

Exhibit K

1 THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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JASON E. COBB,)
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 PLAINTIFF,)
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 VS.)
)
 ERNEST BREDE, et al.,)
)
 DEFENDANT.)
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CASE NO. CIV508137

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE HONORABLE JONATHAN E. KARESH
DEPARTMENT 20
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

A P P E A R A N C E S:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF: APPEARING IN PRO PER
FOR THE DEFENDANTS: ANTHONY SMITH, ESQ.
FOR ERNEST BREDE: CALVIN ROUSE, ESQ.

26 REPORTED BY: JOAN WOODS, CSR 4573

1 hearing is suppose to go.

2 MR. ROUSE: I will do it if you want me to,
3 Your Honor.

4 MR. SMITH: I was going to say, we do have two
5 witnesses here. We have parties here, but we do have
6 two individuals who are non-parties who may be called as
7 witnesses at some point. I imagine they would need to
8 step outside however the Court deems appropriate.

9 THE COURT: When there is testimony we will
10 send them out.

11 MR. ROUSE: Your Honor, a complaint was filed
12 against these three named party defendants who are
13 ministers in a local Menlo Park Congregation of
14 Jehovah's Witnesses. They are the current ministers of
15 the congregation. And the complaint was filed by our
16 ex-minister, one that has been removed by the
17 organization.

18 And I say "organization." I am general counsel
19 for the National Organization of Jehovah's Witnesses out
20 of Brooklyn, New York. Ordinarily, I wouldn't be here,
21 but this is one of our 13,000 congregations in the
22 United States. We are a hierarchal religion structured
23 just like the Catholic Church. And when the order from
24 the Pope comes down in the church defrocking a priest
25 and kicking him out, he no longer has any say in any
26 matter in the local parish priest -- in the parish.

1 The same situation as here. In his complaint
2 he brings one claim. He claims that he wants to be
3 reinstated as a director and an officer in the Menlo
4 Park Congregation. This is contrary to our church rules
5 and regulations and bylaws.

6 We brought our organizational bylaws book, our
7 rule book here, and we are prepared to present witnesses
8 that this is a hierarchal organization. It is governed
9 from the top down. We are protective of property rights
10 and office holding rights of any degree at all in any of
11 our churches.

12 And I am representing the presiding minister,
13 Mr. Brede here. And so we challenge that. We say that
14 that is a matter of First Amendment constitutional law.
15 He can't do an end run as a defrocked minister and try
16 to get his toe back in the administrative structure of
17 our religion and by means of a court order. So, that's
18 one point we are going to show through the evidence.

19 The other is that he let the statute of
20 limitations run clearly in regard -- even under
21 California law for a bringing a challenge like this.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Cobb, do you want to tell me
23 anything before we start the hearing?

24 MR. COBB: Well, I will do the best I can under
25 the circumstances, Your Honor. I am pro per. It was
26 not my expectation that there would be a hearing today.