, which is why the drug charges were
141 dismissed. Perhaps Laurel County should have hired an actual forensic toxicologist, not
142 someone who took a class or two to fulfill a requirement.

143
144 Now, look, I could take shots at Toni for wasting the only evidence of what was in the vial on a
145 field strip, but I won’t. It’s not easy being the coroner on the scene, and it’s within an acceptable
146 range of professional judgment to go with the strip. Plus, Toni could not have known that the
147 substance was exotic, unless, you know, Toni actually asked some questions about it. As a
148 forensic toxicologist, I always assume it’s complicated, but I guess Toni thought it was a run-of-
149 the-mill case. Anyway, the reality is the reality: if we had that chemical to test, we wouldn’t have
150 to speculate about whether that was an antidote or a toxin. If Toni had kept it, we’d know.

151
152 Instead, Toni gave us an inconclusive result. But I asked Ash Williams to prepare a vial of the
153 antidote at their lab and bring it to my office. (That’s Sample 1 on Exhibit 12). Ash made it from
154 memory, since the notes were all gone. Smart kid; it’s a shame to waste that kind of talent on
155 cows. Anyway, I also had the DA’s office give me a small portion of the concentrated vial of
156 Loki’s Mask’s active ingredients that it recovered from Salus’ labs. (That is referred to in Exhibit
157 12 as Sample 2.) I sent both the DA’s strip and the one Ash made to Raj-Singh. The “A” and “B”
158 samples of *both* chemicals blew through the top range on the Jovovich test strip, just as Toni
159 said that the vial on scene did. So I had Raj-Singh test them further: not a whit of mescaline in
160 either. Now that’s what I call science!

161
162 A coroner must be modest, scientifically speaking. Stay within what you know. Toni had the real
163 evidence in hand, the alleged murder weapon in the form of that broken tube of unknown
164 chemicals. The field test told us nothing, and so we know nothing. That vial may have
165 contained a hyper-concentrated extract, as Toni claims. Or not.

166
167 We don’t know what was in there, and we don’t know its properties: how fast would it be
168 absorbed? Which effects would occur immediately, which later? What impact would pre-existing
169 drug use have? These questions demand answers drawn from rigorous testing in a controlled
170 environment. They can’t be answered with a busted test strip drawn from the floor of a rave.

171
172 There is absolutely no valid, scientific evidence – none – that the vial contained anything but
173 Ash Williams’ best attempt to create an antidote to the effects of the “poisons” (as Toni is quick
174 to call them, although “toxin” is the scientific term) Williams engineered.

175 Look, I'm not condoning what Salus did. Putting barely-tested chemicals on the market was
176 insane, especially on the say-so of a kid not even out of college. Toni and I agree: the
177 government should be regulating this industry harder. But coroners don't make the law, and we
178 don't bend science to match personal vendettas. Toni found a coherent, completely scientifically
179 justifiable *possibility* – the massive dose caffeine/hallucinogen cocktail that I'm sure the DA
180 pressured Toni to invent – and tried to turn it into “what happened.” That might sound good for
181 an episode of *Murder Most Foul*, but in the real world, the suspect doesn't confess at the end of
182 the episode so everything can be wrapped in 42 minutes.

183
184 So am I here about the feud between Toni and me? No. There really isn't even that much of
185 one. I'm here because accusing someone of murder is a big deal – I should know – and Toni
186 made the same mistake that was held against me. I'm proud to testify on behalf of Ash Williams,
187 and I'm not ashamed to show the world that Toni is human, just like the rest of us.

188
189 Could Toni be right? Absolutely. 100%. Could Toni be loud wrong? Absolutely. 100%. Maybe
190 this was a clever poisoning. But maybe George Romero's hypertrophic heart couldn't handle
191 taking amphetamines. If there were amphetamines in his system, that's the clubhouse leader in
192 my book. Speed and hypertrophy do *not* mix well. If you hear hoofbeats, don't look for zebras.

193
194 And even if he wasn't using amphetamines, true, caffeine could have killed him. Toni wants that
195 caffeine to be a sinister conspiracy, but Romero was chugging can after can of it, mixed with
196 chemicals designed to make that caffeine linger, dehydrated, on an empty stomach, while
197 engaging in vigorous physical activity. No one can realistically model his likely blood levels, but
198 they would be high, and his damaged, vulnerable heart would have been racing.

199
200 No one – not Toni, not me, not any coroner – can say why George Romero's heart stopped
201 beating. It just did. Cause of death: SCD. Full stop.

Chris Redfield

Signature

November 25, 2020

DATE

Exhibit List

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Exhibit 1

Zombiepocalypse

Largest Zombie Run Ever



August 24 & 25 2019
Penn's Peak, Pennsylvania
Register: zombiepocalypse.com

Over \$25,000 in prizes
Awards for surviving humans
Awards for human brains

All participants must be 18 years of age or older.
Zombiepocalypse is not responsible for any injuries that may occur in the course of participating in the Zombiepocalypse. All participants must sign a waiver to such end.
All participants will be invited to a party on Saturday night free of charge.

Proudly Sponsored by:



Providing energy from
above when being
chased by the undead

Exhibit 2

MISSION STATEMENT

What is it about zombies that capture our imagination? What is it that makes us love and loathe the shambling dead in a way that we do not, for example, love the mummy? Certainly it is not their charm. They are stumbling, "brains"-moaning losers of the undead world, lacking the capacity for high culture of the vampire, whether real or sparkling. And what is so scary about them? They cannot use weapons or tools, have no magical powers, and could scarcely be mistaken for one of us as they shuffle slowly in our direction.

We propose that these things are not the zombies' defect; they are their strength. The story of the undead is one of terror, horror at the unknowable state of living without living. Zombies tap that, and they go further, for they render all that is our existence pointless. One could imagine wishing to live as a vampire, eternally oneself, awaiting only invitation obtained through hypnotic eye to enter the tender damsel's home. And the mummy, while the process is unattractive, at least defends his home with intellect and cunning, preserving that which he was in life. Certainly, the ghost does what it always wished, the revenant is the protagonist of *The Crow*, death itself unable to quell his vengeance, and even the banshee or the wraith have some archaic charm.

The zombie strips you of all of that. All for which you have worked, all for which you lived, your very essence gone and in its place a feral shell, the barest and basest creature, hungering for brains, for the source of intellect, the seat of individuality, so that it may consume those too and leave nothing behind but another of its own. It is the form of undeath least like life, and that marks its terror.

But there is more. For it is not merely what zombies do that makes them terrible, it is what they make you do. To fight a zombie, you must kill it. But the nature of infection is such that it is unlikely that you are asked to stake some ancient Transylvanian duke. No, it is more likely to be someone you knew: your neighbor who went to investigate the strange noise behind the shed, or your child's favorite schoolteacher.

Or your child. Or your beloved. Or your favorite brother or sister. It is easy to say, but who among us could know how he would react, forced to make that choice, face to face with the duty to kill the person he loves most, or join them in the shapeless horde? Could there be a greater horror than to pull that trigger or swing that blade... except, perhaps, to find in the moment of truth that you cannot?

Together, we must and we will stand united against the undead. This is our creed, this is our mission. We are the Students for the Preservation from Zombies!



BY MY SIGNATURE, I HEREBY JOIN THE STUDENTS FOR THE PRESERVATION FROM ZOMBIES. WISAWE CHAPTER. CERTIFY THAT I AM A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE STUDENT BODY, AND PLEDGE AS FOLLOWS:



- ✓ 1. **CARDIO: ZOMBIES LEAD AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE, SO WILL I.**
- * 2. **DOUBLE TAP. I WILL NOT GET ALL STINGY WITH MY BULLETS.**
- ✓ 3. **I WILL BEWARE OF BATHROOMS.**
- ✓ 4. **I WILL FASTEN MY SEATBELT. IT IS GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE.**
- ✓ 5. **I WILL TRAVEL LIGHT.**
- ✓ 6. **I WILL POSSESS AN IRON SKILLET.**
- ✓ 7. **I WILL USE BOUND PAPER TOWELS. THE WORLD IS MOIST.**
8. **I WILL NOT BE A HERO.**
- ? 9. **I WILL LIMBER UP. ESPECIALLY WHEN GOING DOWNHILL.**
- * 10. **IF ANOTHER MEMBER OF SPZ IS INFECTED, I WILL PUT THEM DOWN WIHOUT HESITATION. SEE RULE 2.**
- ✓ 11. **I WILL CARRY ZIPLOCK BAGS.**
- ✓ 12. **I WILL POSSESS A BOWLING BALL. PREFERABLY 16 LBS.**
- ✓✓ 13. **I WILL KNOW MY WAY OUT.**
- ✓ 14. **I WILL USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT SHARE CANDY WITH MY BUDDY.**
- ✓ 15. **I WILL CHECK THE BACK SEAT.**
- * 16. **HEAD SHOT! ZOMBIES DON'T HAVE HEARTS, BUT THEY NEED THEIR BRAINS.**
- ✓ 17. **I WILL ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS.**
- ✓ 18. **I WILL POSSES A SWISS ARMY KNIFE. THE SWISS ARMY USES THEM FOR A REASON. HA!**
- ✓ 19. **I WILL KEEP MY SOCKS CLEAN.**
- ✓ 20. **I WILL PRACTICE QUALITY HYGIENE.**
- * 21. **I WILL BE A HERO.**

Ashley Williams

Signature

Jan, 2014

DATE

Exhibit 3



Big River Pathology
Serving Wisawa since 1992



Autopsy Report – Executive Summary

Decedent: George Romero (per witness, subsequently verified with fingerprints)

External Findings (Notable): Young adult male. Black hair. Brown eyes. Undershirt has logo: “Remember: Always Double-Tap.” All clothing, except underpants, stained with soil, clay, blood, and other liquids, likely beverages. Possible traces of vomitus at corners of mouth and on right wrist area. All garments sweat-soaked, some markedly. Lividity and rigidity consistent with reported time of death of approx. 12:05 a.m. Tattoo on right bicep: stylized letter “Z” and text “Be Ready.” Tattoo on left bicep: military style entrenchment tool with text “LOBO.”

Bruising of sternum and ribs suggests attempts at CPR; cardiac pads from Automatic External Defibrillator, placed properly. No external injury related to cause of death. Multiple shallow lacerations and contusions, all within a few hours of death, consistent with scratches with wood or barbed wire.

Internal Findings (Notable): Probable smoker. Heart appears enlarged. Cause unknown; rule out genetic/familial hypertrophy, drug-induced hypertrophy. Evidence of previous cardiac catheterization, likely for diagnostic purposes. Liver shows scarring consistent with substantial alcohol ingestion over extended period. Stomach contains no food, large quantity of liquid of different colors. Common pill polysaccharides. Esophagus shows signs of irritation in hour to two hours before death, likely from concentrated chemical burn or vomiting. Concentration of urine in bladder indicates marked dehydration. Elevated levels of neurotransmitters suggest stimulant use. Elevated tyramine consistent with low dose mescaline usage. Glands enlarged, but empty, suggestive of high-adrenaline lifestyle. Consistent with data from extreme sports athletes, excessive dance club patrons, and stimulant abusers.

Toxicology: Multiple significant findings, in order of significance. Presence of amphetamines. Caffeine levels markedly elevated (213 mg/L), consistent with sustained, rapid ingestion of large number of high-caffeine beverages or injection or consumption of highly concentrated caffeine. Presence of mescaline. Adrenaline levels markedly elevated.

Narrative Conclusion: Death was caused by a cardiac arrest/Sudden Cardiac Death, likely preceded by arrhythmia. SCD caused by some combination of a pre-existing heart condition, caffeine toxicity, and psychological shock secondary to hallucinogen use.

A less incisive examination would conclude that this was simply an addict dying from the expected consequence of relapsing and performing vigorous physical activity. However, the indicated levels of caffeine suggest that the deceased would have been too sick, disoriented, or nauseated to continue

drinking more caffeine, unless he was so disciplined as to purposefully self-injure or so disoriented or disassociated by circumstances not to notice. Both are possible, but there's no evidence of either here.

Energy drinks can be lethal. The deceased's caffeine levels are not scientifically impossible, but only the most hardened stimulant abuser could reach them. While people with compromised hearts have been known to experience cardiac arrest, especially following sustained physical activity, while dehydrated, or after abusing stimulants, decedent had been experiencing those risk factors for hours without apparent difficulty. Likewise, for two hours, the deceased had been drinking steadily, increasing his caffeine levels. But his reported symptoms prior to the last few minutes of his life are consistent with low-level caffeine intoxication: excess energy and perhaps sweating. These symptoms are nothing like those reported in his final moments, which may indicate an onset of cardiac issues. Even if deceased was drinking faster in the minutes before his death, his body still would have needed time to metabolize the toxin. Published charts showing the proven rate of caffeine absorption do not provide absorption rates for his blood levels, since those levels of caffeine are toxic, and the body will typically purge them. However, based on known rates of absorption, there was not enough time for him to metabolize the caffeine in a solution as dilute as known energy drinks – Monster and Red Bull.

A few minutes before he died, deceased drank an unknown chemical. If that chemical was a concentrated form of the active ingredients of Salus energy drinks, unless it was purged by deceased, that dose would have driven his caffeine levels from merely unhealthy to deeply toxic in minutes. These are the levels tested here. Those levels likely caused him to hallucinate and overwhelmed his weakened heart. The evidence of hypertrophy found in autopsy is consistent with having previously been tested for heart issues. Stimulants' impact on a weakened heart is predictably higher, and individuals who abuse stimulants with hypertrophic hearts risk sudden cardiac death.

Of note, the police found a fragment of a test tube witnesses say carried the chemical in question, and I immediately performed a field test of the remnants of an orange substance found there. The substance tested positive for mescaline at a rate so high that the exact concentration amount could not be determined using a field kit. Unfortunately, the liquid was largely consumed by the field test, and an insufficient quantity remained for more precise testing of its composition. Mescaline use is associated with hallucination, which is itself associated with elevated cardiac risk. At the risk of repeating myself, these risks are higher still in those with pre-existing heart condition.

Simply put, this was poisoning, with caffeine, mescaline, or both.

UPDATE (09/17/2019): Deceased's father, a cardiologist, reports no known history of familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or other genetic cardiac issues. However, grandmother and maternal aunt died of heart problems, and no autopsies were performed. Father confirms deceased had a diagnostic cardiac catheter ~7 years ago, which found cardiac hypertrophy, assumed to be drug-related. Deceased was taking beta blockers to control symptoms, including cardiac arrhythmia.

Note to District Attorney Eisenberg: once a killer is convicted, I respectfully request an opportunity to publish these findings in The American Journal of Pathology. This is the kind of thing that will show the world the quality work being done here in Carbon County. In this budget environment, that's crucial to our ability to continue to maintain the level of service I know your office expects and needs from the medical examiner.

Exhibit 4



FIELD SUBSTANCE TEST

I, Dr. Toni Moore, in accordance with all municipal rules and regulations, tested an orange colored liquid residue found in the bottom of a broken test tube that was recovered by the State Patrol at the crime scene where the body of the deceased, George Romero, was found on August 25, 2019. This test was conducted in conjunction with my preliminary autopsy. The test was performed using a Jovovich R-E multi-product test strip from a standard, rated and in-date field forensic/toxicology kit.

My findings are set forth below.

Suspected Substance	Level
Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants	Negative
CNS Stimulants	Negative (Note: does not test for legal stimulants (i.e. nicotine, caffeine, etc.))
Hallucinogens	Mescaline: POSITIVE: ABOVE MEASURABLE RANGE Other: Negative
PCP	Negative
Narcotic Analgesics	Negative
LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethylamide)	Negative
Inhalants	Negative
Cannabis/Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	Negative
Alcohol	Negative
NOTES	Multiple parties report the deceased consumed the full contents of a test tube containing the substance in question.
SIGNATURE	<i>T Moore</i>

Exhibit 5

Toni Moore, M.D.

1964 Dow Lane • Wisawe, PA 18230

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Fellowship in Forensic Pathology, 1997-99

University of Pennsylvania, Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1993-97

Chief Resident with Distinction, 1996-97

Robert Neville Prize for Research in Pathology, 1997

Medical College of Pennsylvania, M.D., 1993

Morris and Lee Zuckerman Clinical Proficiency Award

High honors in Pathology

Departmental honors in internal medicine, psychiatry

Rutgers University, B.A. Literature, summa cum laude, 1989

Oswell Spencer Prize – Awarded to best bachelor's thesis in American literature

Captain, Tennis Team, 1987-89

EXPERIENCE

Big River Pathology, P.C., Primary Clinician and Chief Executive Officer, 1999-Present

Medical Examiner, Carbon County, PA, 2002-Present (as contractor)

Medical Examiner, Sullivan, Tioga, and Potter Counties, 2006-Present (as contractor)

Representative Cases:

Comm. v. Yeon Sang Ho, Am. J. Forensic and L. Medicine, Vol. 10, No. 2 (2010)

Comm. v. Troy Baker, Am. J. Forensic and L. Medicine, Vol. 6, No. 8 (2006)

Lofton v. Ashley Johnson, Am. J. Forensic Medicine and Pathology, Vol. 13, Issue 4 (2000)

Cal-Hubbard Television Productions, Medical Advisor, *Murder Most Foul*, 2006-Present



Medical College of Pennsylvania, Adjunct Professor, 2004-2011

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Board of Pathology, Fellow, 2005-Present; Life Fellow, 2018-Present

Board Certified, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1998-Present

Board Certified, Forensic Pathology, 2001-Present

Preceptor, Forensic Pathology, 2006-09

Pennsylvania Society of Pathologists, Member, 1999-Present; Vice President, 2009
Program Representative (Medical College of Pennsylvania), 2005-10
Runner up, Robert Morgan Memorial Medal for Significant Contributions to PSP, 2004

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Member, 2009-Present

American Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine
Contributing Editor, 2004-2010

PUBLICATIONS

Moore, Davis, et al., *Forensic Toxicology of Energy Drinks: A Case Study*, forthcoming/unpublished
Energy Drinks: The Silent Killer, Redbook, December 2020
Poison in a Black Can, Reader's Digest, July 2019
The FDA's Shame: Energy Drinks and the Fatal Failure of Regulation, Pennsylvania Sportsman Magazine,
February 2014
An Unnecessary Death and an Unnecessary Product, Editorial, Carbon County News, August 2012
Taylor, Moore, et al., *Differentiating Accidental and Intentional Wilderness Death*, *Am. J. Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, Vol. 18, Issue 7 (2005)
Wright, Moore, et al., *Atypical Sudden Cardiac Death of External Etiology*, Chapter, Knight's *Forensic Pathology*, 3d ed., Oxford University Press, 2010

Exhibit 6

Chris Redfield, M.D.
15 Whitman Ave. | Pulowech, PA 18071

EDUCATION

Temple University, Fellowship, Forensic Toxicology, 1992-1993

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Fellowship, Forensic Pathology, 1990-92

University of Pennsylvania, Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1986-90
Chief Resident, 1989-90
Runner-Up, Robert Neville Prize for Research in Pathology, 1988

University of Pittsburgh, M.D., 1986
The Pennsylvania Society of Pathologists Annual Award for Excellence in Pathology
High honors in Neurology
Departmental honors in Cardiology, Pediatrics

Ohio State University, B.S., Biochemistry, 1982
All-America, Tennis, 1982

EXPERIENCE

Redfield Pathology and Toxicology Consulting, L.L.C., Founder and Principal, 2008-Present
Provide clinical and forensic toxicological services for individuals and companies seeking testing, evaluation, or testimony. Assess results of clinical studies, examine results of individual testing to determine level of intoxication and likely effects.
Provide full range of consultative pathology services to clients and patients engaged in litigation, including regarding cause and manner of death.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), Volunteer, Dafi, Togo, 2006-08
Practiced full range of family and general medicine services to individuals in a community medicine center in Togo under supervision of locally licensed professional. Coordinated public health education with local elders and government personnel. Coached basketball.

Medical Examiner, Sullivan County, PA, 1993-2005

Medical Examiner, Tioga County, PA, 1995-2005

Medical Examiner, Potter County, PA, 1997-2005

Served as appointed Medical Examiner for over one hundred thirty suspicious deaths. Performed autopsies and toxicological analysis in laboratory setting. Testified in court regarding findings from investigations. Supervised staff of six. Two cases subsequently published as case studies in Academic Forensic Pathology.

Cal-Hubbard Television Productions, Medical Advisor, *Murder Most Foul*, 2003-2005

PUBLICATIONS

Working Stiff: The Making of a Medical Examiner, with Judy Melinek. Scribner Books, Summer 2014
Recommendations for the Investigation, Diagnosis, and Certification of Deaths Related to Opioid Drugs, Academic Forensic Pathology Vol. 3, Issue 1 (2013)
Blowfish and Plutonium: Toxins from Bond to Bourne and Back Again, Entertainment Weekly, July 2004
Exotic Snake Venom Poisoning, Chapter, Wright's *Principles and Etiology of Forensic Toxicology*, Cambridge University Press, 2003

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Board of Pathology, Fellow, 2000-2005; 2012-Present
Board Certified, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1990-Present
Board Certified, Forensic Pathology, 1990-Present
Chair, Forensic Toxicology Working Group, 2003-05

Pennsylvania Society of Pathologists, Member, 1993-2005, 2008-Present; President, 2002
Robert Morgan Memorial Medal for Contributions to PSP 2004 (voluntarily surrendered, 2006)

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Member, 1995-Present

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc., 1994-Present
Liaison to National Association of Medical Examiners, 1998-2005

National Association of Medical Examiners, 1994-2005
Forensic Toxicology Committee, 1999-2005; Chair, 2003

Exhibit 7



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Salus New Product Testing

To: Ali Khan Ashley Williams
George Romero Ricki Grimes
From: Jill Valentine, CEO, Umbrella Corp.
Re: Salus LLC: Testing of Loki's Mask, Thor's Hammer

In January, 2019, we were retained to analyze the safety and marketability of two new products produced by Salus, LLC. A predecessor product, Zeus's Thunderbolt, was tested in parallel to create an effective baseline, as was a placebo product that was the same color and approximate taste as the tested products but which had none of the active ingredients. All testing was single-blinded.¹ Except as specifically noted below with an asterisk, all results were scientifically valid under the standards common to the testing community.²

Safety and marketing testing was completed in separate cohorts at our Berkeley labs. Where possible, each product was tested in groups of 100 consumers each, with a weighted breakdown by age sub-groups. Five total groups each were tested for Marketing and Safety, for a total of 1000 subjects. The marketing results are based on self-reporting: how people felt about their attention, creativity, happiness, and whether they would continue to use the product, not any standardized measures of their performance while consuming the product(s). Safety results were tested by nurses, based on self-reporting. An ambulance was present and staffed with Emergency Medical Technicians if needed. The full testing protocol follows (pp. 6-13).

Marketing

We are pleased to report that the marketing group found a high likelihood that these products will be adopted by prospective users, especially those in the primary target markets (ages 16-30).

Overall Results (Marketing, All Cohorts)

Product	Taste (+)	Attention (+)	creativity (+)	Happiness (+)	Would Take Again
Placebo	60%	35%	32%	38%	40%
Thunderbolt	55%	70%	43%	54%	63%
Mask	30%	60%	75%	53%	48%
Hammer	45%	82%	60%	67%	78%

¹ In a "double-blind" study, neither the researcher nor the subject knows which product the subject is consuming. At Salus' demand and in order to control the cost of testing, these tests were single-blind, meaning that the researchers were aware what the subject was taking. The potential bias inherent always present in such tests was reduced by employing trained testing scientists.

² See Ojuju & Obasi, *Applied Biostatistics for Testing* (3d Ed., Univ. of Lagos Press 2011).

As a rule, the results in the 16-30 age group were higher by approximately 15-20% than the average. Likewise, results were higher among high volume energy drink users. By way of summary, 91% percent of energy drink users aged 16-30 would use Hammer again, and 67% would use Mask again. In this group, we asked additional questions. Approximately 40% of energy drink users aged 16-30 would “likely” make Hammer a part of their regular energy drink consumption; 17% would “definitely” do so, compared with 5% for placebo and 8% for Thunderbolt. The numbers for Mask are less robust, only 15% and 6% respectively. However, of the 4 testers in this group who self-described as “artistic,” 75% would make Mask a regular part of their consumption.*

Based on the foregoing, Marketing analysts recommend commercial production.

Safety

Each subject was tested for a variety of adverse reactions in several categories. “Cardiac” reactions included heart racing, arrhythmia, or fluttering pulse. “Somatic” reactions included feeling flushed, feeling tingling, or feeling chilled. “Mood” reactions included euphoria, depression, or disinhibition. “Psych” reactions included disorientation, hallucinatory, dissociative or psychotic symptoms. Increased pulse, increased respiration, and twitchiness are associated with virtually all caffeine-based products. Accordingly, these were not measured or compared. “Severe” reactions were those that were extreme in intensity, prolonged in duration, or that required advanced medical attention or hospitalization. Each is identified as a fraction of the overall result. All results are rounded to the nearest percentage.

Overall Results (Safety, All Cohorts)

Product	Cardiac	Severe	Somatic	Severe	Mood	Severe	Psych	Severe
Placebo	1%	1/5	6%	1/29	2%	1/11	0%	0/0
Thunderbolt	2%	1/10	3%	3/14	4%	3/20	1%	1/11
Mask	1%	2/11	2%	1/9	4%	6/21	5%	9/25
Hammer	3%	2/15	4%	4/19	3%	2/14	2%	2/11

Most adverse events were short-lived, even among those qualifying as severe. However, four subjects required serious medical attention, including two who were hospitalized. One additional subject suffered a cardiac arrest that may have been product-related. He was later determined to have a pre-existing, genetic cardiac myopathy leading to cardiac hypertrophy.

Regression analysis of those who suffered adverse events showed that several factors that increased the rate of adverse events: adverse events were more likely in amphetamine users/abusers, former intravenous drug abusers, those with pre-existing heart conditions, and those taking cold medicine. Each of these increased the risk of adverse events to a statistically significant degree. Although too few individuals with more than one of these risk factors were tested to determine whether the increased risk posed by them together is geometric or exponential, it is virtually certain that the products are less safe or actively unsafe for those with more than one risk factor. Further analysis is recommended.

Based on the foregoing, Safety analysts strongly recommend further testing and tentatively recommend commercial production, with strong labels warning against use by any of these high-risk groups. A robust program of market monitoring is recommended. Notwithstanding the production recommendation, further testing is strongly advised before the products are widely marketed.

Exhibit 8

f Search for people, places and things

Home Max

Inbox (41) Other (83) More

Search

 **George Romero** Feb 28

George Romero + New Message * Actions

February 28

 **Max Brooks** 2/28 5:05am
Bro, I love Dawn of the Living and I'm keeping everything safe, but I am worried. Ash is too smart. Be careful. No more written communication on the subject.

March 8

 **George Romero** 3/8 7:05am
Ash and Ali are on to me. Somebody has been in my office. I still do not have enough evidence for PC. Even when I was hopped up on speed, I wasn't this afraid/paranoid.

March 8

 **Max Brooks** 3/8 9:05am
Ok. First step is to calm down. The suitcase is filling up nicely. We have tons of stuff.

Now, a few things to keep in mind. You own the company. The worst they can do is freeze you out. You also own the IP, so if you want to sell you can sell. You're talking about a solid payout whether you stay today or not. Staying makes it bigger and gives us more to play with down the line. We can do more if we have more.

Still, it's fine if you want to pull back and escape - before the lights go out.

 **Max Brooks** 3/8 9:07 am
PS I love you very much and I am so proud of you for staying strong. No DRUGS!

 **George Romero** 3/8 9:09 am
No value 'til the next gen is developed. We must press on even in danger. No dope :)

 **Max Brooks** 3/8 9:10 am
You're right, we need that cheddar! :) You need to come up with a plan to make then trust you again. Hide in plain sight.

 **George Romero** 3/8 9:50 am
Sometimes Maxy, you are a geneous! I think I've got an idea.

May 27

 **Max Brooks** 5/27 10:10 am
Ok, now it's serious. Your place gets broken into and now I just got interrogated by Ali and Ash. Ash was out of his mind. What do you know about Rule 10? I tried your cell.. Where are you? We need to meet up as soon as possible. Nowhere is safe.

Write a reply...

Add Files Add Photos Press Enter to send Reply

Exhibit 9

Mail ▾

← [Attachments] [Info] [Trash] [Folder] [More ▾]

COMPOSE **Re: SOS** Inbox x

Inbox (1,004)
Starred
Important
Sent Mail
Drafts (6)

More ▾

Max Brooks April 9, 2018 10:05:10

To: Ash Williams
Hey Ash:

I know you've probably heard from Ali and even seen the WISI-TV stuff about George and Vegas. It was terrible! Fortunately, he's doing a lot better. He will be in rehab for a while.

Also, I got fired from my job by Ali too. Remember you told me that I would have that job forever. Well, you have to get it back for me. I like the money and it makes me seem really cool to all of my friends. I'm sort of an expert on Salus, you know. I know a lot of stuff about you guys. I've let you push me around a bit in the past and I'm kind of over it. Get me my job back – the sooner the better.

More than the job stuff, you've got to step up and help with George. Hiding in the jungle and letting him fall apart is your fault as much as it is his. It turns out that he has been using all sorts of drugs - speed, pills, ecstasy. I told you before that George has heart issues. Now he's more at risk than ever. If he starts doing drugs again he will die! This is very serious. The energy drinks are a gateway. We can't let him take them anymore. No more partying, no more selling, no more George being George. The business needs your help. My family needs your help. Your best friend needs your help. If he dies, the blood will be on your hands. You are in control. Do something please!

Ash Williams April 24, 2018 21:26:03

To: Max Brooks
Can't do that. Sorry.

AW

0% full
Using 0.29 GB of your 30 GB

[Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#) - [Program Policies](#)

Last account activity: 3 days ago
[Details](#)

Exhibit 10



Daniel Boyle
Commercial Insurance Division
cknickerbocker@har-ins.com

June 21, 2018

Salus LLC
Attn: Ali Khan, Chief Operating Officer
406 Tallahassee Ct.
Wisawa, PA 18637

Dear Mr. Khan:

In accordance with our discussion over the telephone, the Harrisburg Insurance Company (“Harrisburg”) is prepared to change the umbrella insurance policy between Harrisburg and Salus LLC (“Salus”). Specifically, Salus seeks to increase the value of its “key man” rider (covering named insureds Ash Williams and George Romero) from \$150,000 to \$1,500,000.

Under the proposed revision, the beneficiary remains Gilgamesh Investments, unless the business has been sold for an amount in excess of \$750,000. In that case, the insurance shall be paid in equal parts to Gilgamesh, the surviving insured, and the estate of the deceased insured. Of course, if the surviving insured was responsible for the death of the other insured (i.e. is a “slayer” pursuant to 20 Pa. C.S. § 8801 *et seq*), the surviving insured’s share shall be paid to the estate of the deceased insured.

I am pleased to advise you that our underwriting division has approved the increase you requested. However, in light of the issues surrounding Mr. Romero’s health, the annual premium for the “key man” rider will increase from \$17,500 to \$78,500. If you wish to accept these terms, please sign below or have another corporate officer do so.

Sincerely,

Danny Boyle

Ali Khan

Ali Khan
Chief Operating Officer

June 30, 2018

Date

Exhibit 11



Why We Should Sell Salus to PopCap

Experience

PopCap is one of the world's largest distributors of specialty beverage products, and it has been in business for over two decades. It knows what we need to take our products from fertile conception, to effective inception, to positive reception in the marketplace.

Access

The PopCap network reaches all fifty states and three U.S. territories (Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and Puerto Rico) as well as our armed forces serving overseas. PopCap has contracts with over 100 colleges and universities, and it is reaching more mouths every day than all but the largest of distributors.

Safety

PopCap's record of safety is impeccable. PopCap has its own in-house laboratories, overseen by veterans of some of the best labs in business and in government. PopCap's work is independently audited by outside laboratories, and every PopCap product is personally approved by PopCap's Product Quality Assurance manager, former director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Jim Ringo. If we associate our products with the PopCap name, consumers will know that they're getting a safe, effective product.

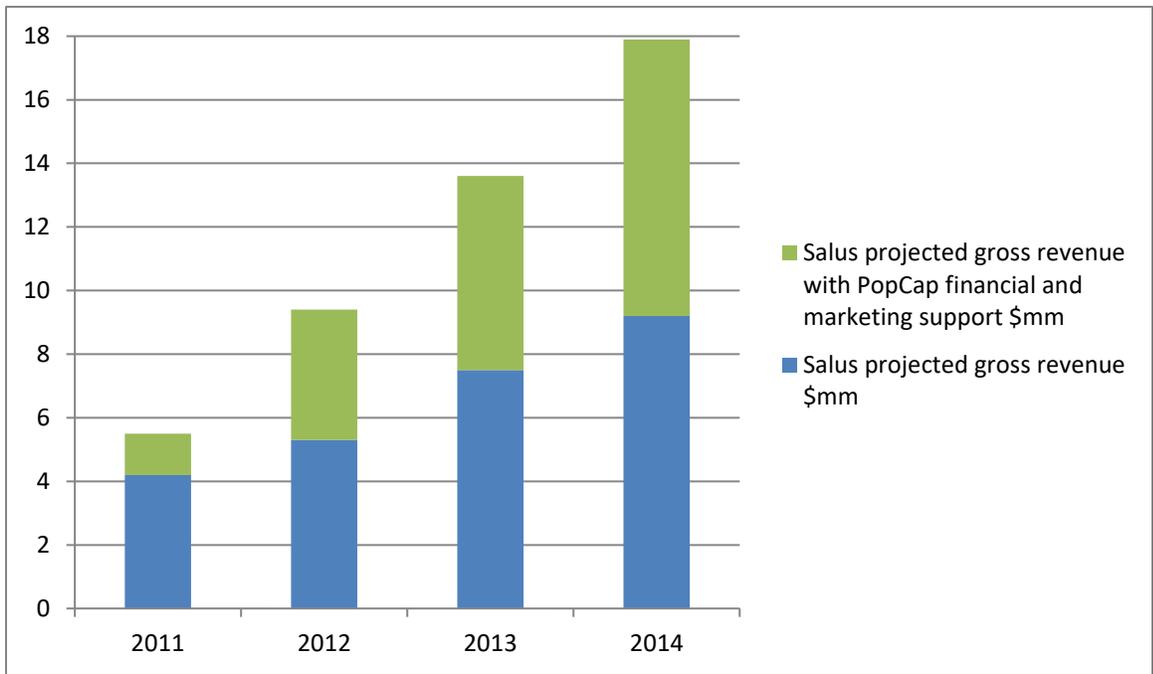
Capital

We have options for venture capital, including relying on profits as planned, but PopCap's VC team takes a backseat to no one! They know how to evaluate products, and they have never been successfully sued for stealing an idea. Their legal team can work with us to give us the assurance we need. Our products will revolutionize an industry, and they know that we'll expect top dollar for them, and they're happy to pay. We can just ask the dozens of individuals who have chosen to trust us with their inventions, if we can get past the security at their gated mansions! *See chart page 2*

Prepared by G. Romero



Anticipated Growth with PopCap



Prepared by G. Romero

Exhibit 12



Tom Johnson, Pharm.D.
Raj-Singh Laboratories
322-96 Red Queen Terrace
Addison, MD 20742
March 13, 2020

Chris Redfield, M.D.
15 Whitman Ave.
Pulowech, PA 18071

Dear Dr. Redfield:

At your request, Raj-Singh has completed analysis of a pair of chemicals that you sent us last month. We tested both twice, using an R-E edition field test strip manufactured by Jovovich Biochemicals. On each test, each chemical rapidly registered higher than the effective range measurable by the strip. The field test for mescaline is therefore deemed to be inconclusive.

You then asked us to complete a more comprehensive analysis of the chemicals and, in particular, to determine whether they contain mescaline. Sample 1 does not contain mescaline. It is unknown why it triggers the R-E strips. Our standard test battery showed a mescaline result for Sample 2. However, after you advised that you did not believe Sample 2 to contain mescaline, we dug deeper. You are correct: the chemical present in Sample 2 is a bio-similar to mescaline that contains an extra carboxyl group and a small tail of ferrous oxides. It is unclear whether this would change its effect on humans. However, chemically, it is not mescaline.

In accordance with the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, 21 U.S.C. §§ 801-971, we have referred the chemical to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Should the DEA determine that it has a similar hallucinogenic effect to mescaline, as we believe likely, it may list the chemical as a controlled substance. We recommend that you secure the chemical as you would any Schedule I substances (like mescaline) in case they do so.

Sincerely,
/s/ Z. Snyder, D. Pharm.
Testing Director