Case: Omnicare

## Interview of Stephen P. Lamb

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Interviewer: Elissa Habbart, Delaware Counsel

September 26, 2018, Wilmington DE

#00:00:00# - #00:00:22#

- 1 MS. HABBART: Steve, it's great that you're here
- 2 today because now we're all going to have the opportunity to
- 3 hear directly from the judge who had to look at this
- 4 interesting case.
- 5 MR. LAMB: It's great to be here. It's 16 years
- 6 later, so...
- 7 MS. HABBART: I know.
- 8 MR. LAMB: What I remember and what I don't
- 9 remember, we'll find out.
- MS. HABBART: Well, try the best of your
- 11 recollection. What was your impression of things when this
- 12 dispute came before you? There were so many pieces to it-
- MR. LAMB: Yeah.
- 14 MS. HABBART: -- everything from standing issues to
- 15 declarations as to voting rights to preliminary injunctions
- 16 to- #00:01:00#
- 17 MR. LAMB: Well, that all did sort of unfold. I have
- 18 a very vague recollection that there was a hearing, and I

- 1 could be wrong about this, and it would have been like on a
- 2 motion-
- MS. HABBART: To compel, maybe?
- 4 MR. LAMB: -- maybe a motion to compel, but the way
- 5 I think of it, it's more a motion for expedited proceedings,
- 6 but I can't find one in the docket sheet, so...
- 7 MS. HABBART: No...there were motions where they
- 8 wanted you to they wanted to get access to Omnicare's banks,
- 9 financing opportunities. There was also one where Omnicare was
- 10 trying to get NCS's Board Minutes and such...there was some
- 11 early on—
- 12 MR. LAMB: Okay, well maybe that was it-
- MS. HABBART: -- that there was some...dispute-
- **14** #00:01:50#
- 15 MR. LAMB: I have a strong recollection, and I hope
- 16 it was this case of Ted Mirvis being in court and making an
- 17 argument-
- MS. HABBART: Oh, he did. He did.
- 19 MR. LAMB: -- that... and the argument was, Your
- 20 Honor, these people, these Omnicare people, they claim to have
- 21 a tender offer, but it is a highly conditional tender offer.
- 22 It is based on their need to obtain further information and
- 23 conduct due diligence. And that the due diligence condition
- 24 was in the offer they made to the NCS Board, and it's in their

- 1 tender offer. And they also, we don't think, have financing, I
- 2 think he said. But the thing I remember him saying, and it
- 3 sort of captured the essence of this, was that when they made
- 4 their proposal in July, it had a in competition with the
- 5 proposal Genesis was making it had a due diligence
- 6 condition. And that was in the circumstances, that engaging
- 7 with Omnicare at that point was presented a risk to NCS of
- 8 losing the Genesis transaction. And that very risk that they
- 9 refused to take they refused to go engage with Omnicare
- 10 because they had this other proposal they had that they could
- 11 act on and needed to be acted on. It is the very risk that
- 12 Omnicare refused to undertake itself, that is by making an
- 13 unconditional offer. So, someone had to bear this risk about
- 14 not having enough information. And Omnicare wanted NCS to bear
- 15 it. NCS determined in July it couldn't. And I remember Mr.
- 16 Mirvis standing up and just saying, you know, these people,
- 17 all they want to do is just transfer this risk ....
- MS. HABBART: It was in the transcripts— #00:03:43#
- 19 MR. LAMB: So, that's sort of my first recollection.
- 20 I mean, when these cases come in, it's not as though, that a
- 21 judge gets assigned to a case, the judge spends the next
- 22 couple days reading all whatever is there. I mean you wait
- 23 for something to come to you. So, that's my first
- 24 recollection.

- 1 MS. HABBART: Did the fact that there had been this
- 2 extensive, extensive, careful work done by the Board did
- 3 that impression -- did you get that impression right away?
- 4 #00:04:14#
- 5 MR. LAMB: Well...no, no. I mean you don't get that
- 6 impression right away. You get that eventually. I mean what
- 7 you get right away is the idea that the board ran a process.
- 8 It signed up in an exclusive agreement an exclusive
- 9 negotiating agreement -- with one of the bidders and then, you
- 10 know, it found itself in the position where that bidder now
- 11 said, okay, here is our proposal; take it, or we're out of
- 12 here, without the Board having the opportunity to go explore
- 13 other alternatives during that period of exclusivity. So, it
- 14 turned out there were when I saw the record, you know, but
- 15 now we're talking November, that the Board had lavished
- 16 attention on this proposal, and there was tremendous-
- 17 MS. HABBART: Two years...well, plus there was-
- **18** #00:04:58#
- 19 MR. LAMB: There was this huge gap, right.
- MS. HABBART: So, once you started looking at things
- 21 and getting the information, you saw they had a very, very
- 22 careful Board, making a decision based on the best available
- 23 information available to them at that time. Did you have any

- 1 concerns about any of the elements of the deal? Number one,
- 2 the terms of the merger- #00:05:27#
- MR. LAMB: Well...the merger agreement contained,
- 4 which is why we're here talking today. I mean, it contained
- 5 several different things, which in combination, made it
- 6 unusual in that it contained essentially, a force the vote
- 7 provision, which was a relatively new section in the DGCL that
- 8 had been enacted, I don't remember exactly, but not too long
- 9 before. And it was uncommon to see in a merger agreement. And
- 10 that meant that, notwithstanding the fact that the Board could
- 11 withdraw its recommendation and even, perhaps, recommend
- 12 against the transaction, the Board nevertheless had to convene
- 13 the shareholders' meeting in combination with a voting
- 14 agreement between the bidder, the company's two largest
- 15 shareholders, who were also directors, and the company. And
- 16 who, and those two shareholders together owned a majority of
- 17 the voting power. But-
- MS. HABBART: What's wrong with that? #00:06:32#
- 19 MR. LAMB: -- so unusually, but they didn't have a
- 20 majority of the equity. They had maybe 15 or 20-percent of the
- 21 equity. But they had shares that had a greater vote, and so,
- 22 they had the majority of the voting power. I mean it was
- 23 certainly unusual to see a transaction that was that
- 24 thoroughly locked up. Now, and as it first presents itself,

- 1 you don't have you don't understand that this was a company
- 2 that was essentially it was insolvent, company that had been
- 3 seeking a resolution of its insolvency problems for the
- 4 benefit of its creditors for a year and a half. And you don't
- 5 know any of that yet, but that all comes up later. So, what
- 6 you are faced with is a completely locked up deal, which is
- 7 unusual, and a competing bidder who is in there screaming that
- 8 they were there all along and they wanted to buy the company
- 9 and wanted to pay more, and they were being prevented from
- 10 paying more—
- MS. HABBART: Did the fact that prior to NCS's
- 12 agreement with Genesis, the only offer that was being made by
- 13 Omnicare was for a sale out of bankruptcy where the
- shareholders would get nothing? #00:07:39#
- MR. LAMB: Of course, eventually, that got into the
- 16 briefs and got in front of me and was-
- MS. HABBART: Changed things.
- 18 MR. LAMB: Of course. I mean that's, you have this
- 19 bidder who never offered to pay even a hundred cents on the
- 20 dollar to the creditors. And this was over a period of now,
- 21 we are sort of getting to the punchline here, but in the
- 22 preliminary injunction proceeding, it became obvious that both
- 23 the NCS Board had tried to negotiate over a long period of
- 24 time with Omnicare, and also, the creditors, this sort

- 1 informal creditors committee of Omnicare, they tried to
- 2 negotiate. I don't mean with Omnicare, I mean with the
- 3 creditors' committee of NCS. They tried to negotiate a
- 4 transaction with Omnicare at the end of the year before. And
- 5 when they got to the point, and they thought they had a deal
- 6 that they had negotiated with Mr. Gemunder, I think, and when
- 7 the papers came from the lawyers, it wasn't the deal they
- 8 thought they had. So, they were put off by Omnicare, and that
- 9 was like January or February of 2002, but-
- MS. HABBART: And then they went silent for a number
- 11 of months. #00:08:58#
- 12 MR. LAMB: Then, I think that Omnicare went silent.
- 13 It seemed that way, right?
- MS. HABBART: Yes.
- MR. LAMB: So, Omnicare wanted they were a very
- 16 fierce competitor of NCS as well. And they were trying, over a
- 17 period of time, they tried to get access to more information
- 18 about NCS. And they asked for information that NCS just
- 19 ultimately wasn't able willing and able -- to give them.
- 20 Maybe it would have violated the law to give it to them; I
- 21 don't know. But they couldn't even agree on the terms of a
- 22 confidentiality agreement for a long time. I don't think that
- 23 happened until after the litigation started, really, so...

- 1 MS. HABBART: That's right. And based on my
- 2 recollection of the record of the litigation, in addition to
- 3 not wanting to give up documents, they Omnicare -- couldn't
- 4 even agree, like you said, to the terms of the confidentiality
- 5 agreement. But beyond that, then in the discovery thing.
- 6 Discovery was due to finish July 31 or August 31, whatever it
- 7 is-
- 8 MR. LAMB: I thought you were going say something
- 9 slightly different. They wouldn't agree to a provision in the
- 10 confidentiality order that restricted them from contacting
- 11 NCS's customers other than in the ordinary course of business.
- MS. HABBART: Customers ... course of business ...
- 13 okay. That's absurd. #00:10:23#
- MR. LAMB: They wouldn't even agree to that, right.
- 15 That was pretty crazy.
- MS. HABBART: So, but also, they, after arguing that
- 17 they weren't going to give up information, okay, this is
- 18 Omnicare, which is where I think Ted came into play. They
- 19 missed the deadline, you know, they were continuing to argue
- 20 ... a week later, after the production deadline, they hand
- 21 Genesis and NCS's counsel 4100 documents. I mean there was a
- 22 fight even to just get one another the necessary information
- 23 that they are legally obligated to do. #00:11:03#
- MR. LAMB: Well, this was in the litigation?

- 1 MS. HABBART: Yeah. I mean, Omnicare was not a nice
- player. #00:11:13#
- MR. LAMB: Oh, well, they were you know, very tough
- 4 negotiators. Difficult. Anyway. That-
- 5 MS. HABBART: Well, so you're saying that over time,
- 6 you started to get the picture of what the history was, and
- 7 the history mattered in your review of where the Board might
- 8 have been or how it carried out its duties at the time it
- 9 entered into the merger agreement. #00:11:40#
- MR. LAMB: Well, sure. In the preliminary injunction
- 11 proceeding, in particular, I mean the conduct of the Board is
- 12 the main focus. And so, the conduct of the Board over the long
- 13 period of time in how they arrived at this particular
- 14 transaction was important.
- 15 MS. HABBART: Absolutely, and it had quite the
- 16 record, and the Supreme Court adopted all the findings that-
- MR. LAMB: The Supreme Court took all the findings
- 18 from my opinion and incorporated them.
- 19 MS. HABBART: Yes, it did. #00:12:10#
- MR. LAMB: Right. Anyway, on the basis of those
- 21 findings, I mean, it would be it was very difficult, or it
- 22 was impossible to say that the Board had breached its duty of
- 23 care. In my view, because they had lavished-
- MS. HABBART: Attention.

- 1 MR. LAMB: -- not only lavished attention, but they
- 2 were they knew all of the important information about
- 3 everything.
- 4 MS. HABBART: Mm-hmm. So, this was an active
- 5 conscious Board that made a lot of effort. Now, you had some
- 6 interesting things that came along the line before you had to
- 7 determine that preliminary injunction. Now, Omnicare wanted to
- 8 bring a claim, even though it didn't own any shares at the
- 9 point in time that the merger agreement was signed. #00:12:57#
- MR. LAMB: Right. They wanted to bring a fiduciary
- 11 duty claim against the Board. And they also had a second part
- 12 of their complaint, which related to the operation of the
- 13 company's certificate of incorporation in conjunction with the
- 14 voting agreement that the two officers had signed.
- MS. HABBART: Well, am I correct that what it was,
- 16 was number one, they wanted to have standing to bring a
- 17 fiduciary duty claim. And the other part was they wanted a
- 18 declaratory judgment to determine whether or not their stock
- 19 that only had one vote per share actually had been converted
- 20 into this super-voting-
- MR. LAMB: No, it's the other way around.
- MS. HABBART: Was it? #00:13:39#
- MR. LAMB: Whether the super-voting by reason of the
- 24 entry into the [overlapping]-

- 1 MS. HABBART: Right, converted back to the more
- 2 limited-
- 3 MR. LAMB: Because of the entry into the voting
- 4 agreement in connection with which they had given the two;
- 5 Outcalt and Shaw had given proxies to Genesis. Whether that
- 6 factual circumstance had caused the high-voting shares to
- 7 convert into low-voting shares.
- 8 MS. HABBART: Right. Which, and you allowed that to
- 9 move forward. #00:14:05#
- MR. LAMB: I did. So, there was...there must have
- 11 been a motion to dismiss that complaint on the basis of lack
- 12 of standing and I granted that motion with respect to the
- 13 fiduciary duty claim, and I denied it with respect to the
- 14 declaratory judgement claim.
- MS. HABBART: And what was your thinking? #00:14:26#
- MR. LAMB: And really, on the fiduciary duty, they
- 17 didn't-if you're not a stockholder at the time of an alleged
- 18 wrong, you don't have any right to complain about the wrong.
- 19 And the fact that you might go out and buy shares afterward
- 20 doesn't give you the right to complain about things that
- 21 happened before.
- 22 MS. HABBART: But it seemed logical to you that you
- 23 would that you should entertain or let them try to figure

- 1 out what value what voting value their shares had?
- 2 #00:14:59#
- MR. LAMB: You know, I did because they had a tender
- 4 offer pending. And the outcome of the question of what
- 5 voting power these shares had was ultimately it was
- 6 important to the success or failure of the tender offer
- 7 because if it turned out that Outcalt and Shaw had their
- 8 shares had converted into A-shares, the low-voting shares-
- 9 MS. HABBART: They couldn't control them-
- 10 MR. LAMB: -- and because they didn't have a
- 11 majority of the economic power, and they didn't have a
- 12 majority of the A, even on as converted basis. If that was the
- 13 case, then the tender offer could succeed just by half the -
- 14 you know, 50-percent plus one of the other shares being
- 15 tendered into the tender offer. So, I thought that made sense.
- 16 You know, standing in this context, I mean you confront the
- 17 argument that the bidder is fully capable of mustering the
- 18 resources to present the facts and the law to the court in a
- 19 way that's intelligible, and that made sense to me on the
- 20 second claim. I don't think a bidder who and anyone who
- 21 doesn't own shares -- can ever prosecute a fiduciary duty
- 22 claim.
- MS. HABBART: That must have been an interesting
- 24 issue to have to dig into. #00:16:21#

- 1 MR. LAMB: It was. I mean bidder standing has been -
- 2 it had been the subject of other decisions. And I think my
- 3 decision was consistent with past precedent.
- 4 MS. HABBART: And the certificate provisions, the
- 5 analysis of those, vis-à-vis language such as in connection
- 6 with #00:16:44#
- 7 MR. LAMB: Oh, when you get to the opinion.
- 8 MS. HABBART: Yes, yes.
- 9 MR. LAMB: Yeah, well that opinion, I thought,
- 10 looking back on it, I would say it was it presented
- 11 interesting, slightly difficult issues and you're talking
- 12 about the fact that the opinion turns in part on the use of
- 13 the phrase "in connection with;"-
- MS. HABBART: Yes.
- MR. LAMB: -- that was in connection whether or
- 16 not the proxies given were in connection with a-
- MS. HABBART: Tender.
- 18 MR. LAMB: -- Section 14 proxy contest governed by
- 19 federal securities laws. And yeah, I took I looked up in
- 20 connection with, in Bryan Garner's book and knew its
- 21 application in 10b-5 litigation, and it's a very broad, very
- 22 non-specific sort of connector, so... And it was easy enough
- 23 to say that the proxies given in the voting agreement, which
- 24 were given in anticipation of the shareholders' meeting, at

- 1 which there would be a solicitation of proxies pursuant to the
- 2 securities laws, was in connection with, right.
- 3 MS. HABBART: Right. But plus the fact did the
- 4 proxies themselves really transfer any real interest in the
- 5 shares themselves? It was very limited [overlapping]-
- 6 MR. LAMB: Yeah, I didn't think so.
- 7 MS. HABBART: Yeah.
- 8 MR. LAMB: I don't remember all the details of that
- 9 opinion, but there was another issue about transferring an
- 10 interest in the shares, and I did not think that that well,
- 11 again, it presented—
- MS. HABBART: I thought that made sense. #00:18:06#
- 13 MR. LAMB: -- a litigable it presented a litigable
- 14 question, but I didn't go with it.
- MS. HABBART: No, no. And what you came out with was
- 16 that they were narrow in scope, in time-
- MR. LAMB: Right.
- MS. HABBART: You know, they-
- 19 MR. LAMB: It didn't give them the right to vote for
- 20 anything other than this one issue in a way that Outcalt and
- 21 Shaw had already agreed to vote on it, so...
- 22 MS. HABBART: They had no ownership attributes. They
- 23 secured no ownership attributes [inaudible].

- 1 MR. LAMB: You know, I think it's true...You know, I
- 2 think that's right. And I think, in fact, even without the
- 3 vote—the proxies just made was a mechanism to enforce the
- 4 voting agreement-
- 5 MS. HABBART: The voting agreement-
- 6 MR. LAMB: Because even without the proxies, I think
- 7 Genesis could have come into court and gotten an order
- 8 requiring them to vote their shares in a certain way.
- 9 MS. HABBART: And the voting agreement, when you
- 10 considered it in light of the whole once you had the history
- 11 in front of you, and you understood the comings and goings of
- 12 the parties-
- 13 MR. LAMB: At the time I decided that case, I
- 14 probably didn't know everything. I certainly didn't know as
- 15 much as I knew when I decided the preliminary injunction
- 16 hearing, which was a few weeks later.
- 17 MS. HABBART: Right. And the voting agreement,
- 18 though, once you had that background, wasn't problematical for
- 19 you, was it? It made sense under the circumstances? #00:19:17#
- 20 MR. LAMB: Do you mean as a deal in connection
- 21 with the deal-
- MS. HABBART: As a deal ... right-
- MR. LAMB: Yeah, of course.
- MS. HABBART: -- as the deal provision. #00:19:23#

- 1 MR. LAMB: It made perfect sense.
- 2 MS. HABBART: As did the irrevocable-
- 3 MR. LAMB: And it made sense both from the point of
- 4 view of Genesis wanting it, and also, from the point of and
- 5 insisting upon it, and the point of view of the company and
- 6 its Board and its majority voting shareholders in giving it
- 7 because they did it in order to secure the Genesis
- 8 transaction, which you know, was the first transaction in a
- 9 year and a half that was going to that had been proposed
- 10 that would pay off all the creditors in full. It was going to
- 11 be a merger, so even all the trade creditors would get paid.
- 12 And there was a little bit of money for the stockholders.
- 13 There was like 25-million-dollars for the stockholders. This
- 14 was for a company which, at the time, was in default on its
- 15 debt. It was you know, it was insolvent.
- MS. HABBART: Well, like you said, there was a
- 17 creditors' committee trying to negotiate terms- #00:20:17#
- 18 MR. LAMB: The company was in default. They had not
- 19 been paying their 325-million-dollars of the debt for a while,
- 20 so, the creditors had forebeared, foreborne from exercising
- 21 their rights in default and they had agreements with the
- 22 company to do that to extend the time, but it was clearly
- 23 insolvent.

- 1 MS. HABBART: So, when you declined to issue a
- 2 preliminary injunction, and it seemed that there was you had
- 3 a good Board who made a rational decision under the
- 4 circumstances. And then, you looked at the Supreme Court
- 5 decision, and did you feel there was a lot of focus in that
- 6 decision on what happened after the fact? After the Board had
- 7 to make a decision? As opposed to looking at where the Board
- 8 sat? #00:21:25#
- 9 MR. LAMB: Sure. I mean the focus is on the
- 10 opportunity for shareholders to get a better price. And, A,
- 11 it's -- it came only after the fact because at the time the
- 12 Board made its decision, Omnicare had never offered the
- 13 shareholders had never made an unconditional offer to pay
- 14 the shareholders anything-
- MS. HABBART: By their own admission— #00:21:46#
- 16 MR. LAMB: -- yeah, until the end of July, they had
- 17 never made any kind of offer to pay the shareholders anything.
- 18 The only thing they ever talked about was that Omnicare would
- 19 buy NCS if NCS filed for bankruptcy and they sold them the
- 20 assets in bankruptcy.
- MS. HABBART: Why don't you think that wasn't
- 22 enough? #00:22:04#
- MR. LAMB: For whom?
- MS. HABBART: The majority and the court-

- 1 MR. LAMB: Oh, for the Supreme Court?
- MS. HABBART: Yes.
- 3 MR. LAMB: I don't know. I mean there was no focus
- 4 in that, that I can recall, on the fact that the company was
- 5 insolvent, that most of the efforts that had been expended
- 6 over this long period of time had been to basically get you
- 7 know, pay off the creditors. And then, and any kind of a
- 8 little payment to the stockholders-
- 9 MS. HABBART: Is a bonus. #00:22:30#
- MR. LAMB: Yeah. Now, to do a merger, it's very hard
- 11 to get a merger approved unless the stockholders are getting
- 12 something, right? Because they have to vote for it.
- MS. HABBART: Well, here, they had the people that
- 14 had the most to lose or the most to gain agreeing to it as
- 15 well-
- MR. LAMB: Right... well, yeah, it's true-
- MS. HABBART: -- isn't that-
- 18 MR. LAMB: I mean, that would have been like the
- 19 ultimate self-sacrifice for Outcalt and Shaw to approve a
- 20 merger transaction in which-
- MS. HABBART: If they could make five times the
- 22 money. #00:22:52#
- MR. LAMB: -- in which they're not getting paid
- 24 anything. I mean that would be a hard thing to do, but... So,

- 1 but if there is no merger, there's no one who wants to buy the
- 2 stock; the Board's duty at the time, and I think it believed
- 3 its duty was to do the best deal it could do for the
- 4 creditors. And that deal got better and better to the point
- 5 where finally, in its discussions with Genesis, Genesis said,
- 6 all right, we'll pay the-we'll do a merger, and we'll give -
- 7 you know, we'll exchange a little stock, and the creditors get
- 8 paid in full. That was a hell-that was a great outcome.
- 9 MS. HABBART: The point you made about how the
- 10 shareholders who issued the irrevocable proxies would have
- 11 been crazy to do so if they thought there was a real chance
- 12 there was more money on the table from somewhere. That must
- 13 have been an important indicator to you, I would think.
- **14** #00:23:50#
- 15 MR. LAMB: Of course. Look, to me, none of this was
- 16 really something that should be analyzed through under the
- 17 Unocal standard—
- MS. HABBART: Right, right.
- 19 MR. LAMB: -- of defensive mechanisms because that
- 20 was adopted to apply to actions taken unilaterally by a board
- 21 of directors. And these actions were not taken unilaterally.
- 22 Certainly, when you combine the voting agreement with the
- 23 merger agreement because, in fact, you have a majority in

- 1 voting power of the shareholders who are acting with the Board
- 2 to secure this transaction—
- 3 MS. HABBART: Whose interest is aligned with the
- 4 duties of the Board. #00:24:36#
- 5 MR. LAMB: Their interests were aligned both to the
- 6 creditors and to the other shareholders. And that's the point
- 7 I think the Chief Justice makes and Justice Steele make in
- 8 their dissents. But I don't -- didn't understand the basis for
- 9 the Supreme Court opinion.
- MS. HABBART: So, you were surprised? #00:24:58#
- MR. LAMB: Yeah, I was well, you know there's
- 12 always the thought that where there is more money available,
- 13 there will be a way found to secure the more money for the
- 14 people who are going to be giving up their shares. But, yeah,
- 15 I was surprised.
- 16 MS. HABBART: Did it surprise you that Genesis
- 17 waived the restrictions in the merger agreement and allowed
- 18 NCS to speak with Omnicare? #00:25:29#
- 19 MR. LAMB: It did. I mean, I don't know I can't
- 20 remember when I learned that. I'm sure I didn't know it-
- MS. HABBART: Wasn't 'til September-
- 22 MR. LAMB: I didn't know it in September. I don't
- 23 think I knew that until November. And, yes, it did surprise me
- 24 because Omnicare's position was that they couldn't really go

- 1 forward without due diligence. The merger agreement had a
- 2 provision in it that governed whether or not NCS could provide
- 3 information to Omnicare. I believe the Board of NCS met
- 4 shortly after the merger agreement was signed maybe the very
- 5 beginning of August, and, at a meeting, concluded that because
- 6 of the conditionality of the Omnicare offer-
- 7 MS. HABBART: You are correct.
- 8 MR. LAMB: -- it would not be able to exercise its
- 9 right under the merger agreement to give them information. So,
- 10 they were in this position where they had this conditional
- 11 offer and no way to satisfy the condition. It's where Genesis
- 12 meant them to be when this structure was insisted upon by
- 13 Genesis. And it's where the Board understood things would be
- 14 when they agreed to them, and where the shareholders
- 15 understood it would be when they agreed to what they did. Why?
- 16 I understand why Omnicare insisted and I now understand why
- 17 NCS asked because there was someone there who looked like they
- 18 were willing to pay more money, so-
- 19 MS. HABBART: But Genesis, at that point
- 20 [overlapping]-
- MR. LAMB: Yeah, and NCS had to ask. But then,
- 22 Genesis said, yes, and I don't know why. I have never I
- 23 didn't know why at the time and I don't know why now.

- 1 MS. HABBART: Yeah, I thought that was kind of odd,
- 2 too. #00:27:13#
- 3 MR. LAMB: Other than that, they must have come to
- 4 the conclusion that this was creating so much pressure and
- 5 that maybe there was a chance Omnicare would go away. And,
- 6 instead, it backfired.
- 7 MS. HABBART: Or, it thought that their deal was so
- 8 tight. #00:27:28#
- 9 MR. LAMB: Yeah, possibly. Although clearly, when it
- 10 got to the preliminary injunction, and then the appeal stage,
- 11 Omnicare's case would have been much weaker if they did not
- 12 have an actionable tender offer, or if they still had this
- 13 highly conditional proposal. They, you know, then the Supreme
- 14 Court would have been faced with the prospect of enjoining the
- 15 deal that is certain and is going to have this insolvent
- 16 company pay its creditors in full, and to enjoin that
- 17 transaction in favor of a conditional, uncertain future.
- 18 Actually, it was interesting. It would have put the court -
- 19 me, and then, the Supreme Court in the same position that the
- 20 Board of NCS was in in July when it approved the merger. And I
- 21 don't think I know I wouldn't have, and I don't think the
- 22 Supreme Court either would have -- insisted or have been
- 23 willing to force that risk on to the shareholders of NCS
- 24 because the whole thing could blow up. I mean, once the deal

- 1 is enjoined, Genesis could walk away. Omnicare then drops back
- 2 to bankruptcy [overlapping]-
- 3 MS. HABBART: Interesting. That might have been just
- 4 what Genesis was thinking. #00:28:42#
- 5 MR. LAMB: Yeah, well, I don't know why Genesis
- 6 would allow it, but they did-
- 7 MS. HABBART: But what you said makes good sense
- 8 there. #00:28:48#
- 9 MR. LAMB: They would have but that would have
- 10 been that's where they wanted to be. Originally, they wanted
- 11 to be in that position of making it impossible for somebody to
- 12 enjoin the transaction and you only stay there if you don't
- 13 allow, or but, Omnicare could have simply have dropped its
- 14 condition.
- 15 MS. HABBART: Yes, but it said they couldn't.
- **16** #00:29:10#
- MR. LAMB: You know, who knows.
- MS. HABBART: But at least that's what they told the
- 19 Board. They told NCS they just couldn't do it in exercising
- 20 their fiduciary duty. I have it here somewhere.
- MR. LAMB: Yes, they did. I mean because the records
- 22 show that in July, when the NCS Board was in this series of
- 23 meetings and Genesis had made its last proposal, or its maybe
- 24 next to last, and Omnicare threw this thing over the transom,

- 1 threw the letter saying, you know, we're here, now we want to
- 2 pay your shareholders three-dollars-and-fifty-cents a share in
- 3 a merger and we'll pay everybody. When that happened, the NCS
- 4 Board was subject to this exclusive arrangement with Genesis,
- 5 so, they couldn't go back to Omnicare and speak to them. But
- 6 Judy Mencher, who was the advisor to the creditors' committee,
- 7 the informal creditors' committee, she got a copy of the
- 8 Omnicare letter-
- 9 MS. HABBART: How did she get it? #00:30:19#
- 10 MR. LAMB: I don't know. Maybe Omnicare sent it to
- 11 her. Maybe somebody in the company sent it to her; I don't
- 12 know. But she went directly to Omnicare and said at the time;
- 13 this is never going to work. I mean this is weak, and you
- 14 can't expect them not to take the Genesis proposal when your
- 15 proposal is subject to due diligence. And you've had a lot of
- 16 due diligence about this company; you know what you need to
- 17 know. The records show that, at that point, Mr. Gemunder
- 18 called the meeting of his counsel and his Board, maybe, or his
- 19 management, anyway, and they considered whether or not they
- 20 could drop this condition. And they decided not to because
- 21 they didn't want to take the risk. So, they didn't want to
- 22 take the risk-
- MS. HABBART: But they wanted ... yeah-

- 1 MR. LAMB: -- but it's exactly the risk ... it's the
- 2 same risk they wanted NCS to take.
- MS. HABBART: Back to the initial argument that you
- 4 said rang true to you-
- 5 MR. LAMB: And it just really became, yeah, right,
- 6 it was interesting when I first heard it; it certainly rang
- 7 true to me later...
- 8 MS. HABBART: But what's interesting to me is, the
- 9 merger agreement purportedly said that NCS wouldn't even enter
- 10 into discussions with the third party unless there was an
- 11 unsolicited bona fide written proposal documenting the terms
- 12 and the NCS Board believed in good faith that the proposal was
- 13 likely to result in better terms. And so, my question is, they
- 14 went off and talked to them, and according to the record here,
- 15 they hadn't made that determination. So, they got the waiver
- 16 from Genesis to go ahead and talk with them. So, that's why I
- 17 liked your theory— #00:31:54#
- MR. LAMB: Well, because they couldn't make that
- 19 determination. They considered in the beginning of August
- 20 whether the then proposal from Omnicare, which maybe they did
- 21 that right after Omnicare began its tender offer. Whether that
- 22 was something which met that standard, and they concluded it
- 23 was not. So, they couldn't speak to them. That's why they then
- 24 had to ask for a waiver of this provision.

- 1 MS. HABBART: And that's why I say I like your
- 2 theory as to why Genesis would have given that waiver. But
- 3 again, we're hypothecating but we'll try to get that from -
- 4 #00:32:32#
- 5 MR. LAMB: I never knew.
- 6 MS. HABBART: You never knew.
- 7 MR. LAMB: You will have to ask somebody else.
- 8 MS. HABBART: But didn't you find that curious?
- 9 MR. LAMB: As I said, I didn't really learn about
- 10 the waiver until much later. And probably, I probably learned
- 11 about it in connection with the preliminary injunction
- 12 proceeding. But I've told, I know I've discussed this with
- 13 Larry and with you before, but I knew something was up the end
- 14 of September because I was having a series of phone
- 15 conferences with the parties about one thing or another. And
- 16 up until that point, Mr. Welch, who was, I think he was NCS's
- 17 counsel, or else he was representing Outcalt or Shaw, I'm not
- 18 sure, but he was on the NCS side-
- MS. HABBART: He was on the NCS- #00:33:19#
- MR. LAMB: -- and he was very strong, as he always
- 21 is; he's a great advocate. And his he was very convinced and
- 22 convincing about the position the NCS Board was taking. So,
- 23 then, by the end of September, the beginning of August, I
- 24 started noticing his tone of voice was different. And that's

- 1 when I guess they must have entered into discussions with
- 2 Omnicare and made, you know, [unintelligible] maybe, I wasn't
- 3 paying enough attention to tell you, but when Omnicare
- 4 actually changed its tender offer and eliminated the
- 5 conditionality-
- 6 MS. HABBART: October. #00:33:56#
- 7 MR. LAMB: October. So, maybe it was just before
- 8 that that his tone of voice changed, and so...
- 9 MS. HABBART: What a predicament he would have been
- 10 in given that you know, what do you do when, you know --
- MR. LAMB: Well, he knew what the proper legal
- 12 position was, but which was to defend what the Board had done.
- **13** But-
- MS. HABBART: Of course ... A deal is a deal.
- 15 MR. LAMB: -- and he also knew that you know, the
- 16 shareholders and Mr. Outcalt and Mr. Shaw were going to get
- 17 more money. Now, I mean, I quess in the end, there was a
- 18 hundred and something million dollars came to the
- 19 shareholders; the initial proposal was more in the sort of
- 20 twenty-five-million-dollar range. But in terms of the value of
- 21 the corporation, it was increasingly more, but it's still not
- 22 significant.
- MS. HABBART: What was interesting that after --
- 24 what went on after your decision, in terms of how between

- 1 Genesis and NCS, and their bidding the agreement, they came
- 2 out with was Omnicare paid Genesis 25-million [overlapping]-
- 3 MR. LAMB: I went back and looked at it, I think
- 4 it's 22.
- 5 MS. HABBART: Twenty-two, is it? #00:35:04#
- 6 MR. LAMB: Yeah. They paid 22, yeah, but they still
- 7 got their six-million dollars-
- 8 MS. HABBART: Twenty-two, you are absolutely right.
- 9 I'm sorry; so, yes.
- 10 MR. LAMB: And I went back and looked at that-
- MS. HABBART: They paid 22-million and do you
- 12 think? I mean, you were privy to all the ins and outs; well,
- 13 privy-
- 14 MR. LAMB: I don't know what the claim was-
- 15 MS. HABBART: -- does 25-million cover even their
- 16 costs? #00:35:26#
- 17 MR. LAMB: Omnicare and Genesis had, after the
- 18 Supreme Court acted and sent it back to me, at which point I
- 19 had to enter an order enjoining the Genesis transaction. Then,
- 20 over a period of a weekend or something was sort of an auction
- 21 where Omnicare bid, Genesis outbid them, Omnicare outbid them,
- 22 and the price this was mostly just in terms of the
- 23 shareholder price. And the price got to wherever it got to,
- 24 five-fifty a share, or something. But there must have been

- 1 claims that Genesis was at least talking about because they
- 2 got, at the end of the deal, even though Omnicare won, they
- 3 agreed to pay Genesis this sum of money to for -- in
- 4 exchange for a release. I don't know what the claim was, but-
- 5 MS. HABBART: I'm thinking about 2002, okay, trying
- 6 to put us back there and the value of 22-million then, but
- 7 given just what legal fees, time, and attention, et cetera,
- 8 that Genesis had to put in for this transaction; 22-million
- 9 doesn't seem like much to me. #00:36:42#
- MR. LAMB: I think the breakup fee in the
- 11 transaction was six-million-dollars, so-
- MS. HABBART: Yeah, it was.
- MR. LAMB: -- that wasn't much, but 28, when you add
- 14 the two together, it's certainly a lot better. And I don't -
- 15 it struck me that they had done, for losing the deal, and I am
- 16 sure that the 22 didn't compensate them for losing this deal-
- MS. HABBART: That's what I'm saying—
- 18 MR. LAMB: -- I shouldn't say I'm sure, I don't
- 19 know. I don't know how their business worked out, but-
- MS. HABBART: But I'm saying, just ... forget about
- 21 the business; I'm just talking about the time and attention
- 22 away from business that people had to take to do depositions,
- 23 attend court hearings, et cetera, the legal fees. #00:37:18#

- 1 MR. LAMB: Sure, there were lots of legal-yeah, I
- 2 really can't-I don't know.
- 3 MS. HABBART: You know, I just sit there going, I
- 4 really want to understand-
- 5 MR. LAMB: I think what came to my attention in
- 6 connection with speaking of legal fees, the application
- 7 filed by the plaintiffs' lawyers-
- 8 MS. HABBART: Yes ... yes. How did that what did
- 9 you think of that? #00:37:32#
- 10 MR. LAMB: -- about which I had no recollection
- 11 until I went back and looked at it. The plaintiffs' lawyers,
- 12 who, because I had knocked Omnicare out of the box on the
- 13 fiduciary duty claim, the plaintiffs' lawyers had to step up
- 14 and make present the arguments. And I think Omnicare
- 15 continued working with them-
- MS. HABBART: Yes.
- 17 MR. LAMB: -- but the plaintiffs were the ones who
- 18 were submitting the briefs and making the arguments. And they,
- 19 of course, I mean, quite properly, made a claim afterward for
- 20 a fee. And since there was no settlement, it was sort of in
- 21 the mootness, the Sugarland kind of case.
- 22 MS. HABBART: Yes, that's exactly what you cited to.
- **23** #00:38:21#

- 1 MR. LAMB: Yeah. Anyway, there was an application; I
- 2 awarded a fee. I probably didn't give as much as they wanted,
- 3 but, as I remember, I gave them 10-million-dollars-
- 4 MS. HABBART: Yeah. And they asked for thirteen-
- 5 five, so-
- 6 MR. LAMB: Yeah, they did it all right.
- 7 MS. HABBART: Yeah, they did just fine there. And
- 8 so, in the end, I suppose if you look at the Supreme Court's
- 9 decision, the majority opinion, is it essentially saying then
- 10 that if you don't have the fiduciary out, a real fiduciary
- 11 out, that deal can't work? #00:39:02#
- 12 MR. LAMB: It seems to be what it said. Of course,
- 13 there's no such thing as a real fiduciary out. I mean, I don't
- 14 know how it would interact with a force the vote provision.
- MS. HABBART: I don't know either.
- MR. LAMB: I mean you could have a force the vote
- 17 provision, which goes away because there is a fiduciary out. I
- 18 guess. I don't know.
- MS. HABBART: And is that essentially saying that
- 20 there can't be any circumstances in which a board is faced
- 21 with such a potential loss if it doesn't accept something that
- 22 they can't lock it up? #00:39:36#
- MR. LAMB: Look, I think people that have tried to
- 24 use a number of ways to deal with the problem. I don't know

- 1 that any it must have been the case in the NCS charter that
- 2 they didn't have the right to act by written consent. Because,
- 3 mostly, after this decision, most of the cases that came along
- 4 were ones where the shareholders had the right to act by
- 5 written consent. And so, since the merger agreement made a
- 6 provision that we need, you know, this deal is off the table
- 7 unless we deliver consents by a majority of the voting power
- 8 in 24 hours, or something like that.
- 9 MS. HABBART: I have the certificate, and it doesn't
- 10 exclude the ability to act by written consent. Of course,
- 11 their certificate is from 1995 to I don't recall when 228 was
- 12 adopted. But, nevertheless-
- MR. LAMB: Way before that. I mean back in the '68
- 14 amendments.
- MS. HABBART: Okay, so, they didn't foreclose that,
- 16 so- #00:40:54#
- MR. LAMB: So, I don't know why they didn't do it.
- 18 MS. HABBART: No. That's another issue. That's
- 19 another transactional issue that I would like to get the
- 20 bottom of it.
- MR. LAMB: I don't know what it is.
- 22 MS. HABBART: I need the transaction lawyers to
- 23 understand what they were thinking there. But the fact is that
- 24 if even if you accept the premise that you act by written

- 1 consent and avoid some of these issues, that's form over
- 2 substance, is it not? #00:41:21#
- 3 MR. LAMB: It seems that way, but it's I mean the
- 4 Supreme Court opinion spoke about the duty of the board to
- 5 protect the minority shareholders. And that's a line of
- 6 thought that comes into play where there is a majority and
- 7 here, there was a majority. But a majority that's acting with
- 8 a self-interest. And it was certainly a major focus of mine to
- 9 understand in this case whether Mr. Outcalt and Mr. Shaw had
- 10 any kind of dissent dis-and a certain disabling self-
- 11 interest in this deal. I mean, if they did, it would have been
- 12 a very different kind a very different deal.
- MS. HABBART: Agree.
- MR. LAMB: But, they didn't. I mean, they really
- 15 just didn't have any conflicting interest. It was interesting
- 16 that at some at one point along the way, as I remember the
- 17 record, the Board created a committee to pursue the sale. So,
- 18 when they decided they were going to sell the business, they
- 19 appointed as a committee, the two non-officer, non-majority
- 20 voting guys-
- 21 MS. HABBART: Directors. #00:42:33#
- 22 MR. LAMB: Right, so Outcalt and Shaw were not -
- 23 they remained on the Board, and the Board had ultimate power
- 24 over the transaction, but the committee was two outsiders. And

- 1 so, when you look at that, you say, oh, well, is that because
- 2 they thought Outcalt and Shaw, as a result of their majority
- 3 ownership, were in a conflicted situation? And the answer was
- 4 no. It was because the conflict was between that they saw, and
- 5 they were trying to deal with was between the shareholders on
- 6 the one hand, and the creditors on the other hand. And so,
- 7 they set up this committee-
- 8 MS. HABBART: That doesn't come through so much.
- 9 Please, go on- #00:43:12#
- MR. LAMB: Well, certainly, in my opinion. But so,
- 11 in my looking at whether these two guys had a conflict, I mean
- 12 that was a question. Why was this committee set up? And that
- 13 was the answer. It was because all the shareholders had a
- 14 conflict with the creditors. And the Board, at the time
- 15 because of the company's insolvency, owed its duties to the
- 16 entity as a whole, which included its creditors. And so, the
- 17 Board really couldn't act in the interest of the shareholders
- 18 to the detriment of the creditors. So... So, I looked at that,
- 19 you looked at did they have other kinds of agreements that
- 20 they got as a result of this? And there were just ordinary
- 21 kinds of employment agreements that were not paying-
- 22 MS. HABBART: A hundred-seventy-five or something-
- 23 #00:44:02#

- 1 MR. LAMB: It was just always clear that their
- 2 interest as a shareholder in being paid more money as a
- 3 shareholder was far and away their greatest interest. And that
- 4 was totally aligned with the other shareholders. So... And
- 5 their interest in getting money for the shareholders was
- 6 aligned with the other shareholders. And look, and as the
- 7 Board considered the merger agreement in July, the creditors
- 8 were being paid if the merger ended up being performed, the
- 9 creditors were getting paid in full. So, the Board at that
- 10 point, had done its job for the creditors and if you can get
- 11 more money for the shareholders -- great. So, Outcalt and Shaw
- 12 had no conflicted interest in that, so... When you then focus
- 13 so, the decision in the Supreme Court, the focus on the
- 14 duties to the minority shareholders, I didn't really
- 15 understand.
- 16 MS. HABBART: Do you think, perhaps, that was
- 17 something that do you think there was some impact on the
- 18 fact that there was an order put out in December, but the
- 19 Supreme Court's opinion didn't come out until April.
- 20 #00:45:13#
- 21 MR. LAMB: Yeah, I mean it's an understandable
- 22 practice in that it was a situation in which the Supreme Court
- 23 had to act quickly because of a tender offer, and you don't
- 24 want, in that circumstance, to take a month to write your

- 1 opinion before you issue an order because the world might
- 2 change in that intervening period of time and the transaction
- 3 might go away. I understand that. But it is true that when
- 4 instead of writing an opinion, in the Court of Chancery, we
- 5 write our opinions, we can write them overnight, or in a day
- 6 or two. It's obviously different on a panel -- when you're
- 7 dealing with five Justices; you can't just go write the
- 8 opinion by yourself. So, it's an institutional issue too, that
- 9 creates some problems. I think, when you issue an order that
- 10 isn't you know, it's thought through, but the terms of the
- 11 order haven't the benefit of the kind of analysis you have to
- 12 do when you write an opinion. So, you know, you know, you
- 13 don't really know exactly where you're going to land when you
- 14 write the opinion. I think in this case, the opinion pretty
- 15 much tracked the order, so, it wasn't that much different.
- 16 MS. HABBART: Were you surprised at the facts, as
- 17 you described them and as they proved your finding of fact
- 18 that the two directors that entered into the voting and gave
- 19 the proxies, their interests were aligned. There was no
- 20 disabling-
- 21 MR. LAMB: They were totally aligned with the other
- 22 shareholders. So, the idea of the Board having to protect the
- 23 interests of the minority after a majority of the voting power
- 24 of the shareholders, and those whose interests were completely

- 1 aligned with all the other shareholders, had already acted in
- 2 a way that was going to make the deal a foregone conclusion. I
- 3 don't you know, I don't get it, so... I don't get it. I didn't
- 4 get it at the time. But the case has never been overturned.
- 5 Justice Steele notably had the Tulane conference that
- 6 followed. I'm pretty sure he was quoted as saying that the
- 7 opinion had the half-life of a fruit fly, but it hasn't proven
- 8 to be true. It's still here.
- 9 MS. HABBART: Well, when you look at it in terms of
- 10 from a transactional viewpoint, you look at the merger
- 11 agreement, the voting agreement, the proxies, you see how they
- 12 really tighten things up and now you have to have this
- 13 fiduciary out and worry about the minority no matter what the
- 14 dynamics are between the majority shareholders and the other
- 15 shareholders. And you know, it puts anybody who wants to be
- 16 the first at the table to make an offer in a terrible position
- 17 because their deal just may not happen. #00:48:13#
- 18 MR. LAMB: Yeah, I think it creates it may reduce
- 19 prices, and I don't know. I'd have to ask some economists to
- 20 look at that, but it certainly reduces the incentives for
- 21 people to put their best deal on the table in order to get
- 22 security and to get-
- MS. HABBART: It works against it.
- MR. LAMB: Right.

- 1 MS. HABBART: Why would I ever do that if I thought
- 2 that somebody is going to come along and offer a little bit
- 3 more money and- #00:48:38#
- 4 MR. LAMB: Well, look, in most cases, you don't have
- 5 the ability to lock up the vote, so, in most public company
- 6 M&A, this never happens because it can't happen, so-
- 7 MS. HABBART: But there's lots of companies with
- 8 two-tier stocks and all that now. #00:48:52#
- 9 MR. LAMB: There are more, certainly, more than
- 10 there used to be. And a lot certainly in sort of the
- 11 entertainment and technology areas.
- MS. HABBART: Right. So, it could happen. #00:49:01#
- 13 MR. LAMB: It clearly could happen. Now, it has
- 14 happened after this in, and I won't you'll have to ask a
- 15 corporate lawyer, but as we were discussing before, it's
- 16 happened in the context of actions by written consent. Well,
- 17 there is-
- MS. HABBART: I don't mean to pooh pooh that, I'm
- 19 just still saying you have a bad set of facts, the facts that
- 20 you used the written consent as opposed to a voting agreement
- 21 or something I don't think should save the day. #00:49:29#
- 22 MR. LAMB: Well, it changes one dynamic in the sense
- 23 that it all happens like that [snapping his fingers]...
- MS. HABBART: Well, true.

- 1 MR. LAMB: -- and so, the merger agreement is filed,
- 2 people get paid, then no one is somebody who is trying to
- 3 complain about it is you know, a day late and a dollar short,
- 4 as they used to say, anyway. Maybe the dollar short doesn't
- 5 apply, but a day late anyway.
- 6 MS. HABBART: Right. Think about that, if it happens
- 7 right away and it's a day late, and the merger has already
- 8 happened, and the money is given, but somebody like Omnicare
- 9 objects or exercises appraisal rights. I don't know.
- **10** #00:50:14#
- 11 MR. LAMB: Yeah, I mean like it's there are
- 12 probably are for public companies, the securities laws
- 13 probably make it impossible to actually close the transaction
- 14 for at least 20 days after you give notice. But for non-public
- 15 companies, that's not true, so.
- 16 MS. HABBART: But for non-public companies, I would
- 17 suggest many are structured like this today, and this very
- 18 thing could come up, and I think if you are representing a
- 19 buyer, you have to tell them to keep some in the background
- 20 because you may have to pop back up to defend your position.
- 21 That's an- #00:50:53#
- 22 MR. LAMB: Well, for non-public companies, you ought
- 23 to be able to get the thing locked up.
- MS. HABBART: One would think, right?

- 1 MR. LAMB: Right.
- MS. HABBART: One would think. But then,
- 3 technically, just because it's not a public company, you know,
- 4 some of these same arguments might apply, would they not?
- **5** #00:51:09#
- 6 MR. LAMB: They do, yeah.
- 7 MS. HABBART: So, it's a disincentive-
- 8 MR. LAMB: I'm just saying people have learned to
- 9 deal with it using written consents and in most public M&A, it
- 10 doesn't really matter because you don't have the situation.
- MS. HABBART: Well, that's true ... but even in the
- 12 situation where it's private, and you use the written
- 13 consents, you know, I still think that it's not a nice story-
- MR. LAMB: So, I did have a case maybe a decade
- 15 later no, it couldn't have been a decade, but five years
- 16 later, I had a case that I think was in a written consent --
- 17 using it -- that raised these issues. So, I mean in terms of
- 18 whether this ever occurred again, I can remember one case,
- 19 when I was a judge, where the issue was pretty squarely
- 20 presented, although it may have been in the context of a
- 21 written consent, and I don't remember the context exactly,
- 22 although it was clearly raising these issues. And I was aware
- 23 that, while I was considering the motion for a preliminary
- 24 injunction, the Supreme Court Justices, or at least some of

- 1 them, were already reading the briefs and were prepared to
- 2 take this matter up and overturn this decision.
- MS. HABBART: Really?
- 4 MR. LAMB: Yeah. At least some of them were. And I
- 5 issued my decision and cited this case as precedent requiring
- 6 me to act as I did. And then, the loser didn't appeal.
- 7 MS. HABBART: So you set it up, I mean you
- 8 [inaudible] #00:52:40#
- 9 MR. LAMB: Oh, it was set up you know, it was teed
- 10 up.
- MS. HABBART: But then it didn't-
- MR. LAMB: They didn't appeal.
- MS. HABBART: -- go the distance.
- 14 MR. LAMB: Right. It just shows the limits of the
- 15 power of judges. I mean you can't do anything unless the case
- 16 is in front of you. You know, maybe the Supreme Court could
- 17 have reached down and issued a writ of certiorari requiring
- 18 review. But I think that, at that part, the party that was
- 19 advocating for the change in the law didn't want to pay for
- 20 any more, so, that's the way it went.
- MS. HABBART: That's too bad, but maybe the lawyers-
- MR. LAMB: That's the way it went.

- 1 MS. HABBART: -- gotten some help from the other
- 2 lawyers in town to say, come on, let's get rid of this
- 3 decision. You could cover these costs-
- 4 MR. LAMB: Yeah ... they could have ... all they had
- 5 to do is write a brief, I mean, they just write a brief and be
- 6 done with it.
- 7 MS. HABBART: And let them well, the brief and the
- 8 hearing and it's a- #00:53:22#
- 9 MR. LAMB: But it would have been fun.
- MS. HABBART: So, when you walked away from all
- 11 this, and it was behind you, I take it that it's still a
- 12 little puzzling to you? The decision? The Supreme Court's
- 13 decision. #00:53:40#
- MR. LAMB: Yes, of course. Yeah, I don't agree with
- 15 it. And it strikes me as I agree with the Chief Justice's
- 16 opinion by and large, and with I mean more than by and
- 17 large, entirely and with Justice Steele's opinion. There are
- 18 two opinions dissenting, I thought ... to mind were a better
- 19 statement of the law, but it's only two out of five.
- MS. HABBART: It's very frightening when you think
- 21 about how you even had a role in citing this case as
- 22 precedent, but nevertheless, you deal with what's in front of
- 23 you-
- MR. LAMB: Right ... yes, you do.

- 1 MS. HABBART: -- and you deal with, you have to pay
- 2 respect to the precedent-
- MR. LAMB: Of course.
- 4 MS. HABBART: So, is there anything else you want to
- 5 leave us with that we wouldn't necessarily pick up from
- 6 reading all the filings? #00:54:32#
- 7 MR. LAMB: Let me just say that some years later,
- 8 and I think this was after I no longer was serving as a judge;
- 9 there was a program put on at the University of Pennsylvania
- 10 to discuss the case. And either Mr. Outcalt or Mr. Shaw or
- 11 both were there-
- MS. HABBART: Interesting.
- 13 MR. LAMB: -- and I remember them coming one of
- 14 them at least, and because I think only one was there, coming
- 15 up to me and telling me he thought I had done the right thing.
- MS. HABBART: Aw, well, that's always nice. That's
- 17 always a nice way to end it.
- 18 MR. LAMB: Exactly, right. Even though he made lots
- 19 more money with the way the deal came out, so...
- MS. HABBART: But you were right. Anything else,
- 21 Steve? #00:55:20#
- MR. LAMB: No, no. Thanks very much.
- MS. HABBART: Well, this was a it's a complex
- 24 history here and a complex case and then getting that-

- 1 MR. LAMB: It was beautifully prepared by the party
- 2 by the counsel for the parties and well-argued, and you
- 3 know, it was a pleasure to read it all and make the decision,
- 4 so...
- 5 MS. HABBART: Can you recall any argument that you
- 6 didn't like? Or that you thought why are you raising this?
- **7** #00:55:46#
- 8 MR. LAMB: No.
- 9 MS. HABBART: No?
- 10 MR. LAMB: And the losing arguments, I didn't agree
- 11 with I didn't have any problem with-
- MS. HABBART: No, that's what I'm saying. And you
- 13 had mentioned that you really liked the point that Mirvis made
- 14 about one side, you know-
- MR. LAMB: Trying to-
- MS. HABBART: Yeah, trying to impose on somebody
- 17 else a standard they wouldn't impose on themselves.
- 18 MR. LAMB: Right ... dealing with this issue of
- 19 uncertainty and basically who is going to bear the risk.
- 20 That's really what this case was all about.
- 21 MS. HABBART: That's interesting because that's
- 22 exactly what Ed Welch said. He saw it as an analysis of risk,
- 23 viewed it in the prism at the time that the Board had to make
- 24 the decision.

- 1 MR. LAMB: Oh, yeah. Well, that was absolutely
- 2 clear, and it was clear from the record. And I think we've
- 3 been through it all with just with the fact that Judy
- 4 Mencher went back to Mr. Gemunder and said, you have to get
- 5 that out of your offer, and they considered it, and they
- 6 decided not to because they couldn't take the risk. But it's
- 7 the very risk they were trying to get the company to take,
- 8 so... At the end of the day, I was pretty sure, so.
- 9 MS. HABBART: As a judge, I would imagine that
- 10 arguments like that would not sit well with you.
- MR. LAMB: No ... doesn't bother me.
- MS. HABBART: No ... all right.
- MR. LAMB: So, thanks very much.
- MS. HABBART: Thank you.
- **15** #00:57:14#

16 ###