

Transcript of Deposition of Jeri Maguire

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COURT REPORTER: It's March 12, 2025. Now swearing in the witness. Do you swear or affirm that your testimony will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MAGUIRE: Yes.

Q: What do you do for a living?

A: I've been a sports agent for the last 17 years.

Q: What degrees or certifications do you have?

A: I have a bachelor's in English and J.D., both from UCLA. Also, in the NFL, agents must be officially certified by the NFL Players Association before they can represent players in contract negotiations. I have that certification.

Q: How did Frank Cushman first become your client?

A: Frank Cushman, or "Cush" as everyone calls him, was the quarterback at Cal, projected to be the first pick in the 2024 NFL Draft. In January 2024, he and his parent, Matty, came to the agency where I worked, Combat Sports International, the biggest sports agency in L.A. Frank and Matty met a dozen of our agents and chose me. Exhibit 1 is the contract we signed in February. It took weeks for Frank to sign once we'd agreed to the terms. Matty said, "I'm reluctant to let Frank sign anything. I don't trust lawyers."

Q: When you negotiated terms of the February 2024 contract between Frank Cushman and CSI, who was involved in the negotiations?

A: Me, Sydney Gaskins, who was my boss, and Matty. Frank was not involved. Frank said we should talk to Matty about any contractual issues and that Matty had his authority to negotiate with agents. Frank would always say, "I just want to play football, Jeri."

Q: Do you still work at CSI?

A: No. On April 22nd, 2024, Bobbi Sugar, another agent, took me to lunch and fired me. A few days earlier, I sent a memo – actually, a mission statement – to the entire office. I wrote that CSI had too many clients and wasn't giving them enough attention. At lunch, Bobbi said, "We're letting you go. You said fewer clients. You put it down on paper."

Q: What did you do when CSI fired you?

A: Sprinted to the office, grabbed my phone, and started calling my 20 clients. The first client I called was Frank. He was my biggest client. I told him I was leaving CSI and suggested we meet in person to talk about his future. He put Matty on the phone, who invited me to come to the Cushman family house in San Diego the next day.

Q: Other than Frank Cushman, how many clients did you keep?

A: One. Enrico Tidwell, an Arizona Cardinals wide receiver. He was in his fifth year in the NFL and still considered an average player around the league.

Q: What happened just before you left the CSI office on April 22nd, 2024?

A: I stood in front of the office and said I was starting my own agency. An accountant, Dorothy Shepard, said she'd go with me. Dorothy said my memo was the best thing she'd read since U.S. v. Crosby. I reminded her it was a mission statement, not a memo.

Q: Tell me about your meeting at Frank Cushman's home on April 23rd.

A: Got there around noon. In the kitchen, I told Matty and Frank everything I just told you – mission statement, being fired, and what Bobbi Sugar said. I said I was starting my own agency. I reminded them that Exhibit 1 was void because I'd left. I said, "You should stay

1 with me.” Frank said he was excited for me but that Matty would handle the negotiations
2 on any agency contracts. Then, Frank grabbed his gym bag and drove away.

3 **Q: What happened after Frank Cushman left the house and it was just you and Matty?**
4 A: I said, “You know how much I care about your son. If you stay with CSI, you’re making
5 a mistake.” Matty said, “We’ve decided to stay with you. I told myself, ‘If Jeri shows up,
6 we stick with Jeri.’” I gave Matty a hug. Matty invited me into the living room.

7 **Q: What happened when you got to the living room?**
8 A: Matty said to me, “I want Frank to go number one in the draft, to either the Chargers or
9 Broncos. Surf or ski.” I said, “I’ll give it everything.” Then, I handed Exhibit 2 to Matty.
10 Matty read it for about two minutes and said, “This all looks fine. You know I don’t like
11 to sign contracts. But what you do have is my word. And it’s stronger than oak.” Then,
12 we shook hands and Matty gave me the hat in Exhibit 6. I left at 12:30 PM.

13 **Q: Weren’t you concerned about not having a signed contract?**
14 A: Yes. But I wanted to respect Matty’s wishes. I planned to revisit the written contract next
15 time I saw them. Besides, we had an oral contract already.

16 **Q: Why not memorialize your conversation with Matty? Why not send one email?**
17 A: I had just been fired, started my own agency, was scrambling to retain clients, and the
18 draft was in two days. I had a lot going on. I would have memorialized it later that week.

19 **Q: What percentage of your contracts with your clients have been in writing?**
20 A: Almost all of them. But over the years, I’ve had a few handshake deals, like this one.

21 **Q: Who did you tell about the outcome of your April 23rd meeting with Matty
22 Cushman before you met with the Cushmans on April 24th at their penthouse?**
23 A: Only Dorothy Shepard. The day was so crazy that I didn’t have time to talk to anyone
24 else.

25 **Q: What did you do after leaving the Cushmans on April 23rd?**
26 A: I sent the texts in Exhibit 4 to Dorothy that we’d signed Frank and our agency was set
27 financially. Then, I started talking to Jon Shanahan and Reggie Campbell, the GMs of the
28 Chargers and Panthers, respectively. The Panthers had the first pick. Then, I got
29 champagne in Exhibit 5 to celebrate at Dorothy’s. Our agency wouldn’t have survived
30 long if we only represented Tidwell. Frank’s contract would pay us more than a million
31 dollars.

32 **Q: What were your phone calls with Shanahan and Campbell about on April 23rd?**
33 A: Trying to convince Campbell to trade Shanahan the first overall pick to draft Frank.
34 Shanahan is a close friend. By the end of the day, it seemed like there was momentum
35 toward the Chargers making the trade, but nothing was close to done, and Campbell was
36 still threatening to make the trade with a different team.

37 **Q: Would you have communicated with the general managers as shown in Exhibit 4 if
38 you weren’t Frank Cushman’s agent?**
39 A: No. Teams won’t trust you in the future if you do that. I could’ve lost my certification
40 with the NFLPA. In May, the NFLPA investigated and found I did nothing wrong.

41 **Q: When did you next speak to the Cushmans after you left their house on April 23rd?**
42 A: April 24th at night. I flew to Seattle that morning, where the Draft was the next night.

43 **Q: Why didn’t you speak to Frank or Matty Cushman about the trade again between
44 the texts on the afternoon of April 23rd in Exhibit 4 and the night of April 24th?**

1 A: There was nothing concrete to tell them. Plus, I'd been ignoring Tidwell. He was up for a
2 new contract after the season. I introduced him to some team executives on April 24th at
3 the Manoogian Hotel in Seattle to rehabilitate his value around the league.

4 **Q: Who did you tell about your deal with Frank Cushman before the night of April**
5 **24th?**

6 A: Just Dorothy.

7 **Q: Where did you see Frank Cushman on the night of April 24th?**

8 A: At his Manoogian Hotel penthouse. I called Matty that morning and asked to see them
9 later that day. I went to their penthouse wearing Exhibit 6 after I left Tidwell that
10 afternoon.

11 **Q: What happened when you met with Frank and Matty Cushman on April 24th?**

12 A: I told them about the texts and calls in Exhibit 4. Matty said, "He has to go first, to the
13 Chargers or Broncos." Then, the phone rang. Frank said, "Must be reporters." I told
14 Frank to be friendly and say no comment. Frank said, "Talking and saying nothing is an
15 art I've not mastered." I said, "I'll get it." Matty said, "Go ahead." I picked up the phone.

16 **Q: What happened when you picked up the phone?**

17 A: I did my best Frank impression and said, "This is Cush." It was Bobbi Sugar's voice.
18 Bobbi said, "It's Sugar. Sniff if Maguire is there." So I sniffed. Then Sugar said, "Okay.
19 Just let Matty do the talking. Remember, I'm the one who got you what you wanted. This
20 is business, not friendship. Be strong." I said, "No comment," and hung up.

21 **Q: What did you do after you hung up the phone?**

22 A: I took out a copy of Exhibit 2 dated April 24th, and said, "Before I go back to the teams,
23 let's get something in writing that says, 'I'm with Jeri Maguire.'" Matty said, "Not right
24 now." Frank looked like he was going to cry. I said, "You two aren't talking to Bobbi
25 Sugar?" Matty said, "Apparently, the Panthers wanted to deal with Bobbi." I said, "Said
26 who, Sugar? They deal with me all the time. But it's okay. You didn't sign anything with
27 Sugar, right?" Matty and Frank stared at me. I said, "Tell me you didn't sign. Because
28 I'm still pretty moved by the whole 'My word is stronger than oak' thing." Matty handed
29 me Exhibit 3 and said, "We signed an hour ago, while you were with Tidwell." Frank
30 said, "Sorry, Jeri. I just want to play football."

31 **Q: Does Dorothy Shepard still work for you?**

32 A: Yes. We got married in August. This lawsuit was filed the day after our honeymoon.

33 **Q: How is your agency doing financially now?**

34 A: Great. In October, we signed Olympic pole vaulter Laniya Davidson, whose career nearly
35 ended in a horrible pole accident. Between endorsements and her book deal, we made
36 about \$300,000. Then, Tidwell had a breakout season and got a huge contract from the
37 Cardinals last month. My agency made \$500,000 on it.

38 **Q: You filed an arbitration against Bobbi Sugar and CSI?**

39 A: Yes, for tortious inference with my contract with Frank. That case is in discovery.