

The Wade Robson Allegations

by

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*Wade Robson on the Today's Show
in May 2013*

On May 1, 2013 Wade Robson filed a creditor's claim against Michael Jackson's Estate and a civil lawsuit against Jackson and two of his companies, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures, demanding monetary compensation for alleged childhood sexual abuse by Jackson. This was a shocker, since Robson previously had talked about his relationship with Jackson many, many times – whether in Court under oath at Jackson's 2005 trial, in police interviews and in front of a Grand Jury in 1993-1994, or in the media and other platforms – and always defended the star against such allegations and denied that anything like that had ever happened to him.

Early reports (eg. TMZ) suggested that Robson claimed repressed memories of abuse, but he clarified it in an interview on the Today's Show on May 16, 2013 that his claim was not that these memories had been repressed, but that, although he always knew that these things had happened, he just did not understand that they were wrong and were sexual abuse until he went into therapy for a nervous breakdown one year earlier on May 8, 2012.

In this paper I will lead you through the process of Robson's change of his story, I will summarize the legal side of his creditor's claim (Probate Court Case) and civil lawsuit and will address some other issues regarding his case.

Robson's Route to Changing His Story

The 1993 investigation

When the Chandler allegations became public in 1993, the police contacted many families and their children who had spent time with Michael Jackson over the years, including the Robsons. Wade Robson (who at the time was 10-11 years old), his mother or any of their family members never said anything incriminating about Jackson during that investigation.

According to Wade's current version of his story, at the time he denied being sexually abused, because Michael Jackson had allegedly told him that they would **both** go to jail if anyone was ever to find out, and because Jackson had allegedly "coached" him over the phone in a form of a "role play" about what to say to authorities. According to Wade's complaint:

“When the Jordan Chandler child sexual abuse allegations surfaced, Michael Jackson would telephone [Robson] nearly every day and speak with him for hours on the phone prior to [Robson's] testimony. Michael Jackson actively and consciously coached [Robson] in the form of role playing and would say to [Robson] on the phone: "You know they are listening right now. They are

saying we did all of this disgusting sexual stuff. We never did any of that, right?" [Robson] would play along and answer: "No way!" [1; paragraph 37]¹

In a declaration that Wade gave on April 30, 2013 in support of his civil lawsuit and creditor's claim he says that this alleged "coaching" took place *after* he had been subpoenaed to testify in front of a Grand Jury in connection with the Chandler case.

*"In September 1993, a sexual abuse lawsuit was brought against [Jackson] by a young boy named Jordy Chandler. **I was subpoenaed to testify in front of a Grand Jury in Los Angeles in an (sic) criminal investigation relating to the boy's [Jordan Chandler] relationship with [Jackson]. At the time I was only eleven (11) years old. As soon as I was subpoenaed for my testimony, [Jackson] started calling me every day to coach me.**" [2; paragraph 17]*

(Emphasis added.)

Wade's Grand Jury testimony, however, was not the first time that Wade talked to authorities about these allegations and denied that anything inappropriate had ever happened to him by Jackson. The Grand Jury testimonies took place in March-April 1994, but the Robsons have first talked to the police about the case well before that, in August 1993. That can be derived from Wade's own complaint where he says that right *after* he and his mother were interviewed by the Los Angeles Police Department in connection with the Chandler case, his mother called Jackson's personal assistant, Norma Staikos who then put them in contact with Jackson's private investigator Anthony Pellicano. He privately interviewed Wade then arranged for media interviews for Wade and his mother where they defended the star. [1; paragraph 36]

We know that those media interviews took place and aired around August 26-28, 1993, which puts the Robsons' first police interview in connection with the case between August 17, 1993, when the Chandler investigation started and August 26-28, 1993 when they gave their first media interviews. It is obvious that neither Wade or his mother Joy or any of their family members told anything incriminating to either the police or to Pellicano about Jackson, otherwise the police would have used their testimonies against Jackson and Pellicano would not have put them on TV to defend Jackson. Also, Wade's own current story is that he had never told about his alleged abuse to anyone before 2012.

It has to be noted that when the Chandler investigation started and when the Robsons were first interviewed by the police, Jackson was on tour abroad and was in a bad mental and physical state due to the allegations taking a toll on him. On August 25-26 and 30, 1993 he had to cancel two shows in Bangkok because of dehydration and a show in Singapore after collapsing backstage.

So well before those alleged "coaching" phone calls in 1994, Wade denied abuse and defended Jackson, both while talking to the police and in media interviews that took place only within days of the Chandler investigation's start. He also convincingly denied any abuse when his mother asked him about it privately in the wake of the Chandler allegations [4; page 159-160]. Wade now claims that was because Jackson allegedly had told him that both of them would go to jail if anyone ever found out.

¹ Wherever a Court document writes "Plaintiff", "Defendant" etc. I will replace it with the names of the people or organizations it refers to, for the sake of convenience.

On September 15, 2016 in an interview with KFI AM 640, a local Los Angeles radio station, Wade's lawyer, Vince Finaldi claimed that Pellicano coached Wade and Joy into defending Jackson's innocence. *"What happened was Michael Jackson was calling him, coaching him on the phone as he did during the entire time. He also hired a lawyer for him. And had Anthony Pellicano in the mix. Going to Wade, going to his mother. Coaching them and telling them what to say"*, Finaldi claimed [3].

This claim, however, fails by Wade's own complaint which says that his mother contacted Staikos and, through her, Pellicano *after* their first interview with the police had already taken place where they had already denied abuse and defended Jackson. They did not need any coaching by Pellicano to do so.

In her deposition in 2016, Joy claimed that they were "coerced" by Pellicano to do these television interviews, but she said her hesitation was not because she thought that Jackson was guilty. She was reluctant to give those interviews simply because she knew how it would look for her, as a mother, to admit that she had allowed her son to sleep in somebody's bed. [4; page 183]

In an interview in 1995, Joy Robson stated that *"it was Wade's decision to 'go public' on television and proclaim Michael's innocence."* [5]

The Robsons then also testified in Jackson's defense during the Grand Jury hearings for the Chandler case in March-April 1994. Wade's mother, Joy was reluctant to let Wade testify in an open court. As a result of that Judge Lance Ito (who became famous later for his presiding over the OJ Simpson case) charged Robson with contempt. At the end, with the help of Jackson's attorneys, a compromise was negotiated that Wade would testify in a private session. He did and he defended Jackson again. According to Joy's 2016 deposition, she was not present during her son's testimony, but according to people who were, he was very convincing in his defense of Jackson [4; page 296-297]. Wade now claims he could be so convincing due to Jackson's above quoted alleged "role playing" phone calls to him.

"A master of deception" - then or now?

Over the years, both as a child and as an adult Wade continued to defend Jackson privately and publicly alike, and often volunteered to do so. At no times did he give any hint of distress or confusion while talking about Jackson, he always seemed very open and genuine about their friendship. There are also no stories of him telling anyone or hinting to anyone, either publicly or privately, that he had been allegedly sexually abused. On the contrary.

According to Wade's mother, Joy Robson, Wade was "very convincing" when she asked her son in the wake of the Chandler allegations about whether he had ever been molested by Jackson *"[Wade] laughed and said it was ridiculous"* and *"he would look me in the eye time and time again and tell me that nothing ever happened"*. When she was asked: *"And throughout -- up until after Michael passed away, he always was very consistent in his story to you that nothing ever happened?"* she answered: *"He was."* When asked if Wade was believable she said: *"He was -- he should have had an Oscar. He was very convincing."* [4; page 159-160]

In a draft for a book that Wade was shopping about his allegations in late 2012-early 2013 (more about that later), he explains his consistent, convincing denial of sexual abuse by describing himself as "*a master of deception*" [6; page 110]. When asked if he was a good liar, he says Jackson taught him "*how to lie really well about the abuse that I suffered at his hands*" [6; page 110]. So according to Wade's story, alleged "coaching" on the phone, like the above quoted one, made him a masterful liar, and very convincing even to his very much hands-on mother.

In the years before Jackson's criminal trial in 2005 [for details about that case see [The 2005 Allegations](#)], the Robsons did not have much contact with Jackson. According to Joy Robson's 2016 deposition: "*We weren't talking to Michael much at that time. We were really not having any connection*" and "*we weren't really seeing much of him at the time*" [4; page 172]. Wade in his declaration for his creditor's claim says that he would see Jackson about once a year and talk on the phone with him two or three times a year in the years before the 2005 trial [2; paragraph 19]. So while they still had some connection, it was sporadic.

Wade claims in his complaint that when he was subpoenaed to testify at Jackson's trial, once again Jackson "coached" him by "role playing" over the phone and once again it worked on him, just like when he was 11 years old in 1993.

*"Michael Jackson continued to call him constantly and perform similar role playing as he did with [Robson] during the Chandler Investigation, telling [Robson]: "They are **making up** all these **lies** about you and me, saying that we did **all this disgusting sexual stuff**. They are just trying to take US down, take away my power and my money, take away OUR careers. We can't let them do this. We have to fight them together." [Robson's] state of mind was the same as when he testified in connection with the Chandler Investigation in late 1993."* [1; paragraph 40]

(Emphasis added.)

Robson's current story (well, one version of it) is that on May 5, 2005, when he went up on the stand and testified under oath at a criminal trial in Jackson's defense as an adult man, he did so because at the time he did not yet understand that what Jackson had allegedly done to him as a child was sexual abuse, was wrong and was not consensual and not loving. He claims he thought at the time that he was absolutely fine with it [6; page 98-99]. Even if you are willing to give him the benefit that as an adult man he would not understand what sexual abuse was (and please consider that, among other things, he claims things like anal rape), there are some problems with that claim. One is that at the time the Jackson trial was all over the news and of course it was discussed everywhere how wrong such alleged acts would be and how there would be nothing consensual about sexual relations between a child and an adult. Another thing to consider is that when the Arvizo allegations became public, just a couple of days later, Robson was asked about them in an interview on November 26, 2003. "*I never had that experience and I hope that it never happened to anybody else*" [7], he said. That sounds like a man who fully understood that a sexual relationship between a man and a child would be wrong.

Moreover, during his testimony at Jackson's trial Robson was not just asked vague or general questions that could be open to Robson's interpretation of what is right and what is wrong. In actuality, he was asked very pointed and direct questions. For example, when Jackson's attorney Thomas Mesereau asked him if he had ever showered with Jackson as a child, that is

a “yes” or “no” question where the answer would not depend on Robson’s understanding of whether it is right or wrong. Robson firmly denied that he had ever showered with Jackson.

Thomas Mesereau: Has anything inappropriate ever happened in any shower with you and Mr. Jackson?

Wade Robson: No. Never been in a shower with him. [8]

He did not say “*I was in a shower with him, but I don't think it is inappropriate*”, he said “*No. Never been in a shower with him*”. There were many pointed and direct questions like that by both the defense and the prosecution, where the answer simply would not depend on Robson’s understanding of right or wrong and each time Robson firmly and unambiguously denied that any sexual abuse had ever happened.

Please consider that one is under oath and under a penalty of perjury while testifying at a criminal trial **AND** also while making a declaration or testifying at a deposition in a civil case. That means there is no way around it: Wade Robson is a proven liar who has no qualms about lying under oath and under a penalty of perjury. He either lied in 2005 or he is lying now that he has changed his story and filed a lawsuit with monetary demands.

According to another version of his story, he denied abuse before 2012 (including under oath at the 2005 trial) because Jackson told him that **both** of them would go to jail and both of their lives and careers would be over if anyone ever found out, and Wade believed it [9]. He was afraid of going to jail himself and he also wanted to protect Jackson from going to jail, he says. This seems to contradict the claim that he did not know it was wrong until 2012: if it is something to go to jail for then it is certainly something wrong. But even if we believe he had some sort of cognitive dissonance or that he really thought that child sexual abuse was “an expression of love”, misunderstood by society and perpetrators would wrongly be jailed for it (although this seems to be contradicted by his comment “*I never had that experience and I hope that it never happened to anybody else*”), the fact is that he could see from the 1993 and 2005 cases that the alleged victims do not go to jail and that no one ever went to jail for accusing Michael Jackson of sexual abuse. In actuality, the Santa Barbara Police Department welcomed anyone willing to accuse Jackson of such acts with open arms, they even campaigned for alleged victims to come forward, and no alleged victim was ever threatened to go to jail for such allegations. The media generally was also very pro-prosecution and supportive of the accuser, not Jackson.

In yet another version of his story, and apparently this is the version he gave to his mother, he did not tell his alleged “truth” in 2005 because of shame. In her 2016 deposition Joy Robson explained what Wade told her about why he denied any abuse as an adult, including at the 2005 trial.

Joy Robson: This was -- this was after the fact, when -- after -- after Michael died and -- and [Wade] talked about the abuse. I asked him why he -- you know, I said, "As a child, you were too frightened to come to me and tell me about it. So why as an adult, as you're older, and when this" - the abuse stopped when he was 14. Like, "Why wouldn't you have come to me then?" Because as a mother, that was very hurtful that he was not able to come and talk to me about it.

And he said -- he said it was the shame -- as you get older, the shame sets in, and he was just too ashamed to talk about it. And I think that's why he didn't want to testify again [in 2005]², was the shame.

Katherine Kleindienst (attorney for Jackson's companies): So that's what he told you about why he didn't testify (sic) once he became an adult?

Joy Robson: Yes.

Katherine Kleindienst: And before he testified at the criminal trial?

Joy Robson: He told me that -- he told me that after he told us about the abuse, when he talked about the trial, and that's why he didn't want to testify. Because if he told the truth, it would be the shame." [4; page 188]

The version he told his mother about shame, however, is contradicted by Wade's own deposition. There he presented the version where he simply did not understand in 2005 that what allegedly had happened to him as a child was wrong or that he had any problem with it. Any feeling of shame, guilt or anxiety he dealt with, he says, was in everyday social situations, not about the alleged abuse. Although now he tries to link those everyday anxiety, shame or guilt issues to his alleged sexual abuse, but fact is many people experience such feelings in life in social situations regardless if they had ever been sexually abused or not. He specifically states that until May 2012 he did not yet understand his alleged sexual abuse, so he did not feel any shame or guilt about it.

Katherine Kleindienst: When you testified at the criminal trial in 2005, did you feel a sense of shame of what had happened between you and Michael?

*Wade Robson: **No. I didn't, I didn't have any, as I stated, I didn't have any perspective on it. I didn't forget about it, but I didn't think about it. I, I just didn't let myself think about it. So, I know, and I may have said this before somewhere else, and it may have been misconstrued, I know now and I know post disclosing and understanding, I know now that I had, that I was dealing with shame then, but I did not know that at the time. I did not understand that at the time.***

Katherine Kleindienst: Were you ever worried about disclosing the fact that you had been abused because you thought that everyone was going to think that you were wrong or disgusting or gay?

*Wade Robson: **I didn't know that at the time. I didn't know that at any, at any time until post May 2012. I began then, May 2012, to understand that so many of my symptoms of fear and anxiety in social scenarios, in almost any scenario, related to this sort of unconscious, subconscious, shame and guilt. But I never understood that before May 2012 that that's what I was feeling.***

Katherine Kleindienst: You didn't have conscious feelings of shame and guilt?

² Wade initially did not want to testify at the trial in 2005. Details about that further below.

Wade Robson: I had feelings of shame and guilt but I never related them, I never understood that they had anything, any connection to, had anything to do with the abuse. I thought that they were just always connected to work life or just general social anxieties or stuff within my family, but I never understood until post 2012 why I had that, those feelings of shame and guilt, which was relating to the abuse." [6; page 161-162]

(Emphasis added.)

"They are making up all these lies about you and me, saying that we did all this disgusting sexual stuff"

Going back to Wade's statement about what Michael Jackson had told him on the phone while allegedly "coaching" him for his testimony: it defies Robson's allegations of sexual abuse. That sounds something that an innocent man would say, not an abuser to his victim: "*They are **making up** all these lies about you and me, saying that we did all this **disgusting sexual stuff**.*"

(Emphasis added.)

First of all, when an abuser talks directly to his victim they would both know the abuse happened, so it makes no sense for an abuser to deny it and call it "lies" while talking about it directly to his victim. Secondly, Robson's claim is that Jackson had told him that the alleged sexual relationship between them was an expression of love and that Robson believed it up until 2012. However, here Robson quotes Jackson saying that what he was accused of was "*disgusting sexual stuff*". This goes against the claim that Jackson considered such alleged acts as "an expression of love". On the contrary, based on this, he considered them as "*disgusting sexual stuff*", like any person would who has no such inclinations. Moreover, it also defies Wade's claim of him believing it was love until 2012, because he was allegedly brainwashed into that by Jackson. Here he quotes Jackson himself telling him that such acts were "*disgusting sexual stuff*", so how would that not ring a bell to an adult man, like Wade was in 2005, that something was wrong with that picture, after all?

Wade tries to explain his claim that this would be some sort of "role play" or "coaching" by saying that Jackson would tell him that their phones were tapped during these conversations. In his 2016 deposition, interestingly, Wade commented that this was his perspective **NOW** that this was some sort of role play: "*essentially, I mean, **my perspective on it now** is like a rehearsal for the stand, you know, where he would say they're saying we did all these disgusting things together"* (emphasis added) [6; page 139]. That sounds like a hindsight re-evaluation of what would really point to Jackson's innocence, and turning it into a "coaching" and "role-play" story now, in the hindsight of his allegations.

Apparently, Wade did not discuss his testimony with Jackson in person before he went on the stand in 2005, because he only mentions these "role playing" phone conversations with him in his deposition [6; 138-140]. He mentions having one very short, about 5-10 minutes conversation with Jackson's attorney for the trial, Thomas Mesereau (not clear whether on the phone or in person) [6; page 136] and from the defense team it was private investigator, Scott Ross who interviewed the Robson family in person and in length before their testimonies.

Ross interviewed him about twice in person, according to Wade [6; page 137]. Wade does not accuse either Mesereau or Ross of trying to make him give a false testimony or trying to coach him.

In various interviews Mesereau said that when he asked him, Wade was very convincing and unambiguous in his statements that Jackson never molested him. Scott Ross told the same. In June 2016, in an interview with the Internet podcast called “The MJ Cast”, Ross revealed that he is actually good friends with Wade's older brother Shane, who also works as a private investigator, but he does not believe Wade's current sexual abuse story and he told this Shane as well. Ross said that in 2005 he interviewed Wade several times before his testimony and he never saw anything that made him believe that he was lying then. Ross said that he has no qualms telling the attorney if he feels a witness is lying and should not be used in court, but with Wade he never felt that. On the contrary, he was very credible.

"Wade Robson was the first person that Tom [Mesereau] put on the stand. He was completely credible. He told me everything, everything he testified to it didn't happen, nothing happened, didn't do this, didn't do this. All of a sudden now he's trying to jump on the bandwagon and trying to collect some money. What's up with that? So... I interviewed him at great length. I went out to his house, I met with his mom, I met with his sister, I met with his brother. I interviewed him at great length on numerous occasions and none of this was there, none of this was real. He never made any... he never lost eye contact, there was nothing in there that caused me to believe that he was lying to me" [10], said Ross in the interview.

So now, in the hindsight of his allegations, Jackson calling such acts “*disgusting sexual stuff*” and Jackson calling the allegations “*made up*” and “*lies*” to Wade, are turned into it being some sort of very contrived on-the-phone “role play” and “coaching” that was allegedly so effective that it made Wade a masterful liar for more than two decades, so convincing that “*he should have had an Oscar*”, according to his mother.

There is no claim of Jackson personally meeting up with Wade before Wade’s 2005 testimony and telling him in a direct manner what to say or how to behave on the stand. All Wade can do is alleging that it was some sort of “role play” when Jackson told him on the phone things like “[*t*]hey are making up all these lies about you and me, saying that we did all this disgusting sexual stuff” .

In his deposition Wade said that in 2005 he told Jackson that he did not want to testify because he did not want to be dragged into the case, the media attention was too intense and he wanted to focus on his own life as he was about to get married. More interesting is what he did **not** tell Jackson: he did **not** tell him that he did not want to testify because he would have to perjure himself [6; page 138-139]. One would think that would be someone's main concern if he was forced to lie on the stand, but Wade did not express any concern to anyone, including Jackson himself or his legal representatives, that he would have to perjure himself on the stand if he was to testify. There is not any evidence that he actually did perjure himself in 2005. On the other hand, there is evidence of him perjuring himself now, in this case when he makes sexual abuse allegations against Jackson, but we will get back to that later.

Despite of not wanting to testify, Wade was subpoenaed by Jackson's defense, so he felt he was eventually left no choice but to testify [6; page 140].

Think about it: if Jackson had really molested Wade, it would have been incredible risk-taking on his part, both in 1993 and 2005, to put this guy on the stand (in 2005 as his first witness) and to rely on such lame supposed “role plays”, and hope not only that Wade would understand what Jackson wanted with those cryptic comments on the phone, but also that he would surely go along with it and would know exactly what to say, how to behave on the stand and how to be convincing. All that expectation from a man who was reluctant to testify.

After Jackson was acquitted on June 13, 2005, the Robson family was overjoyed, according to an interview that Wade’s mother, Joy had given the next day to an Australian paper:

"We just feel so vindicated right across the board," said Joy Robson, who watched the verdict live on TV from her LA home.

"We were crying and screaming and crying and screaming." [11]

A failed prophecy

On June 25, 2009 Michael Jackson passed away.

Wade and his family mourned him and they went to his public memorial. Wade was not invited to the private memorial and in his 2016 deposition he said he was hurt by that [6; page 181].

After Jackson’s death Wade had nothing but praise for Jackson, just like during his lifetime. In an exclusive book *The Official Michael Jackson Opus* that was published in December 2009, Wade made an entry in which he wrote among others:

“The last time I saw him was in July 2008. I was in Vegas working on a show and he was living there. Me, my wife and him and his three kids had a barbecue. It was the most normal thing in the world. Me and my wife had been to Whole foods and bought stuff to cook. But when we got there he’d provided loads of catering. I said, “Dude, Why did you bring loads of catering? We’ve got regular food here”. I remember cooking outside while Michael sat there under an umbrella.

*We had great times because **he was such a caring person.** Most of all I’ll miss those phone conversations. I still have my mobile phone with his number on it. I just can't bear the thoughts of deleting his messages.*

*Michael Jackson changed the world and, more personally, my life forever. He is the reason I dance, the reason I make music, and **one of the main reasons I believe in the pure goodness of human kind.** He was a close friend of mine for 20 years. His music, his movement, his personal words of inspiration and encouragement and his unconditional love will live inside of me forever. I will miss him immeasurably, but I know that he is now at peace and enchanting the heavens with a melody and a moonwalk.*

I love you Michael.

– Wade Robson” [59]

(Emphasis added.)

As we learn from exhibits shown at his 2016 deposition, on June 26, 2009 Wade wrote an e-mail to Jeff Thacker, Co-Executive Producer of *So You Think You Can Dance* saying *"I wanted to write you now so if you guys are thinking of doing any dance tribute to MJ on the show, I would like it to be me who does it."* [6; page 175-176]

Wade also participated in a tribute by Janet Jackson to her brother at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards on September 13, 2009.

In an e-mail dated October 8, 2009 Wade asks James Phares, Kenny Ortega's personal assistant: *"I was wondering if there was anyway (sic) for my Mom and Grandma to also come to the MJ premier?"* [6; page 186] This meant the premier of *This Is It*, a documentary made of Jackson's final rehearsals before he died. Wade was already to attend, but he wanted his family members to get an invitation too.

For several years after Jackson's death, Wade continued to praise Jackson in various media interviews.

In November 2010 Wade and his wife Amanda had a son – their first (and so far only) child [2; paragraph 23]. A month later, in December, Wade was offered to direct the dance movie *Step Up 4* (eventually it came out under the title *Step Up Revolution*) and he accepted the offer.

According to his court papers and a blog post he wrote on November 17, 2017, he considered this as the fulfillment of Michael Jackson's "prophecy" to him as a child that he would become a movie director of "epic proportions", bigger than Steven Spielberg [2; paragraph 9, 23] [12]. This "prophecy" is a weirdly emphatic element of his story. From Robson's complaint:

"It was on this trip that Michael Jackson began to mentally manipulate [Robson] with information such as "Study the greats and become greater. Be the best or nothing at all. Rule the world. Be in the history books. Immortalize yourself," and prophesied that [Robson] "will be a film director bigger than Steven Spielberg." As far as [Robson] was concerned, his fate was written." [1; paragraph 20]

Jackson was known to make such, sometimes maybe exaggerated comments to people as a way of inspiration and motivation (although some of these thoughts are suspect of being twisted by Robson here – eg. *"be the best or nothing at all"*), but Robson's perception that this was some sort of "prophecy" that he was entitled to fulfill is certainly weird. Robson took this so called "prophecy" so seriously that when he crumbled under the pressure of the job, and perhaps realized that not only he was not going to be the next Spielberg, but even directing a *Step Up* movie was too big of a challenge for him, that triggered a nervous breakdown in him, made him pull out of the project and left him purposeless (the movie was eventually directed by Scott Speer). Wade writes in his blog post from 2017:

"Additionally, I was now ravaged by a de-habilitating feeling (sic) of shame that I was a complete failure. I felt that my entire life had been building to this opportunity to become a Film Director. It had arrived, I was fulfilling Michael's prophecy, and then I blew it, therefore my entire life, I believed, had been in vein. Thank God I had Amanda and our baby boy because beyond that, I felt no purpose anymore." [12]

Although Wade does not mention it in either his court papers or his blog post, the *Step Up* project was not his first failed attempt at directing a movie. In an interview that he gave to Dance Informa in April 2009 he revealed that he and his wife were working on their first feature film at the time. It was not only his passion project to create this movie, but also his wife's.

When asked why he declined to direct Britney Spears' 2009 tour, Wade said because their priority was creating a movie: "*We have been writing [the film] all through [2008] as well, but Amanda was mostly working on it because I was doing the Cirque show.*³ *So it was kind of really broken and hard to really focus on it*" and "*We were supposed to do this Britney tour but it was just another distraction and we really want to move into film and really make this the next path for us... I spend most of my time saying no to jobs, probably to my own demise...*" The film was the couple's primary project at the time: "*We are treating it like it's our job. It's five days a week, as soon as we wake up until the sun comes down. That's what we're doing all day, every day. We're just making a move to get this done*", said Wade. When asked if there was one thing he could do that he had not achieved yet, what would it be, Wade answers: "*All about directing film*". [13]

He also revealed in the same interview that they were writing a theater show as well. Neither the movie or the theater show ever materialized, despite of both Wade and Amanda putting a lot of time and effort into it, sacrificing other projects.

The couple did create two dance short films together. A 17-minute film known as *I?* in 2006 and a 5-minute film in 2007 entitled *WITHIN*. In both Wade is credited as the director, Amanda as the writer. The latter was partly shot at Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch that is associated with positive emotions, inner peace, clarity, being alive in the film. In the credits the couple write: "*Wade & Amanda Robson would like to thank... MJ, for allowing us to use his sacred land. Grace, for making it happen.*" [14] These short films, however, did not garner much attention for the Robsons' film making ambitions.

By the way, Amanda has long been Wade's creative partner. She is not a dancer or choreographer, but Wade says in the interview that during their marriage she has gradually become more and more involved in Wade's work. Wade calls her "*the opinion that I trusted the most and the approval that I needed*". He also mentions how they never travel without each other, wherever Wade goes, Amanda always travels with him. [13]

Wade goes into therapy

According to Robson's court papers, after his nervous breakdown due to the "failed prophecy" of him becoming a film director of epic proportions, on May 16, 2011 he started cognitive therapy for about a month [1; paragraph 42] (in his November 17, 2017 blog post he says two months [12]). In his court papers he never mentions this, but on his blog he said that this was not the first therapy he went to. He mentions several therapists that he tried before that: "*In crisis mode, I tried a few therapists and a psychiatrist*" [12], he writes. Robson

³ The "Cirque show" mentioned here, is not to be mistaken with Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson show. It is the Criss Angel *Believe* show in which Robson worked as the choreographer. The show was a critical and commercial failure and was eventually canceled in 2016.

never made any claims of sexual abuse by Jackson to any of these therapists or the psychiatrist.

In her 2016 deposition, Wade's mother Joy testified that soon after Wade's first breakdown in 2011, she started feeling resentment and anger from Wade ("*Well, it had been going on for quite a while, since he started having the problem with work*" [4; page 242]). In the hindsight of Wade's allegations, she now tries to attribute it to Wade's alleged sexual abuse, but it does not make much sense, considering that Wade's story is that he did not understand yet at the time that he was allegedly sexually abused. Indeed, Joy and Amanda's guess for the reason at the time was that "*perhaps, I [Joy] worked him too hard as a manager, that -- that I had put pressure on him*" [4; page 241]. As you will see later in this document, Wade had an ongoing crisis with work, career expectations, the pressure to achieve, and a lot of that pressure came from his mother - even if in the hindsight of his allegations Wade is now trying to use Jackson as the scapegoat for that. It also does not make sense for Wade to be angry with Joy for the alleged sexual abuse at the time, when during that period he was still seeking to work on Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson show entitled ONE, and made praising comments about Jackson.⁴

Evidence showed that on May 21, 2011, so only five days after he started therapy, Wade wrote an e-mail to the director of the Cirque du Soleil show in which he stated: "*I always wanted to do this MJ show, badly.*" In the same e-mail about his failed attempt at directing the Step Up movie he wrote: "*Look, the Directing gig didn't work out. It was consuming me in an unhealthy way that I wasn't ok with being a brand new father. Maybe it just wasn't the right time. Maybe I just wasn't ready to direct a studio film.*" [6; page 199-201]

Cirque du Soleil told Wade that he needed to be validated by Michael Jackson's Estate, so Wade met with John Branca, the executor of the Michael Jackson Estate, in Branca's Los Angeles office where they discussed Wade's ambition to be involved in the project.

⁴ Interestingly, after his alleged "realization" of sexual abuse on May 8, 2012, it was not Wade, but his wife Amanda, who seemed to have a more stressful relationship with Joy for allegedly "facilitating" the abuse. Amanda would not talk to Joy for five months after Wade told her that he was allegedly sexually abused, and Joy had to meet Wade and her grandson outside their house during that period to avoid Amanda [4; page 242-243]. Wade claimed in his own deposition that he too was estranged from his mother during that time and had anger and resentment towards her for his alleged sexual abuse that was not resolved until November 2012 [6; page 122-123], but they actually had exchanged a lot of e-mails during that time period (May-November 2012) as Wade was constructing his story [37]. In those e-mails there is not any sign of distress between Wade and Joy, only between Amanda and Joy. In actuality, in an e-mail dated July 23, 2012 Wade writes to his mother: "*Hey Mom, It was good to be all together. As far as Amanda and you. I believe it will heal in time, but that time table is up to her and you.*" Joy too mentions Amanda "*struggling with our relationship*", but there is no mention of any distress between Wade and Joy [37, page 7-8]. In actuality, during his deposition Wade gave a pass to his mother as a "victim" of Jackson's grooming and brainwash while trying hard to blame everything on Jackson's companies and certain employees, as you will see in the chapter "**Raising awareness**"?

According to Branca's deposition in October 2017, it was Wade who called them and asked to meet him [15; page 24], which is not disputed by Wade.⁵

In July 2011 Wade returned to work "*with his former sense of invincibility*", as he put it in his court papers [1; paragraph 43]. In his blog post on November 17, 2017 he claims:

*"I saw [the cognitive therapist] for about two months, skimmed over my past, learned some mental techniques, stitched myself back up and got back to what I knew best, **WORK**: my long practiced technique for burrying (sic) my anxiety, pain and sadness. A technique I learned from my childhood idol and mentor, Michael Jackson."* [12]

(Emphasis in original.)

In his deposition he said about the same period:

"That -- all I knew to do was -- all I learned from Michael was all I knew to do was get back to work so I figured that's what I had to do." [6; page 200]

There seems to be a zeal in Wade's new story to blame everything negative in his life on Michael Jackson. From his failure as a movie director and inability to come to grips with the failure of a childhood "prophecy" to his workaholism. Meanwhile there is hardly any mention of his mother, Joy Robson in his story, and if there is then only as a distant, passive bystander. The mother, who, among other things, proudly declared in a 2011 podcast interview that she made sure that Wade and his sister Chantal always worked as children.

"We didn't work with [Jackson] a lot. [...] I realized very early on that if we were gonna make it here it is gonna be up to me. I couldn't really rely... Michael had a... he lived in a bubble and had a different reality to ours. I was the one who had to find agents and, you know, [Wade] started acting and he didn't dance a lot. He actually decided at the age of 10 that he didn't want to work as a dancer. He didn't like the way they were paid, he didn't like the way they were treated."

[...]

⁵ The Branca meeting is not disputed. However, what happened with Wade's Cirque du Soleil ambitions after that is unclear. There are different accounts about whether Wade was hired for the job and pulled out on his own account, or he was never hired at all. According to Branca, they never hired him as they felt Jamie King was better qualified for the job [15; page 26-29 and 93-95]. When Wade's lawyer, Vince Finaldi says "*Wade says that he was actually hired to do the Cirque show?*", Branca answers: "*Huh. That's another -- another Wade Robson fantasy.*" [15, page 93] Wade's deposition implies that it was his decision to pull out of the project around the time of his second breakdown in March 2012, but he sounds unsure about it and the circumstances of it from his deposition are pretty misty [6; page 208-211]. He says he joined the Cirque show preparation in July 2011. Not clear in what capacity or if he really had a contract for the job, because Branca insists that he was never actually hired – at least definitely not as a director or a lead choreographer that he would know about. During Branca's deposition Wade's lawyer, Vince Finaldi says that they have "*e-mails that show that he was actually hired to and he was doing work for -- you know, meetings for the Cirque show*" – although the e-mails are not presented in the deposition and it is never specified who sent those e-mails to whom and what their content was. Branca replies: "*I don't believe that's the case.*" Branca speculates at one point that it would be possible that as the director of the show, Jamie King might have hired Wade in some lower position, such as a dancer, but he insists he was definitely not hired in a leading creative role, such as a director or a lead choreographer that would be validated by the Estate [15; page 94]. It is certainly strange that Wade would have e-mails and not a contract to prove that he was hired, if he indeed was.

"[Wade and Chantal] have always been busy and I think boredom breeds trouble. [...] My kids worked every weekend, every school vacation, their birthday parties were backstage, their Christmas parties were backstage. No regrets." [16]

[Emphasis added.]

In an article about the Robsons from 1995, we learn:

"Joy said Wade and daughter Chantal developed an American accent almost immediately. As a result, Wade was doing three or four auditions between 3-7 pm each day. While Wade worked hard, attending audition after audition, learning lines, practising and rehearsing his dance movements, so too did Joy – his greatest supporter. The two are almost inseparable and make career decisions together."

[...]

While Wade is the on-stage talent, Joy is his mentor, protector and confidante. She handles everything from make-up, wardrobe and music to securing a deal with some of the big names of the American entertainment scene.

[...]

Three years since their arrival on American soil, the Robson family are heavily entrenched in the entertainment scene. It is a tribute to Joy's courage, persistence and belief in her son's ability, and their fortitude to stand up for what they believe is right. They could easily have repacked their six bags and returned home to Australia, but they – as a team – decided to stay and help a friend in need, while at the same time defy the odds and pursue their own goals in their own way." [5]

(Emphasis added.)

Also from the 1995 article (as well as from the Robsons' testimonies in 2005 or Joy Robson's deposition in 2016) we learn that Jackson was actually hardly present in their life at the time.

"The first 18 months in LA was really tough going. We had taken six suitcases and little money and knew no-one in LA, only Michael who spent much of the time away." [5]

(Emphasis added.)

From the 2011 interview and the 1995 article it is clear that Joy was a very ambitious stage mom who made her kids work overtime from an early age, and who was really the driving force behind her kids' careers and strict working schedule. According to Joy, Wade himself also expressed the wish to be in the entertainment business since the age of 5 – so well before Jackson's alleged "mental manipulation" of him. [4; page 114]

Meanwhile Jackson, due to his own, much publicized "lost childhood", is known for his principle of letting children have their childhood. In actuality, in her 2016 deposition during a

rant against Jackson, Joy made mention of the fact that Jackson used to call and beg her “all the time” to let Wade have his childhood: *"And to think that this man who used to call me and ask -- and beg me not to make Wade work all the time, to let him have his childhood, what a hypocrite."* [4; page 245]. (Joy calls Jackson "a hypocrite" here for the alleged molestation of her son, simply taking her son's current allegations at face value. Of course, if Wade's sexual abuse story is not true then there is no hypocrisy in what Jackson told her, but a genuine compassion for a child who was overworked by his ambitious mother.)

Despite of clear evidence that it was Wade's mother who made her children work so hard, in Wade's new version of his life it is Jackson who is made out to be the scapegoat for his unhealthy work attitudes, his own and his mother's professional or personal failures and even his father's suicide in 2002.

Wade's father suffered from bipolar disorder – ie. manic depression - and committed suicide in 2002. In his complaint Wade hints at his father committing suicide because of anxiety and fear that Jackson might have been sexually abusing Wade [1; paragraph 39], even though Wade's own claim is that he never told or hinted to anyone until 2012 that he had allegedly been sexually abused. That includes his father, who did not even live with Wade, his sister and mother in the United States, but stayed back in Australia with Wade's older brother.⁶

It has to be noted that mental illness seems to run in Robson's family. Besides his father's bipolar disorder, a male first cousin of Wade, also on his father's side (son of his father's sister), committed suicide in 2014 at the age of 30, due to depression.

About a year after his first breakdown, in March 2012, Wade suffered a second nervous breakdown. He went to a new therapist in April 2012 where he started an insight-oriented therapy. According to his story, about three weeks into the therapy, on May 8, 2012, he first made allegations of child sexual abuse by Michael Jackson to his therapist, or anyone at all.

According to his blog, what prompted Wade to "confess" to his therapist was a popular TED talk by Brené Brown about *"The Power of Vulnerability"* [17] that he was listening to on the way to his therapist. The talk is about “the courage to be imperfect”, to allow ourselves to be vulnerable and think that we do not have to be perfect to be worthy of love and connection. It also mentions how parents commit a mistake when they raise their children to be “perfect” and want *"to make sure [they] make the tennis team by fifth grade any Yale by seventh"*, which echoes Wade's life who by the age of sixteen choreographed for international stars, such as Britney Spears. The lecture seems more related to Wade's struggle with career expectations and his struggle to be “perfect” in his job from an early childhood than sexual abuse.

The therapist he went to, Dr. Larry Shaw, is a therapist whose focus is on people in high pressure jobs, whether in business or entertainment, and especially people who are in those jobs because of their family's high expectations of them.

"The guys I've worked with recently have father issues, which means they had very powerful fathers, so there's an aspect of living under the father's shadow",

⁶ According to Joy's deposition, Wade's father felt that his family did not care about what he was going through with his mental illness: *"And this was part of the problem, that he was upset with the family because we didn't look into what he was going through. He felt that we -- we weren't interested enough to look into it, and that was part of the issue."* [4; page 208]

Dr. Shaw wrote in an article in 2015. ***“They've got this inner dialogue that's really their father's voice saying, “You're not good enough.”***

“Everyone I've worked with, they all want to get out of the business. They're at the top of their game and they're miserable. One guy called it the golden handcuff. Another guy I worked with said when he was in Cannes, he was looking down on the red carpet and thinking, “I just feel so alone. Why am I here and why am I doing this? This has no meaning.” He left his hotel room, skipped some parties, walked to the top of a hill and looked out over the ocean. Then an old farmer came by with an apple, looked at him and cut off a piece of apple for him. He just went, “That's what life is about, being able to be at peace, and all you need is an apple.” [18]

(Emphasis added.)

That feeling "not good enough" in his work was Wade's real issue is echoed in a blog post that he published on December 22, 2017. There he writes in length about how his career achievements never made him happy and fulfilled because he never felt good enough in comparison to the things he set his sights on.

*“Year after year, achievement after achievement, I swore my fulfillment and happiness were on the other side of each. But year after year, achievement after achievement, I could not find them. So again and again, I set my sights higher, believing that the achievements were just not large enough yet, and that was why I hadn't found fulfillment and happiness. But on that quest, I never found them. **On that quest, I eroded and eventually crumbled.***

*I knew for many years that people said all the time, “Success and money will not make you happy.” But that was really hard to believe until I myself had achieved multiple successes, fame, money and power and was still not happy. I actually became more depressed, the more success I achieved **because time after time, the expectation of fulfillment and happiness was not met. It felt like climbing a mountain and every time I looked up to the summit, it had moved further out of my reach. Nothing was ever enough.***

The crumbling forced me to question all that I believed to be true. What if there was no achievement or bundle of achievements that could ever make me happy? What then would be the purpose of work? What then would be the purpose of life?” [19]

(Emphasis added.)

In another blog post from April, 21, 2018, he reveals that he lost his fun in dancing and music when his career got to a level where a high pressure to achieve and succeed started accompanying those activities, from when he was about 19 of age, so around the early 2000s. He wrote about that period of his life:

“More and more pressure and expectation builds in my career. My love affair with dance: on the rocks. Fun is slipping away. Stakes are high.

[...]

Writing and producing music continues. I get a big music publishing deal. Pressure feels stronger than ever to deliver. Fun is slipping away and taking productivity with it.”

20 years old, MTV’s “The Wade Robson Project.” Dance is back in my life. Some moments of fun but ultimately stained by the superficial desire for fame.

21 years old, I quit dance again to focus on Film Directing. Love/Hate relationship continues.

23 years old, join the second season of So You Think You Can Dance. Feeling experimental + playful. First piece out the gate wins an Emmy. Gift/Curse.

5 year resurgence of choreography career. Another Emmy. Music creation here and there. Music and movement interest expansion. Starts out fun. Pressure builds. Less and less play. Career peaking. Anxiety peeking.” [61]

These pressures to achieve and succeed then lead to his nervous breakdowns. In yet another blog post, published on January 26, 2018, Wade writes this about the reasons for those breakdowns:

*“In my classes, I talk about my story of external success and all of the pressure and stress that came along with that. About my fruitless search for happiness and fulfillment via my external achievements. About how I was educated out of play and learned to be devastatingly serious. **And how all of this led to complete breakdowns and the (temporary) destruction of my relationship with my gifts.**”*

[...]

*From my personal experience and what I have seen, as a society, we seem to be implanting these messages in people at a younger and younger age and the effect is heartbreaking. Often from the benevolent intention of wanting our children to have a “successful” life, we tend to fill their young lives with incessant activities and grand expectations all designed to “improve” them and give them the upper hand on the so called “competition.” Through this indoctrination our children learn things like, **“If I’m not busy and stressed, I’m lazy and unworthy,”** “If I’m not the best, I’m nobody at all,” and “Never be satisfied, always strive for more.” Not much room for wonder, inspiration, experimentation, and play in there and therefore, I believe, not much room for happiness and fulfillment.*

[...]

*When our children learn **to always be busy and stressed**, they learn to miss the universal guidance and inspiration that is all around us, all the time.” [60]*

This contradicts the narrative that the reason for his breakdowns was his realization of alleged sexual abuse by Jackson and that show business suddenly was associated with sexual abuse for him because of that. Here he is telling a completely different story: the reason for his breakdowns was the pressure to achieve and to be perfect in his job and succeed, and him crumbling under that pressure.

Moreover, he is trying to shift the blame for his unhealthy work attitudes on Jackson, even though the “indoctrination” that he is complaining about in the above quoted blog posts actually echo his mother.

Wade Robson: “[H]ow ***I was educated out of play and learned to be devastatingly serious***” or “***If I’m not busy and stressed, I’m lazy and unworthy***” or “***When our children learn to always be busy and stressed, they learn to miss the universal guidance and inspiration that is all around us, all the time***” [60] or “***all I learned from Michael was all I knew to do was get back to work so I figured that's what I had to do.***” [6; page 200]

Joy Robson: “***[Wade and Chantal] have always been busy and I think boredom breeds trouble. [...] My kids worked every weekend, every school vacation, their birthday parties were backstage, their Christmas parties were backstage. No regrets.***” [16]

Meanwhile, as Joy Robson testified, Jackson actually “***used to call me and ask -- and beg me not to make Wade work all the time, to let him have his childhood***” [4; page 245].

How does this story, which is clearly a story about a career crisis and a struggle with work expectations and pressures, then turn into a sexual abuse story?

As we have seen above, during the therapy sessions with Dr. Shaw, Wade was at a point of his life where he started questioning his relationship with work and chasing success and where he felt he could never achieve the kind of success he set his sights on and feel happy and fulfilled. Instead work put him under so much pressure that he crumbled under the expectations of it.

According Dr. Shaw's 2015 article to walk away from that life and “*being able to be at peace, and all you need is an apple*”, but in reality to get out of the business, one needs a lot more than an apple, of course. You need stable, long-term finances to be able to do so. Especially if you are still young and have many years to live, a family to support, and a certain standard of living to maintain. A retirement in one’s 30s is costly.

Wade did not have those finances. In his deposition in 2016, Wade's older brother Shane said that during his breakdowns Wade was worried about his ability to support his family and had financial concerns. Joy Robson also admitted in her deposition that regarding Wade’s finances “*there was a concern, yes*”. [4; page 218-219]

Add to that a threat by Wade’s wife, Amanda during that time, that she would leave him if he went back to work and could not get himself out of this cycle of breakdowns. Wade said about that in his 2016 deposition:

Wade Robson: And at some point in that breakdown, me, not doing well emotionally, having the thought and I guess expressing the thought that maybe, something in relation to the idea of me getting back to work again like I did the

breakdown before. And my wife and our family had been through so much, was going through so much with these breakdowns, that, you know -- I'm saying this speaks to [Amanda's] reaction. The first breakdown, when I did that small amount of therapy with Dr. Cameron and then relatively quickly ended up getting back to work, seemed like I was all good, right, and then, within a year, right, or by March or whatever, in 2012, another breakdown happens, right.

So, then, post that, some point in that second breakdown something was expressed about, from me, about the idea of me going back to work, and based on what my wife had just been through the last time I went back to work and then here we are again in a breakdown, she was so stressed out, understandably, that she, you know, expressed something along the lines of, like, if you are going to do the same thing again, like, meaning not get to the bottom of and start healing what's going on with you and just kind of go back to work, are we going to end up in this same sort of cyclical thing again.

And in tears and in extreme stress, you know, she expressed something along the lines like, "I don't know if I can do that. If that's what you're going to do, not get healed, you know, not really work on yourself, I don't know that we can keep going through that. I don't know if I can keep, you know, Koa [their son], if I can stay around, if I can keep Koa around for that.

And, you know what, thank God she did that because that was -- it scared the hell out of me. And so, that was one of the moments that really gave me even more of an impetus to, you know, jump all the way into, to healing, into therapy, and to, yeah, into healing.

Katherine Kleindienst: But did you take that as actual threat that she was going to leave you?

Wade Robson: A threat. I mean, yeah, that's what it said. She said, you know, "If you 're going to do this again, if you're going to go back to work and maybe we're going to end up in this same sort of cyclical thing, I don't know if I can stay around for that. [6; page 247-248]

So Wade needed to get away from the pressures of his show business career that he never found fulfilling, and he also needed finances to be able to do that. One cannot secure those finances by suing someone's Estate or companies for a potentially multimillion-dollar award due to a failed "prophecy" or for crumbling under the pressures and expectations of a job that was supposedly "prophesied" to him as a child. However, one can sue and hope for the kind of money that would set him for life, if he starts alleging childhood sexual abuse. That could also result in a potentially lucrative book deal and other forms of income, since the accused is an internationally known celebrity.

There would also be a benefit in scapegoating someone else for one's professional and personal problems and failures. With the claim of sexual abuse Wade is suddenly seen as a "victim", not as someone who failed in his profession and failed as the family breadwinner. The blame is shifted on someone else. Amanda surely would not leave him then.

Moreover, as Wade himself said in a note that he wrote and that was presented during his 2016 deposition: *"My story of abuse and its effects will make me relatable/relevant."* When asked what he meant by that, he said he contemplated a career as a Vedic meditation teacher and he thought potential clients who went through childhood trauma would find someone with a similar story more relatable. The same notes also contain a sentence saying: *"It's time for me to get mine!"* When asked what he meant by that Wade said he did not know. [6; page 250-252].

Strange visualizations

The Brown TED talk is not mentioned in Wade's lawsuit as a trigger to make allegations against Jackson (it is mentioned on his blog and he mentions it in his 2016 deposition too), but both in his court papers and on his blog he claims that the trigger was watching his one and a half years old son and imagining and visualizing the things happening to him that Wade alleges happened to him when he was 7-14 years old.

"I would look at my son and imagine him experiencing the sexual acts I did with [Jackson] - which I did not yet equate with being sexually abused - and, for the first time in my life, I wondered if I needed to talk to someone about what [Jackson] and I "did together". I knew that I truly had no idea how I felt about it. I still thought that once I spoke to someone about it, I would be fine" [2; paragraph 25], he wrote in his 2013 declaration.

According to his own statements on his blog, Wade needed to visualize his son being sexually abused to be able to muster up any emotion that he could build on in his own story of alleged childhood sexual abuse.

*"[O]ften in therapy I would hit a wall when trying to connect to my younger self. But similar as to what inspired me to disclose in the first place: having visual flashes of my son being sexually abused and feeling so viscerally in response to them, in therapy, **my Son became a profound access point to little Wade. Upon difficulty connecting with my younger self, I would often envision my son in the traumatic scenario from my past that I was trying to process. I could then feel it deeply, tap into what little Wade was feeling, and what he really needed, to heal.**"* [20]

(Emphasis added.)

Visualizing things that he wanted to turn into reality was no stranger to Wade. In a 2002 interview he said:

"Learn how to visualize. If (you) have a goal you've got to visualize every little aspect of it. You know, if I want to do a song for somebody, and I really want it happen, I'll put myself in the situation. I'll visualize what the studio looks like when we're recording, I'll picture myself walking to go get coffee, simple little things. But it just places you in the situation and makes it reality before it happens and then there's not even a question that it's going to happen. Every

time I've done that, wholeheartedly, it's always happened. It's never failed."
[21]

Evolving "memories"

In his 2016 deposition Wade also said that his memories had "evolved" over the course of his case: *"post disclosing the abuse in 2012 and beginning that healing journey, they've evolved as far as I remember more details about scenarios. As it goes along, you know, it evolves, details get added to."* [6; page 97] That is it to put it euphemistically that his story has changed even since he first made his allegations in 2012.

Let's take, for example, what Wade claims about the first occasion that Jackson has allegedly sexually molested him.

In January/February 1990 the Robson family traveled to the USA from Australia and Joy Robson used that opportunity to contact Jackson again through his personal assistant, Norma Staikos. [More details about that when we discuss Robson's civil lawsuit against Jackson's companies in the chapter entitled **The Civil Lawsuit**] Jackson then invited the family to his Neverland Ranch for the weekend. The kids, 7-year-old Wade and his three years older sister, Chantal asked to sleep in Jackson's bedroom which both the parents and Jackson allowed. Wade now claims that on the first night, when all three of them slept together in Jackson's bed nothing happened, but on the second night, when Chantal opted to sleep upstairs and Wade and Jackson were left alone in the downstairs portion of the bedroom, the star started sexually molesting him. This is Wade's current story, but his book draft that he was shopping in late 2012-early 2013 tells a different one. [More about that book shopping later in the chapter entitled **A book and a lawsuit**.]

According to extracts read from his book draft at his deposition in 2016, there he wrote that nothing sexual happened during those two nights, the alleged sexual abuse started *after* his parents, grandparents and sister had left Neverland for a trip the next week and they left him alone with Jackson at the Ranch.

*Katherine Kleindienst: And it says after that, "I don't believe anything out of the 'ordinary' happened that night."
Is that consistent with your recollection?*

Wade Robson: Yeah, I don't really remember.

Katherine Kleindienst: On page 25, you just, you say, "My Mother, Father, Sister, Grandmother and Grandfather were now gone and it was just Michael, I and Neverland: 2,700 acres of impenetrable Michael Jackson country governed by one man only, Michael Jackson." You see that?

Wade Robson: I see that.

Katherine Kleindienst: Did you write that?

Wade Robson: *I believe so. That line speaks to my then understanding when I wrote it, you know, so that's one of the examples of my growing understanding of how this all went down.*

Katherine Kleindienst: *Can you turn to page 26. The first paragraph that's not in italics, you write, "Michael had already become quite affectionate with me over the first two days of our Neverland trip. I would curl up in his arms to go to sleep. He would kiss me on my head and tell me he loved me and I would tell him I loved him back; all seemingly innocent at the time."*

Am I correct in assuming that in that paragraph you're describing your first trip to Neverland over that weekend with your family?

Wade Robson: *Yes.*

Katherine Kleindienst: *You continue: "Now that Michael and I were all alone, the rest of my family far away in an RV at the Grand Canyon, the nights became a very different experience. No longer your 'average' kids sleepover."*

"I believe the first night after my family had left, Michael began to fondle my penis over the top of my pajama pants." [6; page 105-106]

(Emphasis added.)

By the time Wade filed his complaint, not only the time of the first instance of alleged abuse changed, but his alleged "memories", interestingly, have become more detailed compared to the insecure "belief" in his book draft. In his complaint, he describes in minute detail what he and Jackson allegedly did together while Chantal was sleeping upstairs. Those details are also interesting considering that in this deposition he says in the above extract "*I don't really remember*" about whether anything out of the ordinary happened at all that night. In his complaint, though, he does not only describe the alleged sexual abuse in detail, but also what they allegedly did before that and he quotes what Jackson allegedly told him verbatim. [1; paragraph 15, 16]

Another problem with the story is that it is not even consistent with his sister's version.

In an apparent attempt at suggesting that Chantal already had some sort of subconscious suspicion of Jackson, Wade now claims that Chantal on the second night "*expressed concern about sleeping in the same bed with Michael Jackson, and suggested they both sleep upstairs*" [1; paragraph 15].

According to Chantal's 2005 testimony, however, her state of mind could not have been further from what Wade alleges now. First of all, according to Chantal's version, it happened the other way around: it was the first night that Wade and Jackson slept downstairs while Chantal went upstairs to sleep, and rather than any growing "concern" by the second night, Chantal actually became more comfortable with Jackson, so she too opted to sleep downstairs on the second night.

About her reason to sleep upstairs the first night she said in 2005: "*Because I didn't want to make Michael feel like two people were invading his space.*" [22] Prosecutor Gordon Auchincloss tried to put words in Chantal's mouth with a leading question: "*Something about that first night made you feel uncomfortable, didn't it?*"

Chantal Robson: "No, not at all."

Gordon Auchincloss: "Didn't you say you felt more comfortable the second night to Mr. Ross [Jackson's private investigator, Scott Ross] when you spoke to him a few days ago?"

Chantal Robson: "Comfortable with my friendship with Michael, yes."

Gordon Auchincloss: "And that next night, you slept in the same bed with Michael Jackson?"

Chantal Robson: "I did."

Gordon Auchincloss: "And your mother knew about it?"

Chantal Robson: "Yes." [22]

Chantal never claimed to have witnessed any sexual abuse or inappropriate behavior by Jackson towards her brother.

During his deposition Wade also tried to “evolve” his memories on the issue of whether it was he and his sister who asked Jackson to sleep in his room: *"I don't remember how that went down, how that came up. I find it hard to believe that I [asked to stay in Jackson's bedroom] because I was a really sort of shy, reserved kid. So, but I don't remember how that went down. I don't remember, you know, who asked who",* he said [6; page 95-96].

Then he was reminded that in his book draft he wrote:

Katherine Kleindienst: On the top of page 22 you wrote, "It came time to go to bed and my sister and I asked if we could 'Please, Please' stay with Michael. Michael said it was okay with him if it was okay with my parents."

Wade Robson: I see that.

Katherine Kleindienst: Do you remember writing that?

Wade Robson: I don't.

Katherine Kleindienst: Do you remember, or, do you know whether that came from your own recollection or it was told to you by someone else.

*Wade Robson: I don't know. You know, what these writings, like as I talked about, the original intention of how they started, which was just for the sake of my processing, right, and then it became for the purpose of a book. You know, this **reprocessing of my entire life** for me through this healing process, you know, has been and will continue to be, I imagine so, for the rest of my life, meaning, you know, my perspective on things, my understanding of things, is constantly evolving as I remove the clutter from it all, remove the, the emotional and perspective repression of it all that I had compartmentalized for 22 years. So, all that to say that you know, this process evolves as far as what I, what I remember, what comes clear and my perspective on things.*

Katherine Kleindienst: So, have your memories changed as you've gone through that process?

Wade Robson: *They've evolved.* [6; page 95-96]

(Emphasis added.)

Joy Robson testified in her deposition that it were her children who asked to sleep in Jackson's room: "*And then it was getting late. And, you know, we talked about it getting late. And then the children asked if they could stay with Michael in his room.*" [4; page 51]

It is worth noting that according to memory experts, human memory does not work like a recording device. Memory can be manipulated, it can be changed, and events those never actually happened can be added to it by suggestion, autosuggestion or visualization. [23]

No more dance, films, entertainment?

In his lawsuit against Michael Jackson's companies, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures, Robson argues that due to his alleged sexual abuse he would never be able to work in entertainment again, therefore he needs financial compensation.

"But for the psychological injury, illness and damage caused by the childhood sexual abuse as alleged herein, [Robson] would have continued on as one of the most successful talents in the entertainment industry. Few individuals to date in the entertainment industry have achieved success in so many diverse areas. Very few others have been able to achieve success in so many diverse areas, all of which has now come to an end.

*As a direct and proximate result of [Jackson's companies'] failure to protect [Robson] from Michael Jackson's acts of childhood sexual abuse, rather than continue on his career path and become an international superstar, [Robson] now only associates the entertainment industry with the psychological injury, illness and damage resulting from [the Jackson companies'] despicable conduct. [Robson] has been unable to work and has been forced to decline many prestigious and lucrative job offers, such as directing the opening number for the Academy Awards (Oscars), major worldwide tours for major recording artists, and various stage and stadium concert productions for other superstars. In addition, [Robson] is unable to continue writing songs or producing music, as well as being **unable to continue performing and directing in any manner or capacity whatsoever.**" [1; paragraph 80-81]*

(Emphasis added.)

In his declaration Wade writes:

"I am not able to quantify the damages caused to me as a result of the loss of my entertainment career. Before my final breakdown in 2012, I was on a path to major notoriety and success in my field. I was a musical producer and songwriter. I had been signed as a recording artist to a major label record company. I acted and hosted my own television show on MTV and had been offered roles on other network television shows. I won two Emmy Awards for outstanding choreography and received numerous other professional accolades

*for my work since the age of 5, including directing several record breaking worldwide concert tours. Just before my first breakdown, I was asked to direct a major motion picture. **Had it not been for the sexual abuse I suffered as a child, my emotional breakdowns as a result and my subsequent inability to return to the life that [Jackson] "prophesized" I would have, I believe my career would have continued this upward trajectory.** As I understand it, the damages asserted in my Claim can and will be determined by experts." [2; paragraph 28]*

(Emphasis added.)

(Note: Most of Wade's above listed success dates back to the early 2000s when he was at the peak of his career.)

Notice the contradiction of this narrative to what he says in his blog post of January 26, 2018 - ie. that the reason for his breakdowns was the pressure to achieve and succeed and him crumbling under those expectations. In his court papers he claims that if not for alleged sexual abuse by Jackson, his career would have "*continued this upward trajectory*", but based on his blog posts quoted earlier in this document, that is not true at all! The reality is that he has long struggled with the pressures and expectations of his job and he crumbled under those pressures and expectations.

In his 2013 declaration, Wade also says that he needs "a new life" for himself and his family as he is no longer able to be in entertainment and "can never be again".

"Since beginning to talk about the abuse, everything in my life has changed. I am no longer in the entertainment business and can never be again. I need a new life for myself and my family; this civil action, which for me involves finally speaking the truth as loud as I suppressed it all these years, is a part of that process." [2; paragraph 26]

In his blog post of November 24, 2017 Wade wrote:

"I could no longer bear to dance, make music, watch or make films. In my mind, heart and body, Michael was the reason I started doing all of those things, therefore they were all deeply intertwined with the sexual abuse I suffered at his hands from seven to fourteen-years-old. I could no longer be a part of the entertainment business because it too was synonymous with Michael for me and therefore the sexual abuse." [20]

Fact is, however, that, as we have seen above, Wade's issues with the entertainment business and work did not start with his "realization" of alleged sexual abuse, but they have long predated it. In actuality, he only started making sexual abuse allegations against Jackson after he has already crumbled under the pressures and expectations of his job, needed to quit and find a new source of income.

Moreover, even after his "realization" of alleged sexual abuse, Wade never really abandoned those entertainment activities. While he claimed in his lawsuit that he was "*unable to continue directing in any manner or capacity whatsoever*" (emphasis added), he actually continued to direct short films in Hawaii and advertised himself on his website, video channel

and elsewhere as a film director. Although at first those were just short commercials for non-profit and other local Maui organizations, but soon he sneaked his way back to doing the kind of entertainment activities that he claimed in his lawsuit were so triggering to him that he was not able to do them any more.

Among others, he directed dance and music videos – all the while claiming in his court documents, and never modifying or deleting those claims all through his four amended complaints, that he was unable to do those kind of jobs and never will be able to do them again, therefore he needed financial compensation.

Not only did Wade direct dance videos all the while claiming that he was so traumatized by such activities' association with Michael Jackson that he would never be able to do them again, but he also taught his son to dance during that period and that using the same advice that Michael Jackson would use when advising people in dance.

On June 19, 2015 Wade's wife, Amanda posted a photo of Wade teaching their son to dance on her Facebook and on her Instagram [24]. Wade also posted the same photo the same day on his own Facebook. Amanda captioned it as "Wade wisdom #1: "Don't think. If it feels good, you're doin it right."



Rather than it being Wade's own wisdom, it actually echoes Michael Jackson's philosophy in dancing and something that he would likely tell Wade as a child while teaching him to dance. In a series of taped interviews that Rabbi Shmuley Boteach conducted with Michael Jackson in the early 2000s, Jackson said the following about dancing:

*"I'll hear music playing and wonder why nobody else is moving. My body just has to. A real dancer is a person who can interpret the sounds he hears. You become the bass, you become the drum, you become the violin, the oboe. And this is all internal, not external. **It's not about thinking. That's why when a***

dancer starts to count – one and two and three - he's thinking and all that should be gone. You can see it on their face if they're counting. Your expression has to be in line with what you're feeling in your body. So, in what I do, I don't even know where I'm going. It's just improvisation. It creates itself. But you still have to put your body through hell to express yourself. You have to be that dedicated." [25]⁷

(Emphasis added.)

So Wade had no problem teaching his son the same activity that he claimed was so triggering to him and so associated with childhood sexual abuse that he would never be able to do it again, therefore he needed financial compensation from Jackson's Estate and companies. That is even more bizarre when we consider Wade's above cited claims about visualizing his son in sexually abusive situations and that being Wade's trigger for the realization of his alleged childhood sexual abuse at Jackson's hands.

In September 2017 Wade has declared himself healed from those bad associations as he announced his participation in a JUMP dance convention.

"Being that Michael Jackson was my foremost dance inspiration, my relationship with dance had been crumbling for years and could not initially withstand this healing shift in my life. Thankfully, enough healing has occurred that I am now able to consciously take back what I now know was always mine: my relationship with dance." [27]

On his blog he claims that it was not until about March 2017 that

"I was finally able to acknowledge that once upon a time, Dance and I had a pure, simple, playful and joyful relationship and I was now curious if there might be a way to find and/or rebuild that relationship. So one morning, I woke up, and booked a date, about two weeks out, for me to teach a dance class on Maui: one of my first in over five years. I suddenly felt it was time to try and thought that if it was a disaster, at least my conviction that I was not supposed to dance anymore, would be concretized." [28]

Fact is, however, that Wade participated in several dance projects between his alleged realization of sexual abuse in 2012 and March 2017. For example, in 2015 he wrote and directed a dance video entitled "Flight" [29].

⁷ Wade echoed this in his own dance classes. In a 2008 article about him we read: „During a class attended by 11- to 15-year-olds [Wade] stopped and asked, "How many of you are counting the music?" When hands shot up all over the room, he said, "Well, stop it!" He explained that counting the music helps you pick up the steps, but once you know them, you need to let go of the counts and concentrate on listening to the music. This enables you to go deeper into the dynamics of the actual dancing." [26]



Also in 2015, he advertised a dance session with him on his Facebook [30].



The same year he created a teaser trailer for a dance company [31].



In 2016 he directed another dance video entitled “Life in Color” [32].



On his video channel Wade also posted “making of” footage of it where he is seen dancing, directing, choreographing, laughing and – far from seeming traumatized by dancing or “unable to continue directing in any manner or capacity whatsoever” - having a lot of fun with the project [33].

Likewise in 2016, Blake McGrath, a professional dancer and choreographer with pop star ambitions, announced on his Instagram that he was working on his first music video with Wade Robson as the director/choreographer [34]. They eventually created three music videos together – the first two heavily focused on dancing [35].



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blakemcgrath In rehearsal with @waderobsoncreations (Directing/Choreographing) @1triciamiranda (Choreographing) and some of the amazing dancers taking part in my video for the first single off my new record! Can't wait to share this with the world. #JackPot 🍀🍀🍀🍀

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If one followed the legal developments with Wade’s creditor’s claim and civil lawsuit, it was difficult to miss the correlation between his "healing" and his creditor’s claim and lawsuit becoming more and more unlikely to succeed.⁸

⁸ In fact, his creditor’s claim got tossed on May 26, 2015. His civil lawsuit process took until December 19, 2017, but it also showed increasingly more signs of heading towards dismissal the years before, as Wade’s legal team could not find a way around the “control issue” that we will discuss later in The Civil Lawsuit section.

A book and a lawsuit

According to his blog, after his first telling of his allegations to his therapist on May 8, 2012, Wade told of them his family and friends. On the very same day that he first told his therapist, he later told his wife Amanda, his older brother Shane and his sister Chantal with whom he had a family outing at Food Truck Tuesdays in Venice, California. According to Wade's story, his brother's wife, strangely, just had a dream the night before about the allegations of Jackson molesting Wade being true and his brother "*in a playful tone*" told him about that while going to get some food from the truck, which prompted Wade to blurt "*It's true*". [20] According to Wade's story, this was *after* he had already told his therapist about the alleged abuse earlier that day, so when he told his therapist he did not yet know about his sister-in-law's dream. Whether Wade takes some liberties with the sequence of events and details of the story here, we cannot tell, but certainly it sounds like an incredible coincidence that his sister-in-law would have this dream on the night before Wade first told such a story to his therapist, allegedly not yet knowing about his sister-in-law's dream.

A few weeks later, according to Court documents on or about May 27, Wade also told his mother about his allegations. In his blog Wade says that to tell her he "*organized for her to come into a therapy session with me, enabling me to have the Therapist's support*" [20].

In discovery for Wade's civil lawsuit it was revealed that Wade and his mother exchanged numerous e-mails during the year between Wade's "realization" of his alleged abuse on May 8, 2012 and his filing of his creditor's claim and civil lawsuit against Jackson's Estate and companies on May 1, 2013. (E-mails that Wade tried to hide from the legal team representing Jackson's companies for a long time, along with his book draft, and the legal team for Jackson's companies only got access to them after a Motion to Compel was granted to them by the Court. [58])

Apparently Wade needed that information to put together a coherent story. In his deposition in 2016 he said that at the time he was writing a document "*to just kind of reprocess my life and the truth of my story with Michael, and then began to turn into this being a goal, to turn it into a book*" [6; page 75].⁹ Not only a book, but he was also preparing his lawsuit. In a September 7, 2012 e-mail that he sent out to over 30 relatives and friends about his allegations and a "*transformational time*" [36] in his life, he asked them for confidentiality, warning them that it was "*an extremely sensitive legal matter*" [4; 257-258]. (This e-mail will gain significance during the Probate Court proceedings as you will see later.)

Indeed, many of those e-mails to his mother during that period sound like interrogatories for a lawsuit, with Wade dispassionately asking Joy a huge number of questions about the events and circumstances surrounding their relationship with Jackson. [To get an idea about the tone and content of those e-mails [click here](#) [37]. E-mails from 2012 can be read on pages 2-3, 6-8, 10-11 of that document.]. From the e-mails it is clear that Wade does not have much

⁹ Wade also stated (for example in his deposition, or on his very short-lived child sexual abuse victim advocacy website www.heartsinourhands.org that he launched at the height of his legal proceedings, but it became defunct as his lawsuit became more and more likely to be tossed) that he has read a lot of books on child sexual abuse during that period – both on victims and perpetrators. His story is that he was looking for solace in those books, and he often goes out of his way to emphasize how typical of an abuse victim he supposedly is and how typical his story supposedly is. Of course, finding solace is the way to use such literature if we are talking about real victims. False accusers, on the other hand, may use such literature to collect material in order to build their own stories and adopt familiar elements of child sexual abuse into them to make themselves more passable as "victims".

independent memory of his own about those events, he has to heavily rely on his mother's recollections to construct his story. Later he “evolved” some of those recollections into his own. For example, in an e-mail on September 12, 2012 one of the questions he asks his mother is “*What was the driving arrangement when we all went to Neverland that first time?*” [37; page 10] At his deposition in 2016 he already claims this story as his own, independent memory.

Wade Robson: I -- Michael asked if myself and my sister wanted to drive with him in his car and, and we did. And so we drove with him to Neverland while my parents and grandparents followed behind.

Katherine Kleindienst: So it was just you and your sister and Michael?

Wade Robson: Yeah, in the car.

Katherine Kleindienst: Do you remember that specifically or is that something that you've been told since that time?

Wade Robson: No, I remember that.” [6; page 95]

The e-mails also revealed in discovery that in late 2012-early 2013 Wade was shopping a book about his allegations. With the help of his long time entertainment lawyer, Helen Yu (not to be mistaken with Susan Yu who was on Jackson’s defense team in 2005, no relation) he contacted several book publishers, but apparently they all turned him down. In a privilege log provided during discovery we can see that 73 e-mails were sent between Wade, a literary agent Alan Nevins and Helen Yu in the period between December 12, 2012 and February 22, 2013. Although we do not see the content of those e-mails in public court documents, it is safe to say those e-mails all have to do with Wade trying to sell his book.

In actuality, among the discovery documents we do have an e-mail that we can see and that Eddie Pletzak sent to Alan Nevins (both from Renaissance Literary & Talent agency) on February 27, 2013 regarding Wade’s book [37; page 4]. In that e-mail we can see Wade writing to Nevins and inquiring about what publishers he contacted for his book. From the answer it turns out that the publishers, Pan Macmillan and New American Library had already turned down the book and Harper Collins was still reading the draft at the time. In another e-mail we can also see that Wade had a conference call with Harper Collins in January 2013 [37; page 5].

During Wade's deposition in 2016, Katherine Kleindienst, an attorney for the Jackson companies revealed that she spoke to Alan Nevins on the phone and he volunteered to her that Wade had asked for “*a large amount of money*” for his book. Wade denied this. [6; page 31-32].

In his deposition Wade said that he eventually stopped pursuing the idea of a book deal around the first quarter of 2013. When asked why did he stop pursuing it, he said because he realized that a lawsuit would be more impactful in getting his message out and that he would be more in control of his story, so that it would not turn into tabloid sensationalism [6; page 35-36]. This seems to be a hypocritical comment considering the fact that he and his lawyers used tabloid sensationalism to tarnish Jackson several times during the course of the case.

When the case became public on May 8, 2013, Wade's lawyer at the time, Henry Gradstein, immediately talked to the tabloid website TMZ, declaring Jackson "*a monster*" [38]. There are also signs of Wade and/or his legal representatives feeding stories to one of the most low-brow, most sensationalist and most unreliable tabloids, Radar Online (which is essentially the online National Enquirer) and when Radar Online published a story about his case with the most graphic, tabloidish and sensationalist headline and coverage that is imaginable, Wade and several of his relatives, such as his sister Chantal and his wife Amanda, reposted it on their social media recommending it to their followers [39]. At other times his second lawyer team during the case, Vince Finaldi and John Manly, put out press releases written in a sensationalist tone.

The book shopping will have more significance when we discuss the legal side of the Probate Court proceedings, because Wade somehow "forgot" to mention it in his court documents (Jackson's side only learned about the book during discovery in 2016) and it was not an irrelevant omission considering certain things that Wade claimed to get around statutes of limitations. More about that later.

By the way, Wade said in his deposition that writing a book was still a possibility for him [6; page 76].

Meanwhile Wade and Amanda moved from Los Angeles to Maui, Hawaii, where Amanda is originally from. In his November 24, 2017 blog post Wade claims that this was a part of his "healing process" from the alleged sexual abuse.

"About nine months into the healing process, so much having changed in my families inner and outer life, the external details of our current life situation had begun to feel less and less relevant: most notably of which, the notion of continuing to live in Los Angeles. Amanda and I decided we were going to move to Maui, Hawai'i, where Amanda is from. This idea was terrifying and incredibly exciting: a new beginning." [20]

However, according to an interview that Amanda gave to a Hawaii blog in 2015, the idea of moving to Hawaii predated Wade's alleged "realization" of childhood sexual abuse.

*"Since I graduated from Maui High in 1997, I was in San Francisco and California studying/working in various art focuses: Fashion, Culinary Arts, Floral Design, Entertainment. **Then four years ago, I became a Mother and the arrival of our precious son, completely re-routed my mainland existence and paved a path for my family to come back to Maui.**"* [40]

(Emphasis added.)

Their son was born in November 2010, one and a half years before Wade's alleged realization of childhood sexual abuse. So apparently, when Wade first made child sexual abuse allegations against Jackson in May 2012, he and his wife had long had a desire to move away from California to Maui, and, as we have seen above, Wade's desire to move away from show business also predated his alleged realization of sexual abuse.

In his 2013 declaration Wade says he first met with his lawyers, Henry Gradstein and Maryann Marzano on March 4, 2013. He claims that before that he was not aware of the

administration of Michael Jackson's Estate and that he could take legal action against them. [2; paragraph 27] This was a lie to get around statutes of limitations as we will discuss in detail when we discuss the Probate Court proceedings in the next chapter.

On May 1, 2013 Wade filed a creditor's claim against Michael Jackson's Estate in the Probate Court and a civil lawsuit against Jackson and two of his companies, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures. In both he demanded monetary compensation for Jackson having allegedly sexually molested him as a child.

Wade Robson's claim is that Jackson has allegedly sexually molested him for seven years when Wade was 7-14 years old. His allegations contain every imaginable sexual act from mutual masturbation and oral sex to even an occasion of anal penetration (no other Jackson accuser claimed this latter before Robson). He also portrays Jackson as a reckless and insatiable molester who allegedly molested him on each and every occasion whenever the two of them were alone in a room. For example, he claims that other than Neverland, Jackson's condos or the Robson's own apartment, Jackson even molested him in his trailer during the shooting of a commercial or in a separate room in the recording studio – and that while outside the places were packed with other people [6; page 165-169]. However, this “insatiable” portrayal seems to be contradicted by the fact that Jackson did not actually spend that much time with the Robsons, and it was Wade and his mother who often had to pursue him to involve Wade in his projects or spend time with him – as you will see when we discuss [The Civil Lawsuit](#).

On May 8, 2013 the celebrity gossip website TMZ first reported about Wade's allegations and with that the case entered into its public phase.

On May 16, 2013 Wade went on NBC's *The Today Show* to give an interview about his allegations [41] and he also gave a short interview to TMZ at the Los Angeles airport [42].

The Probate Court Case (Creditor's Claim)

Robson filed two types of legal action against Jackson's entities. A creditor's claim against his Estate in the Probate Court, and a lawsuit against Jackson and two of his companies, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures in the Civil Court. In both he demanded money for alleged childhood sexual abuse.

In this chapter we discuss the creditor's claim, then in the next chapter the civil lawsuit.

Under US law when someone dies, those who have any sort of claim against the deceased can file those claims against the deceased person's Estate – this is called a creditor's claim. There are certain statutes of limitations to file a creditor's claim, though. A claimant has to file his creditor's claim no later than 60 days from the date when he first has knowledge of the facts reasonably giving rise to the existence of the claim **and** the administration of the Estate.

In this case it meant that Robson should have filed his creditor's claim within 60 days of when he knew both of the following: 1. that he was allegedly sexually abused as a child by Michael Jackson, 2. that Michael Jackson had an Estate.

Robson claimed that he did not understand that he was sexually abused by Michael Jackson as a child until May 8, 2012, when he first disclosed those alleged acts to his therapist. Until then, he claimed, he thought those alleged acts were loving and consensual.

Even if we take Robson's word for this story, based on the first requirement of a timely claim, he should have filed his creditor's claim within 60 days of telling his therapist that he was allegedly molested, ie. until July 7, 2012. There is a second requirement, though, the knowledge of the administration of the Estate. In his declaration and creditor's claim, Robson claims that he did not know about the administration of Michael Jackson's Estate until March 4, 2013 when he first met with his lawyers, Gradstein & Marzano.

"Prior to March 4, I did not understand or was even aware that an Estate had been opened for administration or that I could seek to make a claim." [2; paragraph 27]

If this was true it would put Wade within the 60 days requirement, as he filed his creditor's claim on May 1, 2013, within 60 days of obtaining knowledge about the administration of Jackson's Estate.

That claim, however, is a lie, as it was shown during the Probate Court proceedings.

As it was revealed by Jackson's Estate during discovery, Wade was aware of the administration of Jackson's Estate years before he filed his creditor's claim. Even in the unlikely event of Wade somehow missing the very much publicized news of the administration of Jackson's Estate after his death, there is evidence of him being so much aware of the Estate way before March 4, 2013, that he actually negotiated with them.

Like discussed earlier in this document, in 2011 Wade was eager to work on Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson show that was created in a co-operation between Cirque du Soleil and Jackson's Estate. To discuss the show, in early 2011 he made a visit to the office of John Branca, one of the executors of the Michael Jackson Estate.

As we have mentioned before Wade also made an entry in the book entitled *The Official Michael Jackson Opus* that was approved and endorsed by Jackson's Estate in 2009.

Moreover, as we have seen above, in late 2012-early 2013 Wade was shopping a book about his allegations and those negotiations were assisted by his longtime lawyer and family friend, Helen Yu. This is significant to the discussion of whether Wade knew about the Estate before March 4, 2013, because on November 25, 2009 the website of Yu's law firm Yu Leseberg, published an interview with her with the title "*Musical Artists: Worth More Dead Than Alive? Michael Jackson and Elvis Generate Millions for their Estates*" in which she discusses Jackson's Estate and its potential incomes. In the article, among other things, we read:

"Since Michael Jackson's death, the world can now see the true light of Michael's legacy. Posthumous homages have been done by Helen Yu represented Michael Jackson protégé Wade Robson and his friend Charles Klapow.

[...]

Helen says, "I've known Wade Robson and Charles Klapow since they were both little kids. They have both been disciples of Michael all their lives, and it's great to see them honoring him in this way."

[...]

*Yu, who once attended a pre-auction viewing of the possessions of the still living King of Pop, notes the unprecedented earning power of the now deceased Jackson. "He was certainly an amazing songwriter, performer and dancer, but he sometimes let the wrong people in. **Now that his estate's advisors are John Branca and John McClain, music industry veterans who know how to monetize the business, unfortunately, he will most likely earn more dead than alive.**" [43]*

(Emphasis added.)

This same lawyer then helped Wade to shop his book about his allegations in late 2012-early 2013, so she obviously knew about both Jackson's Estate and Wade's allegations at the time. It is difficult to believe that she would not share with Wade the information that Jackson had an Estate while helping him in shopping a book about his allegations - even if we buy into the idea that Wade really did not know about the Estate before that (which is not true, as shown above).

This information about Wade's book shopping and Yu's involvement in it, however, did not come out until after the Probate Court case was already closed. Jackson's defense came across this information only in 2016 while doing discovery for the civil lawsuit. During the Probate Court case Wade "forgot" to share this information, so it did not factor in the Court's decision about the creditor's claim. However, the evidence about Wade's encounters with the Estate in 2011 was enough to show that he lied when he claimed that he did not know about the Estate before March 4, 2013. Please note that Wade made that claim in a declaration, under penalty of perjury and also that Wade's claim is that he did not file these legal actions for money, but to fight for the "truth". How does one fight for the alleged "truth" with lies?

Wade also tried to twist the requirement and besides claiming that he was not aware of the Estate's administration at all, he also claimed that he was not aware that he could seek a claim. In its decision about the creditor's claim the Court pointed out that the requirement is knowing about the administration of the Estate and not knowing that one has a cause of action. However, even if the requirement was knowing that he had a cause of action, Wade still could not have prevailed. Like mentioned before, the Estate discovered, that on September 7, 2012 Wade sent out an e-mail in which he shared his allegations with over 30 individuals. In that e-mail asking his recipients for discretion, he refers to his allegations as an "*extremely sensitive legal matter*", which shows that long before March 4, 2013, at the very least by September 7, 2012, he understood that he had a cause of action. [44]

To get around statutes of limitations, Wade also tried an equitable estoppel argument in support of his creditor's claim. Equitable estoppel is a doctrine that prevents that someone could take advantage of his wrongdoings - eg. misleading, fraudulent actions and claims - in court. For example, in relation to statutes of limitations, if a claimant or plaintiff fails to file a timely claim because the defendant mislead him on his rights or the defendant threatened him, then equitable estoppel can be invoked and in that case claimant's/plaintiff's complaint would not be dismissed even if statutes of limitations have already run.

In this case, Wade claimed that Michael Jackson's alleged threats to him such as that they would both go to jail and their careers and lives would be over if anyone found out, prevented him to file a claim before May 1, 2013. Moreover, he claimed that the psychological effects of Jackson allegedly misleading him into believing that sexual relations between a child and an adult would be loving and consensual, prevented him from understanding that such relations were sexual abuse, until he went into therapy on May 8, 2012.

"[Robson] lacked any understanding that his long-term childhood relationship with [Jackson] included ongoing sexual abuse over a seven-year period - the acts giving rise to this claim - prior to May 8, 2012", we read in Wade's court petition [45; page 1] .

The Court dismissed this argument. While we do not see much of what happened during the Probate Court process (eg. in depositions), the Court's ruling stated that at least by the time of Jackson's death, Robson was well aware of both that a sexual relationship between an adult and a minor was a crime and also that a victim does not go to jail for such alleged acts.

"[Robson] knew at the time of [Jackson's] death in June 2009 that it was a crime for an adult to engage in sexual conduct with a minor."

and

"[Robson] understood in June 2009 that minors are not criminally prosecuted when an adult engages in sexual conduct with them." [44; page 15]

This means that Wade could not invoke equitable estoppel, because on May 8, 2012 he knew all the alleged facts giving rise to his claim (that he was allegedly sexually abused, that such acts were a crime, and that he would not go to jail for them) and he was very much aware of the administration of Jackson's Estate well before March 4, 2013 – despite of him claiming otherwise in his declaration under penalty of perjury. The Court also stated that any alleged intimidation that Robson claims Jackson has made to him would cease on the day of Jackson's death, on June 25, 2009.

The Court actually pointed out that in a Probate Court case it is the Estate who is a party to the proceedings, not the decedent. Thus, citing precedent law in length, the Court said:

"While [Robson] conflates the Estate representatives and [Jackson] in his estoppel argument, it is the Estate representatives who are the parties to this Probate proceedings. As there is no evidence that the Estate's representatives did or said anything that prevented [Robson] from filing his claim, [Robson] cannot establish the elements of equitable estoppel against them." [44; page 8]

Despite of that the Court also examined what if Robson was right in his argument that it is the decedent's alleged actions that should count for this equitable estoppel argument as opposed to the Estate's representative's actions, but even so Robson could not have prevailed, as we have discussed above.

In a ruling by Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff, the Court dismissed Wade Robson's creditor's claim on May 26, 2015. Although immediately after the ruling Wade's lawyer, Maryann Marzano vowed to appeal, they eventually never did.

The Civil Lawsuit

Parallel with the creditor's claim in the Probate Court, Wade filed a civil lawsuit against Michael Jackson and two of his companies, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures – also for monetary compensation.

The claim against Jackson as a natural person was dismissed relatively quickly, because one cannot sue someone who is deceased. Robson's lawyers knew and acknowledged this too, they said they sued Jackson as a natural person as some sort of "placeholder" for Jackson's Estate: in case Robson was successful in the Probate Court they would replace Jackson with his Estate in the civil complaint. As we have seen above Robson's creditor's claim in the Probate Court was dismissed.

Against the two companies Wade's claim is that they had knowingly and deliberately "*facilitated*" his alleged sexual abuse and that MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures were "*the most sophisticated public child sexual abuse procurement and facilitation organization the world has known*". [1; paragraph 5]

However, when Wade's mother, Joy Robson was deposed on September 30, 2016, she painted a very different picture of the events surrounding their interactions with the companies than the things that Wade alleges in his complaint. To be clear, it is not that Joy Robson deliberately testified against her son. In her deposition she very much goes out of her way to be supportive of Wade by re-evaluating certain events and using loaded language against Jackson (for example, every nice gesture by the star towards them is now interpreted as "grooming"), but when we look past that, in the main points, her story is essentially the same that she told in 2005 at Jackson's trial. The problem for Wade is that that story is contradictory with his current narrative.

To best understand what Wade's claims against the companies are and how they are contradicted by his mother, let's see them one by one.

The dance contest that Wade won in 1987 and the resulting meet-and-greet

The Robsons, who are originally from Brisbane, Australia, first met with Jackson in 1987 while the star was on tour in Australia. A Michael Jackson dance competition was held at a Target store in connection with the tour and the prize was to meet with Michael Jackson. Joy Robson entered her then 5-year-old son into the competition and Wade won in his category.

Let's see what now Wade alleges about that meet-and-greet in his complaint.

"[Robson] alleges these "meet and greets" were purposely orchestrated by MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures as a sexual grooming mechanism to acquire minor sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson, disguised as charitable events for minors." [1; paragraph 11]

The first false claim in this paragraph is that these meet-and-greets were orchestrated by MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures. They were not - and the latter did not even exist yet at the time. They were orchestrated and sponsored by Target, Pepsi and CBS Records. Joy Robson testified to it at her deposition [4; page 34], but it is difficult to believe that Wade himself was not aware of it when he constructed the claims for his complaint in which he is trying to implicate Jackson's companies. As shown earlier in this document, from 2012 on Wade was in a very detailed e-mail correspondence with his mother about the events and circumstances around the relevant period of time. It is unlikely that he would not have asked his mother about this detail. Not only that, but in his 2005 trial testimony Wade himself mentioned regarding that 1987 dance contest that it was Target who was holding these dance competitions [8].

On contrary to Wade's portrayal of this meet-and-greet as a deliberate plot "*to acquire minor sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson*", from his mother's deposition testimony we learn that the meet-and-greet was an event where a lot of people were present [4; page 35]. Even Wade in his own deposition admits that they only had a few minutes to talk to Jackson [6; page 79]. According to Wade's deposition, Jackson then invited him to dance on stage with him at one of his upcoming shows [6; page 80]. Wade said in his deposition that at the concert he did not spend any time with Jackson off stage, their only interaction was on the stage [6; page 80].

Their encounter would have ended there, if it was for Jackson (or his companies), but as Joy Robson testified, she had delivered a "thank you" note to Jackson's hotel room a couple of days later and as a result Jackson invited them to his room and they had another meeting with the star, for about one and a half hours [4; page 38]. Although during that meeting Jackson politely told them to send him videos so that he could see the progress of Wade's career [4; page 39], but he did not make any effort to actively keep in touch with them. In actuality, according to Joy's testimony, although she did send Jackson letters and videos of Wade during the next few years, they never heard back from him [4; page 40-41]. The next time they met or even talked to Jackson again was more than two years later, in 1990, when, once again, it were the Robsons who sought contact with the star, not the other way around.

How does this make the meet-and-greets "*a sexual grooming mechanism to acquire minor sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson*", as Wade alleges?

When Wade constructed his story he was well aware of the real story of how they came in touch with Jackson and that it was his mother who contacted Jackson again. So the only conclusion can be that Wade deliberately lies and twists facts in his complaint in order to implicate Jackson's companies and thus receive the monetary award he desires.

Meeting Jackson again in January 1990

Wade Robson's allegation:

"[Robson] is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that Ms. (Norma) Staikos was acting on behalf of MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures, as a "madam" or "procurer" of child sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson. Although disguised as another charitable "meet and greet" between [Robson], his parents and Michael Jackson, this event was purposely orchestrated by Ms.

Staikos, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures as a further means for Michael Jackson to acquire another sexual abuse victim and grooming him and his parents for such." [1; paragraph 12]

Norma Staikos was Jackson's personal assistant at the time. Robson accuses her of being "a *"madam" or "procurer" of child sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson"*, but let's see the reality of that meeting as per Joy Robson's deposition.

Joy says in her deposition that between 1987-1990, she had sent Jackson several letters about Wade and videos of him, hoping to get in touch with the star again, but all of those remained unanswered. Then, in January 1990, the Robson family traveled to the USA for Wade and Chantal to perform at Disneyland with the Johnny Young Talent School. Before leaving Australia, Joy Robson already tried to obtain contact information for Jackson, by calling Australian television channels and asking if they had any sort of contact for him. She got a number for TriStar Pictures, and then after some more rounds she eventually managed to obtain MJJ Production's phone number. While in the US, Joy managed to contact Norma Staikos who, at Joy's request, arranged for the Robson family to meet Jackson at a recording studio. Jackson then invited the family to Neverland Ranch. [4; page 41-46]

According to her own story, it was Joy who initiated this contact with MJJ Productions (MJJ Ventures did not even exist at the time) and Norma Staikos – and her ultimate goal was, of course, to contact Michael Jackson. The companies and Staikos were incidental to that event and definitely **not** the initiators. It just happened that Joy was able to contact Jackson through MJJ Productions and Staikos.

How does that make Norma Staikos "a *"madam" or "procurer" of child sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson"* and Jackson's companies "child sexual abuse procurement and facilitation organization(s)", as Wade tries to portray them in his lawsuit?

Certainly, Wade is aware of the true story. It was told several times in earlier testimonies and police interviews in 1993 and 2005, and he was also in a detailed e-mail correspondence with his mother about these events, to help him put together his story before he filed his complaint. It is clear that it was Joy Robson who "purposely orchestrated" the meeting, not Norma Staikos, MJJ Productions or MJJ Ventures. That Wade claims otherwise in his lawsuit seems to be a deliberate lie to try to implicate and slander the Jackson companies and Norma Staikos, because that is the way he can sue these companies for money.

The Jackson Companies' sponsoring and/or hiring of Wade Robson and his mother

Wade Robson's allegation:

"In order to arrange for their immigration to the United States, Michael Jackson had MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures hire [Robson] and his mother, and arranged for [Robson], his mother and sister to move permanently to California. [Robson] alleges this was done by Michael Jackson, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures for the explicit purpose of allowing Michael Jackson access to [Robson] for sexual abuse." [1; paragraph 23]

According to Joy Robson's deposition, the idea of immigrating to the USA was her husband Dennis's idea ("It was actually Dennis's idea when we were here in the January (1990) -- and we were at Disneyland. It was his idea then." [4; page 83]). After their first January/February 1990 trip to Neverland, the second time that Joy and Wade returned to USA was in May 1990 to participate in an L.A. Gear commercial photo shoot with Michael Jackson. L.A. Gear paid for that visit, not any of Jackson's companies [4; page 58-59].

Joy says that Jackson was excited about Wade's talent and he said things like "*Little one and - and I are going to rule the world*" [4; page 84]. ("Little One" was Jackson's nickname for Wade.) According to Joy, this made them think more seriously about immigrating with the hope that Jackson would help Wade's career. She could not remember when she made the final decision ("*perhaps after the February (1991) trip*" [4; page 103]), although they had consulted a lawyer about their plans to immigrate before November 1990. Joy clearly stated that the reason they wanted to move to the US was to pursue Wade's career in the entertainment industry and that it was what she wanted. She said: "*You know, I -- I believed that Wade had a future here, and I -- I felt like he had gone as far as he could go in Australia. He really needed to be here.*" [4; page 309]

The role of Jackson's companies in all this was that when Joy eventually decided to immigrate in September 1991, the Robsons needed a sponsor and an employer in the USA. Joy Robson asked Jackson to help them with that, and Jackson instructed his office to do it. During Joy's 2016 deposition, the companies' lawyers brought up extracts from her 2005 testimony:

"And did you ask him to do that?" And you responded: "Yes, pretty much. Basically, I asked for help, so that was the only way we could stay, so yes." [4; page 128]

(Emphasis added.)

Also quoted from Joy's 2005 testimony:

"Did you feel like you owed him anything after he helped sponsor your family to stay in the U.S.?" And your response is: "No, not at all." [4; page 129]

This goes against Wade's narrative that Jackson and his companies brought him to the USA "*for the explicit purpose of allowing Michael Jackson access to [Robson] for sexual abuse*". Jackson and his companies reacted to the expressed desire of the Robson family to have a career for Wade in dancing and choreography which could be better pursued in the USA than in Australia.

Moreover, the reality is that after the Robsons moved to the USA, Jackson did not even spend much time with them, including Wade. In 2005 Joy Robson testified that in the 14 years they had been living in the USA (1991-2005) they had spent only about four occasions at Neverland when Jackson was also there.

Thomas Sneddon (lead prosecutor in 2005): And then from that point, from September of 1991 up till, let's just say, September 1993 - okay? - the time frame involved, you and your son spent a great deal of time with Michael Jackson, you were around him a lot, correct?

Joy Robson: I don't think so.

Thomas Sneddon: You were not at the ranch on a number of occasions during 1991?

Joy Robson: My memory is in the entire time we've lived here since 1991, we've only been at the ranch with Michael on four occasions in 14 years.

Thomas Sneddon: Four occasions?

Joy Robson: Every other time we've been here without him.

Thomas Sneddon: Would that be the same for your son?

Joy Robson: Yes. [46]

(Emphasis added.)

In her 2016 deposition Joy also testified that between September 1991 (the date when they moved to the USA) and June/July 1993 (about the time when the Chandler allegations were made) they stayed at Neverland four or five times, but Jackson was only there once and that was during the June/July 1993 visit [4; page 140-141].

To be fair, Neverland was not the only place that Jackson could meet with the Robsons. They did spend some time with him at Jackson's apartments in Westwood, Los Angeles and Century City, Los Angeles. According to Joy, Wade slept in those condos a couple of times while Jackson was there, but she also added that "*sometimes there were others there, as well. It wasn't just Wade there*" [4; page 144]. When asked who else were there with Wade and Jackson, she names Emmanuel Lewis (who, by the way, was around 20 years old at the time), Jordan Chandler and "*these two little boys that spent a lot of time with Michael. They lived in Ojai. I -- I know one's name was Anthony. I can't remember what the other boy's name was*" [4; page 144-145]. She later added that they were brothers. Jackson had a young cousin named Anthony Jackson with whom he indeed hung out a lot, so it is possibly him.¹⁰

Joy also mentions one occasion when she, Wade and Chantal spent two nights with Jackson at the Las Vegas Mirage Hotel and when Wade slept in Jackson's room [4; page 147-149] and one occasion when Jackson spent two nights at the Robson's Hollywood condo in 1995 when he had an argument with his wife, Lisa Marie Presley and wanted to get away from her. On that occasion Wade and Jackson slept in the living room that Joy Robson could cross whenever she came down from her upstairs bedroom. [4; page 151-153]

Altogether these interactions remained occasional and sporadic despite of the Robsons now living in the USA. In actuality, in her deposition Joy Robson revealed that she had to be the one to pursue Jackson about calling Wade [4; page 308], putting him in projects such as his "*Jam*" music video in 1992, and that "*Wade felt pushed aside a little bit*" because Jackson would rather spend time with other kids [4; page 118-120].

¹⁰ Joy calls him "Latino". As a child Anthony Jackson could be mistaken for being Latino by the looks, but he is indeed Michael Jackson's cousin. When Anthony was only seven years old his father died and Michael Jackson stepped in to take care of him and his family.

Joy testified that one time she cut ties with Jackson for six months – and that was for Jackson **not** calling Wade from the Dangerous Tour when he promised him that he would (the tour took place between June 1992-November 1993). Wade also wanted to go on tour with Jackson, but the star would not take him. [4; page 97-99]¹¹

So the narrative that Jackson moved the Robsons to the USA "*for the explicit purpose of allowing Michael Jackson access to [Robson] for sexual abuse*" makes little sense when he then hardly wanted to spend time with Wade and he "*spent much of the time away*", as Joy stated in a 1995 interview [5] and Wade rather "*felt pushed aside*".

The allegation that Jackson's companies were "*the most sophisticated public child sexual abuse procurement and facilitation organization(s) the world has known*" is also outrageous because if that was the case it should have been a regularity for these companies to employ children like Wade, but his employment was a one-off, and specifically in answer to Joy Robson's request to help them with their immigration.

Joy also stated that it was up to her to do everything in order to further Wade's career and to survive in the USA. During Joy's 2016 deposition a lawyer representing Jackson's companies asked her about the 2011 Infinite Dance Cast podcast interview [16] that she had given in 2011:

Katherine Kleindienst: You also said: "I realized very early on that if we were going to make it here, it was going to be up to me. I couldn't really rely on" -- and you said, "Michael kind of lived in a bubble and had a different reality to ours. And so I was the one who had to find agents." Do you remember that?

Joy Robson: Yes. (...) The funny part is Wade -- Michael did find an agent for Wade, but it was CAA (Creative Artists Agency), and Wade was 7 years old and not known in this country. And CAA was not going to be any -- and that's why I said Michael lived in a bubble. He had no idea of anything outside of his realm. So -- Wade wasn't in that category for CAA. It would not have been beneficial for him to be with CAA.

Katherine Kleindienst: Right.

Joy Robson: Michael tried to help, but he just didn't understand what needed to be done.

Katherine Kleindienst: And when you were asked if you really had to manage Wade's career, you responded: "I did. I did everything." Is that right?

Joy Robson: I did what I had to do to -- to make things happen. [4; page 115-116]

¹¹ Joy here goes out of her way to emphasize the fact that Jackson took Brett Barnes instead. Whatever she is trying to insinuate with that, the fact is that it was not only Brett Barnes who accompanied Jackson on that tour. The Cascio family also traveled with him, as well as three of his nephews Taj, Taryll and TJ. None of these people have ever accused Jackson of sexual molestation and in fact, all of them have consistently defended him. When Robson's allegations became public on May 8, 2013, Brett Barnes tweeted: "*I wish people would realise, in your last moments on this earth, all the money in the world will be of no comfort. My clear conscience will.*" [47]

By the way, Wade appeared shortly in three Michael Jackson videos (Black or White - 1991, Jam and Heal The World – both 1992) and he was paid around \$200 each for Jam and Heal the World and \$500 for Black or White. That would obviously not pay their bills and facilitate their continued stay in the USA. “*Nobody pays bills with money from videos*”, said Joy in her deposition. She said they survived on their own reserves. [4; page 121-122]

Wade is most likely aware of all of the above considering his detailed e-mail correspondence with his mother while putting together his allegations. That he claims that Jackson's companies arranged their immigration to the USA in some evil plot with the explicit purpose of Jackson having access to him to molest him, looks like a deliberate misrepresentation of what actually happened – and that in order to be able to sue Jackson's companies for money.

The Charli Michaels story

In paragraph 22 of his Fourth Amended Complaint Wade Robson tells a story which is based on a witness statement by Charli Michaels from the 1993-94 investigation. Charli Michaels was a female security guard who worked at Neverland in 1990-92. She is one of those disgruntled ex-employees who, in the wake of the 1993 Chandler allegations, went to the tabloid media to sell negative stories about Jackson. She was paid money by the tabloid television show Hard Copy (hosted by Diane Dimond) for a story that featured on three episodes of the show. She also filed court documents in connection with a lawsuit filed by five other former guards against Jackson for unfair dismissal. The lawsuit was eventually dismissed by the Court.

The relevant story by Charli Michaels that Robson uses in his lawsuit goes as follows [1; paragraph 22].

11 22. Charli T. Michaels (a security guard at Neverland from March 21, 1990 through
12 March 6, 1992) encountered Plaintiff and his mother during their visit to Neverland in May 1990,
13 and witnessed an incident involving MICHAEL JACKSON and Plaintiff. Ms. Michaels stated
14 that on Mother's Day 1990, she found Plaintiff's mother crying and upset. When Ms. Michaels
15 attempted to console her, Plaintiff's mother told Ms. Michaels that she was upset because she was
16 restricted from seeing Plaintiff while he was in the company of MICHAEL JACKSON. Plaintiff's
17 mother said that Norma Staikos had told her that MICHAEL JACKSON and Plaintiff were
18 rehearsing a dance routine in the theater at Neverland, and that Plaintiff's mother was not to
19 disturb them during the rehearsal. Plaintiff's mother also told Ms. Michaels that Ms. Staikos had
20 prohibited Plaintiff's mother from sleeping in the main house at Neverland while Plaintiff was
21 staying in MICHAEL JACKSON's room. Ms. Michaels stated that on the same day she had this
22 encounter with Plaintiff's mother, Ms. Staikos threatened her with disciplinary action for
23 speaking to Plaintiff's mother in violation of the rules regarding treatment of guests at Neverland.
24 Ms. Michaels heard that Mr. and Mrs. Quindoy had been similarly reprimanded by Ms. Staikos
25 for speaking to Plaintiff's mother on this occasion. Ms. Michaels was also subsequently informed
26 by Plaintiff's mother that she had gotten in "lots of trouble" with Ms. Staikos for speaking with
27 Ms. Michaels, and that Ms. Staikos had told her not to talk to any employees at the ranch.
28

The problem is that this is a false story and by all signs Wade put it in his lawsuit while knowing that it is a false story.

That on Mother's Day 1990 Charli Michaels found Joy Robson crying and upset at Neverland is true, but the rest of the story is an invention by Michaels. Joy already testified about it in 2005. She said that she was upset and crying because she could not find Wade all day and it was Mother's Day, so it hurt her that Wade would rather spend the day with Jackson than with her. [46]

However, Charli Michaels put a twist on this story (possibly because she held a grudge against Jackson's personal assistant, Norma Staikos who was the one who directly fired her).

She claimed that Joy was upset "because she was restricted from seeing [Wade] while he was in the company of Michael Jackson. [Joy] said that Norma Staikos had told her that Michael Jackson and [Wade] were rehearsing a dance routine in the theater at Neverland, and that [Joy] was not to disturb them during the rehearsal. [Joy] also told Ms. Michaels that Ms. Staikos had prohibited [Joy] from sleeping in the main house at Neverland while Wade was staying in Michael Jackson's room." [1; paragraph 22]

Joy's own version is different, and in her 2016 deposition she repeated the same story that she told in 2005: she was crying and upset because it was Mother's Day and could not find Wade and because her son spent the day with Jackson rather than with her. She does not claim that Norma Staikos restricted her from seeing her son while he was with Jackson. In actuality, her story is contradictory to Charli Michaels' story. Michaels claimed that Staikos told Joy where Wade and Jackson were (rehearsing in the theater), but she also told her not to disturb them. In contrast, Joy said she did not find them all day ("*I'd spent the whole day looking for him*" and "*I would spend my time on a golf cart driving around the ranch looking for them*" [4; page 67-69]) Obviously she would not have done that if she had known that they were in the theater.

It is also not true that Joy was prohibited from sleeping in the main house at Neverland while Wade was staying in Jackson's room. In her 2005 testimony Joy said that she would typically stay in the "rose bedroom" during their visits at Neverland. It is in the main house, the same house where Jackson's bedroom is. She also stated in her 2005 testimony that she was free to walk in and out of Jackson's bedroom while at Neverland and Jackson never put any restrictions on that. She stated that she could go to Jackson's bedroom "*at any time I wanted*" and that she never got the feeling that anybody was trying to keep her out of Jackson's room. [46]

It is clear why Wade would rather want to embrace Charli Michaels' version of the story than his mother's: because, unlike his mother's version, it involves Norma Staikos and that element is what he really needed from this story to try to implicate Jackson's companies in a lawsuit against them. The involvement of this false version of the story in his lawsuit is very disingenuous, because Wade exchanged e-mails about this very subject with his mother in February 2016 where his mother told him that this version of the story was not true ("*Wow. None of that is true*" [37; page 1]). In his deposition on December 27, 2016 Wade was asked about that e-mail, but he claimed that he did not remember it, although he wrote it only a couple of months before his deposition [6; page 68].

The fact that Wade put the untrue, Charli Michaels version of the story in his Fourth Amended Complaint that was filed in September 2016, seven months after his mother had told him in an e-mail that this version of the story was not true, once again, shows him as an opportunistic person who does not have any qualms about being dishonest in court documents

and to embrace untrue stories if they serve him.¹² Keep that in mind when we discuss stories by other “witnesses” with a highly questionable credibility - such as Blanca Francia or Mark Quindoy – which now Wade embraces.

The legal side

The legal side of the civil lawsuit revolved around the California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) section 340.1 as the relevant statute of limitations. According to this section, in a child sexual abuse case one can bring a civil lawsuit against a non-perpetrator defendant (that is what Jackson's companies would be in this case) until the plaintiff's 26th birthday. Robson clearly missed that deadline because he was 30 years old when he filed his lawsuit in May 2013. However, the law allows an exception to this general rule which is in section 340.1 (b) (2).

"This subdivision does not apply if the person or entity knew or had reason to know, or was otherwise on notice, of any unlawful sexual conduct by an employee, volunteer, representative, or agent, and failed to take reasonable steps, and to implement reasonable safeguards, to avoid acts of unlawful sexual conduct in the future by that person, including, but not limited to, preventing or avoiding placement of that person in a function or environment in which contact with children is an inherent part of that function or environment. For purposes of this subdivision, providing or requiring counseling is not sufficient, in and of itself, to constitute a reasonable step or reasonable safeguard." [48]

This law was created with church, school or boy scout abuse cases in mind where an organization is often aware that an employee has had allegations of child sexual abuse against him in the past, but fails to disclose that information to the parents of the children and fails to implement reasonable safeguards to avoid the employee interacting with children in their job.

Robson tried to make this fit Jackson's companies. He made the claim that Jackson's companies "*knew or had reason to know*" that Jackson had allegedly sexually abused children before or during Wade was employed by them and they failed to "*implement reasonable*

¹² There is another element of Charli Michaels's story regarding Wade that is not mentioned in Wade's complaint, but he now embraces according to his deposition [6; page 150]. In what appears to be a pretty cliché-filled story, Michaels claimed that on Mother's Day in 1990 she went to the theater to serve lunch to Wade and Jackson and when she entered she was right on time to witness Jackson allegedly grabbing Wade's crotch while teaching him to dance. She claimed that both were doing Jackson's signature "euogh, euogh" scream as Jackson clutched the boy's genitals. Michaels never mentioned these allegations to anyone until in 1993 the media was willing to pay money for such stories - and she was indeed paid by Hard Copy. When she allegedly witnessed this incident she did not go to authorities, nor did she go to Wade's mother to report it. She claimed that she was scared to lose her job if she reported what she had allegedly observed. However, she never reported or mentioned the story to anyone even after she was fired by Jackson in March 1992. It only surfaced as the tabloid media paid money for such stories about Jackson in 1993. Considering that Charli Michaels's story and credibility is called into doubt even by Wade's mother, of course, this element of the story is also highly suspect of being an invention by Michaels. Wade unequivocally denied this story in his 2005 trial testimony [8]. According to Joy's 2016 deposition, at the time Wade told her that he had spent the day sleeping, after him and Jackson were playing video games the night before [4; page 71-72]. And now, in the wake of his allegations, Wade told his mother that him and Jackson spent the day in the so called "secret rooms" at Neverland [4; page 68]. No word about any theater in that version, either. By the way, the "secret rooms", that the tabloid media tried to turn into something sinister, were so "secret" and so "sinister" that Jackson once told Joy Robson to go and get some money from the "secret room" inside his bedroom, while Jackson was not at the property [4; page 70-79].

safeguards" to protect him. (Wade Robson was employed MJJ Productions and/or MJJ Ventures after Joy asked Jackson to help them with their immigration in September 1991.)

It has to be noted that in this pre-trial period of a case, much of what a plaintiff alleges gets accepted at face value. The Judge's task here is not to rule about the credibility of an accuser's allegations, but about whether the plaintiff has made allegations sufficient to pass statutes of limitations and proceed to the trial phase. That does not mean those allegations are necessarily true, they are still just allegations, but the plaintiff at the very minimum needs to be able to make allegations that would make him pass statutes of limitations. Of course, if an allegation that a plaintiff makes is definitely proven to be untrue, for example during the summary judgement phase through indisputable evidence, then that is taken into consideration – like you could see in this case during the Probate Court proceedings where it was proven that Wade's claim about not knowing about the Estate before March 2013 was untrue.

So in this case when Wade made the claim that Jackson's companies "*knew or had reason to know*" that Jackson had sexually molested children before or during Wade was employed by them and that they failed to "*implement reasonable safeguards*" to protect Robson, the Court had to take those claims at face value.

To support the claim that Jackson's companies "*knew or had reason to know*" that Jackson had sexually molested children before or during Wade was employed by them, Wade brought up a claim by Mark Quindoy, a disgruntled ex-employee with a questionable credibility (we discuss him in detail in the chapter entitled [Mark Quindoy](#)) that Jackson's personal assistant, Norma Staikos once allegedly told his wife never to leave children alone with Jackson in a room. Even looking past this witness's credibility problems, this claim is very vague as it could have meant a lot of things in its original context about which we are not given any information, but the Court has to interpret these claims in favor of the plaintiff at this stage. Robson also used other claims by Quindoy and other disgruntled ex-employees, such as Blanca Francia and Charli Michaels (whom even Wade's own mother refuted), to demonstrate that there were employees who alleged to have witnessed inappropriate behavior by Jackson, therefore the companies "*knew or had reason to know*".

As shown in other parts of this document [see the chapters [The Charli Michaels story](#), [Mark Quindoy](#) and [Blanca Francia](#)] these people have serious credibility issues and they have all cashed-in on their allegations in 1993 by selling stories to the tabloid media when the Chandler allegations surfaced. Also neither one of these people told about their claims to their superiors at Jackson's companies, so it is questionable how their alleged personal knowledge that they never shared with anyone at the companies, can be construed as a "*reason to know*" for the companies, but at this stage the Court needs to interpret these claims very liberally and favorably to the plaintiff and it does not decide about the credibility of these claims either. The Court simply has to take these claims at face value. The Court liberally construed the 1993 Chandler allegations as a "*reason to know*" as well (even though, of course, unproven allegations in themselves do not mean someone really is guilty). So regarding that element Robson could make enough allegations to pass - which does not mean those allegations are actually true, they are just enough to fulfill the requirement in the statutes.

The second requirement is the failure to "*implement reasonable safeguards*". Section 340.1 (b) (2) even names what those reasonable safeguards can be: "*preventing or avoiding placement of that person in a function or environment in which contact with children is an*

inherent part of that function or environment". Naturally, to be able to take such action, a company has to have the power to do so. A company cannot be made responsible for something that is not under its control. In this case this means that, for them to be made responsible, Jackson's companies should have had control over Michael Jackson – they had to have the ability to hire and fire him or to place him in certain functions or environments.

Considering the indisputable fact that at all times during Wade's employment Jackson was the 100 percent owner and shareholder of both of his companies, the companies obviously did not have control over him – he had control over them. He was not an employee or any other type of subordinate, he was the 100 percent owner. He could not be fired from his own company and he could not be replaced or moved from or to certain positions if he did not want to. The principle that a company has to have control over something before it could be made responsible for it, is expressed in many precedent cases.

Robson tried to circumvent it by overstating and misrepresenting Norma Staikos' role and power within the companies - that is why Staikos is emphasized so much through these proceedings and why Robson needed to drag her into the story and baselessly make her out to be a "*madam*" and a "*procurer of child sexual abuse*".

Staikos' official function was Executive Director at MJJ Productions and as such, of course, she had certain control within the company, but that does not mean she had control over Michael Jackson. As a matter of law, she did not and could not have control over the 100 percent owner and shareholder of the companies. Jackson could hire, fire or place her in other functions at will, not the other way around. Any control that she had within the companies was delegated to her by Jackson, and of course he could revoke it any time he wanted.

Precedent law also states that "*the child must be exposed to the perpetrator as an inherent part of the environment created by the relationship between the perpetrator and the third party (ie. the company)*". [49; page 8]

This is logical, because a company cannot be held responsible for something that allegedly happened between two other parties outside of it. This explains why Robson made all those contrived claims that we discussed in the previous chapters, in an attempt to link the companies to his alleged abuse. He needed to demonstrate that if not for the companies, Jackson would have never had any access to him. Hence the lie that MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures "*purposely orchestrated*" the dance contest and the meet-and-greet after it in 1987 "*as a sexual grooming mechanism to acquire minor sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson*". Hence the lie that in 1990 it was Norma Staikos, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures who "*purposely orchestrated*" the Robsons' meeting with Jackson again "*as a further means for Michael Jackson to acquire another sexual abuse victim*". Hence the lie that Jackson's companies helped their immigration for Jackson to have access to him for the explicit purpose of sexual abuse. All those claims despite of Wade knowing full well that it was his mother who pursued Jackson, not the other way around, and that the companies were incidental to this relationship – the Robsons wanted to meet Michael Jackson because of who he was as an entertainer, not because of his relationship with his companies.

Like the Jackson companies' legal representatives pointed out:

“[T]he Corporations are, at best, incidental to the alleged abuse. Like Aaronoff [a precedent case], the alleged abuse predated any fleeting conduct or

interactions with the Corporations, and the Corporations had nothing to do with the alleged abuse. Joy Robson could not have been more clear that the reason she trusted Michael Jackson was based on her own trust in him as a person. (...) She did not trust Michael because of his relationship with the Corporations (about which she knows hardly anything). (Fact 48.) No rational jury could conclude that Robson was "exposed to [Michael] as an inherent part of the environment created by the relationship between [Michael] and the [Corporations]." Robson's exposure to Michael was a result of Michael's fame, and the Robson family's resulting pursuit of a friendship with him, not as a result of Michael's relationship to the Corporations." [49; page 24]

Based on the above, Robson could not fulfill the second requirement of CCP 340.1 (b)(2) and the Court dismissed his civil lawsuit in a ruling by Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff on December 19, 2017.

“Raising awareness”?

That was the legal side, now let's see the "purpose" side of this lawsuit. Wade Robson claims that the purpose of his lawsuit was not money, but raising awareness. He wrote on his blog:

*“I then also made a big decision to take legal action against Michael Jackson’s Estate and entities. My intention for doing this was to create a serious legal platform from which **to raise awareness** about child sexual abuse, the abuse of power, and **all of the people along the way that help facilitate the child abuse, directly or indirectly.** As well as to **hopefully play any role in helping other victims of Michael Jackson’s and/or victims of any child abuser feel less alone.**” [20]*

(Emphasis added.)

The problem with that claim is that his lawsuit does not actually raise awareness about the people who *"help facilitate the child abuse"* - at least not in an honest way. If Wade's claims were true then the biggest facilitator of his alleged abuse would be his mother, there is no question about that. The mother who pursued the relationship with Jackson. The mother who asked Jackson to help them move to the United States. The mother who admittedly and knowingly allowed Wade to sleep in Jackson's bedroom – and that even after the 1993 Chandler allegations. The mother who, if Wade's story is true, did not pay attention to her son enough to realize that something was wrong.

One would think that if Wade's purpose with this lawsuit was really raising awareness about people who help facilitate child abuse, then he would shout his mother's responsibility from the rooftops. Instead, his mother is hardly even mentioned in his complaint. When she is mentioned then only as a passive bystander, an afterthought, not as someone who is a main player and responsible for anything. In actuality, as we have seen above, her actions are twisted into being the actions of Norma Staikos and the companies (eg. about who really orchestrated certain meetings). Wade tries hard to make the companies and their employees, especially Norma Staikos, responsible for his alleged abuse, while his mother's responsibility is completely missing from the narrative in his complaint.

In actuality, in his 2016 deposition, Wade blames Staikos (and Jackson's personal assistant after Staikos, Evvy Tavasci) more than even Jackson himself: "*Michael was like a child in a lot of ways, like, he could do his work, he could do his art, right, but beyond that, everyday life stuff, I mean, he could heartly (sic) work a microwave. So, Michael wasn't organizing any of that stuff, [Norma Staikos and Evvy Tavasci] were helping to facilitate all of that stuff.*" [6; page 235]

In his 2016 deposition Wade is directly asked about his mother's responsibility, but while he claims he did have anger and resentment towards her initially (although his anger and resentment actually predated his alleged realization of sexual abuse and seemed more to do with his career crisis, as we have discussed in the chapter **Wade goes into therapy**), he excuses her by saying that she was just "brainwashed" and "groomed" by Jackson just like he was as a child [6; page 123-124]. The problem with that is that Joy Robson was not a child. She was the mother, the care-giver responsible for Wade's well-being, so if we are really "raising awareness" with the lawsuit about the alleged facilitators of abuse then she should not be excused by comparing her state of mind to a child Wade's under Jackson's alleged "brainwash" (such as Jackson giving her gifts). Moreover, if Jackson's alleged "brainwash" was so powerful that he was able to convince Joy Robson of his innocent intentions, then why should we expect Norma Staikos and others to be able to see through him?

On pages 229-242 of his deposition Wade blames Jackson's employees, especially Norma Staikos [6; page 229-242]. He says absurd things like that Staikos should have called the authorities when the Robsons contacted Jackson in January/February 1990. (And what exactly authorities would have done with the fact that a family from Australia was trying to contact Jackson?) He also blames Staikos because "[Jackson] didn't know about me again until [Staikos] made the connection", once again "forgetting" that it was his mother who initiated that connection, not Staikos.

He also says that Staikos knew about Jackson's so-called "pattern" with children – ie. that he befriended many children, bought them gifts and that from time to time children slept in his room. This makes Staikos more responsible than his mother, according to Wade. The problem with that claim is that none of the things he claims Staikos knew were things that his mother did not know too. By her own testimonies, Joy Robson was aware of all of the above. She also testified many times - in 1994, in 2005 and in 2016 - that Wade slept in Jackson's bedroom with her full knowledge and permission. Joy Robson was also well aware of the 1993 Chandler allegations, but even after that she never cut connection with Jackson or even stopped the sleepovers. The Robsons were interviewed several times by authorities and the media during the Chandler allegations and they have always defended Jackson. So what could Staikos or any other employee have done there? What would make a personal assistant more responsible than Wade's primary care-giver, his mother?

That Norma Staikos is made out to be the main "facilitator" of Wade's alleged abuse instead of his mother, is a big red flag regarding what this case really is about. It has all to do with the fact that this is the way Wade could try to sue Jackson's companies for money. Coupled with the fact that his mother's responsibility is completely missing from his lawsuit, this shows Wade's dishonesty when claiming that his lawsuit is for "raising awareness" about people who facilitate sexual abuse. His lawsuit and his public communication of it did nothing to raise awareness about his mother's role and responsibility. The mother who was his primary care-giver and who was aware of every information that Staikos was aware of.

"Helping other victims of Michael Jackson's"?

Wade also claimed that his lawsuit was for helping “other victims” of Michael Jackson, but his treatment of those other alleged victims was certainly inconsistent with that. In his deposition he was asked whether he had ever attempted to reach out to Gavin Arvizo, the boy at the center of the 2005 trial. Wade’s answer: *"No. Not that I recall, no."* [6; page 160-161]. So despite of his claim that he filed this lawsuit, not for money but as some sort of advocacy for Jackson’s other “victims”, he never bothered to reach out and apologize to the boy whose justice Wade obscured if we believe the current version of his story that he had falsely testified at that trial.

He did “reach out” to Jackson’s 1993 accuser, Jordan Chandler, but not in the way one would expect from a compassionate fellow “victim”. His “reaching out” was trying to depose Jordan in support of his lawsuit, despite of Jordan obviously being opposed to it. Jordan, as he always does whenever it is time to tell his allegations in a court, ran away once again and refused to be served with the subpoena. As Wade’s legal team could not find him, they tried to depose his sister and his fiancé, who filed motions making it very clear that they do not want be dragged into Wade’s case. Instead of respecting the Chandlers’ obvious wish to stay away from the case, Wade’s legal team aggressively pursued them, filing counter-motions and trying to force them to testify. They even bragged in a tabloid article that they were trying to hunt down Jordan wherever he was hiding from them [50].

They also aggressively pursued Jonathan Spence, a man who befriended Jackson in the 1980s as a child. Spence never accused Jackson of any wrongdoing and he still says that Jackson never did anything wrong to him, but he was one of those boys that the prosecution at the 2005 trial tried to represent as a “victim” despite of him saying otherwise. In a motion where Spence opposed Robson's strong-arm tactics to depose him without any sign of willing to compromise on the date when Spence could be available for a deposition, among other things, we read: *"Plaintiff Wade Robson ("Plaintiff") and his counsel have treated Spence in the most abominable manner - without the slightest regard for Spence's concerns and objections regarding Spence's unilaterally-noticed deposition" and "[Robson's] bullying behavior toward a non-party is inexcusable and speaks for itself."* [51]

Brett Barnes, another man who befriended Jackson as a child and always maintained that Jackson never molested him, but whom Wade’s mother during her deposition seemed to try to imply as a possible victim, did not want anything to do with Robson and his so-called “advocacy” either. When Robson's allegations became public on May 8, 2013, Brett Barnes tweeted: *"I wish people would realise, in your last moments on this earth, all the money in the world will be of no comfort. My clear conscience will."* [47]

Wade’s Witnesses

In support of his allegations, Wade now embraces certain alleged witnesses whose stories he previously denied. These people are ex-employees of Jackson, who came out with claims of inappropriate behavior by the singer during the 1993 Chandler allegations and the accompanying tabloid media frenzy. They have **all** been paid money by the tabloid media for their stories. These alleged witnesses who claimed to have seen inappropriate behavior by Jackson towards Wade, are: Charli Michaels, Mariano “Mark” Quindoy and Blanca Francia.

We have addressed Charli Michaels's claims earlier in this document (see the chapter [The Charli Michaels story](#)) and we have seen that her story is contradicted even by Wade's mother. In this chapter we will address the Quindoys' and Blanca Francia's allegations.

Mark Quindoy

The Filipino couple, Mariano "Mark" and Ofelia "Faye" Quindoy, worked for Jackson between 1989 and 1990. In 1993 in the wake of the Chandler allegations they sold stories to the tabloid media, claiming that they quit, because they were so disturbed by what they had witnessed Jackson do with children. However, they were not disturbed enough to report what they allegedly saw to the authorities. In actuality, a lawsuit they filed against Jackson claiming he owed them \$283,000 in overtime reveals that the real reason they left their employment with Jackson was because of disagreement about their wages and conflicts with other employees.

Regarding Wade, Mark Quindoy claimed that on one occasion in February 1990 he drove the boy and Jackson to shopping and on their way back glancing in the rearview mirror he observed Jackson fondling Wade, including on his genital area, and inappropriately kissing him on his face and neck.

The Quindoys gave media interviews and sold stories about Jackson before the 1993 Chandler allegations surfaced, but those stories never included claims of inappropriate behavior towards children. Those kind of claims, including their story about Wade, only emerged after the Chandler case became public in 1993 and the tabloid media offered money to anyone with such a story.

In 1992 the Quindoys gave a television interview about Jackson in which they described the star as *"the shyest person in the world"* [52] and told nice stories about him, or stories about eccentricities, but nothing about Jackson being inappropriate with children. Also in 1992 the couple was interviewed by Allan Hall, a reporter from the British tabloid, *The Sun*. Hall attested to the fact that at the time they had nothing bad to say about Jackson:

"The Sun drew up a contract for \$25,000 and I spent some time with them in Los Angeles doing the Life and Times with Michael Jackson... [They] didn't have a bad word to say about the guy, not one bad thing... Nothing, absolutely nothing. That he was just a kind man with children." [53]

Hall remarked:

"They are two people that I would not trust at all. And I think that they have really gone to town to do Michael Jackson down for the mighty dollar. Now they see money being offered around again and they want some more." [53]

In 1993, the Quindoys' own nephew, Glen Veneracion, a law student at the time, came forward and denounced his aunt and uncle as opportunists:

"I just feel bad that this is happening. I'm ashamed. I'm ashamed to be related to these people. I'm ashamed for the people in our country. It's an embarrassment. It really is."

[...]

“What disturbs me the most out of all of this is that they waited so long. Why did it take them three years to come up with these allegations? That’s what really is disturbing. If this was true, they should have come out with it a long time ago instead of jumping on the bandwagon. They never said that Michael was a pedophile, they never said that Michael was gay, so I don’t know where this is coming from. I find it shocking. It’s very disturbing to me.” [52]

At the time, Veneracion said he would be willing to testify against his relatives if the case went to court.

After the Chandler case went public in 1993, the Quindoys did not contact authorities, but went to tabloids instead with their new allegations. In the 1994 documentary *Tabloid Truth: The Michael Jackson Scandal* Diane Dimond revealed that first the Quindoys wanted \$900,000 for their story then they went down to \$500,000. News of The World reporter, Stuart White disclosed in the same documentary that from his paper the Quindoys wanted about \$250,000. [53]

Authorities eventually contacted the couple as a result of those tabloid stories. When asked why they did not turn to authorities with the information they now claimed to have, not even after the Chandler scandal went public, their answer was: *“we were just witnesses not victims”*. Consider that Mark Quindoy was a lawyer in his home country.

The Quindoys also tried to shop around a book deal. In their attempt to get publishers interested they claimed they had “secret witnesses” that they formerly withheld from the District Attorney.

Blanca Francia



Blanca Francia on Hard Copy in December 1993

Blanca Francia was an illegal immigrant from El Salvador who worked as a maid for Michael Jackson between 1986 and 1991. She first gained notoriety on December 15, 1993, when she appeared on Diane Dimond's tabloid television show, *Hard Copy* and alleged, among others, that during her employment she had witnessed Jackson showering in the nude with a child Wade Robson. As it was later revealed, and as she also admitted during Jackson's 2005 trial and her deposition in 2016, Blanca Francia received \$20,000 from *Hard Copy* for the interview – more than the amount of money

she annually earned at the time [54]. Although she left her job at Jackson's more than two years before the *Hard Copy* interview, and allegedly she quit because of being concerned about the relationship between Jackson and boys, she was not concerned enough to report to authorities what she had allegedly witnessed.

Blanca Francia's story has several versions as it changed over time. In a court motion filed by the prosecution in December 2004 in preparation for Jackson's 2005 criminal trial we read about her alleged showering scene:

"Ms. Francia also found Jackson and young Robson taking a shower together. As Jackson's personal maid, Ms. Francia, had access to Jackson's bedroom at any time. She was aware Jackson had installed an alarm bell in the outside hallway which would ring inside the bedroom as someone approached the bedroom's entrance. On this particular day she went to the bedroom. She knocked on the door and received no response, so she entered the bedroom. She heard the shower running and was aware Jackson had a habit of leaving the water running.

As she approached the bathroom, she realized Jackson had not heard the alarm and she saw Jackson and young Robson nude together in the shower and Jackson was rubbing against Wade's body. The shower was steaming so she could not see everything, but she could see Wade's head pressed against Jackson's stomach area. Jackson's and Wade's underwear were on the floor next to the shower. She immediately left and was uncertain if Jackson even saw her enter the bathroom." [55; page 22-23]

It is unclear where the prosecution took this version of the story from and whether Blanca Francia had told them such things in previous police or prosecution interviews, but publicly available versions of her testimony differ significantly. As opposed to this vivid and detailed description, on the stand in 2005 we were presented with a lot more ambiguous account by Blanca Francia – and at least two versions of the story.

One version was what Blanca Francia told under direct examination conducted by prosecutor Ron Zonen. Then she claimed that once, while Wade Robson was visiting with Jackson, she

walked into Jackson's bedroom suite and heard voices laughing and playing coming from the bathroom. (She did not claim, at least on the stand, that she went to the bathroom because she thought Jackson left the water running, as it was stated in the prosecution motion. She claimed she went there because she heard the voices of playing and laughing.) She claimed when she went up to see what was going on, she saw two pairs of underwear in front of the shower belonging to Jackson and Wade Robson. She claimed she could identify Robson's underwear because she used to do the laundry for the guests of Neverland. She claimed that she saw both Jackson and Robson inside the shower through the fogged up window of the shower and she heard the voices of both Jackson and Robson.

Ron Zonen: Did you see more than one figure?

Blanca Francia: Yeah.

Ron Zonen: All right. Did you recognize either of the figures that you saw?

Blanca Francia: Mr. Jackson.

Ron Zonen: All right.

Blanca Francia: And the little kid.

Ron Zonen: Was one figure larger than the other?

Blanca Francia: Yeah.

Ron Zonen: Was the second figure the size of Wade Robeson (sic)?

Blanca Francia: Yeah. Yes. [54]

(Emphasis added.)

According to the story, upon witnessing this scene that deeply disturbed her, Blanca Francia did nothing:

Ron Zonen: What did you do at the time that you saw Mr. Jackson and Wade Robeson (sic) in the shower? What did you do then?

Blanca Francia: I was going to talk to them, but then I thought, "No, I better not," so I just went back.

Ron Zonen: Did you leave the room?

Blanca Francia: I — yeah, I left the room.

Ron Zonen: Did you tell Mr. Jackson that you had been in the room?

Blanca Francia: No.

Ron Zonen: Did you back into the room at a later time?

Blanca Francia: Yeah, to clean the room. [54]

As opposed to the prosecution's motion, on the stand there was no mention of whether Jackson and Robson were nude, there was no mention of Jackson "*rubbing up against Wade's body*" and there was no mention of Robson's head being "*pressed against Jackson's stomach area*" - although on direct examination Francia did claim to have seen and heard both Jackson and Robson in the shower.

However, later in her testimony it was revealed that during her 1993-94 depositions for the Chandler civil case she said something completely different. Even prosecutor Ron Zonen had to ask her about the fact that in her 1993-94 depositions she admitted that she did not actually see Robson in the shower. In 2005 her explanation for that contradiction was that "*Well, at that time I guess I was tired and nervous, I guess*" [54].

On cross-examination, Jackson's attorney, Thomas Mesereau further pressed her about the issue of how many people she really saw:

Thomas Mesereau: Okay. You only saw one person in the shower, right?

Blanca Francia: I saw him in the shower and the little kid.

Thomas Mesereau: But in your deposition you said you could only see one person, but you heard giggling, right?

Blanca Francia: Yeah, but I hear two people –

Thomas Mesereau: You heard two people. You could only see one through the glass, right?

Blanca Francia: Mostly, yeah. Mostly.

[...]

Thomas Mesereau: Do you remember in the deposition saying you never saw anyone else in the shower but Mr. Jackson?

Blanca Francia: I don't think I say that.

Thomas Mesereau: Would it refresh your recollection if I show you the transcript?

Blanca Francia: Okay.

[...]

Thomas Mesereau: Have you had a chance to look at that page of the deposition?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: Does it refresh your memory about what you said about the shower?

Blanca Francia: Yeah.

Thomas Mesereau: You saw one person, Mr. Jackson, right?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: Or it looked like him through the glass, right?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: And the only voice you really heard was Mr. Jackson, correct?

Blanca Francia: No.

Thomas Mesereau: That wasn't correct?

Blanca Francia: I hear two — two. [54]

(Emphasis added.)

Although in 2005 Francia still insisted that she heard two voices, in her 1993-94 depositions she admitted she actually heard only one.

Thomas Mesereau: Do you remember you were asked in your deposition, "Did you hear anything else other than Michael laughing?" And you said, "No"?

Blanca Francia: Yeah.

Thomas Mesereau: Was that the truth?

Blanca Francia: Yes. [54]

Fast forward to September 6, 2016, when Blanca Francia was deposed for Wade Robson's civil lawsuit. Under questioning by Robson's attorney, Vince Finaldi, first she again told the version of her story in which she witnessed both Jackson and Wade in the shower and she also claimed that after witnessing the scene, although she kept working for Jackson, she felt bad for not reporting what she had allegedly witnessed [56; 129-130].

Later in Blanca Francia's deposition, however, a completely different story emerged when an attorney for Jackson's companies, Suann MacIsaac questioned her and read long extracts from the deposition that Francia had given in the Chandler case on January 11, 1994.

In that deposition Francia stated that when she entered Jackson's room on that occasion she heard the water running in the bathroom and went there to see who was there. About what

happened after that, Jackson's lawyer at the time, Johnnie Cochran had the following conversation with Blanca Francia:

"Question: When you looked around the corner, what did you see at that point?"

Answer: What do you mean? I see him. I saw Michael.

Question: What did you see? You saw Mr. Jackson?

Answer: Uh-huh.

Question: Did he have any clothes on?

Answer: I didn't see that.¹³

Question: What did you see?

Answer: I just saw the shadow.

Question: You saw the shadow of what you believe was Michael Jackson?

Answer: Yes.

Question: You never saw him, did you?

Answer: No.

Question: You saw the shadow of what you thought was a man, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did you see any other shadow at that point?

Answer: No.

Question: Was the glass foggy?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: So you couldn't really see clearly the glass, right? You just saw a figure; is that right?

Answer: Uh-huh.

Question: You saw only one figure at that point?

Answer: Yes.

¹³ Remember how the prosecution's above quoted motion from the 2005 criminal case claimed that Blanca Francia "saw Jackson and young Robson nude together in the shower".

Question: Okay. And you saw this one figure, did you at that point continue on or did you turn around and go back?

Answer: I went back.

Question: So you now -- you have seen your peek. You have taken your peek as you said, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And your peek was looking for just a very short time like that?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Was it very quick?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: And you saw what appeared to be a man, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: You only saw one figure, right?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: And then you then turned around and went back out, correct?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is that right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And that's all you saw?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is that right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: You never saw any other person in there when you were inside there, did you?

Answer: No. But once I got close to it, I hear laughing.

Question: But you never saw anybody else in the shower, right?

Answer: No." [56; page 263-268]

(Emphasis added.)

Now to the question of what Blanca Francia heard.

"Question: You heard some laughing?"

Answer: Yeah.

Question: When was it you heard the laughing?

Answer: When I got real close. When I saw and hear the laugh.

Question: What kind of laughing did you hear?

Answer: You know, just laughing. Not real loud¹⁴ but laughing like hee hee, like that.

Question: You heard hee hee hee laughing?

Answer: Yeah, like that.

Question: Did you recognize any voices you heard?

Answer: It was Michael.

Question: You heard Michael laughing?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did you hear anything else other than Michael laughing?

Answer: No.

Question: That's all you heard?

***Answer: Uh-huh.*" [56, page 269-270]**

(Emphasis added.)

Then Cochran went over it again to make sure they had Blanca Francia's testimony right.

¹⁴ The loudness of the laugh is significant, because in the more incriminating versions of her story Blanca Francia claimed that she went to the bathroom in the first place because she heard voices of laughing and playing coming from there. Those should have been real loud for her to hear them as she entered the bedroom and that while the water was running and the radio was also on, as she testified in 2005 [54]. But here, in her 1994 deposition she talks about "not real loud" laughing that she only heard as she got "real close".

"Question: So let me see if I understand it. You came in there. This is December 1989.¹⁵ You were curious and you wanted to take a peek at Mr. Jackson while he was showering once you got in there, right?"

Answer: Uh-huh.

Question: You went around and you took a peek. Through a foggy shower glass you saw the figure of what you thought was a man, what you think was Mr. Jackson?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And you heard a giggle or a laugh that appeared like Mr. Jackson's laugh, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And you turned around and you left?

Answer: Yes.

Question: You never saw anybody else in that shower right? At that point?

Answer: Well, no.

Question: Then you then left the room; is that right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And you have now told me everything that occurred on that particular occasion regarding the shower, isn't that right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And again, you are under oath today, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And you are telling the truth to the best of your ability.

Answer: Yes.

Question: You are not lying to us, are you?

Answer: No.

Question: You are being honest?

¹⁵ The December 1989 date that Blanca Francia gave to this event is impossible as the Robsons' first visit to Neverland was in January/February 1990, but as that is only a two-three months difference, it is an acceptable mistake and Francia did say that it is possible that she did not remember the exact date right.

Answer: Yes.

Question: And you have told us everything, right.

Answer: Yes."[56; page 271-273]

(Emphasis added.)

While in the more sinister versions of her story, Blanca Francia claims she was disturbed by what she had allegedly witnessed in the shower and felt guilty about keeping quiet about it, towards the end of her 2016 deposition, when asked by Robson's other attorney, John Manly about why she did not share with anyone at MJJ Productions what she allegedly had witnessed in the shower, she says: "*To me, it looked -- it looked normal to me that **he** was showering. So I think it was confidential.*" (Emphasis added.) [56; page 400] So here again what Blanca Francia saw was just a normal event of Jackson showering ("he" showering and not "they" showering) and she saw nothing sinister that would have prompted her to report it to anyone.

In her 1994 deposition Blanca Francia admitted that she only assumed Wade to be in the shower, but never saw or heard him there with Jackson. (And apparently that assumption by her came only in 1993, in the hindsight of the Chandler allegations, because at the time when it allegedly happened she did not feel she saw anything abnormal that she should have reported to anyone.) In the 1994 deposition she told the Chandlers' attorney, Larry Feldman that she made that assumption based on the fact that at the time Wade was staying at Neverland with Jackson and she did not see him in the room, so she simply assumed he must have been with Jackson in the shower - despite of the fact that that is not what she actually saw or heard in the shower, she only saw and heard Jackson there. [56; page 426-431]

Jackson's bedroom was a large two-storey complex with several smaller rooms, so Francia not seeing Wade there as she entered for just a couple of minutes, does not mean that he was not in some other room of the bedroom complex or he had not stepped outside while Jackson was showering. Obviously, the shower would not be the only place he could have been – and as we have learnt, Francia indeed did not see or hear him in the shower with Jackson.

From Blanca Francia's 1994 deposition we also learn that Francia destroyed evidence during that case. She was first deposed in connection with the Chandler case on December 15, 1993. Johnnie Cochran then asked her to bring her contract with Hard Copy to her next deposition. But when she was asked to show the contract in her next deposition on January 11, 1994, she said that she had got rid of it.

"Question: Why didn't you bring it with you?

Answer: Well, after the deposition here, the first time that I came, I got really upset about all this. And I got rid of my contract. And I just -- I just got rid of it." [56; page 307]

But that is not all. It also emerged that when she went to her first deposition in December 1993 she actually showed the contract to Larry Feldman, the attorney representing the

Chandlers, while lying about its whereabouts to Jackson's lawyers. Then she went home and got rid of the contract. [56; page 307-320]

In one part of her deposition (to very much leading questions by Robson's attorney, Vince Finaldi), Blanca Francia claims that she left her employment with Jackson because of what she experienced Jackson do with boys [56; page 170-171]. However, from other parts of her testimony a totally different picture emerges as to why she left. Under questioning by Suann MacIsaac, attorney for the Jackson companies, Francia admitted that in 1993 she told the police that the primary reason that she quit her job was because of disputes with other employees [56; page 209].

Indeed, she seemed to have a relationship full of conflicts with her co-workers. She admitted that a lot of her co-workers did not like her, they thought she was dangerous and untrustworthy, because she would tell on them to Norma Staikos and Jackson. Shortly before she left her job she had another employee, whom she considered a friend, fired for something that was not committed by that employee but by Blanca Francia herself. [56; page 321-341] On another occasion Francia was caught looking into the purse of another employee, Gayle Goforth. Francia said she did that to see how much Goforth was paid.

Meanwhile, far from seeming disgusted and disturbed by Jackson's alleged behavior with boys (as she claimed later in the hindsight of the Chandler allegations), she actually affectionately referred to him as "*my Michael*", much to the amusement of her co-workers. [56; page 345-348]. A former maid, Francin Orosco said that Francia was very possessive of Jackson: "*You could tell a lot that she had a little crush on him, very jealous of the other housekeepers. She didn't want no one close to Michael. There's a lot of jealousy there.*" [52]

Blanca Francia also made allegations regarding James Safechuck. In the prosecution's motion from 2004 it is claimed that she had observed Jackson in a bed with Safechuck at the Neverland theater with their upper bodies unclothed [55; page 22]. In her 2016 deposition she seems to repeat that story - although with unclear details.

Vince Finaldi: Did you ever see any kids in those beds [in the theater at Neverland]?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Vince Finaldi: Which kids?

Blanca Francia: I remember this -- I forgot his name. I keep forgetting his name. Jimmy.

Vince Finaldi: Jimmy Safechuck?

Blanca Francia: Yeah. That's most that I remember. I remember -- [56; page 112]

Here it is unclear whether she claims to have seen Jackson in the theater bed with Safechuck (like it is claimed in the prosecution's motion), but if she does then that is refuted by her own trial testimony from 2005 where she flat out denied that she had ever been in the theater while Jackson was there with children.

Thomas Mesereau: You would see those children running around Neverland a lot, correct?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: And Mr. Jackson used to run around with them, didn't he?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: He used to take them to the theater to watch movies, didn't he?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Thomas Mesereau: And children would sometimes sit in his lap in the theater watching the movies, didn't they?

Blanca Francia: I –

Thomas Mesereau: Did you ever see that?

Blanca Francia: I never see that. Because I –

Thomas Mesereau: I'm sorry.

Blanca Francia: I was never there when he was there with kids. [54]

(Emphasis added.)

After much convincing by the police, Blanca Francia's son, Jason also started to make allegations against Jackson. We have discussed those allegations and how they emerged in a separate article [see [Jason Francia](#)], so we will not discuss them here again, but let us make a note about an element of it that apparently also went through various incarnations. During her 1993-94 depositions, Blanca Francia talked about the fact that Jackson did not have a bed in his Wilshire condo, but had a sleeping bag on the floor that was open all the time and that is where her son and Jackson were when they would watch television together. She stated in 1993-94 and confirmed it again in 2016, that her son and Jackson had always stayed on top of the sleeping bag, not inside of it, not zipped up in it [56; page 223]. However, when she threatened to file a civil lawsuit against Jackson later in 1994, her story changed to the sleeping bag being zipped up in a way that she was not able to see their bodies and her having to tell Jason to get out of the sleeping bag [56; page 231-234].¹⁶

As the attorney for Jackson's company pointed out, this looked like an attempt at making an innocent situation look more sinister.

¹⁶ By the way, Jason Francia. We learn from Blanca Francia's deposition that her son was also deposed for Wade's case. According to Vince Finaldi, in that deposition Jason claimed that he remembered an instance when he and his mother went to Neverland at night and his mother saw Wade dancing with Jackson and Jackson was teaching him the move where he grabbed his genitals. Blanca Francia flat out refuted her son's claims and said that she had never witnessed any such thing [56; page 80-81]. Jason's claims sound suspiciously like Charli Michaels' story. Apparently he took it and evolved it into being his own and his mother's story.

Suann MacIsaac: Do you get that it sounds much worse, it sounds much more sinister or suspicious to say that Michael Jackson was in the sleeping bag zipped up, you couldn't see their bodies, you were telling your son to get out than to say they were on top of the sleeping bag watching television?

Blanca Francia: That it sounds --

Suann MacIsaac: It sounds worse? It sounds more suspicious?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Suann MacIsaac: You get that; right?

Blanca Francia: Yes. [56; page 233-234]

Under questioning by Vince Finaldi, Blanca Francia claimed that after what she allegedly had witnessed with Wade and Jackson in the shower, she tried to bring her son to Neverland less, but she still brought him about twice in the remaining one year that she worked there [56; page 138] .

Later in her testimony we learn that in 1993 she testified that she brought Jason to Neverland altogether about five times while she was working there. (In 2016 she corrected that to saying that it was actually more than five times.) When asked whether she would have brought Jason to Neverland if she had thought that Jackson could hurt him, she repeatedly answers "no".

Suann MacIsaac: Just to confirm, if you had thought that Michael Jackson was going to hurt your son, you would not have brought him to the Neverland Ranch and let him go unattended; right?

Blanca Francia: I don't know if it's yes to that question or no to the answer. So what is it?

Suann MacIsaac: Okay. So my question is you didn't think anything bad was going to happen --

Blanca Francia: No.

Suann MacIsaac: -- to your son?

Blanca Francia: No.

Suann MacIsaac: And that was despite everything that you had seen either at the Wilshire condo --

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Suann MacIsaac: -- or Encino -- let me finish -- or at Neverland? Right?

Blanca Francia: Yes.

Suann MacIsaac: When you were bringing your son to the Neverland Ranch, you did not believe anything bad was going to happen to him?

Blanca Francia: No.

Suann MacIsaac: That's a double negative so I'm really -- I'm sorry. It's late in the day.

Did you believe anything bad was going to happen to your son when you --

Blanca Francia: No.

Suann MacIsaac: -- brought him to the Neverland Ranch?

Blanca Francia: No. [56; page 226-228]

From Blanca Francia's deposition we also learn that the settlement that she had reached with Jackson after she had threatened to sue her in 1994, was related to her employment [56; page 189]

During her testimony in 2005, Blanca Francia also admitted that in 1993, besides Hard Copy, she contemplated selling her story to the National Enquirer. One of the reporters who used to work for the Enquirer, Jim Mitteager had a habit of taping his conversations. When he died his tapes were inherited by private investigator and tabloid broker, Paul Barresi. The Mitteager tapes reportedly include a conversation in which it is claimed that in 1993, Enquirer reporter, Lydia Encinas befriended Blanca Francia. On those tapes, Enquirer editor, David Perel tells Mitteager on March 23, 1994, that: "*the reason why Lydia Encinas is involved is because she speaks Spanish and she's got a good relationship with Blanca.*" [57] Apparently the Enquirer deal fell through because the "*the cops put [Blanca Francia] under wraps*" after her Hard Copy interview (details in the article entitled [Is it true that the FBI had evidence of Michael Jackson paying "hush money" to dozens of young boys? – section "Document 2"](#)).¹⁷

Another journalist, Victor Gutierrez was also in contact with Blanca Francia. To explore why that connection might be significant, please see our article about [Gutierrez's involvement in the allegations against Michael Jackson](#).

Wade Robson now embraces the incriminating versions of Blanca Francia's and Mark Quindoy's shaky allegations, but the opportunistic nature of his endorsements is evidenced in the fact that he also embraces Charli Michaels's claims despite of his mother telling him that they were not true - or in the many other opportunistic courses that he has taken in this case as we have discussed thoroughly in this document. Fact is, that during his 2005 criminal trial testimony, Wade specifically denied these allegations. He did not say "*I was in the shower with him, but I don't think it is inappropriate*", but he denied that he had ever been in the shower with Jackson.

¹⁷ By the way National Enquirer. Joy Robson testified in her deposition that in 1993 that the National Enquirer offered her a six figures sum to change her story and say that Michael Jackson had molested her son which she declined [4; page 295]. This is only one of many, many stories that show that tabloids offered people huge sums to make allegations against Jackson – with some people resisting the temptation, some not.

Thomas Mesereau: Have you ever taken a shower with Mr. Jackson?

Wade Robson: No. [8]

and

Thomas Mesereau: Has anything inappropriate ever happened in any shower with you and Mr. Jackson?

Wade Robson: No. Never been in a shower with him. [8]

and

Thomas Mesereau: Mr. Robson, did Michael Jackson ever molest you at any time?

Wade Robson: Absolutely not.

Thomas Mesereau: Mr. Robson, did Michael Jackson ever touch you in a sexual way?

Wade Robson: Never, no.

Thomas Mesereau: Mr. Robson, has Mr. Jackson ever inappropriately touched any part of your body at any time?

Wade Robson: No. [8]

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