

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Andrew U. D. Straw,)
 Plaintiff.) 1-11 MDL 2218-TWT (N.D. Ga.)
v.) Hon. Thomas W. Thrash, Jr.
United States of America,) Judge Presiding
 Defendant.)

AFFIDAVIT OF LESLIE C. TABBADA

I, *Home Health Aide* Leslie C. Tabbada, having provided health services to Andrew U. D. Straw relevant to his competency and disability, depose as follows:

FACTS

1. First, please find attached Exhibit L1, which is the doctor's order from Dr. Gueverra at Bauan Doctor's Hospital. This document is a true and correct copy as signed by the doctor in 2019 in my presence.
2. I make this affidavit to support Andrew's motion to reopen his case due to disability and incompetence. Andrew has been labeled incompetent and disabled and **he is disabled** in my experience of him. He has a very serious and permanent mental illness that affects how he thinks and how he relates to other people.

3. I have been Andrew U. D. Straw's home health aide from when he arrived in the Philippines on **June 15, 2018**, through **February 14, 2020**, and continuing indefinitely.
4. Andrew has made multiple claims to the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay for the time I have spent looking after Andrew and his needs. These payments would be under the Camp LeJeune Family Member Program. <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov/> These claims for me now amount to over PHP 7,127,550 (\$142,551) as of 2/12/2020, and these remain pending the outcome of Andrew's lawsuit:
 5. *Straw v. Wilkie*, 18-7129 (U.S. CAVC).
6. Andrew brought all of the documents he had in the USA with him to the Philippines. I have reviewed many of them and it is apparent to me reading medical and family notes that he has been disabled physically and mentally his entire life. I have also reviewed <http://disability.andrewstraw.com> and those documents and explanations appear to be valid to me.
7. Andrew is very intelligent and one should not confuse a mood disorder with having a low IQ. They are not the same. But one can

be both very intelligent and permanently disabled, and Andrew fits this description. What he lost from the disability was the full ability to use his high intelligence as someone not disabled may be able to do. All this shows is the potential lost from the poisoning of Andrew and how he should be compensated for that loss.

8. Being highly intelligent without bipolar and the other disabilities Andrew has is much better than being that intelligent with this burden on his back all the time. There is a stigma, a very serious and permanent stigma that can drive even someone as talented as Andrew into poverty because many powerful people don't want those with bipolar around them. It's clear this is what happened at the Indiana Supreme Court.
9. Andrew suffers from a form of "social death" from his disabilities and the fact that the Indiana Supreme Court just lets his suspension go on and on for years without even providing him with a hearing just shows the severity of this "social death." The courts that allow this are in my view pounding nails into Andrew and burying him. It's not fair. It's not right. It violates disability rights.

10. Andrew has also explained how his mental and physical disabilities are the result of crime and these arguments as a crime victim are also valid and appear to be consistent with the disabilities: <http://crime.andrewstraw.com>
11. I have listened to Andrew complain about courts violating him and I can say that his moods fluctuate a great deal when we talk about how courts have aggravated his conditions instead of giving him justice for the crimes. <http://dueprocess.andrewstraw.com> and <http://discipline.andrewstraw.com> and <http://ca7.andrewstraw.com> are all websites I have reviewed and they appear to be genuine and authentic in their arguments and citations.
12. Andrew has bipolar disorder as the doctor's order notes as well as other **neurobehavioral effects** consistent with water poisoning as a child or fetus.
13. The illnesses Andrew has come from lifelong illnesses that manifest later in life sometimes, but can appear in behavior as early as a young child.
14. It is well known that bipolar disorder is associated with the toxins to which Andrew was exposed. He has shown me the

Aschengrau study and this appears to explain why he has bipolar and has had it from birth.

15. It is important to see the report from the National Academy of Sciences Press on the Pubmed.gov website to see why bipolar symptoms begin as an adolescent and why the incidence is much higher in people like Andrew who were exposed at Camp LeJeune:

* * * in keeping with the VA policy that “in cases where there is reasonable doubt as to the diagnosis or primary cause for the diagnosis, clinicians should resolve in favor of the Camp Lejeune veteran or family member,” the committee recommends that VA consider including **adolescent and adult * * * bipolar disorder** as neurobehavioral effects in the Camp Lejeune clinical guidance and in algorithm B-1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK284982/>

16. There is no doubt in my mind after reading this National Library of Medicine website that Andrew has had this bipolar disorder his whole life and that Camp LeJeune toxic exposure is the likely cause.

17. Andrew has multiple documents from his American doctors showing that he has had bipolar for quite a long time. They are exhibits in his North Carolina and U.S. CAVC lawsuits. He has tried to maintain his health but needed in-patient treatment many times, and Andrew says that it has been about 10x since the first

in-patient treatment in **December 1998** in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Andrew was 28 years old at the time of his first in-patient treatment.

18. There is no reason to think that bipolar only began in 1998 when Andrew alleges symptoms of bipolar mania and bipolar depression that go back to his childhood.
19. Andrew has a strong sensitivity to loud sounds and smells. When I cook, I open the doors and windows, especially when I cook fish or onions or other food with strong smells.
20. Andrew has complained about tap water having smells and strong tastes and we started using a water dispenser and buy all of our drinking water now in large bottles, filtered professionally.
21. Andrew has complained about dogs barking next door and loud music from karaoke as well as loud music early in the morning across the street at a school. We have taken complaints to the local authorities and finally we moved to another area with less noise.
22. Since I look after Andrew at all hours, my children moved into an apartment next to us and this also was too much for Andrew

because they make a great deal of sound, so now the children live a short distance away so Andrew is not constantly hearing them.

23. His sensitivity to sound has major impacts on the way Andrew relates to other people. He perceives other people making noise as being personally harming him when those who make noise often are simply insensitive to someone like Andrew. They don't realize how offending their noise is and they ignore his complaints. I consider people like this to be callous and uncaring when a person with a disability asks them very reasonably to be quiet because they have neighbors.

24. I have had to ask people to keep their noise down or stop their dogs from barking all day and all night, as some dogs do. This is part of why I work so many hours and can wake up having duties in the middle of the night.

25. Andrew sleeps very strange hours, what one would consider to be a "third shift" sleeping schedule. He is usually awake at night and sleeps in the morning and early afternoons.

26. Andrew sometimes gets angry when he feels his disabilities are being disrespected and his needs not met.

27. Sometimes, he wakes up with night terrors about his mother's death or the deaths of others in his family.
28. Andrew tries to maintain his health by getting at least 8-9 hours of sleep each day, whenever he may get it. He takes naps, as he said to the American Bar Association when it did a "spotlight" profile of him in 2014: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives/awards/spotlight/straw_a/
29. Andrew and I monitor his moods and his sleep.
30. Andrew is very consistent about taking his medicines and I believe his having patterns (even if 3rd shift) helps him to maintain his health. When other people impose their patterns on Andrew, things don't go as well.
31. In other words, in everything I have seen Andrew do and accomplish, it is because he had control over his life and how he wishes to do things. No one else knows what it is like to be Andrew with extreme disabilities coupled with extreme talents. I can only imagine the level of frustration he must feel when people attack him and reduce his ability to be a lawyer for other disabled people.

32. He appears to have a cyclical pattern to his moods that match his sleep. When he sleeps much more, it is clear that he is in a depressed mode and when he sleeps hardly at all, he starts to tip into quick thinking and manic mode, but much of the time he is somewhere in between.

33. Some days, when a judge gives him a bad news that seems unjust, Andrew doesn't sleep at all and the mood issues go on and on until Andrew uses his self-knowledge to get control again, usually with medications he has. I have seen him manage his own anger and disappointment a number of times.

34. Andrew's medicines are listed in the doctor's order and they help him to sleep, help him avoid odd thoughts, and reduce his anxiety.

35. Andrew's anxiety appears to go with his mood disorder, bipolar depression, and he has medicine specifically to address anxiety. Propanolol appears to help him manage his anxiety and when anxiety increases, he will take two tablets instead of just one.

36. Poverty increases Andrew's symptoms, without a doubt. When he has extraordinary expenses, he is more irritable and less

able to function. When he gets an NSF because he is trying to exist on a poverty SSDI income, it is very distressing for him.

37. I believe that much of Andrew's disability problems would be addressed very positively by him winning this case and others and also by my claims being paid.

38. As they say, poverty is a violence and I agree.

39. Andrew has been disabled and/or incompetent his entire life because there is no way to determine when the first symptoms began and **his poisoning is likely the cause**, so one must say that he has been disabled from that cause for his whole life.

40. There is a serious injustice in someone like Andrew having to struggle for decades in poverty on SSDI because **someone else poisoned him and someone else discriminated against him** on that same basis.

41. Andrew should be paid for his poisoning and all of the effects. His mother's poisoning and death, his daughter's DNA damage from Andrew's poisoning, and his brother's genetic damage, not to mention his stepfather's bereavement all deserve to be compensated.

42. I watch Andrew struggle every day. Today is the 3-year anniversary of Andrew's 5 law licenses being suspended based on Andrew's disability and incompetence. His depressed feeling permeated the whole house yesterday and today. It is obvious that he feels oppressed and wronged from how his disabilities from public service and poisoning were disrespected.

43. I hate to see him suffer like this. I wish there were something I could do, but I know the disabilities are permanent and have been permanent from the very beginning.

44. Bipolar is not curable.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324349>

45. At the same time, we know that the association with toxic exposure at Camp LeJeune is associated with a much higher incidence of bipolar disorder.

46. I want Andrew to feel better. I believe giving him justice for the deliberate poisoning and the government's hiding that poisoning from Andrew and his family, which prevented him from getting treatments aligned with the cause of his illnesses and disabilities.

47. Hiding that poisoning is a separate violation from the poisoning itself. It represents *lying* both to Andrew, his family, and all the other families. I feel bad for them all and when I am providing Andrew with health services, I think of all the other poisoned families and what a massive amount of suffering is going on here. It has certainly not stopped, this suffering, because I am here treating Andrew and taking care of him on **February 14, 2020**, for the same bipolar that began as poisoning for Andrew *in utero* in 1968 & 1969, and at his birth and after.

48. It is shocking for me to see how a U.S. Navy doctor actually made orders that one can see on paper for Andrew to be exposed to that toxic water on the **second day of Andrew's life**. You can argue the law all you want, but any fair and honest person who sees that will know that it was not right to hide that from Andrew and his family when the government knew what it had done.

49. Just to cut people loose and make them deal with such severe illnesses as Andrew has, alone in poverty and suffering, is wrong. I have seen Andrew literally vomiting in the bathroom from his

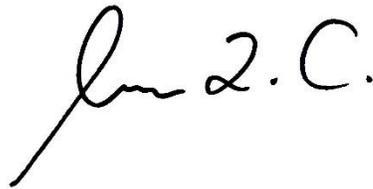
distress and I know other people's attacks on him have given him migraines and made him blind in both eyes.

50. Someone needs to help Andrew. I have been doing my part for **20 months** without receiving the pay that my claims to the VA show are due to me. I am doing this for room and board only at this time, and because I care about Andrew.

51. Further, *affiant* sayeth not.

I, *home health aide of Andrew U. D. Straw*, Leslie C. Tabbada, verify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, that the above statements and factual representations are true and correct on penalty of perjury.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie C. Tabbada". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

s/ LESLIE C. TABBADA
7A Tomas Salcedo Street
San Roque Barangay
Bauan, Batangas 4201
The Philippines
Telephone: (63) 916-779-2638
Leslie.Balmes.Castigador@gmail.com
February 14, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Andrew U. D. Straw, certify that I filed the above **AFFIDAVIT** with the Clerk of this Court via the Court's CM/ECF system on **February 14, 2020**, and this **AFFIDAVIT** will be served to all counsel of record through that CM/ECF system.

ADAM M. DINNELL
Senior Trial Counsel
Torts Branch, Civil Division
United States Department of Justice
P.O. Box 340, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044
Email: adam.dinnell@usdoj.gov
Telephone: (202) 616-4211

U.S. District Court
Northern District of Georgia
Richard B Russell Federal
Court Building
2211 United States Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

Respectfully submitted,



s/ ANDREW U. D. STRAW
700 12th ST NW STE 700
PMB 92403
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (847) 807-5237
andrew@andrewstraw.com
February 12, 2020
Pro Se