0034

1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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4 In the Matter of Determining )DOCKET NO. TV-170747

the Proper Carrier Classification )

5 of, and Complaint for Penalties )

against, )

6 )

)

7 TRANSIT SYSTEMS, INC., )

d/b/a MOVES FOR SENIORS )

8

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BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING, VOLUME II

10

Pages 34-121

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RAYNE PEARSON

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13

9:11 a.m.

14

December 19, 2017

15

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2

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0038

1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; DECEMBER 19, 2017

2 9:11 A.M.

3 --o0o--

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5

6 JUDGE PEARSON: So let's go ahead and be on

7 the record. Today is Tuesday, December 19th, 2017. The

8 time is a little after 9:10 a.m. This is Docket

9 TV-170747, which is captioned, In the Matter of

10 Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and

11 Complaint for Penalties against, Transit Systems, Inc.

12 d/b/a Moves for Seniors.

13 My name is Rayne Pearson. I'm the

14 administrative law judge presiding over today's brief

15 adjudicative proceeding. We'll start by taking short

16 appearances from the parties. Both Mr. Beattie and

17 Mr. Shafer and Mr. Roberson, I believe, have all entered

18 notices of appearance, so if you can just state your

19 name and who you represent. And we will begin with

20 Commission Staff. I'll start with Mr. Beattie since

21 he's in the room.

22 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you, Judge Pearson.

23 Julian Beattie, Office of the Attorney General,

24 appearing on behalf of Commission Staff. And with me on

25 the bridge line is my colleague, Jeff Roberson, also the

0039

1 Office of the Attorney General.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.

3 Mr. Shafer?

4 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, Your Honor. Andrew

5 Shafer, Attorney at Law, Simburg Ketter Sheppard &

6 Purdy. We represent Transit Systems, Inc. d/b/a Moves

7 for Seniors.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Great. Thank you.

9 So this is a classification hearing that was

10 brought by the Commission based on Staff's findings that

11 Moves for Seniors is conducting a household goods moving

12 company without the required permit from the Commission.

13 If we determine here today that Moves for Seniors is

14 engaging in such conduct, we will issue an order

15 requiring the company to cease and desist all operations

16 unless and until it obtains a permit from the

17 Commission.

18 We also have a complaint for penalties

19 that's somewhat of a separate issue. The complaint for

20 penalties alleges that Moves for Seniors has, in fact,

21 engaged in activities as a household goods mover.

22 Today is an evidentiary hearing to consider

23 whether Moves for Seniors should be classified as a

24 household goods carrier and whether the recommended

25 penalties are appropriate.

0040

1 So Staff will present its case first today

2 followed by the company, and before we get started, I

3 would like to request that the parties, to the extent

4 they are willing, stipulate to the admission of the

5 exhibits that have been submitted.

6 So, Mr. Beattie, I will let you address that

7 first and then I'll ask Mr. Shafer about that.

8 MR. BEATTIE: I guess, Judge, Commission

9 Staff is willing to stipulate to the admission of all

10 exhibits.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.

12 So, Mr. Shafer, that means --

13 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, we can stipulate to

14 Exhibits 2, 3, and 4. We object to Exhibit 5 as being

15 irrelevant. And also with regard to Exhibit 1, which is

16 the declaration of a Staff investigator who's not

17 available, as I understand it, for cross-examination, we

18 object to the declaration on that basis. We do not

19 object to the exhibits -- we don't object to the

20 exhibits contingent to the declaration other than

21 Exhibits 11 and 12 to the Jones declaration.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Well, we will take

23 that up when we get to those. Right now what I will do

24 is I will admit the exhibits that you offered,

25 Mr. Shafer. What -- can you give me the name of your

0041

1 witness?

2 MR. SHAFER: Yes, Chris Pienkowski,

3 P-i-e-n-k-o-w-s-k-i.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Did you say P as in Peter?

5 MR. SHAFER: P as in Peter.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So what are his

7 initials?

8 MR. SHAFER: C.P. Charles Peter.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Oh, Paul Peter.

10 MR. SHAFER: Charles Peter, C. C as in

11 Christmas.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So C.P.

13 MR. SHAFER: Yes.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. So I will admit

15 the exhibits that you offered and number them at CP-1,

16 through CP-14.

17 (Exhibits CP-1 through CP-14 admitted.)

18 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE PEARSON: And with respect to

20 Ms. Paul's exhibits, I will admit SP-2 through SP-4, and

21 we will take up SP-1 and SP-5 when they're offered,

22 okay?

23 MR. SHAFER: Very good.

24 (Exhibits SP-2 through SP-4 admitted.)

25 JUDGE PEARSON: We're back to everyone

0042

1 echoing again, including myself.

2 MR. SHAFER: That's what we're picking up on

3 our end.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So, Mr. Beattie, if

5 you would like to get started. Hopefully you won't

6 echo.

7 Does anyone have any questions before we

8 proceed?

9 MR. SHAFER: No questions from Moves for

10 Seniors.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. So, Mr. Beattie,

12 whenever you're ready.

13 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you. Commission Staff

14 would like to begin this morning with its witness, Susie

15 Paul.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. Ms. Paul, if you

17 would please stand and raise your right hand, I will

18 swear you in with the oath of witness.

19 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor --

20

21 SUSIE PAUL, witness herein, having been

22 first duly sworn on oath,

23 was examined and testified

24 as follows:

25 /////

0043

1 JUDGE PEARSON: Sorry, Mr. Shafer --

2 MR. SHAFER: We have our volume turned up

3 all the way, and I apologize, but I cannot hear. I

4 couldn't hear Mr. Beattie and I can't hear Ms. Paul.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So Mr. Beattie just

6 offered Ms. Paul as his witness and I just swore her in.

7 That's all you missed. I will make sure that she speaks

8 very loudly and clearly into the microphone.

9 And you too, Mr. Beattie.

10 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, Your Honor.

11

12 E X A M I N A T I O N

13 BY MR. BEATTIE:

14 Q. Would you please state your name and spell your

15 last name for the record?

16 A. My name is Susie Paul. My last name is spelt

17 P-a-u-l.

18 Q. What is your position at the Washington

19 Utilities and Transportation Commission?

20 A. I am the lead investigator for compliance

21 investigations in the consumer protection program.

22 Q. And can you give us a little bit more about what

23 your duties entail and what you do in that capacity?

24 A. Yes, we investigate regulated companies, it also

25 includes nonregulated companies. We look at the

0044

1 business practices of those of the utilities and

2 transportation.

3 Q. And does that include household goods carriers?

4 A. Yes, it does.

5 Q. Are you familiar with the statutes and

6 regulations governing household goods transportation in

7 the state of Washington?

8 A. Yes, it involves the RCWs and the WACs and

9 Tariff 15-C, which are all related to household goods

10 carriers.

11 Q. Okay. Can you just tell us a little bit more

12 about your level of familiarity with those statutes,

13 rules, and tariff provisions?

14 A. Well, I use them on a daily basis. I have been

15 with the Commission since 2013 and it's --

16 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, I'm sorry, we just

17 had an interruption in signal. Can the witness repeat

18 her answer?

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. There was someone

20 beeping in on the bridge line. That's fine.

21 Go ahead, Ms. Paul, if you could repeat

22 that.

23 THE WITNESS: I'm trying to think of where I

24 was at.

25 BY MR. BEATTIE:

0045

1 Q. You were describing your level of familiarity

2 with the household goods carrier regulations.

3 A. Okay. Thank you. Yes, I have been with the

4 Commission since 2013, and it's a daily basis that I

5 deal with the different utilities, particularly with

6 household goods movers. I'm also part of the training

7 that is held here at the Commission four times a year

8 for household goods industries.

9 Q. Part of it how?

10 A. I have been in the training and I attend the

11 training.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 I would like to turn to Staff's investigation in

14 this docket. The subject of this hearing is an entity

15 known as Transit Systems, Inc. d/b/a Moves for Seniors.

16 So just a housekeeping item, Ms. Paul, can we all agree

17 that when I say "Moves for Seniors," that's shorthand

18 for the entity that is formally known as Transit

19 Systems, Inc. d/b/a Moves for Seniors?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So my question is has the Commission

22 issued a household goods carrier permit for Moves for

23 Seniors?

24 A. No, it has not.

25 Q. And when is the last time you checked?

0046

1 A. Well, I attempted to check this morning, but it

2 was not available. I did go to licensing section to

3 determine that, and they have not applied for an

4 application or submitted an application.

5 Q. Let's turn now to the evidence that Staff is

6 presenting today. I'd ask you to turn to Exhibit SP-1.

7 A. Okay. I'm there.

8 Q. And can you please identify this exhibit?

9 A. This is the declaration of Rachel Jones, former

10 investigator with the Utilities and Transportation

11 Commission.

12 Q. You say "former," can you tell us where

13 Ms. Jones went?

14 A. Yes, she was an investigator here until the end

15 of October of this year, and then she took a position

16 with the Department of Social and Health Services.

17 Q. You said you were a supervisor in the consumer

18 protection section, does that mean you supervised

19 Ms. Jones?

20 A. Yes, I did. I am the lead worker and I review

21 her work.

22 Q. Did you specifically review this declaration?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Would you say you were familiar with its

25 contents?

0047

1 A. I'm very familiar with it.

2 Q. Did you discuss Rachel's findings with Rachel

3 before she left the Commission?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Do you believe you are prepared to discuss

6 Ms. Jones' findings here in this hearing today?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Let's, please, turn first to pages 14 and 15 of

9 Exhibit SP-1.

10 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, I beg your pardon,

11 we haven't stipulated to Exhibit SP-1, and so it's

12 inappropriate to refer to the exhibit until it's

13 admitted. I also request the opportunity to voir dire

14 the witness about this exhibit.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Beattie, do you want to

16 respond to that?

17 MR. BEATTIE: Well, I haven't offered it for

18 admission yet, so I don't understand the nature of the

19 objection.

20 MR. SHAFER: Counsel's beginning to refer to

21 a document that's not been admitted. That's the

22 problem.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: So --

24 MR. BEATTIE: That's -- I don't understand.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer, this is

0048

1 routinely how we conduct our hearings. We typically

2 review the document before it's offered for admission.

3 So I'm going to allow Mr. Beattie to proceed.

4 MR. SHAFER: Okay.

5 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you, Judge Pearson.

6 BY MR. BEATTIE:

7 Q. Ms. Paul, if you could please turn to pages 14

8 and 15.

9 A. I'm there.

10 Q. Would you please tell us what we're looking at

11 and how Staff obtained these two pages?

12 A. These are advertisements --

13 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, I'm going to object

14 to the questioning until I can voir dire the witness.

15 The witness hasn't established that she did any of this.

16 This was all apparently done by a former employee who is

17 not available for cross-examination. That's the basis

18 for the objection and for our not stipulating to the

19 admissibility of Exhibit 1. Ms. Paul has no more

20 knowledge about what Rachel Jones did than I do. Even

21 though she may have been her supervisor, she can't

22 testify about this document because she's not the one

23 who pulled it off the website.

24 JUDGE PEARSON: So, Mr. Shafer, if you would

25 just please stop interrupting, allow Mr. Beattie to

0049

1 proceed, perhaps he will get --

2 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, I would object.

3 The objections are appropriate with all due respect.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay --

5 MR. SHAFER: When Counsel is referring to a

6 document that has not been admitted, he's trying to

7 authenticate it, I appreciate that, but this isn't a

8 witness who can authenticate this document because she's

9 not the one who went to the Internet.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: Perhaps she did go to the

11 Internet and verify whether these were there. We

12 haven't gotten to that part yet, and I think that's

13 where Mr. Beattie is going, and I'm going to allow him

14 to proceed with that line of questioning if, in fact,

15 that is where he's going with this.

16 BY MR. BEATTIE:

17 Q. Okay. Ms. Paul, my question was what is this

18 document and how did Staff obtain it?

19 A. This document is an advertisement off of Moves

20 for Seniors' website, and I actually have gone to the

21 website, I've thoroughly researched it, and this was

22 printed out by myself.

23 Q. Okay. So are you saying that -- well, let me

24 ask you this, Ms. Paul. Is this document as we see it

25 printed here the same as when you viewed it online?

0050

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. Okay. Ms. Paul, do you consider this document

3 to be an advertisement for household goods

4 transportation in the state of Washington?

5 A. Yes, there are numerous things on this document

6 that shows that it is advertising as a household goods

7 mover, and the first part says, (as read) We make moving

8 simple, stress fee, comforting and pleasant. It also

9 provides a link to get a quote for a move, and it also

10 says, (as read) Get a free consultation now.

11 It further says, (as read) Moves for Seniors is

12 not your traditional moving company. We are a resource

13 for all of the moving needs that people may find

14 essential when they choose to relocate from their

15 long-time family home to a new residence that better

16 suits them. And it goes on further about talking about

17 Moves for Seniors and its -- and its moving business.

18 Q. Let's turn to Exhibit SP-2.

19 MR. SHAFER: I'm sorry, what was the next

20 exhibit?

21 MR. BEATTIE: SP-2.

22 MR. SHAFER: Thank you.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: So before we move on, since

24 we've already stipulated to the admission of SP-2, why

25 don't we take up his objections with SP-1.

0051

1 MR. SHAFER: Your Honor, we continue to

2 object to Exhibit SP-1. First of all, I object again to

3 the witness reading into the record the salient portion

4 of the pages that she read when the document's not been

5 admitted. If the document is admitted, it speaks for

6 itself. If it's not admitted, it's inappropriate for

7 her to have put into the record what would otherwise be

8 inadmissible.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And so --

10 MR. SHAFER: Witness further has not -- she

11 hasn't verified that this web page was up and online at

12 the time the investigation was done. She testified that

13 she checked it recently, and it may be so recently, but

14 it's not part of the evidence upon which it's based.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: So what's the basis of your

16 objection to the declaration first of all? Let's take

17 this one thing at a time.

18 MR. SHAFER: Well, we object to -- we don't

19 think the document's authenticated. I don't have an

20 objection based on relevance, I don't have an objection

21 based on hearsay, the objection is based on

22 authentication.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Of its contents?

24 MR. SHAFER: Of its contents.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So when I'm looking

0052

1 at the contents of the declaration, it's fairly

2 straightforward, it's fairly short. The matter of the

3 email tip that Moves for Seniors is operating as a

4 household goods carrier is a matter of Commission

5 record. I imagine that's stored in the system down in

6 consumer protection. The rest has to do with searches

7 of websites for information about Moves for Seniors, and

8 the quote that was received from Staff, which is also a

9 Commission record and in our files, so I'm not quite

10 sure -- I don't think anything in here is particularly

11 controversial. So I'm unclear -- it may be disputing

12 the truth of any of these statements that these websites

13 would produce different results?

14 MR. SHAFER: Well, as I indicated earlier,

15 our objection to Exhibit 1, first of all, we object to

16 use of an affidavit when the witness is unavailable and

17 have not had an opportunity to cross-examine her about

18 anything. Now, the cross-examination that would be most

19 relevant is the cross-examination that would pertain to

20 Exhibits 11 and 12, which is the request for moving

21 quote and the quote that was received.

22 And so with regard to Exhibit 1, we can

23 stipulate, frankly, to Exhibits 1 through 10 to Exhibit

24 SP-1 simply because these are I won't say

25 self-authenticating, but my client's reviewed them, and

0053

1 he's confirmed that these are documents from their

2 website at least today. Whether they were in effect at

3 the time Ms. Jones did her investigation in January

4 almost a year ago, we can't say one way or the other.

5 And so we -- I'm pretty sure you'll admit them anyway,

6 but we're going to put our objection on the record

7 because there's no way to authenticate that these are

8 current documents.

9 Now, we do object to 11 and 12 because we

10 have no basis, and we have no way to determine what was

11 done to get the quote, and that's the basis for

12 objecting to Exhibits 11 and 12 to Exhibit SP-1. I

13 can't cross-examination Ms. Jones about them.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Mr. Beattie, do you

15 want to respond to that?

16 MR. BEATTIE: Yes. First of all, with

17 respect to the term "authentication," is this

18 declaration what it purports to be, of course it is.

19 There's no -- there can be no argument about that, and

20 Mr. Shafer has not made any. It's signed by the

21 witness.

22 Now, I think what Mr. Shafer's really

23 getting at is that -- that this is a hearsay document.

24 But in the Commission's rules, this situation is

25 covered, hearsay documents are allowed as long as

0054

1 there's a reasonable basis to rely on them, and in this

2 case, Ms. Paul has already testified that she supervised

3 this investigation, that she personally reviewed

4 Ms. Jones' work, that she's familiar with Ms. Jones'

5 work, that she's prepared to discuss those findings

6 today. So I would say that that meets the test, and

7 there is no basis on which to exclude this document.

8 MR. SHAFER: Well, Your Honor, if I can't

9 cross-examine the person who did the investigation about

10 the two things that concern me, which is the request for

11 the quote and receipt of the quote. My client is being

12 un -- ridiculously prejudiced, quite frankly. I've

13 never been in an adversary proceeding before where an

14 affidavit was used, there was no opportunity to

15 cross-examination the affiant. Now, we can let a lot of

16 this go by because counsel's right, it's kind of pro

17 forma except for Exhibits 11 and 12. We strenuously

18 object to that. If the Commission wants to remove those

19 pages and strike those portions of Ms. Jones'

20 declaration, we can get beyond this.

21 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So the basis for the

22 objection, then, I -- what I'm gathering is these two

23 documents form the foundation for part of Staff's

24 penalty recommendation?

25 MR. SHAFER: Well, I'm assuming it is, but

0055

1 once again, that will be revealed later on, I guess.

2 But my objection just fun- -- it's just fundamental.

3 You don't put evidence in if there's no opportunity to

4 cross-examine, and I can't -- because there are

5 penalties involved, my client has an absolute right to

6 cross-examine that witness. And if she's not

7 available -- we've had no opportunity to cross-examine,

8 we couldn't take her deposition. We got this thing on

9 the 12th of December. Didn't even know about Rachel

10 Jones as far as being involved in this case until then.

11 So we've had no opportunity to examine her.

12 MR. BEATTIE: Well, once again, Your Honor,

13 I would suggest that Mr. Shafer spend some time with the

14 rules that govern this particular administrative

15 proceeding. We are not in a superior court, so this

16 is an -- again, this is an APA proceeding, and the

17 process that is due to the parties is actually spelled

18 out in a rule, again, as I've already covered the rule

19 on hearsay. I believe that this is the type of document

20 that routinely comes into these proceedings, and so I

21 would rest on that, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Yes, and I agree --

23 MR. SHAFER: The rules require that the

24 rules of evidence be applied to the extent feasible.

25 And what we're suggesting is since Ms. Jones still lives

0056

1 in Olympia, still works for the State, there's really no

2 reason to offer why the Utilities Commission couldn't

3 have had her appear today and testify about those

4 subjects under 11 and 12.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer, your objection

6 is noted; however I'm going to overrule it and admit

7 this exhibit. Whether or not she's available, I think

8 that Ms. Paul is well-versed in this and perfectly

9 qualified to testify to its contents. And as

10 Mr. Beattie pointed out, this is the type of document we

11 routinely see in these proceedings. It's a Commission

12 record, I imagine that Ms. Paul has access to the email

13 account that this was sent through and has probably

14 reviewed it herself inside the email account. So I'm

15 going to allow it, and I will admit SP-1 into the

16 record.

17 (Exhibit SP-1 admitted.)

18 Go ahead, Mr. Beattie.

19 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you.

20 BY MR. BEATTIE:

21 Q. I believe we were at Exhibit SP-2?

22 A. I'm there.

23 Q. And this is a five-page document, correct?

24 A. Yes, it is.

25 Q. Can you please identify this document?

0057

1 A. This is part of Moves for Seniors' website, and

2 this section deals with consumer services for seniors

3 and their families, and it lists the services in full

4 detail. It covers how your moving needs can be met

5 anywhere in the U.S., and it provides a map that --

6 although this copy is not colored, it's blue and white

7 on the website, and it shows that they provide local

8 moving services specialized for seniors and their

9 family, and Washington State is depicted as blue on the

10 website meaning that they provide local moving services.

11 Q. In Washington State?

12 A. In Washington State, correct.

13 Q. Ms. Paul, you personally visited this website?

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 Q. Do you consider this website printout to be an

16 advertisement for household goods transportation in

17 Washington State?

18 A. Yes, I do. As I stated earlier, it shows that

19 they provide local moves in Washington State, and then

20 there are some reviews also and it says, (as read) I

21 used Moves for Seniors to move my mother a few weeks ago

22 and it could not have gone better.

23 It also says, (as read) Long distance moving

24 services specialized for seniors and their families.

25 And to me that is an advertisement for household goods

0058

1 moving.

2 Finally, on -- there's a review from Ken and

3 Sharon B. in Tacoma, Washington, and said, (as read) I

4 just want to thank you for helping us make our move so

5 much easier. And that's directed to Moves for Seniors.

6 Q. Let's please move to Exhibit SP-3.

7 A. I'm there.

8 Q. Same question, what is this document and how did

9 Staff obtain it?

10 A. This is also off of Moves for Seniors. It's a

11 section that they call the blog, and it's -- it provides

12 information about the company, Moves for Seniors, and it

13 states that, (as read) Moves for Seniors is a premiere

14 moving services provider for seniors, caregivers, and

15 senior living communities.

16 It also states that, (as read) While we may have

17 started out as a simple moving company, the services

18 that we have continued to add have helped us become much

19 more than just a moving company.

20 It goes further to state that, (as read) We are

21 a completely senior-focused moving provider that has had

22 thousands of successful moves over the past ten years.

23 Moves for Seniors takes the stress and frustration out

24 of the moving process because of our streamlined

25 approach.

0059

1 Q. And do you consider those statements you just

2 read to form an advertisement for household goods

3 transportation in Washington State?

4 A. Yes --

5 MR. SHAFER: Objection --

6 JUDGE PEARSON: I'm sorry, what?

7 MR. SHAFER: The objection is it calls for

8 the witness's opinion. She's not been qualified as an

9 expert, she's an investigator, and counsel is asking for

10 her opinion about what this denotes.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Beattie?

12 MR. BEATTIE: She -- she is an expert as far

13 as that term is used in this setting. And further, I

14 have asked the same question already on other exhibits

15 and that has not been objected to.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Yes, I agree. I'm going to

17 overrule the objection insofar as she is qualified as an

18 investigator to determine what type of conduct violates

19 Commission rules and applicable statutes. She is an

20 expert within that meaning.

21 So go ahead.

22 BY MR. BEATTIE:

23 Q. The question was does Staff consider this blog

24 post to be an advertisement for household goods

25 transportation in the state of Washington?

0060

1 A. Yes. As I pointed out, it has numerous

2 different places where it talks about moving services,

3 and it only talks about Moves for Seniors. It does not

4 talk about any other company. So the reader would

5 understand that Moves for Seniors is providing a

6 household goods moves.

7 Q. Please turn to page 4 of SP-3.

8 A. I'm there.

9 Q. There's a blog post titled "Display Stands,"

10 exclamation point. Do you see that?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. I believe we actually have a blown-up version of

13 that imagine, so if you could turn to Exhibit SP-4,

14 please.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And can you tell us what we're looking at here?

17 A. This is a display that Moves for Seniors is

18 using, they partner with Holiday Retirement community,

19 and they state that they put this in hundreds of

20 different facilities. It states that, (as read) Moves

21 for Seniors can handle all the logistics for you such as

22 packing and preparing furniture, moving items to your

23 new home, distributing items to family and loved ones

24 across the country, delivering donations, and cleaning

25 out remaining items. They state that their mission is

0061

1 to make moving simple, stress-free, comforting and

2 pleasant.

3 Q. Does Staff consider this display stand to be an

4 advertisement for household goods transportation in the

5 state of Washington?

6 A. Yes, this is --

7 MR. SHAFER: Object that that states undue

8 request for a -- and for calls for an opinion.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Overruled.

10 A. This definitely is an advertisement. It is

11 placed in senior retirement facilities and Moves for

12 Seniors is the only name on this display board, and it

13 states that it provides moves.

14 BY MR. BEATTIE:

15 Q. Ms. Paul, you talked about Holiday Retirement,

16 can you tell us again what -- what you understand that

17 to be?

18 A. That is a retirement facility for senior

19 citizens. There are numerous of those branches in

20 Washington State.

21 Q. Let's turn to Exhibit SP-1 pages 3 through 13.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. And here we do see the Holiday Retirement logo,

24 can you just tell us what we're looking at here?

25 A. Yes, Holiday Retirement logo, it's -- it is a

0062

1 retirement facility and it partners with Moves for

2 Seniors.

3 Q. Now, how did Staff obtain this printout?

4 A. This printout was first obtained by Rachel

5 Jones. It was at a website -- in her report, she did

6 list the website address, which was incorrect.

7 Q. Okay. Tell us more about that, please.

8 A. Okay. The correct address to get to this page

9 is http://www.holidaytouch.com/retirement/101/

10 partnerships/moves-for-seniors, and that will pull up

11 the page that is listed as attachment 8.

12 Q. And I take it you visited that page?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. And does it look the same as you see it printed

15 here?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you consider this -- excuse me. Does Staff

18 consider this website to be an advertisement for

19 household goods transportation in Washington State?

20 A. Yes, it clearly does and the photograph, it has

21 the Moves for Seniors logo, and it says, (as read) Let

22 us take care of the move.

23 And then it talks about, (as read) Moves for

24 Seniors, a company that specializes in simplifying the

25 senior move experience.

0063

1 It says, (as read) Simple package pricing for

2 local moves. Residents who choose to use Moves for

3 Seniors will receive a free move estimate, a free senior

4 moving checklist, and the options of adding other

5 services such as sorting and packing.

6 It says, (as read) Moves for Seniors movers will

7 move all furniture and boxes into the new resident's

8 apartment, assemble the furniture, and remove all the

9 packing materials. Moves for Seniors can pack, label,

10 deliver and unpack all belongings for new residents at a

11 Holiday community. And we consider this an

12 advertisement because all of these functions would

13 require a permit to perform a household goods move in

14 the state of Washington.

15 Q. Please turn now to page 17 of Exhibit SP-1.

16 A. Okay. I'm there.

17 Q. And please tell us what we're looking at here

18 and how Staff obtained this printout.

19 A. This is a page from LinkedIn. It's a Moves for

20 Seniors advertisement, and it's says, (as read) Moves

21 for Seniors is a division of Transit Systems, Inc.

22 offering a wide array of specialized moving services for

23 anyone -- sorry, for seniors, their families and --

24 sorry, this is really small print -- and organizations

25 in senior community.

0064

1 It says, (as read) We safely ship any of the

2 following: Furniture, antiques, large appliances, boxes

3 of any size, and house full of items.

4 Q. "We" being?

5 A. "We" being Moves for Seniors.

6 Q. Okay. And did you personally visit this web

7 page?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. Does it look the same to you when you visited as

10 you see it here printed?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And do you consider this document to be an

13 advertisement for household goods transportation in

14 Washington State?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. Let's turn now, please, to Exhibit SP-1 pages 29

17 through 31.

18 A. Okay. I'm there.

19 Q. Okay. I see (as read) Your quote number is, and

20 then some numbers. Can you tell us what's going on

21 here, please?

22 A. Yes, investigators will attempt to get moves on

23 a suspected non-permitted company, and we use assumed

24 names. Ms. Jones did that in this case under the name

25 of Abby Wood, and she requested a quote from Moves for

0065

1 Seniors' website.

2 Q. And before you go on, Ms. Paul, how did

3 Ms. Jones know to make that inquiry?

4 A. Well, it's right on their website "Get a free

5 quote," and so she selected that, and then she asked for

6 a move within two points of Washington, so it would be a

7 local move.

8 Q. Did you ask her to take this action?

9 A. No, but I did review her action. It's a routine

10 part of our investigative process to obtain a quote for

11 a move.

12 Q. On page 30, I see the name Abby Wood in the top

13 right corner. Is that what you mean when you say

14 Ms. Jones used an assumed name?

15 A. Yes, that was Rachel Jones using an assumed name

16 and a different email address than her business address.

17 Q. Okay. Staying with page 30, this is attachment

18 J, please tell us about this email.

19 A. This is an email from Susan Osborne from Moves

20 for Seniors, and it's thanking Ms. Jones for the

21 opportunity to provide the estimate, and she gives the

22 quote number, and she attached the quote proposal for

23 moving and shipping the items that had been requested.

24 And she talks about the hourly rate and -- and anything

25 about the -- estimating the time of the move. She

0066

1 offered to answer any questions that may come up for

2 assistance.

3 Q. As far as you can tell, Ms. Paul, did Ms.

4 Osborne tell Ms. Wood or Ms. Jones, if you will, that a

5 company other than Moves for Seniors may show up and

6 actually perform the move?

7 A. No, there's no indication of that.

8 MR. SHAFER: Objection. Hearsay. And

9 there's no way for me to examine Ms. Jones about what

10 was or was not said by Ms. Osborne. I understand the

11 rules of evidence are lax before the Commission, but we

12 haven't burned them yet and this goes beyond.

13 Objection.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: So it sounds like she --

15 like you said earlier, the contents of the email speak

16 for themselves. I have it right here in front of me. I

17 don't think that Ms. Paul is trying to go beyond the

18 scope of what's in front us or testify to the contents

19 of any conversation that might have occurred between

20 Ms. Osborne and Ms. Jones, so I'm going to overrule the

21 objection.

22 BY MR. BEATTIE:

23 Q. Perhaps you could just give your answer again,

24 Ms. Paul?

25 A. Can you restate the question?

0067

1 Q. Sure. I was just asking if you see anything in

2 this email that leads you to believe that Ms. Osborne

3 indicated a moving company other than Moves for Seniors

4 would show up to perform the move.

5 A. There is no indication that anyone else would be

6 performing the move and, in fact, on page 31, Ms. Susan

7 Osborne provides a quote of $638 based on a four-hour

8 move and that includes two men, a truck, and travel fee.

9 And it's for moving household items, furniture, and

10 packed boxes.

11 Q. Okay. Now, Ms. Paul, I ask my question

12 carefully, not withstanding anything Ms. Jones may have

13 thought, when you view these documents, do you on behalf

14 of Staff consider them, pages 29 through 31,

15 collectively to be an offer for households goods

16 transportation in the state of Washington?

17 A. Yes, I would consider this an offer for a move.

18 It has provided a dollar quote and lists items that will

19 be moved.

20 Q. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paul. I'm going to

21 conclude with the evidentiary submission and just ask

22 you a few questions to follow up on what we've just

23 discussed.

24 Based on everything that you have just reviewed

25 in this hearing today, does Staff find that Moves for

0068

1 Seniors committed any violations of state law or

2 regulations?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. SHAFER: Objection, Your Honor, that

5 calls for a legal conclusion, and with all due respect

6 to counsel, that's the administrative law judge's job to

7 come to that conclusion one way or the other based upon

8 the totality of the evidence. The witness's opinion,

9 the Staff's opinion frankly is not determinative, and it

10 is just absolute opinion that's inadmissible. It's

11 inappropriate because it reaches the ultimate conclusion

12 of law as to whether or not Moves for Seniors operated

13 as a for hire household goods carrier within the state

14 of Washington.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Beattie, do you want to

16 respond to that before I rule?

17 MR. BEATTIE: Maybe I can rephrase and try

18 one more formulation, Your Honor?

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure.

20 BY MR. BEATTIE:

21 Q. Okay. Ms. Paul, does Staff recommend that the

22 Commission find any violations in this docket?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What is Staff's recommendation as to the

25 violations?

0069

1 A. Well, Staff recommends that the Commission find

2 Moves for Seniors in violation for advertising to

3 transport household goods within the state of Washington

4 without the required permit from the Commission and find

5 Moves for Seniors in violation for offering to transport

6 household goods moves within the state of Washington

7 without having the required permit.

8 Q. How many total violations is that?

9 A. Two.

10 Q. Let's move on to Staff's penalty recommendation.

11 Is Staff proposing a monetary penalty in this docket?

12 A. Yes, Staff is recommending a penalty.

13 Q. So for two violations, what total penalty would

14 Staff recommend?

15 A. Staff recommends that the Commission impose the

16 maximum financial penalty of $10,000 with a $5,000

17 portion of the penalty suspended for a period of two

18 years and then waived if the company permanently

19 refrains from operating as a household goods mover in

20 the state of Washington without the required permit.

21 Q. I want to ask you about your recommendation for

22 the maximum statutory penalty. What factors would lead

23 Staff to recommend the maximum penalty, understanding

24 that Staff is also recommending a suspension? What

25 public harm does Staff perceive in this case?

0070

1 A. Well, Staff finds public harm to this -- the

2 advertising is deceptive. It's targeting a very

3 vulnerable group in the state of Washington, which is

4 the seniors. They advertise as a specialized senior

5 moving company. I did personally go to each website of

6 the moving companies that Moves for Seniors says they

7 partner with and not one of them had any indication on

8 their website that they specialize in household goods

9 moves for senior citizens. Also, on the household goods

10 training that we provide, you know, I've been a part of

11 the training for years, and there is no training

12 specialized for senior citizens.

13 Q. Why, then, is Staff proposing that the

14 Commission suspend half of the penalty on condition of

15 compliance, in essence, for two years?

16 A. Well, Staff believes the suspended 5,000 portion

17 is appropriate because these violations are the first

18 violations known to Commission Staff and as such, there

19 is no prior compliance history.

20 MR. BEATTIE: Judge Pearson, we have no

21 further questions.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. So with

23 respect to SP-5, did you just decide not to offer that?

24 MR. BEATTIE: I appreciate that, Your Honor.

25 No, we would offer SP-5, and if we need to have a

0071

1 discussion about the admissibility, I'm prepared to do

2 that now.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Well, I believe Mr. Shafer

4 had an objection to it.

5 So, Mr. Shafer, if you wanted to explain

6 your objection to SP-5.

7 MR. SHAFER: Well, yes, the objection -- the

8 objection to SP-5 pertains to a statement on page 5 of

9 that exhibit, which is labeled "Competitive Rates," and

10 it talks about price being based upon weight and

11 distance. And to the extent that this is an inter --

12 this is a snapshot of the website, which is available

13 nationally, and it involves long distance moving as well

14 as local moving as well as some moves, which we'll get

15 into today, that don't even go on the public roadways,

16 so they're not regulated regardless.

17 But in any event, in Washington State, this

18 is -- it's materially inaccurate, and I suppose we'll

19 just bring that -- you know what, I'm going to withdraw

20 my objection to 5. You can go ahead and put it in, and

21 we'll just deal with that on my -- the examination of

22 Moves for Seniors.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. That sounds good.

24 Then I will go ahead and admit that and mark it as SP-5

25 with the understanding -- I understand your concerns,

0072

1 Mr. Shafer. And so when we get to that and you make

2 those arguments, I will afford it the weight as I see

3 fit given the caveat that it's not necessarily specific

4 to Washington.

5 (Exhibit SP-5 admitted.)

6 JUDGE PEARSON: So is that all?

7 MR. BEATTIE: Yes.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So before we move on,

9 Mr. Shafer, to your cross-examination of Ms. Paul, I

10 would like to take a two-minute recess just very

11 quickly. So we will --

12 MR. SHAFER: Can I hang up and dial back in?

13 JUDGE PEARSON: No, no, no, just stay on the

14 line. I just need a quick break, so two minutes and I

15 will be back.

16 MR. SHAFER: That's fine. So will I.

17 (Pause in the proceedings.)

18 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. So, Mr. Shafer,

19 you may proceed with your cross-examination.

20 MR. SHAFER: Thank you.

21

22 E X A M I N A T I O N

23 BY MR. SHAFER:

24 Q. Ms. Paul, how many investigations of this sort

25 have you conducted in the four years you've been with

0073

1 the Commission approximately?

2 A. I really don't know the count. I have been the

3 lead since I have been here, and I don't know the count.

4 Many.

5 Q. What did you do before you came to the

6 Commission?

7 A. I have been in the regulatory field as an

8 investigator since 2004, and I have a degree in criminal

9 justice from a university, and I have been an

10 investigator this entire time.

11 Q. Now, in doing your investigation of Moves for

12 Seniors, did you subpoena any of the records of my

13 client?

14 A. I did a data request for the companies that you

15 listed for -- as partners.

16 Q. You never went to Moves for Seniors and asked

17 them for any of their documentation; is that correct?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Okay. And you -- so did you issue subpoenas to

20 the moving companies that Moves for Seniors partners

21 with in Washington?

22 A. I asked for documents, which is allowed for

23 regulated companies. Companies that are regulated by

24 UTC provide --

25 Q. Just answer my question. Did you get what you

0074

1 asked for?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And looking at the -- at the

4 documentation -- no, let me ask you this. Did you ask

5 for all of the -- all of the paperwork or all of the

6 moves that those five or six household goods carriers

7 performed?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So do you know approximately how many regulated

10 moves were involved?

11 A. Not many. I requested for a time frame and many

12 did not have records.

13 Q. Okay. And -- but let me ask you this. Of the

14 carriers that you requested information from, did they

15 all have household goods permits?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you have any reason to believe those

18 licensed goods carriers didn't provide the services of

19 performing the physical moves on these regulated moves?

20 A. I believe that they performed the physical move.

21 Q. Did you look at the pricing to determine whether

22 or not the prices charged to the customer were

23 consistent with Tariff 15-C?

24 A. No, because the companies could not provide the

25 pricing. They said they were not allowed to know the

0075

1 cost of the move because Moves for Seniors did not want

2 the client to know the true cost of the move. The

3 companies did --

4 Q. Did you contact Moves for Seniors to ask them

5 for copies of their billings to their customers to

6 determine whether or not the prices charged were

7 consistent with Tariff 15-C?

8 A. We don't typically ask for records for companies

9 that are not regulated.

10 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that the --

11 that the customers in Washington State who hire carriers

12 through Moves for Seniors were charged more than the

13 maximum rate allowed by Tariff 15-C?

14 A. No, I do not know if the charges were correct or

15 not.

16 Q. So as you sit here today, you're not accusing my

17 client of charging anything outside the band of rates

18 under 15-C; is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Now, I noticed in -- let's go, if we can, to

21 Exhibit 1. I want to draw your attention to page 31,

22 which is the email quote to Ms. Abby Wood. Do you have

23 that in front of you?

24 A. I'm getting there.

25 Q. Okay.

0076

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. I want to draw your attention to the provision

3 under "SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS." It's in all caps.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The second line says, (as read) This is inside

6 pickup and delivery.

7 Do you know what that means?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. If an -- if a

10 resident of a Holiday Retirement community is moving

11 from one apartment to another within that retirement

12 community, is it your contention or is it the

13 Commission's contention that that's a regulated move?

14 A. No, there needs to be a truck involved and moved

15 over public roads; however, this request was for two

16 separate addresses in Bellevue, Washington, so...

17 Q. Where do I see that in the request? I don't see

18 any addresses other than -- all I see is Bellevue to

19 Bellevue. Tell me where I know I'm moving from one

20 street to another.

21 A. Well, it doesn't show it on the document that --

22 Q. So then it's just your words against the

23 document; is that right?

24 A. It's not listed on the document. I have had

25 discussions with Ms. Jones and she requested two

0077

1 separate points, which is typical. We know that it

2 needs to be within two points of Washington.

3 Q. But you don't know for a fact that that was the

4 case because why isn't that reflected in the -- in your

5 exhibit?

6 A. These exhibits were performed by Rachel Jones.

7 I have thoroughly reviewed the attachments.

8 Q. But you don't know, do you? All of your

9 testimony is just based upon what you can see; isn't

10 that right?

11 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

12 Q. Yeah, strike that. I'll get another question.

13 This says that the hourly rate for a truck and

14 two workers is $132 for a local move. Now, under Tariff

15 15-C, that's within the band of rates permitted; is it

16 not?

17 A. Well, Mr. Shafer, I'm confused because the

18 violations are actually for advertising and for offering

19 a move. We don't discuss the rates that were charged.

20 Q. So let me see if I understand this correctly,

21 then. So you're not accusing my client of actually

22 acting as a mover without a license, all you're saying

23 is they advertised in an ambiguous way; is that right?

24 A. They advertised Moves for Seniors in the state

25 of Washington, and they advertised local moves.

0078

1 Q. And it's your opinion, is it not, that this was

2 ambiguous because it was unclear whether they were

3 offering services as a broker or as a carrier; is that

4 correct or not?

5 A. It was not ambiguous.

6 Q. I'm sorry?

7 A. It was not ambiguous. It was an advertisement

8 for moves in the state of Washington.

9 Q. Ms. Paul, in conducting your investigation, did

10 anybody reach out to my client to find out what they did

11 in Washington?

12 A. Ms. Jones had conversations with Moves for

13 Seniors. I did not.

14 Q. But you don't know what Ms. Jones said?

15 A. Well, Ms. Jones and I thoroughly discussed this,

16 even while she was conducting the investigation, it

17 was --

18 Q. Who did Ms. Jones speak with from Moves for

19 Seniors; do you know?

20 A. No, I would have to go back and look at the

21 record.

22 Q. Okay. But why is there -- but there's no

23 evidence of that in this record, is there?

24 A. It's not necessary. We have the quote offered

25 from the company.

0079

1 Q. That's fine.

2 This investigation was triggered by complaints,

3 was it not?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And were those complainants consumers or were

6 they competitive carriers?

7 A. It was from the industry.

8 Q. So was it the Washington Movers Conference that

9 filed the complaint against Moves for Seniors?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Was it individual carriers that did it?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did those carriers provide the Commission with

14 any information about what my client was doing?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what was the nature of that information?

17 A. It was just a tip, which is typical. We have an

18 email address that people can send in information about

19 companies they believe are non-permitted.

20 MR. SHAFER: I don't think I have anything

21 else for Ms. Paul, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.

23 Mr. Beattie, did you have any redirect?

24 MR. BEATTIE: No.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. All right. So,

0080

1 Mr. Shafer, you may present your first witness when

2 you're ready.

3 MR. SHAFER: We will call Mr. Pienkowski.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Hold on just one

5 second. I need to know if the court reporter needs a

6 spelling for that name.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: I've got it.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: You've got it? Okay.

9 Can you tell me his last name again so I can

10 say it back? I can't quite hear you.

11 MR. SHAFER: It's P-i-e-n-k-o-w-s-k-i.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Pienkowski?

13 MR. SHAFER: Yes.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. So,

15 Mr. Pienkowski, if you can please stand and raise your

16 right hand, I will swear you in at this time.

17

18 CHRIS PIENKOWSKI, witness herein, having been

19 first duly sworn on oath,

20 was examined and testified

21 as follows:

22

23 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. You may be

24 seated.

25 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you.

0081

1 JUDGE PEARSON: And, Mr. Shafer, you can

2 proceed when you're ready.

3

4 E X A M I N A T I O N

5 BY MR. SHAFER:

6 Q. Mr. Pienkowski, please, for the record just

7 state and spell your last name.

8 A. Last name is Pienkowski, P-i-e-n-k-o-w-s-k-i.

9 Q. And what is your affiliation with Transit

10 Systems, Inc.?

11 A. I am the vice president of business development

12 at Moves for Seniors, which is a division of Transit

13 Systems, Inc.

14 Q. Do you have any familiarity with what Transit

15 Systems does?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And can you tell us in broad terms the business

18 of Transit Systems, Inc.?

19 A. Transit Systems, Inc. is a broker of long

20 distance specialty moving and shipping services within

21 the United States.

22 Q. Is it -- does it transport general commodities

23 or does it transport household goods or some

24 combination?

25 A. We transport a combination of goods, goods and

0082

1 items.

2 Q. So would that include household goods?

3 A. That would.

4 Q. Now, does Moves for Seniors have any operating

5 licenses from the federal government?

6 A. Yes, we do.

7 Q. Okay. I would like to draw your attention to

8 Exhibit 2, please.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Can I just clarify real

10 quickly for the record, so Mr. Pienkowski's first name

11 is Chris, C-h-r-i-s?

12 MR. SHAFER: Yes.

13 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Correct.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. Go ahead.

15 BY MR. SHAFER:

16 Q. So looking at Exhibit 2, and that's CP-2, and,

17 Mr. Pienkowski, how long have you been with Transit

18 Systems?

19 A. Since August 2014.

20 Q. Okay. And were you hired specifically for Moves

21 for Seniors?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You were hired to do what?

24 A. I was hired originally as director of strategic

25 initiatives for Transit Systems, which included

0083

1 identifying ways to improve our operations and to grow

2 the company.

3 Q. Now, does Transit Systems operate as a motor

4 carrier?

5 A. No.

6 Q. How does it operate?

7 A. As a broker of moving services.

8 Q. Tell me how -- generally how the company

9 operates.

10 A. In general, a customer will contact us either

11 online or by phone and describe their moving or shipping

12 needs, providing to and from locations and inventory.

13 From that, we are able to determine pricing and offer a

14 quote.

15 Q. And is that based upon the services that would

16 be provided by Moves for Seniors?

17 A. For Transit Systems, no.

18 Q. So Transit Systems will hire a for hire carrier

19 to provide the physical move?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And for Moves for Seniors, does it provide the

22 same type of service?

23 A. Same type of service, yes, brokerage.

24 Q. Okay. So if I'm moving from Seattle to Spokane

25 because I'm moving to a retirement community in Spokane

0084

1 and it's a Holiday community, this is a hypothetical,

2 and I refer to you because I've seen that Exhibit 4,

3 who's going to be moving me?

4 A. One of our licensed and insured moving partners

5 in the state of Washington.

6 Q. Okay. And what efforts do you make to determine

7 whether the carriers you used are licensed?

8 A. We require our moving partners to provide us

9 with copies of their licensing documentation. We then

10 go onto the WUTC website to verify that the information

11 that they have given us is correct and up-to-date.

12 Q. And have you had instances in the past where

13 you've done business, regulated business, with companies

14 that didn't have proper licensing?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. And other than -- or I should say in

17 addition to what Moves for Seniors does, does anyone

18 else, that the carriers that you do with business with?

19 A. Yes, we have a third-party verification who is

20 our insurance underwriter, and they also perform the

21 same type of verification and provide that -- their

22 findings back to us.

23 Q. I want to talk a little bit about the estimating

24 process, and I would like you to just describe, if you

25 would, how you go about providing customers with

0085

1 estimates.

2 A. Estimates are provided by phone when a

3 customer -- a customer may submit a quote request online

4 or by calling in. At that point, one of our

5 representatives will actually speak to the person

6 requesting a quote to get the particulars of addresses

7 to and from. They will verify information that was

8 entered into our online quoting system and they will

9 ascertain the inventory of items that need to be moved.

10 At that point, a nonbinding quote is offered to

11 the customer. When the customer accepts the nonbinding

12 quote, we will then send one of our local moving -- our

13 licensed local moving partners to the address of the

14 person requesting a quote to gain an actual eyes-on

15 inventory and provide them a binding quote for service

16 to be rendered.

17 Q. And to your knowledge, when the carrier that's

18 going to do the move goes on-site to provide the quote,

19 do they provide any information to the consumers?

20 A. They provide all required documentation

21 regarding consumer protection and anything else that may

22 be required by the Commission because they are licensed

23 through the Commission to perform these moves.

24 Q. So you don't ask them to do anything that's not

25 required by law, do you?

0086

1 A. Correct, no.

2 Q. Now, when they provide the customer with a -- I

3 want to have you turn to Exhibit 13, if you would. Can

4 you tell us what Exhibit 13 is?

5 A. Exhibit 13 is an on-site estimate through one of

6 our licensed moving partners that would correspond with

7 a phone or online quote that we have received.

8 Q. Okay. Now, as I'm looking at -- now, is this

9 typical of what the moving companies provide the

10 customers?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And this shows the customer is Moves for

13 Seniors. Can you explain why it shows Moves for Seniors

14 and not Mary Jones?

15 A. Yes, because Moves for Seniors is the broker in

16 this case. We are the ones who collect payment from the

17 senior who is being moved. They are our customers. We

18 then remit payment to the licensed carrier who performs

19 the actual moving services.

20 Q. When the estimated costs come in, and you get

21 this document, this Exhibit 13, is anything done to

22 verify that the estimate is consistent with the tariff?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you have somebody in your office to verify

25 that?

0087

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Now, at the time the mover visits the customer

3 to provide the on-site estimate, do they identify

4 themselves as the carrier who's going to be doing the

5 move?

6 A. Yes, they do.

7 Q. So if I were hiring you, and I believe All Star

8 Moving & Storage is one of your carriers?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Would I know when I meet with that individual

11 that All Star Moving & Storage is going to be

12 transporting my shipment?

13 A. Yes, the person requesting the quote is told

14 that at the time that the on-site survey is scheduled

15 that our partner from, in this case, All Star Moving &

16 Storage will be at your home to perform your estimate.

17 Q. And at the time that the estimate is done -- let

18 me strike that.

19 I would like you to look at Exhibit 14, which is

20 entitled "Uniform Household Goods Bill of Lading," and

21 there's a logo in the upper left-hand corner of that

22 page that says "Movers Conference."

23 Do you know what the Movers Conference, what

24 that all is?

25 A. I believe that's an organization that movers

0088

1 belong to, it's a trade organization.

2 Q. Is that the Washington Movers Conference?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is this form a Washington Movers Conference form

5 to your knowledge?

6 A. I am unaware.

7 Q. And exactly when is the Uniform Household Goods

8 Bill of Lading, when is that given to the -- to the

9 consumer?

10 A. At the conclusion of the move.

11 Q. Okay. So as I'm looking at -- and now, is this

12 typical of every move?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So as I'm looking at Exhibit 14, I see the --

15 the consumer is Anna Mahoney; is that right?

16 A. She would be our customer in that case.

17 Q. Right.

18 Okay. And there's a signature in the right --

19 lower right-hand corner, and you agree with me that that

20 looks like Anna Mahoney?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And also on the left-hand side where there's an

23 ability to choose valuation and carrier liability, that

24 she signed off on basic value protection?

25 A. Yes.

0089

1 Q. And she signed that off at the time the load was

2 booked?

3 A. This would be at the time that it was being

4 loaded.

5 Q. Okay. So at the time that the mover came to the

6 house to load the goods onto the truck, that's when she

7 was given the opportunity to elect the value of -- the

8 carrier liability election?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And once again, is that typical of how

11 everything is done?

12 A. We have a conversation with the customers at the

13 time of quoting where we talk about the different

14 protection options that are available to them, being

15 your basic movers liability along with replacement or

16 depreciated coverage.

17 Q. So is there anything in the process of booking a

18 move that would mask the identity of the carrier

19 actually doing the work?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Would you agree that -- that the way your

22 advertising on the website is presented is less than

23 clear as to your role as a broker?

24 A. Less than clear, I believe it is clear what our

25 role is.

0090

1 Q. Is this website the one you're currently using?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And are there any plans to change it?

4 A. Yes, we have a new site in development

5 currently.

6 Q. And is that site going to do anything to -- in

7 light of this proceeding to do anything to further

8 clarify your role in the moving process?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And do you know how that's going to work?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Tell us about it.

13 A. The way that's going to work is as we've heard

14 already through our website that we've already often

15 talked about, that we are a moving services provider and

16 that we are not a traditional moving company. What we

17 are doing is clarifying what that means because we do

18 have now a variety of additional services that are used

19 during the downsizing process of seniors. That would

20 include specialized -- the planning of downsizing,

21 removal of unwanted goods. So the clarifications being

22 made on our new website goes into greater details of

23 variety of services available from the physical moving

24 of household goods.

25 Q. And have you seen any considerations of the new

0091

1 website yet?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And does it indicate that your role in the

4 moving process is to be the liaison between the mover

5 and the consumer?

6 A. Yes, it does.

7 Q. So do you make it clear in the new website that

8 you will not be -- you are not the licensed household

9 goods carrier physically doing the work, you're acting

10 on the shipper's behalf?

11 A. Yes, we make it very clear that we are the

12 coordinator of the services.

13 Q. And is that something that's part of your sales

14 process now even though the website may not say that?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Have you ever had occasion -- well, let me ask

17 you this. If a customer complained and said, I thought

18 Moves for Seniors was moving me, instead it was All Star

19 Moving & Storage, who are these guys? Are you familiar

20 with whether you had any complaints like that in the

21 time you've been involved in this process where the

22 consumer called and they were confused about who was

23 doing the work?

24 A. Not to my knowledge.

25 Q. Now, have you ever had any freight claims filed?

0092

1 A. Freight claims?

2 Q. Cargo damage?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you're a broker?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. As a broker, do you know whether you have legal

7 liability for cargo damage?

8 A. We do not have legal liability for cargo damage.

9 Q. So explain to me what happens if my $17,000

10 antique grandfather clock is dropped off the tailgate of

11 the truck at destination and is turned into a

12 quarter-million toothpicks.

13 MR. BEATTIE: Objection. Relevance.

14 MR. SHAFER: Well, it's all really relevant,

15 Your Honor. This all goes to the issue of whether or

16 not there's any consumer deception in the process and

17 any harm to the consumer, because that -- that seems to

18 be the gist of the complaint that -- as Ms. Paul said,

19 the most vulnerable market for moving services is being

20 confused by what my client does. Cargo claims are all

21 part of that. It's highly relevant.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. I'll allow it.

23 I see the point that you're trying to make that it's the

24 carrier ultimately who has the responsibility, which is

25 reflected in the -- both the bill of lading and the

0093

1 estimate. Is that where you were going with this?

2 MR. SHAFER: Well, yeah, we'll get to that.

3 I just want to lay it out so the record's clear.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Go ahead.

5 A. In the event that a customer experiences damage,

6 we, acting in our coordinator role, we are the ones who

7 will deal with the carrier to have those damages

8 reconciled, again, making it easier for the customer to

9 have one single point of contact. And we then take on

10 the burden of working with the carrier to resolve those

11 issues.

12 BY MR. SHAFER:

13 Q. So who pays the customer for the broken

14 grandfather clock?

15 A. The carrier.

16 Q. Directly?

17 A. Directly or sometimes it could be a case where

18 we issue a refund to the customer and the carrier pays

19 us because we've issued a refund on their behalf.

20 Q. So in other words, you pay the claim and then

21 collect from the carrier?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Have you ever had any consumers who complained

24 about that process?

25 A. No.

0094

1 Q. I want to have you take a quick look at Exhibit

2 5 and 6 if you would.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Please tell us what Exhibit 5 is.

5 A. Exhibit 5 is a list of intrastate regulated

6 moves performed by our moving partners from January

7 through September of this year.

8 Q. And these were all booked through your company?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Do you know whether these household goods

11 carriers have sources of business other than Moves for

12 Seniors?

13 A. They do.

14 Q. So they're not exclusive to you?

15 A. No, they are not.

16 Q. Okay. And they're all licensed?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And we'll get to the invoicing in a minute, but

19 I want you to take at look at Exhibit 5 -- Exhibit 6

20 next.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. And ask you to identify what Exhibit 6 is.

23 A. Exhibit 6 is a list of on-site unregulated moves

24 that we would have performed within the retirement

25 communities moving goods from one location to another

0095

1 within the building.

2 Q. Now, I'm going to show you page 31 of SP-1.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. And I'm going to ask you the same question I

5 asked Ms. Paul about the notation that this is an inside

6 pickup and delivery; do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What does that mean?

9 A. To my knowledge, that means that we are

10 relocating furniture from one unit to another within a

11 building.

12 Q. To your knowledge, does a licensed mover have to

13 provide that service?

14 A. They do not.

15 Q. And do you often use unlicensed movers to

16 provide physical labor within a community when a tenant

17 is moving from one unit to another?

18 A. We do.

19 Q. Exhibit 1, which is your certificate of

20 registration, is dated December 8th, 2017, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you tell us why you registered to do

23 business in Washington this month when you've been here

24 for two years?

25 A. Yes, originally, we were advised by our counsel

0096

1 in Pennsylvania that because we have no employees in the

2 state of Washington, we were not required to file as a

3 foreign corporation in the state of Washington; however,

4 upon receiving a second opinion, we chose to do so.

5 Q. And is the company now registered with all of

6 the agencies having jurisdiction over the corporations

7 in the state to your knowledge?

8 A. I'm not 100 percent certain. I believe that

9 that is all in process.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 Next, I would like you to look at Exhibit 3,

12 which is the on on-site services agreement.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. And ask you to explain the relationship between

15 Moves for Seniors and the various company participants

16 listed.

17 A. Okay. The various company participants listed

18 in aggregate make up Holiday Retirement, which is the

19 largest operator of independent living communities in

20 the United States. We are the nationwide moving partner

21 of Holiday Retirement. In this instance, what we do is,

22 under the contract, relocate furniture within their

23 retirement community from one location to another for

24 the purpose of not having employees subject themselves

25 to injuries by carrying heavy items.

0097

1 Q. So that's a risk, an operations risk, they

2 outsource to your company, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 (Brief interruption.)

5 MR. SHAFER: Excuse me, Your Honor.

6 BY MR. SHAFER:

7 Q. And with regard to the on-site services moves

8 that you provide, who pays for those services, is that

9 Holiday or is that the consumer?

10 A. That is Holiday.

11 Q. So Holiday -- so if a resident in a particular

12 project is moving from apartment one to apartment nine,

13 Holiday pays for that?

14 A. Well, it depends, it's a mix. Sometimes

15 depending on the circumstances, Holiday will pay for

16 those services or the consumer themselves may pay for

17 the services. All depending on the circumstance.

18 Q. And then what circumstances have the consumer

19 pay versus Holiday?

20 A. When a consumer pays, it would be circumstance

21 where they have moved into the community and later

22 identified a different apartment where they would like

23 to live. So by making that choice on their own, most

24 times they would pay for our services to perform that

25 move.

0098

1 Q. Next, I would like you to take a look at Exhibit

2 4, which is the local moving partner service agreement.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Is this the form of agreement that all of the

5 Washington carriers have signed?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And is it still in full force and effect?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Next, I would like to just draw your attention

10 to Exhibit 12, which is the invoice for moving services.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. In the period of time that you've been

13 providing this -- now, let me ask, first of all, this

14 invoice for moving services, as you look at this, can

15 you determine whether these are on-site inside moves or

16 whether these are regulated moves?

17 A. From this, I cannot.

18 Q. Would the invoice for inside moves, in

19 appearance at least, be the same as this?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And as you -- as you reviewed this

22 exhibit, there's a listing of the hourly rate for the

23 services. Are those rates the same as you would charge

24 for an inside move, these hourly rates?

25 A. No.

0099

1 Q. Would the inside move rates be less?

2 A. It would be slightly less.

3 Q. And I'm going to just ask you this, to look

4 through the 33 moves that are listed that are identified

5 in exhibit -- I should say in Exhibit 12, and compare

6 that with the spreadsheet of regulated moves in Exhibit

7 5.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. And ask whether these are the invoices for the

10 33 moves that are identified in Exhibit 5.

11 A. They appear to be.

12 Q. Once again, just to confirm for the record, the

13 hourly rates are all based upon the tariff, are they

14 not?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 Within Washington State, do Moves for Seniors

18 have any relationship with other senior communities

19 similar to its relationship with Holiday?

20 A. Not at this time.

21 Q. Have you in the past?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And do you have relationships with other senior

24 communities elsewhere in the country?

25 A. Yes.

0100

1 Q. And the agreement with Holiday, is that similar

2 to the kinds of agreements that you have with other

3 companies?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I will ask you also about the service level

6 agreement, is that basically how you do business

7 everywhere?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Nothing special about Washington?

10 A. No.

11 Q. With regard to your federal brokerage license,

12 have you ever been penalized for violations with federal

13 law with regard to your operation as a broker?

14 MR. BEATTIE: Objection. Relevance.

15 BY MR. SHAFER:

16 Q. Have you ever been investigated?

17 A. Not that I'm aware of.

18 Q. Have you ever been investigated --

19 MR. BEATTIE: Objection. Relevance.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer?

21 BY MR. SHAFER:

22 Q. Is it fair to say Washington is the first and

23 only state that has been [inaudible] in this

24 investigation?

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer, can you hear me?

0101

1 MR. SHAFER: Yes, I can.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Mr. Beattie objected

3 twice on the ground of relevance to these questions

4 about federal investigations. Do you want to respond?

5 MR. SHAFER: It's relevant to the entire

6 question of whether or not there was any consumer

7 deception in the advertising, Your Honor. And, you

8 know, I think it's fair for you to accord whatever

9 weight you deem appropriate to it, but I think it's

10 relevant overall to painting an accurate picture of

11 Moves for Seniors and how it does business everywhere.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Well, I don't -- I

13 don't see that there's a connection between that and the

14 advertisements, which speak for themselves, so I'm going

15 to ask you to move on.

16 MR. SHAFER: Very well.

17 BY MR. SHAFER:

18 Q. Mr. Pienkowski, have you had occasion to

19 determine whether any Washington customers are --

20 regulated moves have presented any cargo claim?

21 A. I'm sorry, can you -- I didn't understand the

22 question.

23 Q. Sure. Are you aware of any cargo claims filed

24 with regard to regulated moves in Washington State?

25 A. I'm not.

0102

1 Q. Is that something that would normally be brought

2 to your attention?

3 A. Not always.

4 Q. Just one final question.

5 Exhibit 12, which is the invoicing, just to

6 clarify, are these the prices charged to the consumer?

7 A. Yes, they are.

8 Q. Okay. And then when the consumer pays you, you

9 remit the carrier its portion of the move?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Is there anything unusual from a broker-carrier

12 standpoint in your business relationship with the

13 exercise of your business relationship with the

14 carriers?

15 A. Nothing unusual.

16 MR. SHAFER: Nothing further, Your Honor.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. I have a

18 couple of questions.

19

20 E X A M I N A T I O N

21 BY JUDGE PEARSON:

22 Q. First, with respect to the changes being made to

23 the website that were represented will make the website

24 more clear in the relationship between Moves for Seniors

25 and the other carriers clear, Mr. Pienkowski, when do

0103

1 you anticipate those changes will be made?

2 A. In the month of January.

3 Q. Okay. And can you be a little bit more specific

4 as to what those changes will say or do you have a

5 written document perhaps that you can send to me that

6 will show what those changes will say?

7 A. We are currently in the final editing phase of

8 our content, and to my knowledge, the marketing team of

9 our company has a deadline of having their content

10 edited and completed by the first week of January. I

11 have seen some of their edits, but that -- that

12 information is not finalized yet.

13 Q. Okay. But generally speaking, do I understand

14 your testimony that the website will change so the

15 consumers are aware that they are working with a

16 regulated mover rather than Moves for Seniors as the

17 mover?

18 A. That's right. We make more clear that we are a

19 coordinator and a central point of contact for a variety

20 of services that may be needed by a senior or their

21 loved ones.

22 Q. Do you intend to still be the party that enters

23 into the contract for the move and collects the payment

24 for the move?

25 A. Yes.

0104

1 Q. Okay. So that part won't change, it's just the

2 transparency about who is actually performing the move?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Okay. And then my next question is it appears

5 that Moves for Seniors charges the customer more than

6 what the carrier would charge to do the move; is that

7 correct?

8 A. That is --

9 Q. Yes?

10 A. No, no, we charge what the mover would charge

11 the customer.

12 Q. So there's no up charge?

13 A. There is no up charge.

14 Q. It's a passed through charge?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay. So if the carrier charges $110 an hour,

17 that's what you charge?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Okay.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. I don't have any

21 further questions.

22 Mr. Beattie, do you have any

23 cross-examination?

24 MR. BEATTIE: Yes.

25 /////

0105

1 E X A M I N A T I O N

2 BY MR. BEATTIE:

3 Q. Thanks for being on the line, Mr. Pienkowski. I

4 have a couple questions starting with Exhibit 12,

5 please.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Let's just take this first invoice, Patricia

8 Weberg. Now, if I understand you correctly,

9 Ms. Weberg would pay Moves for Seniors, would remit

10 payment for this move to Moves for Seniors, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, I will represent to you that I did a

13 Control F search of this entire -- all of these invoices

14 and I do not see the word "broker" in here anywhere.

15 Can you contradict me on that?

16 A. I cannot.

17 Q. If you could turn to Exhibit 13, please.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. And, again, same question, Ms. Jones, Mary

20 Jones, would remit payment to Moves for Seniors,

21 correct?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. I want to shift gears briefly. I want to ask

24 you about the basis for your knowledge of Washington

25 regulations. Now, you're not physically located or

0106

1 you're not -- your place of employment is not in

2 Washington, correct?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. And you're located in Pennsylvania?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Have you ever traveled to Washington

7 State to meet with any of the movers that Moves for

8 Seniors uses?

9 A. I have not.

10 Q. Have you ever attended the Commission's

11 quarterly household goods training?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you know if anybody at Moves for Seniors has

14 ever attended that training?

15 A. Nobody from Moves for Seniors has attended that

16 training.

17 Q. If you could please turn to Exhibit 5.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Here we have listed the -- what I think you

20 would call your local partners for these moves, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Ms. Paul testified earlier that none of these

23 movers has any specialized training in moving senior

24 citizens as a -- as a segment of the population; do you

25 agree with that?

0107

1 A. No.

2 Q. You do not agree with that.

3 So then tell me what is the basis for saying

4 that these particular movers do have specialized

5 training.

6 A. Because in certain instances, these movers have

7 either presented us -- presented to us their expertise

8 in working with seniors. In other instances, these

9 movers have been referred to us by the Holiday

10 Retirement communities that we service as their

11 preferred moving companies due to the level of service

12 that they have provided in the past to their residents.

13 Q. Do you agree with Ms. Paul's statement that the

14 Commission does not offer any specialized training in --

15 for senior moves?

16 A. I'm sorry, I don't understand the question.

17 Q. Well, I think I'm hearing you say that the basis

18 for this purported expertise of these companies is

19 you're saying just due to their experience?

20 A. Okay, yes.

21 Q. Okay. And there's no specialized certification

22 or training that you're aware of that these companies

23 obtain, correct?

24 A. There is not.

25 Q. Okay.

0108

1 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you. I don't have any

2 further questions.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: I just have --

4 MR. SHAFER: I just have --

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Hold on, Mr. Shafer.

6 MR. SHAFER: -- the witness's testimony, and

7 I'd ask him to take a look --

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer.

9 MR. SHAFER: -- at Exhibit 12 again.

10

11 E X A M I N A T I O N

12 BY MR. SHAFER:

13 Q. If you could just look at the first page of

14 Exhibit 12.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. When Ms. Weaver paid $1246 to Moves for Seniors,

17 did Moves for Seniors remit $1246 to whichever carrier

18 provided the service?

19 A. No.

20 Q. What did it -- can you -- can you describe what

21 would have been paid to the carrier?

22 A. We have agreements in place with our carriers

23 where they effectively provide us with a wholesale rate,

24 which is, you know, within the tariff band of Tariff

25 15-C, and we then remit or accept payment also within

0109

1 that tariff band and we pay the movers their contracted

2 rate.

3 Q. So in other words, as a broker, you're charging

4 a fee?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And it's not the hundred percent of what the

7 customer pays, you're charging a fee of X percent to the

8 carrier who then gets whatever that is?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. So if the -- as an example, if the carrier gets

11 10 percent of the total rate, you would remit a

12 hundred -- you would keep $124.60 for yourself and remit

13 the balance to the carrier, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 MR. SHAFER: Thank you. Nothing further.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Mr. Pienkowski, I

17 have another question.

18

19 E X A M I N A T I O N

20 BY JUDGE PEARSON:

21 Q. What is the percentage that you retain?

22 A. The percentage is not a fixed formula. The

23 charges are really based on geography and market rates.

24 So there are some areas where we make less of a margin

25 percentage than others.

0110

1 Q. What is it in Washington?

2 A. Well, again, it's different where in, let's say,

3 Seattle versus somewhere maybe in the middle of the

4 state where there may be market change differences than

5 there's -- there isn't a fixed percentage.

6 Q. What is it in Seattle?

7 A. I don't know off the top of my head.

8 Q. Can you give me a range?

9 A. Between 12 and 17 percent.

10 Q. Okay. And my other question is you represented

11 earlier that you only use permitted carriers to conduct

12 these moves, but I'm looking at CP-5 that shows these

13 were all point-to-point moves, so there were distance

14 between the two destinations, they weren't in-house

15 moves or on-site moves. You used a number of carriers

16 that didn't -- that don't have household goods permits

17 from the Commission.

18 A. Yes, Your Honor, I believe the only one is

19 College Hunks, and that was -- that was a

20 misunderstanding, a misrepresentation of their license

21 to us, and we didn't catch the distinction during our

22 due diligence. They no longer perform any regulated

23 moves for us.

24 Q. What's Ohana Moving?

25 A. Ohana Moving is based out of Oregon and that

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1 was -- that was an oversight in the use of that partner

2 in those two instances.

3 Q. And then how come there's no permit number next

4 to Iron Man Moving & Storage?

5 A. I don't know why that's missing, Your Honor.

6 Q. Okay. So your statement earlier that you ensure

7 that all of the carriers are in good standing and have a

8 certificate from the Commission is actually not true,

9 correct?

10 A. In the case of these two movers, that's correct.

11 Q. Okay. And I also feel like your answer earlier

12 was a little bit deceptive when I was trying to get at

13 whether Moves for Seniors retains a portion of the money

14 made for the move, and although I didn't phrase the

15 question that way, you weren't forthcoming with that

16 information, which would have been in your best

17 interest.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. Do we have

19 anything further?

20 MR. BEATTIE: My colleague, Jeff Roberson,

21 on the line is prepared to address the law surrounding

22 the claim of preemption, and if the Company wants to

23 proceed with, you know, something that came to oral

24 argument on that, he is prepared to give Staff's

25 position on that. If the Company does not wish to make

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1 that argument or is not prepared to do that, then we

2 will also not make that, and we'll -- I guess our

3 argument would be that it's waived at that point.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Shafer?

5 MR. SHAFER: I'm more than happy to submit

6 the legal argument on preemption in writing. I don't

7 think we need to have oral argument on that. But I'm

8 not sure based on today's hearing that the Commission is

9 concerned with anything other than the advertising not

10 being clear that my client was operating as a broker

11 rather than as a carrier. If the Commission's -- if

12 that's really what the Commission's complaint is, then

13 I'm not sure that the preemption argument is even

14 relevant.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Well, it's up to you whether

16 you want to make that argument.

17 MR. SHAFER: I'm sorry?

18 JUDGE PEARSON: I can't advise you one way

19 or the other. It's up to you whether you want to make

20 that argument.

21 MR. SHAFER: I'm just trying to understand

22 what the Commission's -- what the gravamen of this

23 concern is, and if it's advertising, then whether my

24 client is a broker whose activities are exempt from

25 regulation under 49 U.S.C. 14501(b)(1) is irrelevant,

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1 because the issue here isn't that, that my client's

2 operating as an illegal broker. The allegation appears

3 to be that my client was promoting itself as a carrier

4 without having a license.

5 And then it would seem to me the issue is

6 does my client's operations constitute brokerage or is

7 it carriage, and if it's brokerage, then the Commission

8 can make an argument as to whether or not the

9 advertising is in some way deceptive to the consuming

10 public. I'm just trying to understand, because that's

11 not what I understood the thrust of the Staff's concern

12 to be. But if that's what the Staff's concern is, first

13 of all, it's readily accommodated by revising the

14 website and other advertising materials. So I'm not

15 even sure what the Commission's concern is at this

16 point.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Beattie?

18 MR. BEATTIE: Well, just so there is no

19 misunderstanding and claims that -- that the nature of

20 this proceeding was unclear, what Staff is alleging,

21 based on the Commission's complaint, is that Moves for

22 Seniors is operating as a household goods carrier in the

23 state of Washington without the required permit. And

24 the basis for that is twofold as laid out in the

25 complaint. One, that Moves for Seniors advertised for

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1 the transportation of household goods in the state of

2 Washington and two, that Moves for Seniors offered to

3 conduct a household goods move in the state of

4 Washington.

5 Now, if those allegations are found to be

6 proven, then as Your Honor already laid out at the

7 beginning of the proceeding, the next step would be for

8 the Commission to order Moves for Seniors to cease and

9 desist from any -- any operation of household goods

10 carrier in the state of Washington, and that includes

11 advertising, and to do so until it obtains a permit.

12 And should it decide not to obtain a permit, the cease

13 and desist would be in operation indefinitely.

14 Further, Staff considers there to be

15 violations of state law in this case. Again, based on

16 the allegations of advertising and offering to conduct a

17 move, and Staff has requested a monetary penalty and

18 Susie Paul, Staff's witness, has already laid out the

19 basis for that.

20 So, you know, just to be clear to

21 Mr. Shafer, this isn't just about changing the website

22 there, this is about a cease and desist, this is about a

23 coming into compliance, this is about paying a monetary

24 penalty. And, again, Staff's position is that, you

25 know, theoretically, we could just stay silent on the

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1 preemption issue and then later on try to say gotcha,

2 you didn't say anything, so it's waived. Staff is

3 trying to make sure that all the issues are aired out in

4 this proceeding.

5 So at this point, that's a defense that the

6 company would have to raise, and I've heard just a lot

7 of ambiguity about whether that defense is actually

8 being raised here. I think that the company needs to

9 speak to that.

10 MR. SHAFER: To the extent that the

11 Commission seeks to prevent my client from engaging in

12 brokerage services, which is all it does. We certainly

13 aren't waiving the preemption defense, and I would draw

14 the Commission's attention to 49 U.S.C. 14501(b)(1),

15 which says in no uncertain terms, no state shall enact

16 or enforce any law or regulation or having -- or

17 anything else having the effect of law or regulation

18 with respect to the rates, routes, or services of

19 brokers, and my client has a brokerage license. The

20 operation of brokerage operations within a state is not

21 something the State can regulate.

22 The State can regulate the operations of

23 motor carrier under 14501(c) -- I believe it's (c)(2) if

24 I'm not mistaken. The economic regulation of the moving

25 and storage business was preserved. That was all that

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1 was preserved when Congress sun- -- did not only sunset

2 the interstate commerce commission, but also enacted the

3 preemption provision in the statute I just cited.

4 I can give you a thousand cases off the --

5 but not off the top of my head with regard to the

6 analysis of the enactment of the federal preemption, a

7 state regulation generally. But in general, the State

8 can't regulate the operations of the carrier with regard

9 to the movement of property except for the operations of

10 a household goods carrier. And so I guess what the

11 administrative law judge is going to have to decide is

12 whether my client is, in fact, a household goods carrier

13 or whether it's a broker whose operations are exempt

14 from State regulation.

15 MR. ROBERSON: Staff disagrees with the

16 Company's analysis, Judge Pearson, and I'm prepared to

17 offer legal argument if you want to hear it or as

18 Mr. Shafer just mentioned, we can do this by brief.

19 It's up to you.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: I would like to do it by

21 brief. I actually thought of that before coming in here

22 this morning just because it's difficult even from a

23 transcript to summarize the parties' statements,

24 particularly when there's case law that's being cited to

25 and federal regulations and things of that nature. So

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1 it would be helpful to me if the parties are open to it,

2 could the parties file simultaneous one round of briefs?

3 MR. ROBERSON: Absolutely.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

5 MR. SHAFER: Yeah, that's acceptable for

6 Moves for Seniors.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And how much time

8 would you like? I mean, this is not time-sensitive, so

9 I understand there's holidays coming up and other

10 demands.

11 MR. SHAFER: You know, I have a couple of

12 things on a very short fuse that have to be filed before

13 the end of the year, and I have a trial that's set for

14 the third week in February. And can we have until --

15 pardon me, until the last business day in January,

16 whatever that day is, to file our simultaneous brief?

17 JUDGE PEARSON: I would be fine with that.

18 That would accommodate my schedule quite well.

19 MR. SHAFER: Okay.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Roberson, is that okay

21 with you?

22 MR. ROBERSON: I believe I have jury duty

23 the last week in January, but Staff is ready. A brief

24 will be in by then.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So in that vein,

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1 then, I will need -- obviously need the parties to waive

2 the requirement that I issue an order within ten days.

3 MR. SHAFER: Yeah, Moves for Seniors

4 certainly waives that.

5 MR. BEATTIE: Agreed. Waive.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

7 MR. BEATTIE: Do I need to say the magic

8 word?

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

10 MR. BEATTIE: Do you envision a page limit?

11 Up to you, Your Honor.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Do you have a

13 recommendation? I would like them to be brief.

14 MR. BEATTIE: Sure. I will let Mr. Roberson

15 speak to that.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

17 MR. ROBERSON: I don't imagine -- I think

18 the normal brief limit is 20 pages. We're certainly not

19 going to exceed, maybe half that.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Does that sound

21 reasonable, Mr. Shafer?

22 MR. SHAFER: I'm sorry, 20-page limit?

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Yes.

24 MR. SHAFER: Yeah, I think that's fine.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And so the last day

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1 in January, let me just take a look at my calendar so

2 that we can --

3 MR. SHAFER: I was just looking at it.

4 January 31st is a Wednesday.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Does that work for

6 everyone, close of business by January 31st?

7 MR. SHAFER: Very good.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then we will set that

9 as the due date for both hearing simultaneous briefs,

10 and then you can expect to see my order most likely

11 within ten days after that.

12 MR. SHAFER: Very good.

13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Is there anything

14 else before we go off the record?

15 MR. BEATTIE: No, thank you.

16 MR. SHAFER: Nothing further from Moves for

17 Seniors.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I just want to thank

19 everyone for being patient and willing to do this

20 telephonically today. I know it wasn't ideal, but I do

21 think that it worked out pretty well, and I'm glad we

22 were able to go forward.

23 MR. SHAFER: As the person who would have

24 otherwise been forced to drive an extra two and a half

25 hours to Olympia, I truly appreciate being able to do

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1 this telephonically.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Yes, absolutely.

3 MR. ROBERSON: As do I. Thank you.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Yeah.

5 Mr. Pienkowski, thanks for coming out for

6 this.

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Oh, my pleasure. Thanks

8 for accommodating the phone call.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: All right. Well, if that's

10 all we have, then we are adjourned. Thanks again,

11 everyone.

12 (Adjourned at 11:01 a.m.)

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF THURSTON

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6 I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand

7 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby

8 certify that the foregoing transcript is true and

9 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill, and

10 ability.

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14 Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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