

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Superior Court of California,
County of Orange

06/06/2017 at 11:28:00 AM

Clerk of the Superior Court
By Angelina Nguyen-Do, Deputy Clerk

1 Bruce Thomas Murray (SBN 306504)
2 451 E. California Blvd.
3 Pasadena, CA 91106
4 murray@sagelaw.us
5 (626) 304-0828; (619) 501-8556

6 Attorney for Plaintiff,
7 ANGELIKI A. KANAVOU

8
9
10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER**
12

13 ANGELIKI A. KANAVOU, an individual

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY, a California
17 corporation, and DOES 1-25, inclusive,

18 Defendants.

CASE NO. 30-2016-00840960-CU-CO-CJC

**PLAINTIFF ANGELIKI A. KANAVOU'S
TRIAL BRIEF, KANAVOU V. CHAPMAN**

Judge: Hon. Gregory H. Lewis
Dept.: C26
Action Filed: March 15, 2016
Trial Date: July 10, 2017

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Table of Contents

Table of Authorities	iii
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND	3
A. Impact	3
B. Working through diplomatic channels	6
C. The cessation of accommodation	7
D. Victims taking advantage of the system	8
E. Chapman’s hollow grievance process	8
F. Plaintiff has advanced her research and publications despite lack institutional support or deadlines	9
III. THE CLAIMS AND EVIDENCE	11
A. FAILURE TO ACCOMMODATE	
1. A half-baked effort	11
2. Willful blindness	13
B. LACK OF GOOD FAITH IN THE INTERACTIVE PROCESS	15
1. Willful unawareness	15
2. Interactive blindness	16
3. Willful deafness	17

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

4. Magic words (and magic procedure).....19

5. The pachinko machine22

C. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION23

 1. A round-file complaints box23

 2. Academic bias and disability bias24

D. NO MISTAKE IN CONTRACT26

E. MALICE AND MERCY27

F. CONCLUSION29

IV. APPENDIX30

 1. Angeliki A. Kanavou’s bibliography30

 2. List of surgeries.....32

 3. Verification.....34

 4. Exhibits.....(attached)

Cases

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Bader v. Coale, 48 Cal App 2d 276 (1941)..... 26

Board of Education v. Rice App. Cas. 179, 182 (1911)..... 23

Cotran v. Rollins Hudig Hall Internat., Inc., 17 Cal. 4th 93, 108 (1998). 23

Diaz v. Fed. Express Corp., 373 F. Supp. 2d 1034, 1059-60 (2005) 3

Hotchkiss v. National City Bank, 200 F. 287, 293 (D.N.Y. 1911)..... 27

Mendoza v. W. Med. Ctr. Santa Ana, 222 Cal. App. 4th 1334, 1344 (2014)..... 23

Scotch v. Art Inst. of Cal., 173 Cal. App. 4th 986, 1013 (2009). 18, 19

Soria v. Univision Radio Los Angeles, Inc., 5 Cal.App.5th 570, 598 (2016)..... 12, 19

United Sates v. Jewell, 532 F.2d 697, 700 (9th Cir. 1976) 15

Statutes

Cal. Civ. Code § 1636. 26

Cal. Civ. Code § 1638. 26

Cal. Civ. Code § 3294 28

Cal. Gov. Code § 12940 11, 15

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

I. INTRODUCTION

This case is about one woman’s struggle to recover from the devastating effects – on both her health and her career – of being struck and severely injured by a car (as a pedestrian). The physical injuries caused by this incident were the subject of prior litigation. The present case concerns the impact this incident had on Angeliki Kanavou’s career, and the Plaintiff’s struggle to obtain reasonable accommodation from her former employer, the Defendant, Chapman University.

The accommodation that Dr. Kanavou sought was simply time – the time necessary for her to catch up with her scholarly research projects in order to fulfill the requirements of a tenure-track assistant professor (i.e., “publish or perish”). Dr. Kanavou’s research schedule was delayed significantly not only due to her initial hospitalization, during which time she underwent four surgeries, but also five subsequent related orthopedic surgeries over the course of more than seven years. Each surgery required a recovery period and physical therapy. Additionally, during this time, the Plaintiff underwent two, unrelated gynecological surgeries.

Chapman University initially accommodated Dr. Kanavou, granting her two, one-year deferrals to her performance review schedule. But this was not sufficient to enable Dr. Kanavou to make up for lost time due to the extent of her injuries and recovery. Dr. Kanavou’s research was further complicated because her work involved field research in remote areas of Cambodia, where she conducted surveys on perpetrators and victims of the Cambodian genocide of 1975-79. This travel would be difficult even for a person at full strength, much less someone recovering from orthopedic injuries. Chapman University bought into this project and funded it, making Chapman’s decision to terminate Dr. Kanavou’s employment even more puzzling.

1 Dr. Kanavou’s supervisor, the late professor Don Will, and also her Dean, Patrick Fuery,
2 recommended that Dr. Kanavou be granted additional time to complete her research projects.¹
3 Additionally, various members of Dr. Kanavou’s faculty review committees expressed support for
4 allowing Dr. Kanavou to continue. However, the Chapman University Chancellor, Daniele Struppa,
5 decided not to grant Dr. Kanavou additional time, despite her pleas for more time – and the requests
6 made on her behalf. Chancellor Struppa also made the decision to dismiss Dr. Kanavou despite the
7 fact that the term of her contract allowed for an additional three years.
8

9 Now, the Defendants erroneously claim that Dr. Kanavou never made a request for
10 accommodation, and that Will’s and Fuery’s recommendations for more time somehow weren’t
11 requests for accommodation. Defendants also assert that a key term in the university’s contract with
12 Dr. Kanavou was a “mistake.” The university further claims that allowing Dr. Kanavou to serve out
13 the term of her contract would have been “futile” with respect to her publication goals. However,
14 none of these positions is supported by the law or the facts.
15

16 Since leaving Chapman University in May, 2014, Dr. Kanavou has published four major
17 academic articles relating to her research in Cambodia and also Cyprus. Another article on
18 Cambodia is pending publication in 2017. Also following her departure from Chapman, Dr.
19 Kanavou went back to graduate school at California State University, Fullerton, where she
20 graduated in May of this year with a Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology. This brings her total
21 number of graduate and undergraduate degrees to four. Additionally, since April, 2015, Dr.
22 Kanavou has taught classes as an adjunct professor at the University of California, Irvine. Dr.
23 Kanavou’s substantial accomplishments dispel Defendants’ assertion that she was not a “qualified
24 individual with a disability” – i.e., an employee who can perform the duties of his or her position
25
26
27

28 ¹ Supporting documents will be cited in the following sections.

1 with or without reasonable accommodation. *Diaz v. Fed. Express Corp.*, 373 F. Supp. 2d 1034,
2 1059-60 (2005).

3 If Chapman University had provided Dr. Kanavou with just a little more time, patience and
4 understanding, there is no telling what other good things she could have done for Chapman; and the
5 university could have claimed boasting rights to her recent accomplishments. As Louise Thomas,
6 one of Dr. Kanavou's faculty reviewers, declared, "She shows herself to be a real citizen of the
7 university. One we should be proud to serve with!" Exh. 1.

9 But instead of boosting Dr. Kanavou, Chapman closed the door on her; and now the parties
10 are mired in costly litigation.

13 II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

14 A. Impact

15 On January 13, 2007, in an instant, Angeliki Kanavou's life changed forever. Indeed, her life
16 nearly ended. While she was loading shopping items into the trunk of her car – which was parallel
17 parked on Union Street near the intersection with Pasadena Ave. in Pasadena, Calif. – a rapidly
18 moving vehicle struck her from behind, breaking both of her legs and her right arm. Her left leg was
19 broken just above the knee; her right leg was broken at the femur, fibula and tibia; and her right arm
20 was broken right below the wrist. The impact also caused Dr. Kanavou's head to slam against the lid
21 of her trunk, resulting in a gash in the head and concussion. Pl.'s Decl. in Opp. to Summ. J., ¶¶ 3-8.

22 The accident was physically catastrophic,² and it put an immediate halt to both Dr.
23 Kanavou's research and teaching. She went on disability leave for the spring 2007 academic
24 semester. From Jan. 13, 2007 to April, 25, 2014, Dr. Kanavou underwent nine surgeries to repair the
25

26 ² In her responses to Defendants' Form Interrogatories – General, Set 2, the Plaintiff reported eight
27 surgeries. This number has been updated to nine, based on Dr. Gregory Adamson's April 25 deposition.
28

1 injuries caused by the accident. (See list of surgeries in Appendix 2, below.) Each of the surgeries
2 required extensive physical therapy and recovery time. In addition to the orthopedic surgeries, and
3 unrelated to the Jan. 13, 2007 accident, on January 27, 2009, Dr. Kanavou underwent a
4 hysteroscopy and removal of fibroid tumors; and on March 14, 2009, Dr. Kanavou underwent a
5 polypectomy. Pl.’s Decl. ¶¶ 7-10.

6
7 About five months prior to the Jan. 13, 2007 accident, Dr. Kanavou had entered into a
8 contract with Chapman University as a tenure track professor. The contract called for an initial two-
9 year term and an overall seven-year probationary period. Tenure track candidates typically get two
10 “critical year reviews” in advance of a final tenure review at the end of the probationary period.
11 Customarily, tenure track professors are assigned to teach three classes per semester. However,
12 following her leave of absence, when Dr. Kanavou returned to work for the fall, 2007 semester, she
13 was assigned to teach four classes, as well as five directed studies students. The added work load,
14 coupled with her ongoing surgeries and subsequent physical rehabilitation, substantially slowed Dr.
15 Kanavou’s research process. For this reason, Dr. Kanavou requested, and was granted, two one-year
16 deferrals to her “critical-year” performance reviews.³ Based on the modified timeline, Dr.
17 Kanavou’s fifth-year “critical review” was scheduled for the 2012-2013 academic year, rather than
18 2010-11. She would then be eligible for tenure consideration during the 2014-2015 academic year,
19 according to Dr. Kanavou’s 2011 contract with Chapman University. Def.’s Exh. 16 in Supp. of
20 Mot. for Summ. J. The contract also specified an overall six-year term, expiring May 31, 2016,
21
22
23

24 ³ Following the chain of command, Dr. Kanavou brought up the matter with her Dean, then Roberta
25 Lessor – who in turn presented a request to the Chancellor on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf. See Def.’s Exhs. 7-11 in
26 Supp. of Mot. for Summ. J. When Patrick Fuery assumed the role of Dean, Dr. Kanavou discussed the issue
27 with him in person, rather than in writing, as she had before. Thus, an email chain (and trial exhibits) did not
28 result; only Patrick Fuery’s written request. Def.’s Exh. 22. Defendants now attempt to use Dr. Kanavou’s
subsequent form of request (and lack of an email chain) to say that Dr. Kanavou somehow did not make a
request for accommodation; and that somehow Dean Fuery’s request on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf doesn’t count.
The fallacy of this argument will be analyzed further below.

1 subject to a “termination with cause” clause, and also subject to reappointment during the second
2 year of the contract.

3 Unfortunately, the two-year deferral granted by the university was not sufficient to enable
4 Dr. Kanavou to fully recover and catch-up with her research schedule. Dr. Kanavou’s projects were
5 further complicated since her research involved travel to remote areas of Cambodia. Embarking on
6 such a venture required full physical fitness. Despite her physical challenges, Dr. Kanavou traveled
7 to Cambodia twice; she kept up with her busy teaching schedule back home; she supervised students
8 in directed studies; she served on the Faculty Senate; she served on hiring committees; and she
9 performed other forms of service to the university, earning herself an “exemplary” rating in this
10 regard. Def.’s Exh. 25⁴; Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 33. In praise of Dr. Kanavou’s efforts, her reviewing
11 committee noted in her Oct. 11, 2010 performance review: “the Wilkinson College Faculty Review
12 Committee commends you on your dedication to teaching and advising ... [and] the committee
13 commends you on the excellent level of your service to your department and to the university.” Pl.’s
14 Dep., Exh. 17.

15 Further, from the fall, 2012 academic semester to spring 2013, Dr. Kanavou assumed the
16 role of interim director of the Peace Studies Program after the Program Director, Don Will was
17 diagnosed with terminal cancer and placed on sabbatical. (See Struppa Dep. 83:3-25; Cox Han Dep.
18 19:9.) The combined effects of all of the surgeries, rehabilitations, increased course load and
19 administrative duties all conspired to slow Dr. Kanavou’s research activities and delay her
20 publications. Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 31.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27 ⁴ Unless otherwise noted, all defense exhibits referenced in this memo are numbered according to
28 Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment.

1 **B. Working through diplomatic channels**

2 As her fifth-year performance review approached, Dr. Kanavou became worried. She needed
3 more time to catch up with her research, but she was concerned about formally requesting another
4 extension, as before, for fear of rejection. Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 13. So she consulted with her various
5 supervisors and superiors about what to do. She spoke with her immediate supervisor, Don Will
6 (now deceased); Patrick Fuery, Dean of the Wilkinson College; and Dr. Ann Gordon, Associate
7 Dean of Wilkinson College. Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 14. They all expressed support of Dr. Kanavou’s situation
8 and pledged their support or assistance. *Id.* Making good on their promises, both Don Will and
9 Patrick Fuery wrote letters on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf, requesting more time. In his Oct. 1, 2012 letter
10 to the Faculty Personnel Council, Don Will wrote:
11

12 “Before moving to the standard categories of evaluation, I would like
13 to comment on two particular areas: Dr. Kanavou’s academic
14 preparation for the position she holds and the challenges she has
15 confronted as a victim of a near lethal automobile accident and the
16 ensuing medical issues that have delayed her progress. ... While Dr.
17 Kanavou received some adjustment to compensate for her time in
18 recuperation, in my opinion it did not fully cover her lost progress. ...
19 I strongly encourage you to support Dr. Angeliki Kanavou in her
20 development toward achieving tenure and promotion to Associate
21 Professor two years hence.” Def.’s Exh. 20.

22 In his Nov. 2, 2012 letter, Dean Fuery wrote:

23 “I commence this letter with the recommendation that she be granted
24 one more year on her tenure clock. Even though an extension has
25 already been granted, this does look like a case of exceptional
26 circumstances. (I will not go into detail on the accident that has
27 affected Dr. Kanavou’s professional progress – there is considerable
28 detail in her file, including a summation by Dr. Don Will.)
Def.’s Exh. 22.

 During the first stage of her critical year review, the Faculty Review Committee made note
of Dr. Kanavou’s physical challenges, and unanimously recommended her continuation as a tenure

1 track professor. “The Committee also recognizes that quality research takes time to produce and that
2 the accident you suffered in 2008 has taken a tremendous toll on your time and energy.” Def.’s Exh.
3 23.

4 **C. The cessation of accommodation**

5 Despite the appeals of Dr. Kanavou’s allies on her behalf, during the next stage of her
6 critical year review, the Faculty Personnel Council (FPC) recommended Dr. Kanavou’s “non-
7 reappointment” as a tenure track professor. Def.’s Exh. 25. The Faculty Personnel Council made
8 this unanimous decision, suspiciously, after three members of the council had expressed support for
9 Dr. Kanavou’s case. “We recommend that she is on track for tenure and should be renewed for 3
10 years (this would include the extra year on the tenure clock),” FPC member Louise Thomas wrote.
11 Exh. 1. Nonetheless, the final FPC recommendation somehow came out unanimous. Def.’s Exh. 25.
12 In its Jan. 21, 2013 letter recommending Dr. Kanavou’s non-reappointment, the FPC dismisses
13 Dean Fuery’s attempt to intervene on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf by saying, “The Dean of Wilkinson
14 begins his letter of evaluation with a recommendation that the tenure clock be extended for an
15 additional year, in spite of the fact that it was already extended due to her truly horrific accident in
16 January 2007. Though the sentiment is understandable, in light of her significant deficit in
17 scholarship ... seven out of seven members of the FPC do not recommend she continue on a tenure-
18 track appointment at Chapman.” Def.’s Exh. 25.

19 Chancellor Struppa similarly ruled out any more extensions or accommodations. As he wrote
20 in his March 28, 2013 “non-reappointment”/ termination letter, “Please know that in considering
21 your record I am excluding the two years of extension you have previously requested and been
22 granted. Considering your file without regard to the additional time you have been granted for your
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 probationary period, your scholarship is still far below what would be expected of the fifth year.”
2 Def.’s Exh. 26.

3 **D. “Victims” taking advantage of the system**

4 Prior to Chancellor Struppa’s issuance of his March 10, 2013 termination letter, Dr.
5 Kanavou met with the Chancellor to express her concerns regarding the FPC’s recommendation,
6 and to discuss her need for more time to complete her research projects. But the conversation took a
7 different direction: “On about March 10, 2013, I visited Chancellor Daniele C. Struppa’s office with
8 a representative file of my work at the University. Beginning our conversation with small talk, the
9 Chancellor remarked that ‘this country is not the same anymore’ because ‘everybody plays victim in
10 America.’ These comments made me feel uneasy. I felt as if they were directed at me, as the
11 ‘victim’ of an accident.” Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 15. Dr. Kanavou wrote a letter to the Chancellor, dated April
12 4, 2013, voicing these same concerns.

13 **E. Chapman’s hollow grievance process**

14 On April 4, 2013, Dr. Kanavou initiated a grievance against the Chancellor and the
15 university, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Chapman University Faculty Manual. Pl.’s
16 Dep., Exh. 37. In her grievance, Dr. Kanavou alleged that in terminating her, the university had
17 violated its own anti-discrimination policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as breach of
18 contract. *Id.* On May 7, 2013, the Senate Executive Board (SEB) informed Dr. Kanavou by letter
19 that it had summarily dismissed all of the complaints in her grievance, stating that “there is no *prima*
20 *facie* case to support your allegations.” Def. Exh. 27. The SEB afforded Dr. Kanavou no hearing.

21 In response to a motion to compel in this litigation, Chapman University released data into
22 its grievance process from 2007-14 – a period which roughly corresponds and overlaps with Daniele
23 Struppa’s chancellorship and Dr. Kanavou’s employment with Chapman. During that period, eleven
24
25
26
27
28

1 Chapman University faculty members (including Dr. Kanavou) filed grievances against the
2 university or its staff for a variety of reasons, including gender discrimination, racial discrimination,
3 violation of academic freedom, and various other complaints. Def.’s Resp. to Pl.’s Spec. Interrogs,
4 Set 2. Of the 11 grievances filed from 2007 to 2014, only one other grievance besides Dr.
5 Kanavou’s was similarly dismissed at the outset. The rest got the initial green light, or were deemed
6 to constitute a *prima facie* case. *Id.*
7

8 Of the remaining nine grievances filed from 2007 to 2014, three were resolved or withdrawn
9 before proceeding to a fact-finder or hearing committee. Only one grievance was reported as
10 “resolved to Grievant’s satisfaction.” This case was referred to an outside mediator. Of the
11 remaining four cases that made it past the *prima facie* stage, none of them was resolved in favor of
12 the faculty member. One of those cases was dismissed by the chancellor himself, and another was
13 dismissed by the university president. *Id.* This evidence suggests that Chapman’s grievance process
14 is either futile, or a tool of the administration for ratifying its decisions – with a false air of due
15 process.
16
17

18 **F. Plaintiff has advanced her research and publications despite lack institutional**
19 **support or deadlines.**

20 Since her departure from Chapman in May, 2014, Dr. Kanavou has continued an active
21 research and publishing schedule. During this time, Dr. Kanavou has published four major academic
22 articles, including most recently, “The Lingering Effects of Thought Reform: The Khmer Rouge S-
23 21 Prison Personnel” (with collaborator Dr. Kosal Path) published in February, 2017, in the Journal
24 of Asian Studies. (See Angeliki Kanavou’s bibliography, Appendix 1.) Another Cambodia-related
25 article is pending publication this year.
26
27
28

1 In its fifth-year critical review of Dr. Kanavou, the Faculty Review Committee (FRC)
2 “suggests that you set a goal of publishing at least five more peer-reviewed articles in top-tier
3 journals by the time you submit your file for tenure and promotion (bringing your total articles total
4 to six). Alternatively, you could try to complete the book-length study of Cambodia that you
5 describe in your file.” In its memo recommending Dr. Kanavou’s non-reappointment, the Faculty
6 Personnel Council (FPC) claimed that it would be “nearly impossible” for Dr. Kanavou to produce
7 sufficient publications to meet university standards. Def.’s Exh. 25. Echoing this sentiment,
8 Chancellor Struppa, in his March 28, 2013 “non-reappointment” letter to Plaintiff, characterized Dr.
9 Kanavou’s ability to meet her publication requirements as “so remote.” Def.’s Exh. 26.
10

11 It would seem, then, that Dr. Kanavou has achieved the impossible: In addition to the four
12 articles she has published since leaving Chapman, another was published shortly after Chancellor
13 Struppa’s non-reappointment letter. (“The Peace Studies/Disability Nexus,” co-authored with Arthur
14 W. Blaser and Samuel Schleier, published in *The Journal of Peace and Justice* 6:4). At this point,
15 not only would the quantity of Dr. Kanavou’s work be sufficient to meet the FRC’s requirements,
16 but the quality of her work on Cambodia is groundbreaking. Had the Defendant provided Plaintiff
17 with reasonable accommodation and institutional support, it is quite likely that Dr. Kanavou would
18 have either published or had accepted for publication sufficient academic papers to satisfy its
19 requirements, within the time frame of her contract with the university.
20

21 In its Memorandum for Summary Judgment, Defendants wax about “the wisdom of
22 Struppa’s decision” to dismiss Dr. Kanavou. Def.’s P. & A. 11:18. Struppa stands by his wisdom:
23 “Absolutely, yes.” Struppa Dep. 174:4. However, by failing to provide Dr. Kanavou
24 accommodation and by terminating Dr. Kanavou’s employment before the end of her contractual
25 term, Struppa’s decision might not have been so wise after all.
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

III. THE CLAIMS AND EVIDENCE

A. FAILURE TO ACCOMMODATE

1. A half-baked effort

“It is an unlawful employment practice ... for an employer or other entity covered by this part to fail to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an applicant or employee.” Cal. Gov. Code § 12940(m)(1).

In failing to accommodate Dr. Kanavou, Chapman University has re-enacted the behavior of a lethargic college freshman – submitting a half-done term paper and now attempting to claim full credit for it. And not only did the listless freshman turn in a half-baked paper, but he had the gall to turn it in early rather than utilizing all of the available time to fully develop the assignment.

Here, in accommodation for her injuries, Chapman afforded Dr. Kanavou two, one-year time extensions on her research projects. And Dr. Kanavou made good use of this time. As her health improved, she actively pursued her primary research project in Cambodia, with the University’s full support.⁵ At the same time, Dr. Kanavou fulfilled her many other duties to the University, including teaching, supervising directed studies students and overseeing the Peace Studies Program as the interim director. Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 31. Dr. Kanavou did not ask to be excused from any of these duties. Pl.’s Decl. ¶ 30. Despite her considerable service to the university and her progress in her research, the University suddenly and unilaterally decided that Dr. Kanavou’s accommodation was *enough* – DONE – and terminated Dr. Kanavou’s employment. The University terminated her employment despite the fact that Dr. Kanavou had requested further accommodation through numerous channels,

⁵ See Struppa Dep. 78-81, Exhs. 109, 110.

1 and despite the fact that her contract with the University would not expire for three years hence.
2 Def.'s Exhs. 16, 20, 22.

3 In Struppa's deposition, the Chancellor (now the university president) denied knowledge of
4 any disability – or any obligation in his part to inquire into the state of Dr. Kanavou's health and
5 recovery – in advance of his March 28, 2013 letter informing Dr. Kanavou of her “non-
6 reappointment” (Def. Exh. 26):
7

8 MR. MURRAY: Okay. Did you take her disability into consideration in your
9 analysis in this letter?

10 MR. PLEVIN: Objection. The question lacks foundation. Assumes facts. It's vague
11 and ambiguous as to 'disability.' Go ahead.

12 THE WITNESS: I had not made a determination or anybody had made the
13 determination as to her disability at that point.

14 Struppa Dep. 98:1-12

15 MR. MURRAY: Moving away from that issue for a moment, based on the
16 procedures of your office, how might you flag a faculty member who had special
17 needs or disability issues that required accommodation?

18 MR. PLEVIN: The question is overly broad, it's vague and ambiguous. May call for
19 speculation. But go ahead.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm not sure, really, how to answer in question. How might
21 we flag? We don't flag people. I just – I'm dumbfounded.

22 Struppa Dep. 54: 6-17

23 Chapman University had an affirmative legal duty to engage with Dr. Kanavou in order to
24 work out a plan for reasonable accommodation. *Soria v. Univision Radio Los Angeles, Inc.*, 5
25 Cal.App.5th 570, 598 (2016). Chapman University failed to live up to its legal obligations. Instead,
26 the Defendants made a half-baked effort at accommodation, and now they want full credit for it. But
27
28

1 Chapman's substandard efforts are no more deserving of full credit than a drowsy, "dumbfounded"
2 college freshman.

3 **2. Willful blindness**

4 In its motion for summary judgment, Defendants dismissed Don Will's and Patrick Fuery's
5 recommendations to provide Dr. Kanavou with additional time as mere vague expressions of
6 sympathy rather than requests for accommodation: "In evaluating Kanavou's file, Struppa was
7 aware of Dean Fuery's recommendation that Kanavou 'be granted one more year on her tenure
8 clock.' Fuery included this language because he felt Kanavou had been through a lot ..." Def.'s
9 Mem, 9:14-16. Subsequent to the denial of its motion for summary judgment, Chapman has
10 steadfastly clung to the same story line. In his deposition, Struppa discussed Don Will's Oct. 1,
11 2012 letter as follows:
12

13
14 MR. MURRAY: How do you interpret these words: "While Dr. Kanavou received
15 some adjustment to compensate for her time in recuperation, in my opinion it did not
16 fully cover her lost progress. ... I strongly encourage you to support Dr. Angeliki
17 Kanavou in her development toward achieving tenure and promotion to Associate
18 Professor two years hence." [Def. Exh. 20]

19 THE WITNESS: Well, I will start with the very last ... sentence that is clearly not
20 required – requesting or even suggesting an extension of the period ... And then
21 when you go to the second paragraph of page two, I interpret that as a sympathetic
22 comment of a colleague that express his opinion that even though she was given two
23 additional years, you know, she might have not been able to completely recuperate.
24 That's his point of view, which of course I respect. But that's all.

25 MR, MURRAY: You didn't take this as a request for accommodation?

26 THE WITNESS: Absolutely it's not. It's not what I take for. It's not a request. It
27 says, 'I encourage you to support her for promotion two years hence.' That indicates
28 very clearly he's not requesting an extension. And in this case, it also says, 'In my
opinion, the two years didn't fully cover her lost progress.'

1 MR. MURRAY: Would you interpret this, then, as a suggestion?

2 MR. PLEVIN: Of what?

3 MR. MURRAY: For an extension.

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 MR. MURRAY: How about a hint?

6 THE WITNESS: No. I would take it as a plea for a merciful look at the really scarce
7 scholarship. Struppa Dep. 101:22-24; 102:1-25; 103:1-6; 103:6-25.

8 As for Patrick Feury's Nov. 2, 2013 letter requesting additional time for Dr. Kanavou, even
9 if it were a request for accommodation, Struppa said the word of the Dean of Wilkinson College of
10 Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences wouldn't count:

11 MR. MURRAY: Here we have a letter from Patrick Feury regarding Dr. Kanavou's
12 fifth year critical review. And he begins the letter by saying: 'I commence this letter
13 with the recommendation that she be granted one more year on her tenure clock.

14 Even though an extension has already been granted, this does look like a case of
15 exceptional circumstances.' [Def.'s Exh. 22] ... How do you interpret these words?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I think he was recommending the extension. – I don't think
17 he was in a position for making the recommendation because we – well, I don't think
18 he was in a position for making the recommendation.

19 MR. MURRAY: Now, Dr. Patrick Feury, he signs this letter as dean of the
20 Wilkinson College –

21 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

22 MR. MURRAY: – but yet, he would not be in a position to make such a
23 recommendation?

24 THE WITNESS: No.⁶

25 MR. MURRAY: Okay, you didn't take this request or these words as a request for
26 an accommodation for Dr. Kanavou's disability?

27 ⁶ Struppa never explained why Roberta Lessor, as Dean, was able to make requests on Dr. Kanavou's
28 behalf in 2008 and 2009, but somehow Dean Feury lacked the authority to request accommodation for Dr.
Kanavou.

1 MR. PLEVIN: Objection. Lacks foundation. Assumes facts. Go ahead.

2 THE WITNESS: I think we said this before. There was no established disability.

3 Struppa Dep. 110:20-25; 111:13-25

4 The “willful blindness” defense is not a defense in other areas of law,⁷ nor is it a valid
5 defense here. Defendants were aware of Dr. Kanavou’s physical challenges; but rather than helping
6 her at a critical moment, they consciously shut their eyes and ears to her. Defendants’ willful
7 blindness strategy may seem convincing to themselves, but it is transparent; and it is false.

8
9 **B. LACK OF GOOD FAITH IN THE INTERACTIVE PROCESS**

10 **1. ‘Willful unawareness’**

11 “It is an unlawful employment practice ... for an employer or other entity covered by this
12 part to fail to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with the employee or applicant to
13 determine effective reasonable accommodations, if any, in response to a request for reasonable
14 accommodation by an employee or applicant with a known physical or mental disability or known
15 medical condition.” Cal. Gov. Code § 12940(n).

16
17 Like its half-baked accommodation efforts, Chapman wants full credit for its “interactive
18 process”; but here, Defendants made no effort whatsoever to continue the interactive process.
19 Instead, they follow along the “willful blindness” path:

20
21 MR. MURRAY: So if someone needed some form of accommodation, there would
22 not be an active process on the part of your office to interact with that employee?

23 THE WITNESS: We would interact, but somehow it would have to be evident to my
24 office that there is such a need. ... Yes, we do interact, but I need to be aware. But

25
26 ⁷ See *United States v. Jewell*, 532 F.2d 697, 700 (9th Cir. 1976): The Court quotes Professor Rollin M.
27 Perkins, who defines the process of willful blindness as follows: “One with a deliberate antisocial purpose in
28 mind may deliberately ‘shut his eyes’ to avoid knowing what would otherwise be obvious to view.” Professor
Glanville Williams then describes the legal effect of willful blindness: “The rule that willful blindness is
equivalent to knowledge is essential, and is found throughout the criminal law.”

1 when you were talking about flagging, we don't go around and checking people. We
2 need to become aware one way or another, so to speak.

3 MR. MURRAY: But that was not evident here?

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 Struppa Dep. 54:20-25; 55:1

6 MR. MURRAY: Okay. But beyond that, you didn't consider it to be your obligation
7 or duty to inquire –

8 THE WITNESS: No.

9 MR. MURRAY – with her as to whether she was – felt physically able to produce as
10 you expected her to?

11 THE WITNESS: Correct.

12 Struppa Dep. 124:13-19

13 MR. MURRAY: At any point – my question is, at any point during the process
14 leading to Dr. Kanavou's non-reappointment, did you seek to find out the status of
15 her rehabilitation?

16 THE WITNESS: No.

17 MR. MURRAY: Okay. Did you attempt to follow up with her in any manner on the
18 extent of her rehabilitation?

19 THE WITNESS. No.

20 Struppa Dep. 133:23-25; 134:1-5.

21 By failing to reach out to Dr. Kanavou and discuss with her the status of her rehabilitation,
22 and by consciously ignoring her, Defendants failed in their duty to engage in the interactive process.

23 **2. Interactive blindness**

24 Arthur Blaser, a disabled Chapman faculty member and former chair of the Political Science
25 Department, often advocated for Dr. Kanavou. In an Aug. 27, 2013 email exchange with Don Will,
26 Richard Ruppel, then chair of the Political Science Department, and Ann Gordon, associate dean of
27 Wilkinson College, Dr. Blaser commented, "I don't think that the 'keep and develop junior faculty'
28

1 squares with Angeliki’s situation. There hasn’t been much in the way of an interactive process.”

2 Exh. 2.

3 In deposition, counsel asked Struppa about Blaser’s comments regarding the interactive
4 process: “Q: Is that a valid statement? A: I really have no idea what he means with that. He’s – I
5 have no idea what he means. I just don’t know what he means. Again, I’m not trying to be
6 unhelpful, honestly.” Struppa Dep. 134:21-24.

8 In a March 19, 2013 email, Blaser appealed directly to the Chancellor on Dr. Kanavou’s
9 behalf: “[I] feel strongly that she should have the opportunity to develop her current work on
10 Cambodia. In Angie’s case, the medical leave was not sufficient to give her that opportunity.
11 Therapy and surgery she’s had since returning to the classroom have not left much time for research,
12 and adding a year to the tenure clock would be a reasonable accommodation.” Exh. 3.

14 When asked about this email during deposition, Struppa dismissed Blaser’s request, like
15 Patrick Fuery’s request, by asserting that Blaser lacked any such authority: “Art was, I believe, at
16 the time, the interim director – probably was his status so he writes his concern. This is almost a
17 year after – well, six months or nine months after the process began ... So yeah, I didn’t think that
18 that request was valid.” Struppa Dep. 127:1-7.

20 So far, Defendants’ position seems to be that (1) it was unaware of any need for
21 accommodation; thus (2) there was no need for an interactive process; (3) but when a request is
22 placed directly in front of them, whoever made the request lacks the authority to do so. This is not a
23 good faith interactive process, as the law requires.

25 **3. Willful deafness**

26 “Once the interactive process is initiated, the employer’s obligation to engage in the process
27 in good faith is continuous. The employer’s obligation to engage in the interactive process extends
28

1 beyond the first attempt at accommodation and continues when the employee asks for a different
2 accommodation or where the employer is aware that the initial accommodation is failing and further
3 accommodation is needed. This rule fosters the framework of cooperative problem-solving.” *Scotch*
4 *v. Art Inst. of Cal.*, 173 Cal. App. 4th 986, 1013 (2009).

5
6 A pillar of Chapman’s defense theory is that Dr. Kanavou somehow “didn’t ask” for
7 accommodation. In its Memorandum in Support of Summary Judgment, Defendants make this
8 contention over and over again, and dedicate one quarter of a page to a bullet-pointed footnote that
9 is set off with phrase, “She could have asked ...” Def.’s Mem, 17:21-28. Since their motion for
10 summary judgment was denied, Defendants have steadfastly stuck with the “didn’t ask” fiction: In
11 his deposition, Struppa goes out of his way six times to explain how Dr. Kanavou somehow did not
12 ask for accommodation, as if repeating it somehow makes it true. Struppa Dep. 99:19; 101:11;
13 105:3; 125:1; 132:13; 141:14. Andrew Moshier, who was chairman of the Faculty Personnel
14 Council and recommended Dr. Kanavou’s “non-reappointment,” repeated the “didn’t ask” talking
15 point eight times, without prompting. Moshier Dep. 27:23; 29:24; 30:1; 32:2; 32:23; 43:21; 44:24;
16 72:14. Moshier returned to this line unprompted so many times that it led to the following exchange:
17
18

19 MR. MURRAY: Okay. You’ve told me several times that Dr. Kanavou did not
20 request an accommodation, and you just said, ‘It’s not our obligation to give an
21 accommodation to someone that didn’t request it.’ And, again, I never asked you
22 whether or not Dr. Kanavou requested an accommodation. I’ve never asked you that
23 question. So I’m asking you now why you continue to tell me and respond –

24 MR. PLEVIN: Hold on. The question is argumentative. Go ahead.

25 THE WITNESS: Fair enough. Well, because you continually ask me about the
26 dean’s recommendation. I’m trying to point out to you that we needed to set the
27 dean’s recommendation aside, that that was – that’s what we – that’s what I still
28 strongly believe was my ethical obligation is to not take that recommendation

1 without it being triggered by the candidate herself, by Dr. Kanavou herself.
2 Moshier Dep. 72:19-25; 73:1-12.

3 In his answer, Moshier adds a new dimension to the willful blindness/ willful deafness
4 theory – that somehow acting on a request on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf would be unethical. This theory
5 is about as plausible as the endless assertion that Dr. Kanavou somehow did not ask for
6 accommodation; or that any requests on her behalf by others don’t count.
7

8 **4. Magic words (and magic procedure)**

9 “An employee is not required to specifically invoke the protections of FEHA or speak any
10 ‘magic words’ in order to effectively request an accommodation under the statute.” *Soria v.*
11 *Univision Radio Los Angeles, Inc.*, 5 Cal.App.5th 570, 598 (2016).
12

13 Implicit in Defendants’ “she didn’t ask” talking point is the assumption that Dr. Kanavou
14 had to ask for accommodation in a particular way, in a particular format, using particular words; and
15 above all else it would be impossible for someone to make a request on Dr. Kanavou’s behalf.
16 Defendant’s posture is directly contradicted by the applicable case law: “The ‘interactive process’
17 required by the FEHA is an informal process with the employee or the employee’s representative, to
18 attempt to identify a reasonable accommodation that will enable the employee to perform the job
19 effectively.” *Scotch v. Art Institute of California* 173 Cal.App.4th 986, 1013 (2009).
20

21 When Dr. Kanavou made her first request for accommodation in 2008, she sent an email
22 memo to her Dean, then Roberta Lessor – who in turn presented a request to the Chancellor on Dr.
23 Kanavou’s behalf. Def.’s Exhs. 7-11 in Supp. of Mot. for Summ. J. When Patrick Fuery assumed
24 the role of Dean, Dr. Kanavou discussed the issue with him in person, rather than in writing. Thus,
25 an email chain (and trial exhibits) did not result; only Patrick Fuery’s written request. Def.’s Exh.
26 22. Defendants now attempt to use Dr. Kanavou’s subsequent approach to requesting
27
28

1 accommodation (and lack of an email chain) to say that Dr. Kanavou somehow made no request for
2 accommodation; or that somehow Dean Fuery's request on Dr. Kanavou's behalf doesn't count.

3 This argument is fallacious on many levels:

4 First, by bringing up the matter with Dean Fuery, Dr. Kanavou followed the chain of
5 command exactly as she had before with Dean Lessor, regardless of whether the request was made
6 by email or in person. Second, Dean Fuery's written request for accommodation on Dr. Kanavou's
7 behalf is no less valid than Dean Lessor's earlier requests on Dr. Kanavou's behalf, regardless of
8 whether or not the request produced an email chain. Thirdly and most importantly, Dr. Kanavou's
9 discussions with her Dean (Fuery) are exactly what the law contemplates – an interactive process –
10 and the Defendants can't write that out of the law, or impose some magic words/ magic procedure
11 requirement on the law.
12

13
14 Defendants attempt to add another layer of "magic procedure" upon the law by confusing a
15 request for accommodation with Dr. Kanavou's fifth year critical review process. As Defendants
16 quoted in their Memorandum for Summary Judgment: "Q: Before you submitted your file for your
17 fifth-year critical review, did you make a request to someone at the university to not have that
18 review go forward? A: No.") Kanavou Dep. 93:4-8; Def.'s Mem. 7:6-7. But as Dr. Kanavou
19 explained at length in her opposition declaration and separate statement, she didn't formally resist
20 the critical year review because Don Will had told her that that going forward with it was the best
21 course of action, and that her disability would be taken into consideration during her fifth year
22 review. Pl.'s Dec. ¶ 13. As it turns out, the Faculty Personnel Council and the Chancellor did not
23 take her disability into consideration and offered no further accommodation. In hindsight, it may
24 have been a more advantageous course if Dr. Kanavou had submitted a formal opposition to her
25 critical year review. But how she chose to handle university procedure at the time in no way negates
26
27
28

1 Dr. Kanavou's repeated requests for additional time to complete her research projects. And Dr.
2 Kanavou's approach to university procedure certainly has no bearing on the university's obligation
3 to engage in the interactive process, as the law requires.

4 Now, sadly, it appears that Dean Fuery does not feel at liberty to own up to his own words:

5 MR. MURRAY: Okay, I'd like to refer you back to the first page ... where you say,
6 'I commence this letter with the recommendation that she be granted one more year
7 on her tenure clock. Even though an extension has already been granted, this does
8 look like a case of exceptional circumstances. I will not go into detail on the accident
9 that has affected Dr. Kanavou's professional progress. There is considerable detail in
10 the file, including a summation by Dr. Don Will.' [Def.'s Exh. 22.] It sounds like
11 here you understood her situation, her personal situation; is that correct?

12 MR. PLEVIN: That's vague and ambiguous. It calls for speculation.

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I –

14 BY MR. MURRAY: Let me be more specific. It sounds like you understood her
15 situation with regards to her accident and recovery; is that correct?

16 MR. PLEVIN: Objection. Vague and ambiguous, calls for speculation. But go ahead,
17 if you can.

18 THE WITNESS: I would say limited knowledge. I was not intimate with the
19 knowledge. I do not feel I had – I wouldn't even define it as strong knowledge. I was
20 aware to the best I could articulate it.

21 Fuery Dep. 18:24-25; 19:1-25.

22 Q: Okay. Could you tell me about any discussions you had with Dr. Kanavou leading
23 up to this memo?

24 A: I don't recall any discussions about it. 17:13-15

25 At this point, Chapman appears to have achieved a trifecta: deaf, dumb and blind. But there
26 is yet another twilight zone dimension to its defense:
27
28

1 **5. The pachinko machine**

2 In his deposition, Struppa suggested that the critical year review, once started, could not be
3 stopped for any reason, by anybody – not even the chancellor:

4 MR. MURRAY: I’m asking just specifically about what Patrick Feury has said here
5 and your interpretation of it. [Def.’s Exh. 22.] And you don’t take this as an
6 interpretation for accommodation in the form of more time?

7 MR. PLEVIN: Objection. The question lacks foundation. It calls for a legal
8 conclusion. Assumes facts.

9 THE WITNESS: As I said, there was – this is not a request for accommodation. This
10 is a request to change the process midway by a person who doesn’t have the authority
11 to change a process. Just like I didn’t have the authority to change the process. The
12 only person who can – that can mistake a request – not to change it, but to make a
13 request to extend would be the faculty member that says please give me an extra
14 year.

15 MR. MURRAY: So not even the dean of the Wilkinson College?

16 THE WITNESS: Not even the chancellor.

17 Struppa Dep. 115:2-15.

18 MR. MURRAY: It sounds like what you’re describing to me is a very mechanical
19 process. Once it’s initiated and has begun, it goes mechanically according to its own
20 accord and cannot be stopped. Is that what you are saying?

21 MR. PLEVIN: Hold on. That question is overly broad, vague and ambiguous. It’s an
22 incomplete hypothetical. Calls for speculation.

23 THE WITNESS: Well, I would say that if there is something that can alter it,⁸ and I
24 – the process would be a request from the candidate either during a personal meeting,
25 through an e-mail. The candidate – we owe it to the candidate to go through the
26 process. That’s what I’m confused. The process – the candidate has a right to be

27 ⁸ The Chapman University Faculty Manual directly contradicts Struppa’s assertion that a faculty member
28 controls her review schedule, or has the power to decide when it takes place. “Critical year reviews *shall* be
conducted during the second and fourth year of the tenure-track appointment at Chapman University.”
[Emphasis added.] Def. Exh. 2, p. 33.

1 evaluated, and it's only the candidate can say I don't want to – can I have this
2 postponed. Struppa Dep. 116:10-25; 117:1-2

3 Here, the Defendants turn the critical review process into an unstoppable, automated
4 machine. In doing so, Chapman University has effectively turned its own procedure into an
5 execution device; and now they attempt to excuse themselves from failure to accommodate by
6 pointing to the device: The device has a life and logic of its own, and we can't stop it. Alternately,
7 they claim that the employee controls the device – effectively making the employee her own
8 executioner. Jack Kevorkian could not have built a better Thanatron machine to assist his patients
9 end their lives. The machine did it. We're not liable. Indeed, "it's remarkable apparatus."⁹
10

11 **C. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

12 **1. A round-file complaints box**

13 An adequate internal investigative process must result in "a reasoned conclusion" that is
14 "supported by substantial evidence gathered through an adequate investigation that includes notice
15 of the claimed misconduct and a chance for the employee to respond." *Cotran v. Rollins Hudig Hall*
16 *Internat., Inc.*, 17 Cal. 4th 93, 108 (1998). Otherwise stated, the employer "must act in good faith
17 and fairly listen to both sides." *Id.* at 108, quoting Lord Halsbury from *Board of Education v. Rice*
18 *App. Cas.* 179, 182 (1911). By contrast, an inadequate administrative investigation is evidence of
19 pretext. *Mendoza v. W. Med. Ctr.*, 222 Cal. App. 4th 1334, 1344 (2014). A pretextual basis for a
20 dismissal is one that "mask[s] arbitrary and unlawful motives." *Cotran*, 17 Cal. 4th at 106.
21
22

23 As a result of a motion to compel in this case, Chapman University has released information
24 into grievances filed against the university (or its staff) for a ten-year period – including the time
25 which Dr. Kanavou was employed at Chapman, and Struppa was chancellor. From 2007 to 2014,
26
27

28 ⁹ Franz Kafka, "In the Penal Colony" 1 (Ian Johnston trans, CreateSpace, 2016) (1919).

1 eleven faculty members filed grievances for a variety of reasons, including gender discrimination,
2 racial discrimination, violation of academic freedom, and various other complaints. Of those eleven
3 grievances, only one other besides Dr. Kanavou's was similarly dismissed at the outset. The rest got
4 the initial green light, or were deemed to constitute a *prima facie* case. Def.'s Resp. to Pl.'s Spec.
5 Interrogs, Set 2.

6
7 Here, the Senate Executive Board summarily dismissed Dr. Kanavou without affording her a
8 hearing. Def.'s Exh. 27. The fact that the SEB dismissed Dr. Kanavou's grievance at the *prima facie*
9 stage is evidence supportive of her disability discrimination claim and pretext.

10 It is noteworthy here that according to Chapman's Faculty Manual, the chancellor and the
11 university president are entitled to veto decisions made by the Senate Executive Board – or its
12 designated fact-finder or grievance hearing committee. Def.'s Exh. 2, p. 82. Based on the
13 information released by the university, the chancellor exercised this authority in one grievance that
14 was filed in 2011; and the university president dismissed another grievance that was filed in 2007.
15 Def.'s Resp. to Pl.'s Spec. Interrogs, Set 2.

16
17 The chancellor's and the president's intervention in the process fly in the face of Defendants'
18 contention that "the SEB represents grievants" and not the administration – and therefore, they say,
19 a determination in a grievance "could not retroactively say anything about the Chancellor's
20 motivations." Def.'s Mem. of P & A. in Opp. to Mot. to Compel, 10. In fact, Chapman's grievance
21 process is an instrument of whatever the university chancellor or president wants it to be.
22

23 24 **2. Academic bias and disability bias**

25 Lori Cox Han, a political science professor and a member of Dr. Kanavou's faculty review
26 committee, has made statements indicating bias – both regarding Dr. Kanavou's disability and her
27 academic focus, peace studies. (The Peace Studies program was housed within Chapman's Political
28

1 Science Department while Dr. Kanavou was employed at Chapman.) When Dr. Kanavou returned to
2 campus following her surgeries, scheduling and classroom assignments were adjusted in order to
3 accommodate Dr. Kanavou due to her mobility issues. In a March 8, 2008 email exchange with Don
4 Will, Cox Han expressed frustration at the class scheduling and room assignments, which she felt
5 were made to Dr. Kanavou's benefit, and Cox Han's detriment. See Exh. 3, beginning with, "Don:
6 That primal scream you just heard was me ..."

7
8 In a later email exchange with Art Blaser, Don Will expressed concern that Cox Han "was
9 sending emails and having verbal conversations with the Dean (and probably also the Chancellor)
10 attacking peace studies as parasitic." Exh. 5. Professor Will therefore concludes that Cox-Han
11 "should have recused herself from Angie's case." *Id.*

12
13 During Cox Han's deposition, Plaintiff's counsel presented Cox Han with these email
14 exchanges and posed the following questions:

15 MR. MURRAY: Should you have recused yourself?

16 THE WITNESS: No.

17 MR. MURRAY: Okay. Why not?

18 THE WITNESS: Because I judged her file fairly and accurately.

19 Cox Han Dep. 33:5-9

20 MR. MURRAY: Okay. You mentioned the difference between peace studies and
21 political science. What was your opinion of the peace studies program generally at
22 Chapman at this time?

23 THE WITNESS: That it lacked academic credibility.

24 MR. MURRAY: Why so?

25 THE WITNESS: Many reasons. One is that it was housed within political science.
26 And a true interdisciplinary program needs to stand on its own and not rely solely on
27 one department for its existence.

28 MR. MURRAY: So you feel it was somehow attached to another department in a
way that was not – not credible or not proper. Is that what you're telling me?

1 THE WITNESS: In my opinion as a political scientist, its existence within my
2 department was detrimental to political science in our program.
3 Cox Han Dep. 19:15-25; 20:1-19; 33:5-9.

4 In her grievance, Dr. Kanavou complained of bias on Cox Han’s part. However, the Senate
5 Executive Board, in dismissing Dr. Kanavou’s case, concluded “that there is no evidence to indicate
6 that Professor Lori Cox Han’s alleged bias and violation of your academic freedom (allegations 4
7 and 5).” Def.’s Exh. 27. But Cox Han’s own words – and especially her hostile demeanor during
8 deposition – point to bias and discrimination.
9

10 **D. NO MISTAKE IN CONTRACT**

11 “The language of a contract is to govern its interpretation, if the language is clear and
12 explicit, and does not involve an absurdity.” Cal. Civ. Code § 1638. “A contract must be so
13 interpreted as to give effect to the mutual intention of the parties as it existed at the time of
14 contracting, so far as the same is ascertainable and lawful.” Cal. Civ. Code § 1636. Furthermore,
15 “Intent must be ascertained, not from the subsequent denials or affirmations of the parties, but from
16 the language used in the document under scrutiny; and the parties are presumed to mean, unless the
17 contrary clearly appears, exactly what they say.” *Bader v. Coale*, 48 Cal App 2d 276, 279 (1941).
18
19

20 Defendants claim that a key term of its contract with Dr. Kanavou – the six-year term,
21 expiring May 31, 2016 – was a “mistake.” Def.’s Mem, 18:18. However, this term of the contract
22 does not contradict any other term of the contract, nor does it contradict the university’s general
23 policy regarding tenure track employment – and the associated probationary period.
24

25 Here, the contract between the parties specifies an overall six-year term, beginning in the
26 academic year 2011-2012, and expiring May 31, 2016 – with one additional “terminal” year, if the
27 faculty member does not attain tenure during the fifth year. Def.’s Exh. 16, ¶ 4, 5. The contract also
28

1 includes a “re-appointment” provision, giving Chapman University the option, in its discretion, not
2 to reappoint the faculty member during the second year of the contract, “although it is currently
3 anticipated that Faculty Member will be reappointed.” *Id.*, ¶ 5. Between sections 4 and 5 of the
4 contract is section 4.1, which is entitled “Termination with Cause” and sets forth the various bases
5 for a termination, i.e., incompetence, neglect, violation of university rules and policies, etc.
6

7 By its plain terms and organization, this contract creates a six-year probationary period, with
8 a two-year renewal option, and termination for cause. Thus, the employee’s status, even with the re-
9 appointment provision, is not simply “at-will.” Termination must be for cause, as so specified in the
10 contract. Thus, the contract gives the tenure-track candidate a path to success; and the university
11 supervises progress. The contract is clear, comprehensible and non-contradictory.
12

13 Throughout Plaintiff’s deposition, Defense counsel repeatedly attempted to get Plaintiff to
14 agree to the terms of a parol document suggesting different terms. However, Plaintiff did not take
15 the bait: “A contract takes precedence over a letter, always.” Kanavou Dep. 77:18-19. “The contract
16 takes precedence, in my mind.” *Id.* at 78:15. “A contract takes precedence.” *Id.*, 78:18.
17

18 The language of the contract between Plaintiff and Defendant is clear and unambiguous on
19 its face. Plaintiff relied on the contract. Defendants’ post-hoc attempts to re-write the contract have
20 no support in any contracts doctrine.¹⁰

21 **E. MALICE AND MERCY**

22 Exemplary Damages are permitted, “[i]n an action for the breach of an obligation not arising
23 from contract, where it is proven by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant has been
24

25 ¹⁰ “A contract has, strictly speaking, nothing to do with the personal, or individual, intent of the parties. A
26 contract is an obligation attached by the mere force of law to certain acts of the parties, usually words, which
27 ordinarily accompany and represent a known intent. If, however, it were proved by twenty bishops that either
28 party, when he used the words, intended something else than the usual meaning which the law imposes upon
them, he would still be held, unless there were some mutual mistake, or something else of the sort.”
Hotchkiss v. National City Bank, 200 F. 287, 293 (D.N.Y. 1911) (Hand, Learned).

1 guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice. ... Malice means conduct which is intended by the defendant
2 to cause injury to the plaintiff or despicable conduct which is carried on by the defendant with a
3 willful and conscious disregard of the rights or safety of others.” Cal. Civ. Code § 3294.

4 Despite all of their various claims of deafness, blindness, ignorance and unawareness,
5 Defendants acted knowingly and willfully. They deliberately disregarded Plaintiff’s rights, inflicting
6 cruel hardship upon her. Thus, it is appropriate to assess punitive damages against Defendants.
7

8 Here, Chancellor Struppa was well aware of Dr. Kanavou’s disability and the many
9 challenges she faced recovering from her accident, while also juggling her roles as a teacher,
10 researcher and fill-in for her ailing supervisor, Don Will. Most critically, Chancellor Struppa was
11 fully aware of Plaintiff’s need and desire for further accommodation, as the record plainly shows.
12 But Struppa went ahead and terminated the Plaintiff anyway, unnecessarily.
13

14 Now, Defendants play the blindness game: Don Will’s and Patrick Fuery’s pleas on Dr.
15 Kanavou’s behalf weren’t really requests for accommodation; they were something else – not what
16 the words say, in plain English. In his deposition, Struppa explained away Don Will’s words (from
17 Will’s Oct. 1, 2012 letter) this way:
18

19 THE WITNESS: I would take it as a plea for a merciful look at the really scarce
20 scholarship. I would interpret it as she hasn’t done much, but, you know, see if you
21 can help her out.

22 MR. MURRAY: But she was not deserving of your mercy?

23 THE WITNESS: Mercy? This is a university. We look – we have standards. We look
24 at what people do and then we evaluate the file that we have in front of us.

25 MR. MURRAY: But Dr. Kanavou did have medical issues apart from the academic
26 issues. So what you are saying is this is a university, we have standards. You are
27 saying you should only look at those standards and not the medical issues that she
28 was facing?

1 THE WITNESS: I'm not saying that at all. I wish to remind you again of Chapter 19
2 of my declaration. She never made a request. She could have made that request. She
3 knew how to make that request. She made it twice. So that to me carries the entire
4 conversation here. If she had made the request, as I say here, I would have considered
5 just like I did before.

6 The blindness does not mask the malice, no matter how many times the Defendants repeat
7 their talking points. This behavior must not be excused.


8 **F. CONCLUSION**

9 Through no fault of her own, Angeliki Kanavou found herself at the mercy of a speeding
10 automobile. It nearly killed her. After nine surgeries and years of recovery, she found herself at the
11 mercy of an institution that got fed up with mercy: It had had enough with accommodation; it had
12 had enough with an "interactive process"; it had had enough with seeing, hearing and speaking with
13 Dr. Kanavou about what she needed to succeed. But Dr. Kanavou was not done with her life, and
14 she was not done with her work. She was committed to her academic success, and her subsequent
15 record proves this in spades: yet another academic degree, appearances at academic conferences,
16 and the continuous publication of academic articles.
17

18
19 Angeliki Kanavou deserved better than Chapman's half-baked efforts and its blind denials.
20 The law requires it.

21 The evidence will show at trial.

22
23 Dated: June 5, 2017

24 By: 
25
26 Bruce T. Murray
27 Attorney for Plaintiff, Angeliki A. Kanavou
28

APPENDIX I

Angeliki A. Kanavou's bibliography [with key timeline elements inserted]:

1. Angeliki A. Kanavou, "Détente Versus Commitment to Client States: The 1973 October War in U.S. Foreign Policy," *The Journal of Public and International Affairs* (1997): 106-121.
2. Angeliki Kanavou, "Why Peace Fails: The Role of Values in Post-Settlement Processes" (PhD diss., University of Southern California, 2003). ProQuest (UMI 3133289).
3. Angeliki Andrea Kanavou, "How Peace Agreements Are Derailed: The Evolution of Values in Cyprus, 1959-74," *The Journal of Peace Research* 43:3 (May, 2006): 279-296.
[Jan. 13, 2007: Angeliki Kanavou is struck and injured in car-pedestrian accident.]
4. Angeliki Kanavou, book review of "Identity politics in the age of globalization" by Roger Coate & Markus Thiel, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 34:9, 2011.
5. Angeliki A. Kanavou, "Anathemas and Blessings: Negotiating Group Identity and State Ownership through the Constitution in Cyprus, 1959-1974," *The Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 23:4 (Fall, 2012): 83-106.
[March 28, 2013: Chancellor Struppa delivers Dr. Kanavou a "non-reappointment" letter.]
6. Arthur W. Blaser, Angeliki Kanavou and Samuel Schleier, "The Peace Studies/Disability Nexus," *The Journal of Peace and Justice* 6:4 (2013): 6-21.
[May 31, 2014: Final day of Dr. Kanavou's "terminal year" of employment at Chapman University.]
7. Kosal Path and Angeliki Kanavou, "Converts, Not Ideologues: The Khmer Rouge Practice of Thought Reform in Cambodia, 1975-1978," *The Journal of Political Ideologies* 20:3 (2015): 304-332.
8. Angeliki A. Kanavou, "Cyprus: In Search of an Exit from Ambiguity," *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* 16:3 (July 2016): 433-446.
9. Angeliki A. Kanavou, Kosal Path and Kathleen Doll, "The Children of the Cambodian Genocide," in *Breaking Cycles of Repetition: A Global Dialogue on Historical Trauma and Memory*, ed. Dr. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela (Opladen, and Berlin and Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, July 2016): 174-193.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

10. Angeliki A. Kanavou and Kosal Path, “The Lingering Effects of Thought Reform: The Khmer Rouge S-21 Prison Personnel,” *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 76, No. 1 (February 2017): 87–105

11. Angeliki A. Kanavou and Kosal Path, “The Social Adaptation of Khmer Rouge Perpetrators in the Aftermath of the Cambodian Genocide: An Exploratory Analysis,” *The Journal of International Human Rights* _____. (Forthcoming in 2017)

APPENDIX II

List of Angeliki Kanavou’s surgeries related to the Jan. 13, 2007 accident:

1. Jan. 13, 2007: Open reduction and internal fixation, setting the left and right femur bones; and titanium rods were installed in the right fibula and tibia. Operating surgeon: Dr. Thomas Ackerson.
2. Jan. 14, 2007: Open reduction and then internal fixation to the left and right femur, the right fibula (calf bone) and tibia (shin bone). Operating surgeon: Dr. Thomas Ackerson.
3. Jan. 17, 2007: Setting fracture on the right ulna (forearm), which involved internal fixation with a titanium rod. Operating surgeon: Dr. Thomas Ackerson.
4. Jan. 20, 2007 Surgery 4: Installation of a stent in chest in order to prevent arterial blockage as a result of a hematoma that formed in the left leg. Operating Surgeon: Huntington Memorial Hospital staff.
5. Nov. 30, 2007: Removal of hardware from the left femur; endoscopic anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with bone-patellar tendon bone autograft. Operating surgeon: Dr. Gregory Adamson. Adamson Dep. 9:19-22.
6. March 12, 2008: Hardware removal, right femur and tibia with arthroscopic partial lateral menisectomy, right knee. Operating surgeon: Dr. Gregory Adamson. Adamson Dep. 9:23-25.
7. May 14, 2008: Arthroscopic anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with mid third bone-patellar tendon-bone autograft with lateral collateral ligament reconstruction, peroneal nerve neuroplasty, and popliteal femoral ligament. Dr. Gregory Adamson. Adamson Dep. 10:2-7.
8. June 3, 2009: Hardware removal, right ulna. Operating surgeon: Dr. Gregory Adamson. Adamson Dep. 10:8-9.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

9. April, 25, 2014: Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with a doubled posterior tibialis allograft with peroneal nerve neurolysis, fibular collateral ligament reconstruction, and popliteal fibular ligament reconstruction. Operating surgeon: Dr. Gregory Adamson. Adamson Dep. 10:12-17.

Gynecological surgeries:

10. Jan. 27, 2009: Hysteroscopy and removal of fibroid tumors. Operating surgeon: Dr. John Wilcox.

11. March 14, 2009: Polypectomy. Operating surgeon: Dr. John Wilcox. Kanavou Decl. ¶ 10.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

VERIFICATION

by Party

CASE TITLE: Angeliki A. Kanavou v. Chapman University
Case No: 30-2016-00840960-CU-CO-CJC

I, Angeliki A. Kanavou, declare:

I am the plaintiff in the above-entitled matter.

I have read the foregoing documents and know their contents. I am informed and believe, and on that ground allege, that the information and matters stated in the foregoing documents are true:

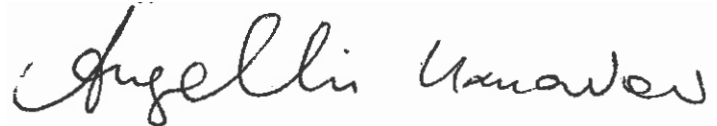
1. APPENDIX I: Angeliki A. Kanavou's bibliography

2. APPENDIX II: List of Angeliki Kanavou's surgeries related to the Jan. 13, 2007 accident; and gynecological surgeries

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 5, 2017 in Pasadena, California.

Angeliki A. Kanavou



(Signature of Party)