No. 141 Origina1
In The
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

STATE OF TEXAS
$v$.
STATE OF NEW MEXICO and STATE OF COLORADO

TRANSCRIPT OF JUNE 30, 2016
STATUS CONFERENCE CALL BEFORE
A. GREGORY GRIMSAL, ESQ. SPECIAL MASTER

## Appearances:

For the State of Texas:

For the State of New Mexico:

Somach Simmons \& Dunn, PC BY: STUART L. SOMACH, ESQ. ANDREW M. HITCHINGS, ESQ. ROBERT B. HOFFMAN, ESQ.
FRANCIS GOLDSBERRY II, ESQ.
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State of New Mexico
Attorney General's Office
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Post Office Drawer 1508
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

## Appearances:

For the State of
New Mexico:

For the State of Colorado:

For the United States:

For the United States:

For the United States:

For the United States:

For El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1:

Trout Raley Montano Witwer \& Freeman, PC
BY: LISA M. THOMPSON, ESQ.
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Colorado Department of Law BY: CHAD M. WALLACE, ESQ. 1300 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203
U.S. Department of Justice

BY: JAMES J. DUBOIS, ESQ.
999 18th Street
South Terrace - Suite 370 Denver, Colorado 80202
U.S. Department of Justice BY: STEPHEN M. MACFARLANE, ESQ. 501 I Street, Suite 9-700 Sacramento, California 95814
U.S. Department of Justice BY: JUDITH COLEMAN, ESQ. 601 D Street NW Washington, DC 20530
U.S. Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor BY: BELLA WOLITZ, ESQ. 800 Gay Street, Suite 800 Knoxville, Tennessee 37929

JAMES M. SPEER JR., ESQ.
300 East Main Street, Suite 1032
E1 Paso, Texas 79901

## Appearances:

For E1 Paso County Water
Improvement District
No. 1:

For Elephant Butte Irrigation District:

Modral1 Sperling Roeh1 Harris \& Sisk, P.A.
BY: MARIA 0'BRIEN, ESQ. SARAH M. STEVENSON, ESQ.
Post Office Box 2168
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Law Office of Steven L. Hernandez BY: STEVEN L. HERNANDEZ, ESQ.

LISA HENNE, ESQ.
Post Office Box 13108
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88013

A1 B7air
Alvin Jones
Jesus Reyes Johnny Stubbs

Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR 500 Poydras Street, Room B-275 New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 (504) 589-7778

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography using computer-aided transcription software.

## PROCEEDINGS

(June 30, 2016)
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good afternoon, Counse1. This is Greg Grimsal in New Orleans. Let's begin by taking roll, please, to see that everybody is with us today.

Is counsel for Texas on the line, please?
MR. SOMACH: Yes, Your Honor. This is Stuart Somach. I'm away from my office. With me here is Robert Hoffman. I believe Mac Goldsberry and Andrew Hitchings are also on the line.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Somach, how do you spe11 Mr. Goldsberry's name, please?

MR. SOMACH: Mac, do you want to make sure we get it right?

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Yes, please.
MR. GOLDSBERRY: It's G-O-L-D-S-B-E-R-R-Y.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.
Is counsel for New Mexico on the line, please?
MS. THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honor. This is Lisa Thompson for the State of New Mexico. We are just waiting for Mr. Steve Farris to also call in. He should be here any moment.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Was that Mr. Farris who just joined us? Let's come back, then.

Is counsel for Colorado on the line, please?

MR. WALLACE: Yes, Your Honor. Chad Wallace.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.
Counse1 for the United States, please.
MR. DUBOIS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is Jim Dubois. I believe Stephen Macfarlane is on the line and also Judith Coleman.

MR. MACFARLANE: Yes, that's correct, Your Honor. I have also with me on the line from the Interior Solicitor's Office Bella Wolitz, W-O-L-I-T-Z.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Macfarlane.
E1 Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 counsel on the line, please.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yes. Good afternoon, Special Master. This is Maria O'Brien for E1 Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. With me is Sarah Stevenson. I believe Mr. Speer should also be on the line calling in from El Paso.

Special Master, we also have some party representatives for the district, noncounsel, who are also on the line. If you would like us to announce those names as we11, we can do that.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Yes, please.
MS. O'BRIEN: On the line are: the president of the board, Johnny Stubbs; the district manager, Jesus Reyes; and the district engineer, Al Blair.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thanks, Ms. O'Brien.

Has Mr. Speer joined the call yet? We will come back to him.

Elephant Butte Irrigation District.
MR. HERNANDEZ: Steven L. Hernandez in Las Cruces.
On the line from our Santa Fe office should be Dr. Lisa Henne.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Anyone else for your client?
MR. HERNANDEZ: No, Special Master.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Has Mr. Speer joined the line yet?

How about Mr. Farris for New Mexico?
Mr. Farris, are you on the line?
Is there anyone else on the line besides counsel for the parties I have identified?

We11, let me ask Ms. Thompson: Is it okay for us to proceed without Mr. Farris on the line?

MS. THOMPSON: Your Honor, if you would indulge me to wait just one more minute, I know that he was going to call in from a conference room with some other representatives from the State of New Mexico. I can attempt to contact him separately.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: We will give you a couple minutes.

In the meantime, has Mr. Speer joined us?
MR. SPEER: Yes.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Speer, you're on the line now?

MR. SPEER: Yes, finally. I've been calling for several minutes --

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.
MR. SPEER: -- but I couldn't get through for some reason.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you. Glad you are with us.

MR. SPEER: My pleasure. Thank you, sir.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Ms. Thompson, let us know when you are able to hook up with Mr. Farris there, please.

MS. THOMPSON: I will, Your Honor. Thank you.
MR. JONES: My name is Alvin Jones. I am monitoring on behalf of the Southern Rio Grande Diversified Crop Farmers Association.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Jones.
Anybody else on the line besides counsel for the parties I have identified?

MS. THOMPSON: Your Honor, I just spoke with Mr. Farris. They have been attempting to call in and have contacted your office. Apparently the PIN code is not working for them. I confirmed that he had the same one I did from your order, and I'm wondering if we had maybe reached the maximum number of participants or something. I'm not sure.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: I don't believe there is a maximum number of participants. I believe we can accommodate
as many people as we need. Can you patch him in? Can you do a conference call with him on your line?

MS. THOMPSON: Let me try that. Hang on one second, please.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: We have had more people than this on the line in the past.

MS. THOMPSON: Your Honor, I just reached Mr. Farris, and I'm going to try to attempt to call the conference room and connect him.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Great. Thank you.
MS. THOMPSON: Sure.
This is Lisa. I'm going to connect us to the group.

MR. FARRIS: Okay. Thank you.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Farris, is that you on the line now?

MR. FARRIS: Yes, sir. This is Steve Farris.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Farris.
MS. THOMPSON: Your Honor, this is Lisa too. I think I just patched him in.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Great. Yes, I did hear him. Can everyone else hear Mr. Farris? Great. Let's proceed, then.

Counsel, the reason I called this conference was to inform you that I have completed a report dealing with the
four motions that are pending before me. My intention is to distribute that report and its appendices to you via DVD, which is going out of my office this afternoon, to be delivered by overnight delivery to your offices. Let me not hold you in suspense any longer. Let me go through the recommendations that are set forth in the report.

I'm recommending that New Mexico's motion to dismiss Texas' complaint be denied. I'm recommending that New Mexico's motion to dismiss the United States' complaint in intervention should be granted to the extent that the United States cannot state a plausible claim under the 1938 compact. To the extent that the United States has stated a plausible claim under federal reclamation law on behalf of the Rio Grande project, I'm recommending that the Court extend its original but not exclusive jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1251(b)(2) to allow for the resolution by the Court of the U.S. project claims to occur simultaneously with the resolution of Texas' compact claims against New Mexico. I am further recommending that both motions to intervene should be denied.

Let me make a brief comment about the text of the report itself, which is going to be on its way to you this afternoon. As a prelude to my analysis of these motions, the report reviews and recounts the context of the compact. I confess that when we started work on this appointment, we were
uneducated as to the 1938 compact's negotiations and how it functions, so we examined the sources cited within your papers and also sources cited within those sources.

In this regard we felt it was appropriate to look at that material in view of Supreme Court guidance in Arizona v. California stating that the scope of a compact can be better understood when the compact is set against a background. I also relied on the guidance and practice of other special masters in other matters. Having said that, we did not engage in any fact-finding that would be offensive to Rule 12.

Now, that said, what I would like to do at this point is give the parties an opportunity to inspect this prefiling draft of the report. What I would like to do is give you 30 days, until August 1, to review the report and then, if you wish, to submit letter briefs to me which would be limited to suggested technical corrections such as misstatements of law, misstatements of fact, and clerical errors. I ask that you not reargue your position in the letter briefs. Just limit yourself to these technical matters.

I would request that you observe a 20-page limit in these letter briefs. It's not mandatory or necessary for you to file them. I am going to provide you the opportunity to do it, however.

Let me mention that this prefiling inspection
draft is merely a draft and it's not the report of the special master within the meaning of Rule 53(e). The draft report, however, is not confidential, but it is subject to revision on my part. So it's not absolutely set in stone as it is. I'11 set forth a case management order setting out these rules pertaining to your response to the draft report.

Once I have received your letters, I'11 review them and prepare the report for filing with the Supreme Court. My understanding is that after the receipt of that report, the Court will set it for conference and then at the conference will probably set a schedule for filing any exceptions to the report. Then after the filing of any exceptions, the Court will decide whether to set the motions for oral argument or not.

In any case, I would like to be ready to proceed as expeditiously as possible when and if the matter comes back. So what I would like to do is, after you have submitted your letter briefs, I would like to have another telephone conference to discuss a deadline for New Mexico to file an answer and a further deadline for the parties to confer and prepare a case management plan for my review and approval.

Again, in this regard I'm kind of relying on what I have observed in other special master cases. In Montana v. Wyoming, for example, it was a similar posture. The special master had prepared a first interim report on a motion
to dismiss and believed it was inappropriate to move into discovery until the Court decided on whether to hold oral argument and entertain exceptions on the report.

A11 that said, I do want to move forward as quickly as possible when the case comes back, assuming the Court does not dismiss it. So what I would like to do is pick a date for another conference call the first week of August.

We are actually calling you from a conference room in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and the Court has suggested that Thursdays are the best days for us to do that. So to start the conversation, is there anyone who would have a problem with another conference call on August 4?

MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, this is Chad Wallace. I will be out of town and out of phone communication that week.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Okay. We11, how about the next week?

MR. WALLACE: I am available.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: We are looking at the 11th now, Counse1. Is there anyone who cannot make a phone conference on August 11? Great. Well, we will set it.

Is this time agreeable to everyone, 2:00 Centra1 time? That's great.

MR. SPEER: Special Master, this is James Speer. Let me just mention we are on Mountain time in New Mexico and Texas. I can meet any time of the day you want, but I just
mention that 2:00 Central time is 1:00 in E1 Paso and in New Mexico, other places in New Mexico.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Does that pose a problem for anyone? I'm happy to move the time if anybody needs me to do so on that day. If there are no problems with this time, let's go ahead and keep 2:00 for that conference call.

I'm FedExing out a disc to each of you tonight with the text of the draft prefiling report on it with the appendices attached. Then we will confer again on August 11, and I will issue appropriate case management orders setting all this forth.

I have one final thing I need to go through before we conclude today. My law clerk, Meredith Grabill, who many of you met and dealt with, particularly at the time of the hearings here in August of last year -- Ms. Grabil1, I regret to report, is leaving my firm to pursue other opportunities. She has very impressive credentials and experience in bankruptcy, and an opportunity came to her to go practice some very high-leve1 bankruptcy law. I would like on the record to record my gratitude for her excellent research and analysis and wish her best wishes in the next phase of her practice.

That said, what I would like to do is replace her with another associate at my firm named Alex Rothenberg, who is with us here today. Alex earned his J.D. from Tulane magna cum laude in 2012. He earned the Dean's scholarship at

Tulane and served as senior articles editor of the Tulane Law Review. He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Nannette Jolivette Brown of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

I would propose to bill Alex at $\$ 300$ an hour, which is the same rate I charged for Ms. Grabill's services. Because of the timing of this, it seems to me there will be very little duplicated effort occasioned by the handoff from Meredith to Alex. I plan to get Alex up to speed by letting him read the compact and the draft report, and then he can ask me any questions he may have. After that he will help me with the filing process of the final report with the Supreme Court. Let me emphasize that to date he has not spent a quarter of an hour on this matter, at my instruction, because I asked him not to do so until the parties consent to his engagement.

Are there any questions or any objections to my engaging Mr. Rothenberg as my law clerk to replace the departing Ms. Grabil1? Any objections to that? Any questions?

MR. SOMACH: This is Stuart Somach, Your Honor. Texas doesn't have any objection to that.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Somach.
MR. FARRIS: I'm sorry, Special Master. This is Steve Farris. I couldn't understand Mr. Somach.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: If I can repeat it, Mr. Somach said that he had no objection to my engaging Mr. Rothenberg of my firm to replace Meredith Grabill as my law clerk in this
matter.
MR. WALLACE: No objection from Colorado.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.
MR. DUBOIS: No objection from the United States.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Dubois.
MR. FARRIS: New Mexico does not object either.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Farris.
MS. O'BRIEN: Special Master, excuse me. This is Maria O'Brien for E1 Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Yes, Ms. O'Brien.
MS. O'BRIEN: I have a clarifying question in light of the announcement of your ruling today on the motions to intervene. Certainly without waiving any objections and having not seen your report, I nonetheless would ask if the Court had contemplated as part of the case management plan that that would be the context in which we would address either district's potential participation as amicus in the case?

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Why don't you go ahead and read the report. I believe I address that in the report. In the report, although I deny the motion to intervene, I encourage both would-be intervenors to participate as amici in the case in the report.

MS. O'BRIEN: Thank you very much.
THE SPECIAL MASTER: Why don't you have a look at
that, and then at the conference in August we can discuss whether there's any lingering question or issues you have about that. Does that work?

MS. O'BRIEN: Yes. Thank you very much, Special Master.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: That's great. Is there anything else for the good of the order?

I would like to thank all counsel for calling in today. Again, I would like to thank all of you for the excellent work you did on this extremely interesting and important case. I wish al1 of you a happy Fourth of July.
(Proceedings adjourned.)

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## CERTIFICATE

I, Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability and understanding, from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
s/ Toni Doy7e Tusa
Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR Official Court Reporter

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| MR. FARRIS: [4] 8/13 8/16 14/20 15/5 | 800 [2] 2/20 2/20 |  |
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