

# The Michael Jackson Allegations

A PDF version of the website  
<https://themichaeljacksonallegations.com/>

*Condensed version*

## Foreword

This document, or e-Book, if you like, evolved from the content of the website <https://themichaeljacksonallegations.com>. The aim and mission of the document is to give a full representation of the 1993, the 2005, and the posthumous Wade Robson child sexual abuse allegations against Michael Jackson. There is still a lot of misinformation circulating about those cases and people often make judgments about them based on out of context cherry-picked half-truths, incomplete information or even complete lies. We hope that this document will help to better understand these complicated cases.

Previously we have published a longer, more detailed version of this document, but we felt that a condensed version is also warranted for those who do not have that much time to read and explore these cases, but still want to get more insight than what they might get from superficial soundbites or tabloid information circulating on the Internet. This document is that condensed version in which we managed to bring down more than 400 pages to less than 80. If you are interested in the more detailed discussion of these cases then those longer versions are available at <https://themichaeljacksonallegations.com/>. **The longer documents also contain a detailed source list** at the end of each chapter, because everything we say in these documents (including this one) is properly sourced from court documents, testimonies and other material.

If you truly want to understand these allegations you will have to invest a bit of time in reading. There is no real understanding of these cases in five minutes from media soundbites, out-of-context bits of information, inflammatory tabloid articles or Internet gossip and fallacies, no matter how tempting it may be to jump to conclusions based on such.

This document was created with the purpose of commentary, news reporting, education and research. It is not sold commercially, we do not make any income or profit from it. Please be lenient about any grammatical or stylistic error. Hopefully that will not spoil the content.

*September 23, 2018*

# Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
<b>The 1993 Chandler Allegations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Meet the Chandler Family .....	4
Evan Chandler Turns on Michael Jackson .....	5
Evan Chandler Starts Plotting .....	7
Jordan Chandler “Confesses” .....	9
Evan Chandler’s Monetary Demands .....	11
The Allegations Go Public .....	14
Humiliating Jackson .....	17
The Settlement.....	19
The Chandlers’ Selective Publicity-Shyness.....	22
The Aftermath .....	24
Jason Francia.....	28
<b>The 2005 Arvizo Allegations.....</b>	<b>34</b>
Michael Jackson Meets the Arvizo Family .....	34
Martin Bashir’s Documentary, “Living with Michael Jackson” and the Fallout.....	36
The Crucial Period: February 7-March 12, 2003 .....	37
The Conspiracy Charge .....	39
The Changing Content of the Allegations and Contradictions.....	40
General Credibility Problems with the Arvizo Family .....	46
Lawyers being hired and the formation of the allegations .....	54
<b>The Wade Robson Allegations .....</b>	<b>57</b>
A Failed Prophecy .....	60
Wade Goes into Therapy .....	60
No more dance, films, entertainment? .....	66
Robson’s Creditor’s Claim.....	69
The Civil Lawsuit.....	70
Raising Awareness of Facilitators of Abuse? .....	74
“How does it feel when you're alone and you're cold inside?” .....	76

*"Why work when you can sue Michael Jackson?"* – Michael Jackson's 2005 trial lawyer, Thomas Mesereau

## The 1993 Chandler Allegations

On August 17, 1993 the Los Angeles police department opened an investigation against Michael Jackson based on an allegation that he had sexually molested a 13-year-old boy called **Jordan Chandler**. In the first section of this document we will go through the Chandler case.

### Meet the Chandler Family



*June Chandler in 1993*

Michael Jackson met Jordan Chandler in May 1992, after the star's car broke down while he was driving on Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles and he went to a nearby car-rental agency that was owned by the boy's step-father, **David Schwartz**. Schwartz called his wife, **June Chandler** to tell her of the illustrious client and to ask to bring her 12-year-old son, Jordan (born January 11, 1980) who was a big fan of the entertainer. Schwartz offered Jackson a deal: he would rent him a car for free if Jackson would agree to take Jordan's phone number and call him. Jackson accepted the deal, kept his promise and called the boy a couple of days later. From then on a friendship developed between the star and the family on the phone. According to the Chandlers' recollections between May 1992 and January 1993 they talked to Jackson on the phone about 8-10 times, so approximately once a month.

Jordan's biological father, **Evan Chandler** was divorced from Jordan's mother since 1985. Evan had a dental practice in Beverly Hills, but he was also an aspiring screenwriter. According to June's 2005 testimony, before Michael Jackson came into their life, Evan did not spend much time with his son, he was rather busy writing screenplays. In August 1993 June even sued Evan for \$68,000 in back child support though later she retracted this.



*Evan Chandler*

There are also several accounts of Evan Chandler having a violent temper and an abusive nature. For example, in September 1993, while they were discussing their lawsuit against Jackson in their civil lawyer Larry Feldman's office, Evan hit David Schwartz. Even Evan's loyal brother Ray Chandler had to admit to this in an article that he wrote for his website in 2005, although he tried to downplay it as a "*one punch fight*" in the heat of an argument about the settlement money that they had not even received yet. (Details later in this document.) In a lawsuit that Schwartz later filed against Evan he mentioned more incidents when Evan allegedly physically had attacked him, and in a 1994 deposition June Chandler mentioned an incident where an argument between Evan and his second wife Nathalie had

become physical (in some writings the pseudonym "Monique" is used for Nathalie). According to another source, June herself left Evan "because of his temper".

More than a decade later Evan's physical violence peaked in an attack against his son, Jordan. According to court documents, on July 6, 2005 Evan Chandler "struck [Jordan] on the head from behind with a twelve and one-half pound weight and then sprayed his eyes with mace or pepper spray and tried to choke him". A judge later "found that the weight could have caused serious bodily injury or death". On August 5, 2005 Jordan obtained a temporary restraining order against his father, though his request for a final restraining order was dismissed. This was not the end of Evan and Jordan Chandler's legal disputes. On July 24, 2005 Evan Chandler filed a lawsuit against Jordan, which had to do with Jordan's trust fund where the money from the settlement from this case was put. The case was dismissed in 2007.

Journalist Diane Dimond (whom Ray Chandler's book, *All That Glitters*<sup>1</sup> describes as Evan Chandler's "closest ally" in the media) reported after Evan's death in 2009 that Evan had bipolar disorder.

### **Evan Chandler Turns on Michael Jackson**



*Michael Jackson with June Chandler and her children, Lilly and Jordan, in Monaco in 1993*

This was the family dynamic that Jackson entered into as a new friend. In February 1993 he invited June, Jordan and Jordan's younger sister to visit his Neverland ranch for the first time. From then on the family frequently visited Neverland, Jackson's Century City condo and went with him on trips in and outside of the USA. According to June Chandler's 2005 testimony Jackson also stayed over at her house a couple of times.

Jackson had not met Evan until May 20, 1993. That was the first time when they ran into each other in June's house. Jackson invited Evan to his Century City condo the next day, then Evan invited the star to spend the weekend in his house with his side of the family (his second wife and their two children) and Jordan on May 22-23. Then Evan invited Jackson again to spend Memorial Day Weekend with them on May 28-30.

Evan later claimed that by May 28-30 he had "suspicions" of Jackson sexually molesting Jordan. This alleged suspicion, however, did not stop him from placing Jackson in his son's room to sleep.

In Ray Chandler's book one reason given for Evan's "suspicions" was the huge amount of gifts that Jackson bought for Jordan and which - according to Evan - were "inappropriate" for

---

<sup>1</sup> Evan Chandler's younger brother, Ray Chandler published a book about the allegations in 2004, entitled *All That Glitters: The Crime and the Cover-Up*. The book quotes Evan Chandler extensively. Since the Chandlers never appeared in Court to testify about their allegations I use this book in this paper to represent the Chandlers' side of the story.

Jordan's age: they were plastic army men and other toys which, according to Evan, were fit for younger children.

Another sign of sexual abuse, according to Evan, was that Jackson and Jordan enjoyed each other's company too much, played together and Evan felt left out. "*Michael and Jordie had been off in their own little world all day, as if Evan didn't exist*" - writes Ray Chandler in his book. According to the book: "*It should have been a dead giveaway,*" Evan recalled weeks later, *when Jordie came walking in the house that night wearing tight black pants, white socks, black loafers and a black fedora, and Michael came walking in right behind him wearing the same riling. Or when they ran off into the living room together after dinner and closed the door behind them, leaving me to work alone on the history paper. Or that Michael never once called Jordie by name, referring to him instead by affectionate nicknames like 'Applehead' and 'Doo Doo Head.'*" (Note: Jackson called those names a lot of people, including his own children.)

How toys for younger children, playing together, enjoying each other's company, silly nicknames, and Jordan dressing the same way as his favourite pop star who also happened to be his friend, is a sign of sexual abuse or a sexual relationship is never explained.

In actuality, according to Ray Chandler's book Evan asked Jordan that weekend whether the relationship between him and the star was sexual, to which Jordan said: "*That's disgusting! I'm not into that.*"

It is clear that Evan began to grow jealous of the friendship between Jackson and his son. Some other things also happened that weekend. One was that Evan asked Jackson to build an addition to his house, which Jackson declined. Evan also wanted Jackson to help him with his screenwriting career and make him a partner in his movie company, but the star was not willing to do that either. That is when Evan suddenly started "suspecting sexual abuse" by the star.

There is one another noteworthy story in the Chandler book about that Memorial Day Weekend. According to it, one morning Jackson complained about a terrible headache. Using that opportunity Evan drugged Jackson with the help of his anesthesiologist friend Mark Torbiner. Evan claims they gave the star Toradol which is a non-narcotic equivalent to Demerol. The book claims that then the star showed drunk-like symptoms: "*he was acting weird, babbling incoherently and slurring his speech*". After a while the entertainer began to sober up, and was in a somewhat coherent but still uninhibited condition. Evan decided to take advantage of the situation to ask him questions about his sexuality, whether he was gay. Jackson answered that he was not. According to the book, Jackson did not feel well and remained in bed all day – and despite of the later claim that Evan was suspicious of Jackson molesting Jordan, he put the entertainer to sleep in his two sons' bedroom.

It has to be noted, that in her autobiography entitled "*Shockaholic*", actress Carrie Fisher described both Evan Chandler and his anesthesiologist as two of those shady Hollywood doctors who abused medications. (Fisher was a patient of Evan Chandler around that time.) So it remains questionable whether they really gave Jackson Toradol that day or something else, and what was their real intention with it.

## Evan Chandler Starts Plotting

On Father's Day (June 20) Jordan refused to call his father, which prompted Evan to threaten June and Jordan: *"Let me tell you something, June. He better call me, and it better be soon, or you're all going to be sorry. You know me. I've had enough!"*

He also left a threatening message on June's answering machine on July 7 in which he said: *"June, make sure you play this message for Michael and Jordie. All three of you are responsible for what is going on. No one is a neutral party. Since Jordie has repeatedly refused to return my phone calls, this will be my last voluntary attempt to communicate. I will be at your house at San Lorenzo this Friday, July 9, at 8:30 in the morning. Take my word for it, there is nothing else any of you has to do that is more important than being at this meeting."*

Evan attributed Jordan's refusal to talk to him to Jackson's influence on the boy, as if Evan's mania, threats, temper tantrums and weird sexual suggestions and questions would not be enough to alienate a child.

On July 8, 1993 David Schwartz, June Chandler's then husband, recorded three telephone conversations he had with Evan Chandler which are revealing about the fact that Evan was plotting against Jackson **before** Jordan even allegedly "confessed to him" about sexual abuse.



*Evan attacking a photographer after the Chandler's allegations became public*

Evan hired a lawyer, **Barry K. Rothman** whom he describes on the tapes as the *"the nastiest son of a bitch"*, who wanted to *"destroy everybody in sight in any devious, nasty, cruel way that he can do it"*, who wanted to *"humiliate as many people as he can"* and who was *"hungry for the publicity"*. Once again: this was all **before** Jordan allegedly "confessed" to Evan about sexual abuse.

But was not Evan Chandler just a desperate father who wanted to communicate a legitimate concern to his ex-wife and Jackson, but was not heard, so he had to resort to desperate measures?

When we discuss Evan's use of these allegations to make money and his abandonment of his other two children, you will see that a portrayal of him as a concerned parent could not be further from the truth. Additionally having concerns alone would not explain elaborate plans to destroy and humiliate people (and notice the plural – apparently Evan does not only talk about Jackson) in *"any devious, nasty, cruel way"* while his son himself denies any wrongdoing by Jackson.

Rather than a concern for his son, it seems to be more about Evan's hurt ego as reflected on the tapes when Evan says: *"[T]o tell you the truth, Dave, it would be a lot easier for me and a lot more satisfying to see everybody get destroyed like they've destroyed me, but it would be a lot easier."* In the conversation Evan does not resent only Jackson, but also June and even Jordan for what they have – in Evan's mind at least – done **to him**.

And what was it that they have done to him? Evan says on the tape: *“Let me put it to you this way, Dave. Nobody in this world was allowed to come between this family of June, me and Jordy. That was the hard [tape irregularity] be the opposite. That’s evil.”*

On the tape Evan does not go into specifics about his plan to take down Jackson, but that there is a plan already (before Jordan even allegedly "confessed" to him) is clear: ***“If I go through with this, I win big time. There’s no way that I lose. I’ve checked that out inside out.”***

***“I will get everything I want, and they will be totally — they will be destroyed forever. They will be destroyed. June is gonna lose Jordy. She will have no right to ever see him again.”*** and ***“Michael’s career will be over.”***

At one point Schwartz asks Evan quite bluntly whether Evan suspects sexual molestation (*“Do you think that he’s fucking him?”*) to which Evan says he has no idea and **then proceeds to saying he was told by his lawyer not to say anything to anyone to not “blow it”**.

Other times on the tape Evan alludes to a “relationship” between Jordan and Jackson: *“What I’m telling you is that Jordy and Michael are users. They had — they were gonna — they had their own relationship. They want to carry it out the way they want to carry it out. They don’t want anybody getting in the way [tape irregularity] — least resistance, and that’s the way they’re going.”*

Why did he think that? Because they would not talk to him: *“There’s no reason why they would have to cut me out unless they – unless they need me to be away so they can do certain things which I don’t think are good to be doing.”*

Evan then goes on to complain that Jackson stopped calling him: *“There was no reason why he had to stop calling me. He could have called me. In fact, Dave, I – you ask Jordy. I sat in the room one day, and I talked to Michael and told him exactly what I want out of this whole relationship, what I want [tape irregularity], okay, so he wouldn’t have to figure me out. And one of things I said is we always have to be able to talk to each other. That’s the rule, okay, because I know that as soon as you stop talking weird things start going on and people [tape irregularity] –*

*Dave Schwartz: Imaginations take over.*

*Evan Chandler: Imagination will just kill you.”*

When Schwartz asks Evan to go with him to a "shrink" to talk it over, Evan refuses saying that *“the thing has already been set in motion”* and that *“it’s out of my hands”*. This makes little sense because Evan pretty much pulled the strings and was in control during the formation of these allegations. What was already unstoppably *“set in motion”* and why when his son himself was adamant at the time that he had not been molested and Evan only had his imaginations?

Evan rants further against Jackson: ***“Michael Jackson — Michael Jackson’s career, Dave. This man is gonna be humiliated beyond belief. You’ll not believe it. He will not believe what’s going to happen to him. Beyond his worst nightmares. [tape irregularity] not sell***



*one more record. That's for sure.*" But then he adds *"it doesn't have to happen if they show up tomorrow"*.

All through the conversation Evan rants about Jackson, June AND Jordan alike for what they have supposedly done **to him**: *"Because June and Jordy and Michael have forced me to take it to the extreme to get their attention. How pitiful, pitifuckingful they are to have done that."*

*"So it's their fault. Everything's their fault, one hundred percent, and the reason it's their fault [tape irregularity] try to communicate, and they have time after time frustrated my attempts to talk by telling me, "Go fuck yourself." And when you do that to somebody, consistently, you drive them to do something [tape irregularity]. **I'm not an evil person. I don't want to do this.**"*

Evan also tries to play on Schwartz's jealousy of Jackson to get him on his side: *"What harm would it be to you, what harm would it be to your relationship to June, if Michael wasn't around anymore? So if he wasn't around anymore what do you think she's going to do? She's going to come back to you. She doesn't need you anymore. She doesn't even want you around anymore."*

Later Evan further divulges his plan to Schwartz: *"There are other people involved that are waiting for my phone call that are intentionally going to be in certain positions – [tape irregularity]. I paid them to do it. They're doing their job. I gotta just go ahead and follow through on the time zone. I mean the time set out. **Everything is going according to a certain plan that isn't just mine.** There's other people involved –"*

Evan threatens to set the plan in motion if Jackson, June and Jordan don't appear at the meeting on July 9: *"But if they are there, it's going to be far better than if they're not — I mean, they're going to have a chance to make things a lot better if they're there. **My instructions were to kill and destroy [tape irregularity], I'm telling you. I mean, and by killing and destroying, I'm going to torture them, Dave. Because that's what June has done to me. She has tortured me –"***

The next day, on July 9, the meeting Evan demanded on the tapes did not take place. However, Schwartz and June Chandler took the tapes to Anthony Pellicano, a private investigator working for Jackson's lawyer, Bert Fields. Pellicano then met with Jordan without Jackson being present, and asked him very specific questions about whether he had ever been molested or inappropriately touched by the entertainer. The boy's answer to each and every question was that nothing inappropriate had ever been done to him by Jackson. According to Pellicano, Jordan also said that his father only wanted money.

### **Jordan Chandler "Confesses"**

On July 11, Jordan was sent to his father for a one-week visitation but at the end of the week Evan Chandler refused to return the boy to his mother.

On July 14, Evan Chandler and his lawyer Barry Rothman contacted **Dr. Mathis Abrams**, a Beverly Hills psychiatrist, and presented him with a one-sided, heavily loaded description of Jackson and Jordan's relationship. In reply, on July 16, **without having met either the child or the accused**, just based on what Evan and Rothman had told him, Abrams sent Rothman a two-page letter in which he stated that *"reasonable suspicion would exist that sexual abuse*

*may have occurred*". It has to be noted that during their July 14 discussion Abrams did urge Evan to bring the child to him for an evaluation, but **Evan refused**. All he needed from Dr. Abrams was this "blind" letter that he could then use as a "negotiation" tool with his ex-wife June and with Michael Jackson.

In actuality, at that point Jordan still denied having been molested by Jackson. According to the Chandlers' story his "confession" would come on July 16, conveniently on the day when Evan was scheduled to return him to his ex-wife. According to the Chandlers' story, Evan sedated Jordan for a minor dental procedure (pulling a baby tooth) with the help of his anesthesiologist and friend, Mark Torbiner (the same person who also participated in the suspicious drugging of Jackson on Memorial Day Weekend). After Jordan emerged from the sedation Evan started pressuring him to "confess" and corroborate his "suspicions" that Michael Jackson had sexually molested him. The boy refused. Then Evan started to blackmail him with lies and threats against his friend, Michael Jackson. First Evan claimed he had bugged Jordan's bedroom, but Jordan remained *"silent, seemingly unimpressed"* and *"sensing this, Evan quickly changed tack"*. Then he tried to cajole Jordan by telling him that being bisexual was not only OK but was *"sorta cool, in a way"*. That didn't work either, Jordan still would not say that Jackson was sexual him.

Then Evan's threats against Jackson became more direct and more aggressive: *"I'm going to give you one last chance to save Michael. If you lie to me, then I'm going to take him down in front of the whole world, and it'll be all your fault because you're the one person who could have saved him."*

Jordan by this time, of course, knew what his father would consider "the truth" and what would he consider a "lie", since Evan made that very clear. Ray Chandler writes in his book: *"In his heart, Evan already knew the truth; he didn't need Jordie to confirm it."* In other words Evan had a fixed, preconceived idea that Jackson had molested his son and he would only accept confirmation from Jordan as "the truth". Everything else would be considered a "lie" and would result in Evan acting to "taking down" the entertainer. And this is when Jordan, after pleading with his father not to hurt Jackson, allegedly, gave in:

*"Okay. What's the question?"*

*"Did Michael touch your penis?"*

*Jordie hesitated. Then, almost inaudibly, he whispered "Yes."*

*Evan would press no further. He had heard all he needed to hear. He reached out and hugged his son, and Jordie hugged back, tight.*

*"We never talked about it again," Evan later told the L.A. district attorney. To Evan, the details didn't matter. "The prison walls had cracked and I was confident the rest would take care of itself."*

After all these threats and blackmailing Jordan "confesses" with **an almost inaudible "yes"** and we are to believe that Evan doesn't have any further questions? Supposedly his son just confessed that he had been molested but his father is not interested in details, such as when, where, how, how many times and exactly what happened, under what circumstances was his son's penis touched by another man? In actuality, Evan later tells the Los Angeles DA that

*“we never talked about it again”*. It would only make sense if Evan knew there were no details to be told. It also seems to be an attempt on Evan’s part to avoid suspicion that he coached his son.

All the “details” would later coalesce when we hear about the masturbation, mutual masturbation and oral sex claims but those “details” only surfaced after Jordan spent more time in his father’s care and in the office of Evan’s attorney, Barry Rothman, a person that Evan himself described in his taped phone conversation with David Schwartz as the *“nastiest son of a bitch”*. Rothman’s secretary at the time, Geraldine Hughes later said in an interview: *“I really believe that the whole thing was plotted and planned and the words were given to him [Jordan Chandler] to say because I actually witnessed the 13 year old in my attorney’s office without any supervision of his parents and he was kind of snuck in there, it was like no one in the office knew he was in there. He was behind closed doors with my attorney for several hours, and I kind of believe that is where he was being told what to say.”*

The story about July 16 is the Chandlers’ own story about Jordan’s alleged confession, and even if we went by this version of the events, the way Jordan was coerced and threatened into a “confession” would make these allegations very problematic.

However, there are reasons to doubt the claim that Jordan “confessed” anything at all on July 16. Namely the fact that Evan Chandler, while described as desperate to convince June and David Schwartz that Jackson had molested Jordan, never mentioned Jordan’s alleged confession to them in the next few weeks. All he used to try to convince them was Dr. Abrams’s letter. Why would he “forget” to mention the most important element, Jordan’s own confession? Evan’s explanation in the hindsight was that he did not want to betray the boy’s trust, but that makes little sense considering the fact that he did not have any problem with betraying his son on other occasions, plus he already claimed to June that Jackson had allegedly molested Jordan, basing his claim on Dr. Abrams’ letter.

According to Ray Chandler’s book June kept asking Jordan about his father’s allegations during that period and even told him that she would help them punish Jackson if he would confirm what his father claimed, but Jordan refused to do so. The confirmation would finally come on August 11, when Jordan called his mother and told her about his allegations on the phone – with Evan standing next to him. June then requested to talk to the boy alone, but Evan refused to let them.

Consider the fact that initially Evan should have returned Jordan to his mother on July 16. To invent in the hindsight that Jordan “confessed” to him that day about having allegedly been molested by Michael Jackson, would be a good way for Evan to justify why he did not and avoid legal action.

### **Evan Chandler’s Monetary Demands**

Between July 11 and August 16, 1993 Evan Chandler did not only work on making his son “confess” that he had allegedly been sexually abused by Michael Jackson, but he also used those allegations to try to extort money out of Jackson. Although he was very sensitive to the word “extortion” - in Ray Chandler’s book they prefer to use the word “negotiations” instead. Whatever you call it, this is how it went.

Evan first tried to get a meeting with Jackson alone. Jackson would only agree to a meeting if his lawyer or private investigator could also attend. At the time the Schwartz tape was already delivered to him, so he was aware that Evan was up to something. The telephone conversation between Evan and Jackson is described as follows in *All That Glitters*:

*“I just want to find out what’s going on between you two,” Evan explained.  
“You don’t need a lawyer. We can work this out ourselves.”*

*Michael wouldn’t budge: Pellicano or Fields had to attend.*

*“We may talk about some embarrassing things for both of you,” Evan cautioned.*

*“Anything you say to me, you can say to Bert,” Michael insisted.*

*“But I don’t think anyone else should hear these things. I don’t want you to get in trouble. I just...” Click.*

*This phone call was a turning point for Evan. “I understood that a man in Michael’s position needed lawyers for everything, but this was not business, not to me. I really thought we could work it out if we could get all the lawyers out of the picture, and I thought Michael would want that too. If I wasn’t bringing a lawyer, why did he need one?”*

The meeting took place on August 4 at the Westwood Marquis Hotel. Present were Michael Jackson, Anthony Pellicano (the PI of Jackson’s lawyer Bert Fields), Evan and Jordan Chandler. **On seeing Jackson Evan gave Jackson an affectionate hug, which is certainly strange from a father who later claimed that his son had just confessed to him about having been sexually abused by the man.** Then Evan reached into his pocket, pulled out Abrams’s letter and began reading passages from it.

From that Jackson could certainly understand what he was accused of, but Evan made sure not to say that in his own words and directly, so that he could not be sued for slander later. Evan already alluded to why he was doing that in the taped phone conversation with Schwartz on July 8. There he said that in the meeting that he demanded for July 9, instead of talking in his own words he would rely on paper to avoid saying *“anything that could be used against me”*. Although that meeting eventually did not take place, the August 4 meeting followed a similar choreography.

According to the Chandlers’ book, then Evan brought up an offer that Pellicano supposedly had made to him a couple of days before about assisting his screenwriting career. Pellicano denied making the offer and it became very clear that Jackson was not willing to offer him anything. According to the Chandler book, *“frustrated by Pellicano’s attitude, and Michael’s apparent condoning of it”* Evan then told the entertainer that he knew what he had done to Jordan and that the boy had confirmed it. The book claims *“Evan then asked his son to confirm that he had, and the boy nodded affirmatively”*, to which Jackson looked straight into Jordan’s eyes and said: *“I didn’t do anything.”*

Pellicano's account about Jordan's attitude in that meeting differs. He said that when Evan read Abrams's letter and got to the part about sexual molestation, Jordan *"put his head down and then looked up at Jackson with a surprised expression, as if to say "I didn't say that."*

After the meeting, Pellicano alone was invited to meet with Barry Rothman and Evan at Rothman's office and there **they made it clear what they wanted: \$20 million dollars in exchange for not making sexual abuse allegations against Jackson.**

Pellicano apparently wanted to record them on tape as they were negotiating for money (and indeed, he did), so on August 9 he came back with a counteroffer of \$1 million to fund three screenplays written by Evan and Jordan. Later however it became clear that he was not seriously bargaining when after Evan's turning down of the \$1 million, Pellicano next made a \$350,000 offer that seemed to be mocking them. *"Barry couldn't believe his ears. Pellicano was completely ignoring the rules of the game. Barry started at twenty million, Pellicano had countered with one million, surely the next number should be somewhere in between"*, Ray Chandler complains in his book. According to the Chandlers' book, Rothman then suggested to Pellicano *"that Evan might be willing to take the original million dollar offer if Pellicano was willing to renew it"*, but Pellicano refused: *"It's never going to happen," the investigator insisted*". According to the Chandlers' book, Pellicano then kept *"refusing to compromise on what would amount to chump change to Jackson"*, making it very clear that he wasn't seriously looking for a deal.

It is clear that Jackson had plenty of opportunities to pay off the Chandlers and to stop them from going to authorities and the public, had he really wanted to, because the Chandlers admittedly wanted nothing more than being paid off. However, he refused to do so. Ray Chandler literally brags in his book about how Jackson could have avoided these allegations if had he paid them off:

*"Fields [Jackson's lawyer] and Pellicano already knew Evan was willing to negotiate. Why not pay him off and nip the nightmare in the bud while you've got the opportunity? Especially when you know your man is guilty of sleeping with little boys, at least. Not only do you avoid a civil suit, but also, more important, you buy your way around authorities by removing their star witness. Ten, twenty, thirty million? Money's no object. The deal could be a fait accompli within hours. And if it doesn't work, you can always come out swingin' anyway."*

and

*"On the morning of August 17, 1993, as he negotiated with Barry Rothman, Anthony Pellicano had in his possession a copy of the psychiatrists report with the names omitted. He held in his hand the future of the most famous entertainer in human history. **Yet the tape is replete with examples of Pellicano refusing to compromise on what would amount to chump change to Jackson. Why take the chance of Michael's name ending up on that report and triggering an investigation?"***

Whether you use the term extortion to describe the above events or not, Ray Chandler closes the chapter about the "negotiations" with a standalone paragraph, as if to summarize the chapter and emphasize:

***“Had Michael paid the twenty million dollars demanded of him in August, rather than the following January, he might have spent the next ten years as the world’s most famous entertainer, instead of the world’s most infamous child molester.”***

Meanwhile, please remember how Jordan’s allegations emerged in the first place: his father threatened and pressured him into saying what he wanted to hear. The same father who then used these allegations to try to “negotiate” money out of Jackson.

### **The Allegations Go Public**

On August 16, June Chandler’s attorney, Michael Freeman filed a motion for a court order to have Jordan returned to June. Barry Rothman advised Evan that he did not have any chance of winning, unless he accused Jackson of molesting Jordan. In Ray Chandler’s book we read:

*“In a phone conversation the night before Freeman’s request was to be heard in court, Barry counseled Evan that unless he was willing to walk into the courtroom and accuse Michael of molesting Jordie, he didn’t have a prayer of winning; June had legal custody and that was all she needed to get Jordie back.”*

Indeed, on August 17 the Court ordered that Evan had to return Jordan to June within 48 hours. In response to that, and frustrated by Jackson’s refusal to pay him off, on August 17 Evan finally took Jordan to Dr. Abrams where the boy made allegations against Jackson on official record for the first time. By the time Jordan was under his father’s and Rothman’s influence for more than a month.

Taking Jordan to Abrams instead of the police, was another strategic move by Evan. Therapists are required by law to report all child abuse allegations to authorities. Having the therapist report the allegations instead of Evan himself reporting them was a way to report them through a third party without liability passing to the parent in case the allegations turn out to be false.

Although Dr. Abrams dutifully reported the case, ten years later, on December 12, 2003 he told CBS News that he did not spend enough time with Jordan to conclude whether the boy was telling the truth or not: *“I think that this [children changing their stories] is a possibility in both cases, that there could be coaching, but, again, I wasn’t given the opportunity in the initial one to even try to find out.”*

This, of course, triggered a criminal investigation against Jackson, and as a result of the allegations Evan did not have to return Jordan to his ex-wife despite the Court’s order that same day.

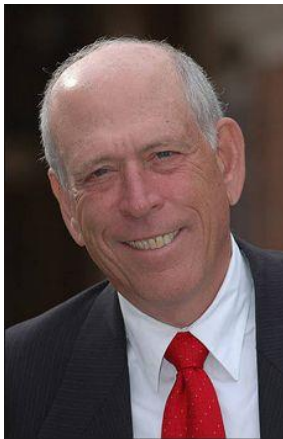
On August 19 Jordan's mother and step-father had a change of heart and started siding with Evan. *“Mother stated that if Jordie had said it, it must be true”*, the Department of Children’s Services report of August 19, 1993 stated, although previously June felt that Evan had brainwashed their son into making allegations against Jackson. June’s choice was between the possibility of ending up as a co-defendant with Jackson if she had stayed on his side, or having the prospect of getting a slice of the settlement money that Evan was about to ask for if she switched to her ex-husband’s side.

On August 23 first reports about the allegations appeared in the media.

Meanwhile Jackson was on tour abroad, but the stress of the allegations took a toll on his health. On August 25, 26 & 30 he had to cancel two shows because of dehydration and another one after collapsing backstage.

On August 21, 22 & 30 Jackson's premises were searched in his absence. The Los Angeles Times reported on August 27: "*The search warrant didn't result in anything that would support a criminal filing.*"

In late August Jackson filed extortion charges against Evan and Rothman. In answer to that Rothman quit representing the Chandlers. The investigation of the extortion allegation by Jackson was never given the same attention and effort by the authorities as the child molestation allegations against him. They never subpoenaed any witnesses, no search warrants were ever issued, and not much at all was done in order to investigate Jackson's extortion allegations against Evan Chandler.



Larry Feldman

On August 30 the Chandlers hired the media savvy attorney, Gloria Allred. On September 2 she called a press conference where she announced that the accuser was willing to testify in a court. In reaction to that, a couple of days later the Chandlers fired Allred and replaced her with a civil attorney, *Larry Feldman*. According to Ray Chandler's book this was because **the Chandler family wanted to steer the case toward "a highly profitable settlement" rather than a Grand Jury indictment and a criminal trial. Keep in mind that only a criminal trial can result in jail time for the alleged perpetrator. At the end of a civil trial, the only restitution available is monetary.**

On September 8, Evan, June and David Schwartz discussed the "highly profitable settlement" in Feldman's office. Evan and Schwartz had an argument about who gets how much money if they manage to get a settlement, and the argument turned physical when Schwartz allegedly said "*this was all about extortion, anyway, at which point Evan stood up, walked over and started hitting Dave*". Ray Chandler's book admits that "*in the heat of this verbal battle [Evan] sprang from his seat and slapped Dave in the face. Several of the lawyers stepped between the two men and separated them*".

On September 14 the Chandlers filed a \$30 million **civil lawsuit** against Jackson accusing him of sexual battery, battery, seduction, willful misconduct, intentional infliction of emotional distress, fraud and negligence – now we know with a settlement in mind.

On October 6 Jordan was sent to a psychiatrist, Dr. Richard Gardner who conducted an interview with him. By the time Jordan was under his father's influence for almost three months. The interview with Dr. Gardner contains remarkably similar trains of thought, opinions, expressions, ideas and choice of words to that of Evan's in the taped phone conversation that he had with David Schwartz on July 8. That despite of the fact that Evan claimed that they never discussed these allegations with each other in detail. He claimed that their only ever exchange about them was that almost inaudible "yes" that Jordan allegedly said on July 16. However, these similarities between Jordan's words and ideas in this interview and his father's words and ideas during that phone conversation do add to the suspicion of coaching by Evan. Jordan never repeated his allegations in a court and was never

cross-examined about them. In actuality, during the interview, Dr. Gardner asked him at one point if he had any fears. Perhaps not understanding that Dr. Gardner referred to the type of fear that is common in many children who suffered with sexual abuse, Jordan replied that he was only afraid of cross-examination.

It is not known what Dr. Gardner concluded from the interview because his analysis was not leaked with the interview. What we know is that the Chandlers and their civil lawyer, Larry Feldman took the tape to psychologist, *Dr. Stanley Katz* for an evaluation with whom Feldman worked together since 1987. Dr. Katz was a controversial psychologist. He was formerly involved in the infamous McMartin preschool trial. He was the Director of Training and Professional Education at the Children's Institute International (CII). Kee McFarlane, who initially interviewed the McMartin children, worked under him. On cross-examination at Jackson's 2005 trial, Dr. Katz testified that he did the assessments of the McMartin children. The CII's role in the McMartin case has been widely criticized in professional circles. Their interviewing techniques are considered coercive and manipulative which may lead children to make false allegations about sexual abuse.

On October 21, Jackson, who was still on tour at that point, canceled a show in Chile, then he canceled several more dates of his Dangerous World Tour due to serious health problems.

On November 8 a fourth search warrant was carried out – this time at the Hayvenhurst (Encino, California) home of the Jackson Family. Once again, nothing incriminating was found.

On November 11 Jackson had his last performance on his ongoing world tour in Mexico. The remaining dates of the tour were canceled because Jackson developed a dependency on painkillers. He sought treatment in Europe with the help of Elizabeth Taylor and Elton John.

On November 15 Jackson's lawyer, Bert Fields held a press conference confirming that Jackson was undergoing treatment for a painkiller dependency. He said Jackson was "*barely able to function on an intellectual level*". Fields added that Jackson "*has no intention of avoiding coming to the US*". The media tried to cast doubt on the dependency claim and made suggestions that Jackson was running and hiding from the law, even though that did not make any sense as he was not charged with anything, nor was an arrest warrant issued against him. We know since that he was indeed in an extremely bad shape, battled with painkiller dependency and the stress of the allegations took a toll on his health.

On November 22 Dr. Beachamp Colclough, the doctor who treated Jackson, released a statement confirming the treatment and refuted media rumors about Jackson "hiding out" and also rumors about cosmetic surgery and that he was suicidal: "*no other medical, surgical or psychological condition exists*", he said.

On November 26 the police raided the offices of Jackson's dermatologist, Dr. Arnold Klein and plastic surgeon, Dr. Steve Hoefflin confiscating medical records of the star. Once again, no incriminating evidence was found.

On December 10 Jackson returned to the USA.

On December 13 due to a friction within Jackson's legal team, Bert Fields and his private investigator Anthony Pellicano left the case. Before that, on December 3, a letter signed by



Jackson was sent to Bert Fields ousting him as chief attorney for the civil case. Upon his resignation Pellicano stated that he was convinced of Jackson's innocence and his leaving the case is no indication of otherwise. After Fields' resignation Jackson was represented by Howard Weitzman and Johnnie Cochran – the latter newly joined the star's defense team.

### **Humiliating Jackson**

On December 20 Jackson was subjected to a humiliating strip search in which his genitalia and buttocks were photographed and videofilmed. Authorities wanted to compare the photos with the descriptions his accuser, Jordan Chandler gave to them. This humiliating process is rare even in child abuse cases and, as you will see it, it is questionable whether it had any probative value at all, ie. any good reason even existed for this strip search, or the prosecution just tried to humiliate Jackson.

Two years later, in a 1995 magazine interview prosecutor and Santa Barbara District Attorney, **Thomas Sneddon** (who harbored such deep-seated prejudices against Jackson from the get-go that it often clouded his judgment) claimed that Jordan's description matched the pictures taken of Jackson's genitalia. This then spread through the media and for many years it was often repeated as a fact in various media articles and used as a sign of guilt against Jackson.

However, now we know, Sneddon's claim was quite simply not true. For one, Jordan's description claimed that Jackson's penis was circumcised. After Jackson died in 2009 his autopsy was made public which stated that the singer's penis was uncircumcised. Jordan had a 50 percent chance of guessing that right and he guessed it wrong. (Jordan, being half-Jewish himself, knew what circumcision was.) Some journalists tried to defend that fact by saying that an erect uncircumcised penis may look circumcised, but those people ignore the fact that the Chandlers' claim was not that Jordan had a fleeting glimpse of Jackson private parts, but they claimed that he had seen Jackson's penis many, many times, in many different situations, not just during the alleged sex acts, but while allegedly taking a bath together etc. "from every possible angle", and that Jordan "had a precise mental picture" of it, as Ray Chandler put it in his book.



*Thomas Sneddon*

In a motion filed during the 2005 trial, Sneddon claimed that Jordan described the relative location of a dark blemish on Jackson's penis "about" correctly. The problem with that is that Sneddon made no mention of any of the other blemishes and features that Jordan also described, just like he does not mention the circumcision issue at all. Apparently he cherry-picked something out of the description that he could somehow make "a match" – "about" - and simply ignored the rest of the description which could not be made "a match" even by Sneddon's biased assessment.

But how did the Chandlers even know that Jackson had blemishes all over on his skin? For a start, they knew that Jackson suffered from the skin disease vitiligo and that it caused blemishes all over his body like in the below picture.



*Michael Jackson's vitiligo and how it looked was no secret to those who were around him*

Moreover, when Evan drugged Jackson on Memorial Day Weekend, he injected him in his gluteus which allowed him to see at least the singer's buttocks and that he had such blemishes on the lower part of his body. In actuality, **the Chandlers discussed Jackson's vitiligo with prosecutors and how it would make giving a description basically risk-free for them.** (The description was not the Chandlers's idea, they themselves were not too enthusiastic about it, it was a prosecution idea.)

In his book Ray Chandler quotes a conversation in which their lawyer, Larry Feldman told Evan that according to Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney, Lauren Weiss (both LA and Santa Barbara investigated in the case), vitiligo was *"capable of changing anywhere you look, so that anything Jordie says is irrelevant. It can change very quickly with this disease"*. **Feldman was enthusiastic about this fact saying "that's good for us!"** When Evan asks him why, Feldman answers: *"Because if [Jordan is] right, he's right. And if he's wrong, we've got an explanation!" "It's a no-loser for us",* the lawyer exclaimed, *"It's terrific!"*

In another chapter Ray Chandler writes: *"On the other hand, it had been medically established that the markings of vitiligo were subject to change. So if Jordie's description was wrong, Larry would be able to say the markings had shifted over the months."*

As you can see, the Chandlers cynically played on the fact that vitiligo markings are subject to change. It seems that Sneddon, like the Chandlers, tried to have it both ways: if there was something in that drawing that remotely guessed a location of a marking right (at least according to Sneddon's own biased assessment) it would have been used against Jackson, while everything else would have been ignored and/or explained away by the fact that vitiligo markings were subject to change. **As Larry Feldman put it: "It's a no-loser for us".**

When the prosecution decided to put Jackson through the humiliation of a strip search they knew that it was unlikely to produce anything with probative value as the markings on his skin could change. Lauren Weiss herself told Larry Feldman that *"anything Jordie says is irrelevant"*. This makes the intention behind the whole procedure very questionable.

It has to be noted that Jordan gave two descriptions: one in September, one in December. It was never explained why a second one was needed and whether there are differences between

the two, but between those two dates, on November 26, the offices of Jackson's dermatologist, Dr. Arnold Klein and plastic surgeon, Dr. Steve Hoefflin were raided by the police and they confiscated medical records of the star.

Sneddon never explained that if the description and the photos were a match why was not Jackson arrested after the strip search? Nor did he ever explain if it was a match why did initial reports after the strip search say just the opposite? In actuality, prosecutors tried to make sense of the **mismatch** by asking Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson in a Grand Jury testimony whether her son had changed the appearance of his genitalia. On March 16, 1994 the Los Angeles Times reported: *"Jackson's mother has frequently given interviews and made public appearances to defend her son, but a source close to the investigation said she may be questioned about Jackson's physical appearance. **Investigators have been attempting to determine whether Jackson has done anything to alter his appearance so that it does not match a description provided to them by the alleged victim, who turned 14 in January.**"*

The Chandlers' lawyer, Larry Feldman also would have gladly kept those photos out of the trial and on January 5, 1994 he filed a motion to request that either Jackson provides them copies of the photographs, submits himself to a second search or *"the court may bar the photographs from the civil trial as evidence"*. This, by the way, refutes another myth, namely that Jackson settled the civil case because Jordan's description matched. As you can see, the Chandlers' own lawyer requested that those photos should be kept out of trial.

On December 22 Jackson released [a video statement](#), talking about the humiliation of the strip search and maintaining his innocence. He said that they told him that if he had not submitted himself to the strip search they would use that against him as a sign of guilt. *"It was a nightmare. A horrifying nightmare. But if this is what I have to endure to prove my innocence, my complete innocence, so be it"*, he said in the statement.

In answer to Jackson's statement, on December 28, the Chandlers filed a written declaration on Jordan's behalf about his allegations. According to Jackson's lawyer, Howard Weitzman this was a PR move by Feldman because it contained nothing new compared to the allegations that had already been detailed before, so it only served as a PR counter punch in reaction to Jackson's December 22 video statement in which the star maintained his innocence.

On December 30 Judge David M. Rothman denied Jackson's motion for a gag order. According to Ray Chandler's book, the Chandlers were opposed to a gag order because if it had been issued they could not have talked to the media and influenced public opinion.

On January 10, 1994 Larry Feldman asked the Court for access to Jackson's financial records. *"He is a millionaire hundreds of times over whose assets are tied up in intangibles. Plaintiff will need the three months remaining before the trial date to be able to track down these assets and come up with an approximation of their worth"*, he wrote in his motion.

## **The Settlement**

On January 25 an out of court settlement was reached in the civil case between Jackson and the Chandlers in which Jackson paid the Chandlers \$15.3 million. The document, signed by both Jackson and the Chandlers, emphasized that it was in no way an admission of guilt on Jackson's part.

A frequently asked question regarding the child molestation allegations against Michael Jackson is “*If he was innocent why did he settle the case out of court?*” The part of the media that used the settlement as a sign of Jackson’s guilt, failed to explain the legal circumstances of this case that led to the settlement, so let’s explain them here.

First of all, let us clear up what exactly was settled. There were two proceedings going on in Jackson’s case parallel: a criminal investigation conducted by the State of California and a civil lawsuit filed by the Chandlers. **Only the criminal proceedings and a criminal trial can result in jail time for the alleged perpetrator. At the end of a civil trial, the only restitution available is monetary.**

**The settlement settled the civil lawsuit, not the criminal. The criminal proceedings proceeded after this settlement and nothing in the settlement prevented the Chandlers from testifying against Jackson in a criminal court.** Los Angeles district attorney, Gil Garcetti even stated right after the settlement that the Chandlers’ attorney, Larry Feldman promised him “*that the alleged victim will be allowed to testify and that there has been no agreement in the civil matter that will affect cooperation in the criminal investigation.*” There was no such agreement in the settlement indeed and there was nothing in it that prevented the Chandlers from testifying against Jackson in a criminal court. In fact, under American law one is not allowed to settle a criminal case. The Chandlers could have taken the settlement money AND testified against Michael Jackson in a criminal case. They chose not to, but it was not because they were forbidden to do so by the settlement, but rather because they were never interested in the criminal proceedings in the first place. Their only focus was money from the very beginning. As we learned from Ray Chandler’s book they filed their civil lawsuit on September 8 already with a “*highly profitable settlement*” in mind. **It is important to emphasize that it was the Chandler family who demanded a settlement from the very beginning and it was not Michael Jackson who sought or offered it.**

Normally, civil complaints are only filed after criminal proceedings are completed and justice has been served. One would naturally expect the parents of a molested child to pursue justice and not money when they have the chance to do so. That was not the case with the Chandlers.

**To achieve the settlement goal, Larry Feldman played the California legal system masterfully.** He pushed for getting the civil trial ahead of a possible criminal trial. That put a pressure on Jackson’s legal team, because if the civil trial is held before the criminal trial in the same matter, it can give the prosecution in the criminal trial a major advantage, because they have the opportunity to monitor the civil trial, study the defense’s strategy and adjust their claims and strategy in kind. In addition, the burden of proof is more relaxed in a civil trial than in a criminal trial. Jackson’s attorneys were certainly aware that a civil trial was riskier for a defendant, even if the defendant is innocent, and if they had lost it, it could have prejudiced the jury in an upcoming criminal trial as well, compromising Jackson’s right to a fair criminal trial.

There are many precedents where civil proceedings have been frozen to allow the criminal trial ahead, preserving a defendant’s right to a fair criminal trial and preventing that right from being violated. In Jackson’s case, however, all such attempts by Jackson’s lawyers to stay the civil proceeding were dismissed by Judge David M. Rothman. Apparently, the Chandlers’ trump card was Jordan’s age. They argued that because Jordan was under the age of 14 and “*a child’s memory is developing*”, they were entitled to a speedy **civil** trial, and the Judge accepted that argument.

Under extremely unfavorable conditions, Jackson and his attorneys might have found themselves in a position where they would have had to fight and defend Jackson on two fronts at the same time – in both a civil and criminal trial. On top of that they would have to prepare for a civil trial within 120 days, while the police for the criminal proceedings had seized all of Jackson’s personal records and refused to provide copies or even a list of what they took.

After all motions to push the civil proceedings behind the criminal had been denied, the Jackson team was left between a rock and a hard place. The start of the civil trial was set for March, 1994.

The Chandlers’ motion papers accused Jackson and his attorneys of applying “delay tactics” regarding the civil trial, but they knew well that those “delay tactics” were all about getting the criminal proceedings ahead of the civil proceedings to secure Jackson’s chances to a fair criminal trial. Ray Chandler, in his book quotes a conversation that took place between Evan Chandler and Larry Feldman and it proves that THEY were the ones utilizing delay tactics **with regards to the criminal proceedings:**

*“[Feldman:] [T]hey fucked this up unbelievably. What could be better? But I’m going forward. We’re going to push on. So far there ain’t a button I’ve missed. The only thing we gotta do is keep the criminal behind us. I don’t want them going first.”*

*Larry had said it before, but it hadn’t registered in Evan’s brain till now.*

*[Evan:] “You mean if they indict, the criminal case automatically goes before us?”*

*[Feldman:] “Yeah.”*

*[Evan:] “Jesus Christ!”*

*[Feldman:] “Right! So we don’t want that.”*

“So we don’t want that” – said the Chandler side regarding the possibility of a criminal indictment. It is very telling that for the Chandlers “us” was not the criminal process, but the civil process, and that they did everything in their power to keep the criminal proceedings behind the civil process. Let that sink in, while keeping in mind that **only a criminal trial can send an alleged perpetrator to jail; a civil trial can only result in a monetary award.**

The California law that allowed the Chandlers to push the civil trial ahead of the criminal trial was changed eventually – according to Santa Barbara District Attorney, Thomas Sneddon directly because of what happened in the Chandler case. Because of that change, today an accuser in a sexual assault case cannot pursue a civil lawsuit right away. The new law restricts a civil trial from preceding a criminal trial in the same matter.

However, that did not apply to Jackson back in 1993. So to preserve his chances for a fair criminal trial, he was pressured to settle the civil case. The hostile and unfair media campaign against him, and his health and dependency issues might have also contributed to a decision to settle.

Additionally, Jackson’s lawyers too might have been more than keen to settle the case – and not necessarily without selfish reasons. The Chandlers boast in their book that their lawyer, Larry Feldman and Jackson’s lawyers, had many years of friendship with each other, which

would make it easier for them (the Chandlers) to push the case in the direction of a settlement. They name Howard Weitzman from Jackson's lawyer team as close to Feldman, but we know from other sources that Johnnie Cochran too had a 20 years long friendship with Feldman (Feldman even represented Cochran in a case). Ray Chandler wrote: "*Feldman, Shapiro, Hirsch, Weitzman & Weis, (Oy vey!), all were part of a neat little "old boy" network, just the ticket for getting this nightmare over and done with — quietly.*"

Bert Fields was not a part of that "old boy network" and was against the settlement and advised Jackson against it, but once he was out, the way was free for the other lawyers (who were a little too friendly with Larry Feldman) to convince Jackson of a settlement, which was something that was good for the lawyers on both sides and something that they would desire just as much as the Chandlers desired it. Whether it was in the best interest of Michael Jackson is up for debate. As you could see it, the settlement did have its legitimate legal reasons, which have nothing to do with guilt. On the other hand, it is not necessarily an ideal situation for an accused person when the accuser can count on a friendship between lawyers to steer the case towards a desired settlement.

### **The Chandlers' Selective Publicity-Shyness**

While Jackson's motives for the settlement are often questioned, it is a much less frequently asked question (although it would be similarly valid to ask): why did the accuser's family so aggressively push for a settlement while doing everything in their power to avoid a criminal trial?

Their reasoning was that they wanted to move on with their lives and not subject Jordan to media spotlight and scrutiny that would have been unavoidable in a high profile case and trial such as this. They claimed that they were also scared of the wrath of Jackson's fans. At first sight this may seem reasonable, however, when we take a closer look at the case, there are many problems with this claim.

First of all, one of the reasons Evan hired Barry Rothman as his lawyer, according to his secretly taped phone conversation with David Schwarz in July 1993, was because Rothman was "*hungry for the publicity*" and "*all he wants to do is get this out in the public as fast as he can, as big as he can*". Instead of being publicity-shy, they were very much looking for publicity. There are good reasons to believe that the Chandlers fed *National Enquirer* articles about the case in 1993 and Ray Chandler's book calls another journalist, Diane Dimond, Evan's "*closest ally*".

The Chandlers did not seem to be concerned about media spotlight, possible fan reactions, threats and Jordan not being able to move on with his life, when within days after the settlement, in January 1994, they were shopping a book that they had written about the allegations. Publisher Judith Regan:

*"I received a call from Jordan's uncle [Ray Chandler]. He wanted to do a book in which he would describe in detail the allegation of molestation against Michael Jackson. So I asked him how he proposed to do this given the fact that the Chandlers had actually signed a confidentiality agreement and taken \$20mln. And he said that Jordan's father had given him all the information he needed for the book and he believed he was outside the bounds of the Confidentiality agreement because he would be the author. At the time I had the impression that the Chandlers were brazen opportunists and I found the entire proposal by the uncle to be*

*distasteful. They enter a Confidentiality agreement and before the ink is even dry they are shopping a deal that violates this agreement?"*

Because of the confidentiality agreement involved in the settlement, Evan was not allowed to write a book or do media rounds himself, but they got around that by his loyal brother Ray Chandler doing all the public talking for them.

After being turned down by the publisher in 1994, Ray's book eventually was published ten years later, in 2004 at the height of the media frenzy caused by the [Arvizo allegations](#). At the time, Ray Chandler made his rounds in the media, giving interviews and appearing in documentaries heavily biased against Jackson. He even ran a website. Obviously not concerned about media spotlight, not afraid of possible threats by Jackson fans and not worried about how it might affect Jordan's ability to move on.

The irony of this all was that because Ray Chandler claimed in media interviews that he had evidence to prove Jackson's guilt, Jackson's defense team called his bluff and subpoenaed him to appear at Jackson's 2005 trial, present his alleged evidence and give testimony there. However, Ray Chandler, rather than take this opportunity to help finally convict a person he alleged had molested his nephew, instead **fought tooth and nail against the subpoena** and eventually managed to avoid having to appear in court and testify under oath.



*Ray Chandler during a media interview*

**Whenever it came to having to appear in court, especially a criminal court, the Chandlers were suddenly shy of publicity, worried for Jordan's ability to move on and scared of Jackson fans. Not so much when it came to feeding tabloids, publishing a book, running a website or appearing in media interviews and tabloidish "documentaries".**

The Chandlers also did not seem to be concerned about media spotlight, possible fan reactions, threats and Jordan not being able to move on with his life, when Evan filed another lawsuit against Michael Jackson in 1996, this time for \$60 million and a record deal so that he could release a music album about the alleged sexual molestation of his son. (Yes, you read that correctly!)

In the lawsuit Evan accused Jackson of violating the confidentiality agreement of their 1994 settlement when Jackson maintained his innocence in a 1995 interview with Diane Sawyer. Furthermore, Evan also alleged that Jackson violated the confidentiality agreement on his 1995 album entitled *HIStory* too. Neither the interview or the album directly named Evan or Jordan Chandler. Jackson simply stated his innocence in the interview. It is undeniable that some of the songs on *HIStory* and their lyrics were influenced by the allegations and it is also natural that, like any artist, Jackson would process and vent his life experiences in his creative work. However, the claim that what Jackson expressed on his album violated the settlement and its confidentiality agreement did not find support in the court system and Evan's lawsuit was eventually dismissed.

During that lawsuit the Chandlers, far from being media-shy, played the media again for their benefit and sought the publicity. Evidence of that can be found in court documents. For

example, we learn from them that when the Chandlers deposed Jackson's ex-wife, Lisa Marie Presley (who was a co-defendant in the case because she had appeared in the 1995 interview with Jackson), they tried to use that for publicity.

*“On March 7 and 8, 1997, pursuant to this Court's order, Chandler deposed Presley for two days. When Presley and her counsel arrived at the deposition site, they were confronted at the door by reporters and television cameras. Chandler's counsel did not deny that he had called the media to cover the deposition. Chandler's counsel made all the arrangements for the deposition, and never told anyone he had invited the media. Also, apparently before the deposition, Chandler's counsel gave a private interview to a nationwide tabloid news program about the deposition. Right after the deposition, a major network broadcast the interview, along with clips of Ms. Presley and her counsel entering the deposition room, on the tabloid show. Chandler's counsel obviously carefully orchestrated this media blitz to exploit Ms. Presley's fame for the private benefit of himself and his client.”* – we read in a motion filed by Presley’s lawyer.

### **The Aftermath**

As you have seen above, the Chandlers were alright with being in the media spotlight for civil lawsuits and possible monetary rewards arising from them, or with a book, a website and various media interviews, as opposed to moving on with their lives. They even were willing to accept the risk of potentially being threatened by Michael Jackson fans because of those, but it was unacceptable for them to testify in a criminal court. When it came to that, they suddenly grew media-shy, very concerned about Jordan’s ability to move on and about possible fan threats.

Once the Chandlers got their settlement money in 1994, they totally stepped back from the case. In February-April, 1994 the prosecution convened two Grand Juries (one in Santa Barbara, one in Los Angeles) to discuss the Jackson case. The Chandlers refused to testify at them. Both Grand Juries disbanded without indicting Jackson.

In May 1994 Evan closed down his Beverly Hills dental office.

On July 6 Jordan Chandler informed prosecutors that he was not willing to testify in the Jackson case.

In August David Schwartz tried to get his slice of the pie and, in separate lawsuits, sued both Evan Chandler and Michael Jackson. He sued Jackson claiming that he and his daughter were “traumatized” by the allegations. Evan and June Chandler each got \$1.5 million from the settlement money, but Schwartz was left out as he and June Chandler divorced in 1994.



*Evan, Nathalie, Jordan and his little brother shortly after the settlement*

On September 21 Santa Barbara District Attorney Thomas Sneddon and Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti made an official statement regarding the status of the Michael Jackson



investigation. They informed the public that Jordan Chandler was unwilling to testify therefore they were unable to file charges. Garcetti admitted that the 18-month investigation did not lead to anything that incriminated Jackson. He also stated: *“Michael Jackson is presumed to be innocent as any citizen in this room is if they are not convicted with a crime. We are not charging Michael Jackson with a crime”*.

Sneddon, on the other hand, claimed that there were two more alleged victims, but they were unwilling to testify. Typical of Sneddon, this was a very misleading statement. One of the people he called an “alleged victim” was Brett Barnes whom the prosecution tried to convince to say that he had been molested by Jackson, but who himself denied being a victim. In actuality, until this day Barnes has nothing, but kind and friendly words about Jackson and he has always maintained that the singer has never done anything inappropriate to him. Indeed, Sneddon admitted at this press conference that Barnes *“had made a “general denial of wrongdoing by Mr. Jackson”*, but this did not stop him from using him to boost the number of alleged victims at this press conference. Years later, at Jackson’s 2005 trial, Sneddon would also use this tactic of calling people “victims” who themselves denied being victims.

The other alleged victim was Jason Francia who was pressured by the prosecution into making allegations against Jackson. He eventually testified at Jackson’s 2005 trial and was not found credible. We will discuss his allegations in detail in the next section.

Sneddon also stated that despite of the prosecution’s inability to charge Jackson with any crime, the investigation would remain open. For many years, he refused to close the case and he even managed to find a way to extend the statute of limitations for Jordan, hoping that he would decide to pursue criminal charges against the singer. Jordan was never interested in that.

In 1995 Jordan emancipated himself from both of his biological parents. He went on to live with Evan’s second wife, Nathalie (who by this time had divorced Evan) and his two younger siblings. Jordan’s relationship with his Evan seemed to be very ambivalent, while Evan’s relationship with his other children was virtually non-existent after the allegations. From court documents between Nathalie and Evan, it appears that despite of the emancipation, Evan retained some kind of mental or emotional control over Jordan, because in those documents Nathalie complains that after a while Jordan refused to talk to and meet with his younger siblings, just like their father who had abandoned them.

In a 1998 lawsuit Nathalie also complained that Evan refused to work and to provide for his two younger children, nor was he available to them and was content with living off of the money of his son, Jordan. Her court papers say:

*“[Evan Chandler's two younger children] kept asking petitioner why respondent [Evan Chandler] and their brother Jordan do not love them anymore and refuse to see them or talk to them when the children call. They haven't seen their father or their brother for an extremely long time for such young children. As a result of respondent's deliberate and cruel abandonment of his two minor children, both children have been in therapy on a regular basis since September, 1997 and [Jordan's younger brother] now openly states that he does not want to have anything to do with his father and he does not trust his father anymore. Although custody and visitation are not an issue in this matter, the children's need for therapy has created a further need for financial assistance. If*

*respondent does not want to see or talk to his children, he should at least cover the expenses of therapy resulting from his blatant abandonment of them."*

and

*"Evan is not a person who has a lot of friends. Since he decided to live with and off of his son Jordan, he has become either a nomad or a recluse. He does nothing to provide for his own living, or that of his minor children. He apparently is satisfied to allow his 18 year old son to support him and has purposefully cut himself off from any other family members who disagree with his behavior."*

This puts the portrayal of Evan Chandler in the media or in Ray Chandler's book as the concerned father, the only responsible adult in Jordan's life, the only person who cared about his well-being, into a perspective. After the settlement, out of all of his children Evan only cared about the millionaire Jordan.

Preparing for the [2005 Arvizo trial](#), on September 28, 2004 prosecutors visited the 24-year-old Jordan Chandler in New York to ask him to testify against Jackson in the upcoming trial. According to Jackson's FBI files, Jordan refused and advised the prosecutors that "*he would legally fight any attempt*" to make him testify against Jackson. Later Jackson's 2005 trial lawyer, Thomas Mesereau revealed that he had witnesses for the trial who said that Jordan privately admitted to them that Jackson had never molested him. Had Jordan come to testify, Mesereau would have presented those witnesses.

On April 11, 2005 June Chandler appeared in court at Jackson's trial as one of the prosecution's witnesses. She admitted that she has not spoken to Jordan for 11 years. She testified about her son and Michael Jackson spending time together in 1993, but she did not claim to have witnessed any molestation. She remains the only member of the Chandler family who ever testified in a court.

As we have mentioned earlier in this document, on August 5, 2005 Jordan obtained a temporary restraining order against his father, claiming that on July 6 Evan "*struck him on the head from behind with a twelve and one-half pound weight and then sprayed his eyes with mace or pepper spray and tried to choke him. The judge also found that the weight could cause serious bodily injury or death.*"

On July 24, 2005 Evan filed a lawsuit against Jordan which had to do with Jordan's trust fund where the money from the settlement was put. The case was dismissed in 2007.

On June 25, 2009 Michael Jackson passed away.

On November 5, 2009, only four months after Jackson's death, Evan Chandler committed suicide by shooting himself in the head in his New Jersey home. He did not leave a suicide note. Reportedly, he died as a lonely man, stricken with serious and painful diseases. In his Will, Evan ordered that none of his family members be advised of his death until well after his funeral. He also stated that he did not wish to leave anything to any of his three children: "*For reasons best known between us, I purposefully make no provision in this, my Last Will and Testament, for any of my children or their issue.*"

Presently Jordan is on good terms with his mother June and he is also close to his younger half-siblings and their mother Nathalie again. He never publicly addressed the allegations, and the claims that he had made under his father's influence in 1993 were never cross-examined.

## Jason Francia

During the 1993 Chandler allegations, in the absence of any substantial supporting evidence for Jordan's claims, prosecutors were trying to boost their case by finding additional alleged victims. They interviewed 40-60 children (according to some sources, up to 100) who had either spent time with Jackson or at his Neverland Ranch. None of the children corroborated the accuser's story. They all told authorities that they had never been molested by the star and that he had never done anything inappropriate to them.

Frustrated by the lack of corroborating victims, the police engaged in questionable tactics while interviewing the children. Some of the parents and their children turned to Jackson's attorney, Bert Fields to complain about harassment by the police. Fields then wrote a letter to Los Angeles police chief, Willie Williams in which he complained:

*"In the current investigation of Michael Jackson, that has occurred, officers investigating the matter have entered the homes of minors and have subjected them to high-pressure interrogation, sometimes in the absence of their parents. I am advised that your officers have told frightened youngsters outrageous lies, such as "we have nude photos of you" in order to push them into making accusations against Mr. Jackson. There are, of course, no such photos of these youngsters and they have no truthful accusations to make. But your officers appear ready to employ any device to generate potential evidence against Mr. Jackson.*

*In addition, your officers have told parents that their children have been molested, even though the children in question have unequivocally denied this. They have also referred to Mr. Jackson as a "pedophile", even though he has not been charged, much less convicted.*

[...]

*I urge you to put an end to these abuses. Investigate these accusations as thoroughly as possible, but do it in a manner consistent with honest, common decency, and the high standards that once made me proud of the LAPD."*

A tape recording of the 1993 interrogation of actor, Corey Feldman that the television show Celebrity Justice leaked during Jackson's 2005 criminal case, serves as an example of how such interrogations were conducted. Feldman, who had been friends with Jackson since he was a teenager, was interviewed by Sergeant Deborah Linden and despite repeatedly telling her that Jackson had never done anything inappropriate to him, she continued to suggest that something must have happened and for over an hour pressured him to say something incriminating about the singer.

Feldman told Linden that he knew what it meant to be molested, because he had been molested as a child, only not by Michael Jackson. He even named his molester, but the investigator completely ignored that information. She seemed only interested in trying to get incriminating statements about Michael Jackson. Feldman was 22 years old at the time of the interview, but many children who were much younger went through similar interrogations, sometimes in the absence of their parents.

At one point during that fishing expedition, the police got to a 13-year-old boy called **Jason Francia**. Jason was never particularly close to Jackson. He was the son of Blanca Francia, a maid who worked for Jackson between 1986 and 1991. By the time of the allegations she had not worked for Jackson for over two years and during the media frenzy surrounding the Chandler case, she sold stories to a tabloid television program for money and made highly questionable claims about having witnessing certain things, which we will discuss [in the section about Wade Robson](#).

Her son Jason, however, first was not willing to make allegations against Jackson and denied that Jackson had ever done anything inappropriate to him. He told the police: *“I’ll just say this out flat. I don’t remember him trying anything with me except for the tickling”*. When the police pressured him to “remember” wrongdoings by Jackson, he maintained: *“If I don’t remember, I don’t remember”*.



Jason Francia in 2005

His two police interviews on November 4, 1993 and March 24, 1994 are textbook examples of improperly suggestive interrogations that may lead people to make to false

allegations.

For example, on November 4, Francia told investigators that he did not remember Jackson ever putting his hand anywhere that made him feel uncomfortable. Detective Vincent Neglia was not satisfied with that answer and made it very clear what answer he would be satisfied with, by suggesting to the boy that his memories were wrong and blatantly suggesting what he should “remember”:

*“Det. Neglia: Okay, but what I am getting at is that maybe I am not being obvious enough. What I am saying is maybe he put his hands someplace on you where he shouldn’t have. Maybe he put his hands on you someplace that made you feel uncomfortable. And that’s why you are not remembering. It’s like there is a little bit of “Oh, I can’t remember that guy’s name and I don’t remember his last name, and I just don’t remember that. No I don’t want to remember that, no I can’t remember.” It’s a little of bit of a different kind of not remembering, one is because you are choosing not to, and one is that you just can’t call back the uh, the event. And I think of what you doing is tickling and all this stuff, is trying forcing yourself not to remember. And you also kind of got to the one where you’re saying that fourth time at the party you said something like, “That was the time.” What time was it Jason: What was the time?”*

At other times during the interviews investigators lied to the boy and said that other boys, such as Macaulay Culkin, had been molested by Jackson and the only way they could rescue them was if Jason said incriminating things about Jackson. They also told the boy that Corey Feldman had drug problems because Jackson had molested him. Both Culkin and Feldman stated very firmly to authorities and the public alike that Jackson had never molested them and never touched them in any inappropriate way.

The investigators referred to Jackson as a “molester” in their interviews with Francia, even though they did not have any evidence against him. They also used derogatory profanity against Jackson, for example, saying: *“he makes great music, he’s a great guy, bullshit”*. At one point, after the investigators told Francia what *they* thought Jackson did to him, the boy

said “*Well, I’ll have to work on that*”. In one of the interviews Francia said: “*They [the interrogators] made me come out with a lot more stuff I didn’t want to say. They kept pushing. I wanted to get up and hit them in the head*”.

In his 1993-94 interviews, after initially denying any wrongdoing by Jackson, Jason Francia finally gave in to the pressure and said what the investigators wanted him to say. In 2005, while under cross-examination by Jackson’s lawyer, Thomas Mesereau, he admitted that he said things in those interviews because he “*was trying to figure out how to get out of there*”:

*Q. Remember telling the police, “You guys are pushy”?*

*A. Yeah. I remember telling the police that.*

*Q. Okay. And after they kept pushing you, you finally said, “You know, I think he did tickle me”, right?*

*A. No.*

*Q. Do you remember that? Do you remember at first saying you didn’t know, and then after –*

*A. Yeah, I remember saying at first, “I don’t know.”*

*Q. And after telling the police, “You guys are pushy,” you eventually finally said, “Yes, he tickled me,” right?*

*A. I believe that’s how it went.*

*Q. Okay. You kind of went back and forth during the interview, didn’t you? One second you’d say, “He tickled me,” and the next second you’d say you’re not sure, right?*

***A. I was trying to figure out how to get out of there.***

*Q. I understand. And you remember exactly how you felt in 1993 during the interview, right?*

*A. The feeling of, yeah, crying and crappiness.*

It was also revealed that after the police’s first interrogation of Jason Francia in 1993 he was sent for therapy with a counselor by the name of Mike Craft who was paid by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office. District Attorney Thomas Sneddon was present at least one time in Craft’s office while Jason was there, though Jason could not explain why Sneddon was there.

What Jason eventually alleged was, that on three different occasions Jackson had touched his genital area inappropriately while tickling him: twice above the clothes and on the last occasion, he claimed, Jackson reached inside his pants. Jason further alleged that every time Jackson tickled him, the star put a hundred dollar bill in his pants.

There had never been charges filed against Jackson based on Jason Francia's claims, although the prosecution was obviously desperate to find another alleged victim besides Jordan Chandler. However, Jason's mother, Blanca Francia, taking a page out of the Chandlers' playbook, hired civil lawyers and at the end of 1994 threatened Jackson with a civil lawsuit. In actuality, Blanca Francia talked about wanting to sue Jackson for money at least as early as March, 1994, while the criminal investigation was still ongoing. With the Chandler case behind him and a plan to release a new album in 1995, Jackson settled with the Francias out of court. As testified to during Jackson's 2005 trial, two settlements were signed with the Francias – one with Blanca and another one with Jason Francia. Reportedly Jackson paid them altogether \$2.4 million. The language in both the settlements with Blanca and with Jason Francia emphasized that there was no admission of any wrongdoing on Jackson's part.

Just like the Chandler settlement, this one too is often interpreted as a sign of guilt on Jackson's part, but Jackson was probably advised to settle the case, because the cost of a trial in lawyer fees and the effects of an ongoing negative publicity from it would have cost him a lot more. To put the \$2.4 million he paid out to the Francias into a perspective: Jackson's record label, Sony Music spent \$30 million on the promotion of Jackson's entitled *HIStory* that was about to be released in 1995. The first video of the album, *Scream*, cost \$7 million and a teaser that was shot for the album in Budapest, Hungary cost \$4 million. Even if Jackson had won the civil trial against the Francias, it probably would have cost him a lot more than \$2.4 million in lawyer fees and lost earnings as it would have put his projects on hold for several years, or at least would have heavily compromised them.

As for reputation, it is easy to say that an innocent man would surely fight for his reputation in a court rather than settle a case. The reality of these kind of allegations is very different, though. The mere allegation of child sexual abuse is a stigma that is hard to shake off, whether someone goes to court and wins or settles a case. Just see Jackson's 2005 trial as an example. There he went through an excruciating court process that wore him down emotionally and in health, he won fair and square, but that did not result in an overarching acceptance of his innocence and clearing of his reputation. In actuality, the media blamed the "not guilty" verdicts on "celebrity justice" (which is utter nonsense if you know what went on in the courtroom – details [in the next section](#)). Usually the same people who use the two settlements as a sign of Jackson's guilt are the same people who then also refuse to accept the verdict in the 2005 trial, blaming it on "celebrity justice" or using fallacies such as "*O.J. Simpson was acquitted too*" - pinpointing the hypocrisy of it all when they say that "*Jackson should have gone to court to clear his name instead of settling*". Why, if they do not accept a verdict that is favorable to Jackson, anyway? The reality is that once someone is just accused of this type of crime, usually there is hardly any chance of coming out of it with a clear reputation again, whatever they do, no matter how innocent they are. The stigma remains forever, even if they are acquitted in court. Not to mention the fact that civil trials are not the most ideal platforms to discuss cases like this, as we have seen in the Chandler section of this paper. (It goes without saying that in the Francia case too, Jackson settled a civil case, not a criminal.)

Anyway, the whole settlement discussion loses its significance when you know that it **did not prevent the Francias from testifying at a criminal court (and no settlements ever do) and they indeed did testify at Jackson's 2005 trial. So Jason Francia's allegations WERE heard in court, and, according to jury foreman Paul Rodriguez, the jury did not find them credible.**<sup>2</sup>

Jason Francia's 2005 testimony was very messy. Other than the alleged impropriety, he did not seem to know or remember anything and was caught in several contradictions and lies. At the very least, this young man seemed to have an *extremely* bad, unreliable and ever-changing memory.

At age of 24, he sat on the stand and claimed he did not know if he ever signed a settlement with Jackson. At first, he claimed he never told his mother he was improperly touched but then admitted he did, claiming he was "*mistaken*" earlier. He claimed he never told the lawyers who represented him in 1994, Terry Cannon and Kris Kallman, that he was improperly touched, but later on in the testimony he said he did not know if he ever told them, and even later he said he did tell them.

In one of the 1993-94 interrogations Francia claimed that during a tickling episode he blacked-out and because of that he did not remember anything besides the tickling. In 2005, when Mesereau asked him if he had a black-out how could he have told the police that his mother was not in the room, he answered: "*I blocked it out. I didn't blank it out*". Please note, Jackson's condo was a small apartment and the alleged improprieties occurred while Blanca Francia was present, cleaning up and able to walk in on them at any time.

When the police asked Jason in 1993-94 if anything inappropriate had ever happened to him at Neverland he said "*I was around too many people*" and when they pressured him about the third account of tickling in the arcade, **the incident where he now alleged that Jackson put his hand in his pants – at the time initially Jason said he did not know if Jackson touched him inappropriately while tickling him. In actuality, he said he was not sure if Jackson even tickled him at all.**

---

<sup>2</sup> The Chandler and the Francia settlements are the only money Jackson ever paid to accusers. This has to be noted because in the past years some of the media has circulated a myth that according to "FBI files" Jackson supposedly paid "hush money" to dozens of boys over the years. The original source of this story was an unreliable British tabloid, The Sunday People. It is telling about the copy & paste "journalism" of today, that even publications that consider themselves more serious than tabloids, uncritically rehashed this story without fact-checking it.

The story is quite simply not true. Jackson's FBI files, that were made public after the singer's death, do not contain any such claim. Moreover, the prosecution in 2005, which co-operated with the FBI during their investigation of Jackson, never produced any such evidence. Such a thing was never even alleged. It is simply a tabloid myth. The only evidence of pay-offs which came out at the trial was the money that **the prosecution's several witnesses** had received **from the tabloid media** for their allegations. It is ironic that the media, whose members demonstrably had paid out fortunes to people for the slander of Michael Jackson, accuse the singer of secret pay-offs with no evidence whatsoever.

And let us be clear here, "hush money" would be what the Chandlers demanded of Jackson **before** going public with their allegations, ie. that they would not go to authorities if Jackson paid them off. "Hush money" is money in exchange for someone's silence **before** going to authorities or to the public. As we have seen in the Chandler part, Jackson refused to pay such money. Settlements are not "hush money" as they happen after authorities have already been notified and they do not prevent anyone from testifying at a criminal court, as you can see from the Francia case. Settlements of civil cases are even encouraged by the law.



Mesereau pointed out that in an interview with the police in October, 2004 Jason claimed that this third tickling incident lasted more than ten seconds but he did not remember how long. At the trial, only a couple of months later, Jason suddenly remembered that it lasted for three to four minutes.

As for the money Jason allegedly received from Jackson after alleged acts of improper touching, when Jason Francia was initially interviewed by the police in 1993-94, he said that Jackson promised him money each time he read a book or achieved a good grade, because Francia had difficulties in school and with learning (in 2005 on the stand he admitted he still had problems with reading). This is the story that later somehow evolved into Jackson putting money in his pants after each tickling.

During the trial, when asked if attorney Terry Cannon still represented him, Jason said *"I don't think so, no"*, but later said he did not know if Cannon represented him. Mesereau reminded him that Cannon was present at a meeting Jason had with the prosecutors on December 6, 2004. At that meeting Jason did not want the interview to be tape-recorded. When Mesereau asked him why, at first he claimed to not remember that he made that request. Then when presented with documents that showed he indeed did, he could not testify what his reason was: *"I don't know"* and *"Tape-recording is weird. I don't know. No, I don't"*. Documents also showed that he requested Cannon to be present at the interview but Jason said he did not remember why Cannon was there and whether he asked him to be there or not.

During the trial, when asked whether any criminal charges had ever been filed against Jackson based on his claims (there had never been), Jason answered: *"I don't know much. I don't watch the news."*

Mesereau asked Jason about another meeting which the prosecutors held on November 19, 2004 when his mother was interviewed in the DA's office. Again, Jason first claimed to not know anything about it: *"I don't know. Me and my mother don't talk about that stuff much."* However, when Mesereau pointed out to him that he was present at that meeting, Francia all of a sudden remembered: *"Now I remember, yes."* In actuality, not only was Jason present, but he too was interviewed by the prosecutors and he asked that the interview not be tape-recorded on that occasion as well. Again, Francia did not remember any of this: he did not remember that an interview by the prosecutors that lasted for about an hour, took place *at all*, although it happened only a couple of months before his testimony at Jackson's trial!

So not surprisingly, Jason Francia did not make a good impression on the jury at Jackson's trial. Jury foreman, Paul Rodriguez said in an interview after the verdict that they did not find him credible. In actuality, he compared his testimony to that of Janet Arvizo's (the mother of [the 2005 accuser](#)), which was widely regarded, even by pro-prosecution journalists, as a disastrous testimony for the prosecution.

## The 2005 Arvizo Allegations

*On November 18, 2003 an arrest warrant was issued for Michael Jackson based on the allegations of a 13-year-old boy, **Gavin Arvizo**, that Jackson had sexually molested him in February-March, 2003. The case resulted in a criminal trial in 2005 where Jackson was charged on 14 counts: 1. conspiracy, 2-5. lewd act upon a minor child (ie. Gavin Arvizo), 6. attempting to commit a lewd act upon a child (Gavin Arvizo), 7-10. administering alcohol to a minor child (Gavin Arvizo) to molest him; plus four counts of lesser, misdemeanor charges of providing alcohol to a minor child (Gavin Arvizo) without the molestation intention. On June 13, 2005 Jackson was acquitted on all 14 counts. But what exactly was this case about? Find out next.*

### Michael Jackson Meets the Arvizo Family



*Janet and Gavin Arvizo in front,  
Davellin and Star Arvizo in the back*

Michael Jackson first met his later accuser Gavin Arvizo and the boy's family in the summer of 2000. At the time the then 10-year-old Gavin was in hospital with a rare type of cancer that affected his kidney and spleen. Gavin was a big fan of comedians and before his illness he went to comedy classes at the Laugh Factory which is a comedy club in Hollywood owned by comedian Jamie Masada. When Gavin became ill, Masada visited him in the hospital several times. Gavin asked him to help him meet certain celebrities, and one day he asked to meet Michael Jackson.

Masada testified at Jackson's trial that he did not personally know Michael Jackson, but he somehow managed to contact his people and tell them about Gavin's request. Jackson called the boy in the hospital and they talked for about five minutes, according to Gavin's testimony in 2005. According to Gavin, during the conversation Jackson invited him and his family to his Neverland Ranch, although this was contradicted by Vernee Watson-Johnson's testimony at Jackson's 2005 trial. Johnson taught acting at The Los Angeles Academy of Fine Arts and met the Arvizo family there as the kids visited her class. She said that it was her who requested that the Arvizo kids could go to Neverland and she helped to set up the visit through a mutual friend, Carol Lamir.

According to Gavin's 2005 testimony, Jackson called him about 20 other times during his illness – sometimes in the hospital, sometimes in his grandmother's home where Gavin lived at the time in a sterile room.

Whoever helped to set up the Neverland visit, after the first round of Gavin's chemotherapy, the Arvizo family went to the ranch in August 2000. That is when the Arvizos met Jackson in person for the first time.

On that first visit Gavin and Star slept in Jackson's bedroom. This is the night that is referenced in the 2003 Martin Bashir documentary *Living with Michael Jackson* that caused big public uproar, even though both Gavin and Jackson made it clear that while the kids slept on the bed, Jackson slept on the floor.

What is not mentioned in the documentary is the fact that not only Jackson did not sleep in the same bed as Gavin and Star, but he also insisted on his personal assistant Frank Cascio to sleep in the room as well. Jackson's own children, 3-year-old Prince and 2-year-old Paris (his youngest child, Bigi was not yet born) were there as well and slept on the bed with the Arvizo kids, while the two adult men, Jackson and Cascio, slept on the floor.

Cascio recalled the situation in his 2011 book entitled *My Friend Michael*:

*"Then came the night when Gavin and his brother Star pleaded with Michael to allow them to sleep with him. "Can we sleep in your room tonight? Can we sleep in your bed tonight?" the boys begged. "My mother said it's okay, if it's okay with you," Gavin added. Michael, who always had a hard time saying no to kids, replied, "Sure, no problem." But then he came to me. "She's pushing her kids onto me," he said, visibly concerned. He had a strange, uncomfortable feeling about it. "Frank, they can't stay."*

*I went to the kids and said, "Michael has to sleep. I'm sorry, you can't stay in his room." Gavin and Star kept begging, I kept saying no, and then Janet [Arvizo – the mother] said to Michael, "They really want to stay with you. It's okay with me." Michael relented. He didn't want to let the kids down. His heart got in the way, but he was fully aware of the risk. He said to me, "Frank, if they're staying in my room, you're staying with me. I don't trust this mother. She's fucked up." I was totally against it, but I said, "All right. We do what we have to do." Having me there as a witness would safeguard Michael against any shady ideas that the Arvizos might have been harboring. Or so we were both naive enough to think."*

The fact that Jackson's children and Cascio were in the room as well was not disputed by the Arvizos in court in 2005, nor did they claim any molestation or attempt at molestation occurring that night. They claimed the acts of molestation happened almost three years later, in February-March 2003, **AFTER** the Bashir documentary aired.

According to Gavin's own testimony, after this one occasion at Neverland he and his family did not have much contact with Jackson until the fall of 2002 when they were called back for the Bashir documentary. **They were allowed to go to Neverland and they did at least 7-10 times during that period, but most of the time Jackson was not there and when he was, he actively avoided the Arvizos, about which Gavin complained on the stand during his 2005 testimony. He also complained that Jackson changed his phone number and became unavailable to them.**

From Gavin's 2005 testimony:

*Q. Okay. Now, you complained to the Santa Barbara Sheriffs that, "After I was done with my cancer stuff," you never saw Michael again, right?*

*A. No, not until the Martin Bashir thing.*

*Q. Okay. And you wanted to see him after you were in remission, correct?*

A. Yes.

Q. You wanted to visit Neverland after you were in remission, right?

A. Yes.

Q. And you felt in some way that Michael had cut off the friendship, right?

A. Yes.

Q. You felt he had abandoned you, right?

A. Yes.

Q. And you felt he had abandoned your family, right?

A. Yes.

To not to lose contact with Jackson, the Arvizo family started to bombard him with nice letters and cards.

Although Jackson personally kept his distance from the family, but he still did things to help them. In October 2000 he gave the family a white van as a gift. He also allowed the Arvizos to use Neverland for a blood drive for Gavin and all his employees donated blood.

In May 2001 Gavin's father, David and mother, Janet Arvizo separated – according to Janet Arvizo's 2005 testimony, because David physically abused her and the children.

On September 24, 2001 the Arvizo family reached an out of court settlement with the J. C. Penney department store. The subject of the case was an allegation by the Arvizo family that in 1998 J.C. Penney guards beat up Janet, David, Gavin and Star Arvizo in a parking lot and they sexually abused Janet Arvizo. The guards followed the family in the parking lot because Gavin was caught stealing two school uniforms. The Arvizos then managed to turn it around into a physical and sexual abuse lawsuit against the J. C. Penney guards. At Jackson's 2005 trial evidence and testimony showed that the family lied under oath in depositions in that case. The details of that case will be discussed later in this document.

In the Spring of 2002 the Arvizos spent a few days at Neverland with the actor Chris Tucker to celebrate the birthday of latter's infant son. Jackson was not present.

### **Martin Bashir's Documentary, "Living with Michael Jackson" and the Fallout**

In the Summer-Autumn of 2002 British journalist and television host Martin Bashir worked on a documentary with Michael Jackson entitled "*Living with Michael Jackson*". During the creation of that documentary Bashir suggested to Jackson that in the film the singer could show the public how he helped children with serious illnesses. Although Jackson presented other options as well, Bashir eventually chose to go with the 13-year-old cancer survivor, Gavin Arvizo who was called to participate in the film with his two siblings, Star and Davellin, in September 2002.

Jackson trusted that Bashir had no hidden agenda in how he presented his relationship with Gavin and out of naivety and guilelessness allowed himself to be filmed showing affection to Gavin and holding his hand while the boy leaned his head on his shoulder. Bashir exploited Jackson's poor judgment in public relations and drew him into a discussion of whether it was acceptable to share a bedroom or a bed with a child. When the documentary aired in February 2003, this segment caused a storm of bad publicity for Jackson and wild speculations about the nature of his relationship with Gavin Arvizo. In reality, as you have seen above, there was no close relationship between Jackson and Gavin, since 2000 they hardly even met and they never slept in the same bed.

Throughout the documentary Bashir uses suggestive and highly manipulative narration and it seems that his intention from the beginning was to create and feed in innuendo about Jackson's relationship with children. Even Gavin admitted in his 2005 testimony that Bashir's portrayal of Jackson in the documentary was false. After the shooting of the scene the Arvizo children stayed at the ranch for one night, but Jackson immediately left after the segment was shot, and he was again unavailable to Gavin.

The Arvizos had not met Jackson again until after the Bashir documentary aired in the United Kingdom on February 3, 2003 and then in the USA on February 6, 2003. As a result of the documentary, the media went into a frenzy, the 1993 allegations against Jackson were rehashed in articles and talk shows.

Jackson's team tried to fight this negative publicity and decided to hold a press conference in Miami on February 5 or 6, 2003. The press conference eventually was called off. At the same time the Arvizos were trying to get away from the media and trying to find Jackson. They called the actor Chris Tucker who was just planning to visit his brother in Miami, and he offered the Arvizo family to charter an airplane and take them with him to Miami to meet Jackson again. Jackson and the Arvizos then returned to Neverland together on February 7-8 by Jackson's chartered airplane.

In the hindsight, while making their allegations the Arvizos claimed that on the way back to Los Angeles from Miami, on the airplane they witnessed Jackson lick the head of a sleeping Gavin. Despite of the fact that many people were on the plane, the only two people who have ever claimed to have witnessed this alleged scene were Star and Janet Arvizo. Although, according to their story, this whole alleged scene lasted for only six seconds, Janet Arvizo got up from her seat to go to the restroom exactly at the right moment to witness it. Oddly, Janet Arvizo never confronted Jackson about what she had allegedly witnessed, nor did she ever ask her sons about it. Supposedly she just kept it to herself and the first time she ever mentioned it to anyone was when the family first started to make child molestation allegations against Jackson later in 2003.

### **The Crucial Period: February 7-March 12, 2003**

Between **February 7 and March 12, 2003** the Arvizos spent time at Jackson's Neverland Ranch, on and off. In the hindsight, when they made their allegations they claimed that during that period they were kept captive there against their will. They also claimed that this was the period when the alleged molestations had happened.

First, let's see the molestation allegation, then we will address the conspiracy allegation (ie. that Jackson allegedly kidnapped and held the family against their will).

Initially the Arvizos claimed that the molestation started as soon as they returned from Miami with Jackson, on **February 7, 2003**. This version of the story is also represented in the prosecution's initial felony complaint, filed on December 18, 2003.

However, later they changed this story and said that Jackson started molesting Gavin **after February 20**. As you will see, this timeline change was not just a minor correction. It significantly changed the narrative of the Arvizos' initial story.

But why did they change the timeline at all?

As a part of the damage control regarding the Bashir documentary, Jackson's team had been working on a so called "rebuttal video" under the title "*Michael Jackson, Take Two: The Footage You Were Never Meant To See*". This documentary features interviews with people and footage made by Jackson's own cameraman, Hamid Moslehi during the shooting of the Bashir documentary and it features material that Bashir deliberately omitted from his documentary and that shows his manipulation of Jackson and of his viewers.

Initially the Arvizos would have been featured in that "rebuttal video", but at the end their segment was not included. However, the footage with the Arvizo family was made for the documentary. It was shot early in the morning of **February 20, 2003** and later found by the prosecution when they searched Moslehi's home during the Jackson investigation.

Later on the same day, **February 20**, the Arvizo family also got a visit from the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS, also mentioned as Child Protective Services – CPS), because a teacher from Gavin's school filed a complaint over the claim in the Bashir documentary that Gavin had slept in Jackson's bed. The Arvizos said nothing but nice things about Jackson to the CPS and the children denied ever having been molested by the star. By the way, the interview took place at Major Jay Jackson's home (an army officer, no relation to Michael Jackson), who was Janet Arvizo's boyfriend at the time and later her husband. So much about the captivity at Neverland claim too, but we will address that claim later in this document.

When the Arvizos later made their allegations, initially they claimed that they did not tell about the alleged molestation and kidnapping to the CPS on February 20, because Jackson and his people had threatened and intimidated them. They also claimed that during the shooting of the "rebuttal video" they were under duress and that is why they praised Jackson in it. However, the raw footage that the police found in Moslehi's home during a house search told a different story. In the raw footage the Arvizos are seen laughing and joking, happily praising Michael Jackson. They also express their displeasure with Martin Bashir. The videos can be watched on YouTube [here](#) and [here](#). They even make suggestions themselves about what they wanted to do on film and in the second video they are seen surprised that they were on camera while making those suggestions. They certainly do not seem to be forced or under duress by any means.

As a result of this discovery, the Arvizos, with the assistance of the prosecution, simply changed their initial timeline of the allegations and eventually claimed that Jackson started molesting Gavin only **after February 20**.

This was not just a timeline change, but the whole narrative of the initial story had changed. Initially they claimed that threats and intimidation by Jackson and his people was the reason

why they did not tell anything to the CPS on February 20 and why they praised Jackson in the “rebuttal video”. After their timeline changed, the story was suddenly that they did not tell anything to the CPS simply because there was nothing to tell on February 20 yet, as Jackson started molesting Gavin only after that. In actuality, in 2005 in court Gavin testified – according to the latest version of their story – that on February 20, when they shot the “rebuttal video” and when they were interviewed by the CPS, they still considered Jackson to be a good person and they had no problem praising him. No trace of their initial intimidation story that they told the police in 2003 in explanation of why they did not tell the CPS anything.

Apparently, the prosecution, lead by *Thomas Sneddon* (the same district attorney as in the 1993 investigation), completely ignored the huge red flag that this narrative change meant about the credibility of this accuser and his family, and they kept pushing the case to court, nevertheless.

The timeline change resulted in a really bizarre story, according to which Jackson started molesting Gavin **while** the CPS investigated. Not only that, but the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department too launched an investigation in February 2003 because of the Bashir documentary. That investigation continued until April 2003.

So according to the story that the Arvizos ended up with due to the timeline change, Jackson started molesting Gavin **while** the CPS and the police investigated, **while** there was a huge public attention on him and Gavin because of the Bashir documentary, and while his PR team was working overtime on damage control because of the public relations backlash resulting from the Bashir documentary. To believe the Arvizos’ story you have to believe that all the **while** this was happening (including a police and a CPS investigation), Jackson suddenly started molesting Gavin Arvizo, even though for three years he had not touched him and not even trusted him and his family. This is exactly the story that the Arvizo family ended up with after they were forced to change their initial timeline because of the discovery of the “rebuttal tape” raw footage.

### **The Conspiracy Charge**

The conspiracy charge was one of the charges brought against Michael Jackson in 2005. It claimed that between February 1 and March 31, 2003 Jackson conspired with Ronald Konitzer, Dieter Wiesner, Frank Cascio, Vinnie Amen, Marc Schaffel and other co-conspirators to abduct Gavin Arvizo and his family and to falsely imprison them at his Neverland Ranch. Even though the charge names five alleged co-conspirators, the prosecution did not indict any of them, their only target was Michael Jackson. So these people remained “unindicted co-conspirators” throughout the process. This meant that these five potentially important defense witnesses were discouraged from testifying for the defense under the threat of retaliatory prosecution against them if they do.

The prosecution’s initial felony complaint in December 2003 did not include this charge, it was later added, after the Grand Jury hearings, and this addition is related to the problem of explaining why the Arvizos praised Jackson in the “rebuttal video” and why they did not say anything to the CPS.

According to prosecution theory, the reason for this alleged abduction and false imprisonment was to force the Arvizo family to participate in the “rebuttal video”. However, with the

Arvizos' changed story, that as of February 20 they did not have any problem with praising Jackson, the conspiracy charge was confusing. Why would Jackson need to abduct and falsely imprison a family to do a rebuttal tape when they were freely willing to participate in it and willing to say positive things about him, anyway?

The prosecution also made a confusing allegation about Jackson supposedly trying to “deport” the Arvizo family to Brazil during their “captivity”. The truth was that there were plans to send away the Arvizos for a vacation in Brazil during carnival season, so that they would not be found by the media who tried to “hunt them down” because of the Bashir documentary (they themselves also complained about the media bothering them). Travel documents presented in court showed that they were supposed to stay in Brazil for only a one-week vacation and according to testimonies, such as Azja Pryor’s (girlfriend of actor Chris Tucker), far from being “deported”, the Arvizos were happy and excited to go and Janet Arvizo even invited Pryor to go with them as well. Eventually the whole trip was called off and it never took place, so the whole “deportation” claim was much ado about nothing.

There are further problems with the conspiracy charge. **Receipts and testimonies showed that during their alleged captivity the Arvizos went shopping several times, talked to the CPS because of the Bashir documentary, went to doctors, visited a lawyer William Dickerman to stop the media from using the Arvizo children’s likeness and photos, and appeared in a court with another one of their lawyers, Michael Manning regarding a child support debate between Janet Arvizo and her ex-husband, David, yet they never reported to authorities, their lawyers, the doctors or to anyone that they were allegedly being kidnapped and held against their will at Neverland.**

They actually did not even spend all the time at Neverland during the relevant period. They spent several days at the home of Jay Jackson, Janet Arvizo’s boyfriend. Meanwhile they never called the police, they or Jay Jackson never reported it to anyone that they had been supposedly kept captive at Neverland. As we have mentioned before, the CPS interview was also conducted at Jay Jackson’s home and they never told the CPS that they had been kept captive at Neverland. They also spent approximately a week at a hotel in Calabasas with Frank Cascio and Vinnie Amen, but they never told personnel or anyone there either that they had been allegedly kept captive at Neverland.

### **The Changing Content of the Allegations and Contradictions**



*Star and Gavin Arvizo*

Between 2003 and 2005 the Arvizos told their story several times. First to a psychologist, Dr. Stanley Katz, in June 2003, then to the police several times in a series of interviews in 2003, then in front of a Grand Jury in 2004 and finally at the trial itself in 2005. During this period their story changed in many ways.

We already discussed the timeline change and the resulting narrative change. In this chapter we are going through some of the other changes and



contradictions in the content of the Arvizos' allegations, as not only the timeline changed, but also the alleged acts of molestation. Moreover, the family members contradicted each other and themselves on several occasions. Below follows a collection of such changing allegations and contradictions.

- **The number of alleged molestations.** Initially Gavin claimed that Jackson had molested him at least on five occasions, then he said it was less than five times, then a total of five times, then seven times. By the time the case went to court, the number was reduced to two occasions and when after the description of the second alleged act Gavin was asked whether there were any other occasions that Jackson had tried to do inappropriate things to him, he said there were not. The changing number of alleged occasions of molestation is also reflected in the fact that in the prosecution's initial felony complaint they alleged seven acts of lewd act upon a child, while in the final indictment it changed to four. (In both documents two of these were allegedly observed by Gavin's brother Star, while Gavin was not aware of them because he was "passed out" after Jackson allegedly had given him alcohol. See further below.)
- **Who told Gavin that men have to masturbate?** In a police interview on August 13, 2003 Gavin said that his grandmother told him that men have to masturbate, otherwise they may rape women. However, on the stand Gavin claimed it was Jackson who told him that. This is important because according to the Arvizos' allegations, this is how Jackson introduced Gavin to masturbation (the boy claimed he had never masturbated before) and he claimed that the first act of alleged molestation immediately followed this statement by Jackson. When confronted with the contradiction on the stand by Jackson's attorney Thomas Mesereau, Gavin tried to get out of it by claiming that both Jackson and his grandmother told him the same thing.
- **What did Star allegedly see?** Out of the four counts of lewd act upon a child that Michael Jackson was accused of in the prosecution's final version of their story, two were alleged to have been observed by Gavin's one year younger brother Star, but without Gavin himself being aware of them. The claim was that Gavin was "passed out" during those molestations, because Jackson allegedly had given him alcohol. Initially, in June 2003, Star claimed that on the two occasions when he allegedly witnessed Jackson inappropriately touch his brother, Jackson's hand was on top of Gavin's clothes. Later he claimed that Jackson's hand was inside Gavin's pants on both occasions and this later version was what he claimed on the stand.

In an interview with Sgt. Steve Robel on July 7, 2003 Star alleged that on the second occasion that he had witnessed Jackson molesting his brother, Jackson had his penis out of his underwear. Later this claim disappeared from their allegations and on the stand Star never claimed to have witnessed any such thing.

On the stand Star first claimed that he did not see any alcohol in the room while he observed these alleged acts of molestations, but later in his testimony he was reminded that to the Grand Jury he claimed he saw vodka, so he suddenly "remembered" he did.

Initially, in 2003 Star also claimed that he had witnessed Jackson rub his private parts against Gavin's butt and touch Gavin's butt. Not only did this claim disappear from their allegations later on, but at the trial in 2005, when Jackson's lawyer Thomas Mesereau confronted him with what he had initially claimed, Star flat out denied ever making such claims.

In his interview with Sgt. Steve Robel on July, 2003 Star also claimed that on one occasion while he was **in a chair** next to Jackson's bed half asleep and Gavin was sleeping in Jackson's bed, Jackson got into the bed with Gavin and "*began moving his hips back to front against Gavin's back side*". This story changed too by the time the case went to trial. On the stand Star claimed that he was **in the bed** with Jackson and Gavin when this allegedly had happened, instead of being half asleep in a chair next to the bed, as he had initially claimed. On the stand he also did not claim anything about Jackson allegedly "*moving his hips back to front against Gavin's back side*", instead he said he did not see it whether he did anything. Also while in the original story he claimed Gavin was wearing pajamas, on the stand he said he did not remember what he was wearing.

Not only Star's own testimonies were contradictory, but there is another piece of evidence that makes his whole story questionable. There was much talk in the media about the alarm system in Michael Jackson's bedroom. The prosecution's and the tabloid media's theory about it was that Jackson installed it to get warned if anyone entered his bedroom while he was molesting children. But this is just a never proven prosecution hypothesis, not a fact. Objectively we are simply talking about a bell that rings when someone enters the downstairs section of Jackson's bedroom. It is perfectly understandable when we know that often there were dozens or even hundreds of people staying and walking around at Neverland – guests, fans and staff alike. Obviously molesting children is not the only reason why an international celebrity would want to get a warning when someone enters his private quarters.

Ironically, this alarm system that the prosecution tried to use to incriminate Jackson, at the trial blew another hole into Star Arvizo's story. How come that Star was able to walk into Jackson's bedroom and observe Gavin's molestation two times without Jackson hearing the alarm and noticing him? Jackson's defense had a videographer, Laurence Nimmer make an alarm test and the video of it was presented at Jackson's trial as evidence. The video showed that the sound of the alarm was loud and clearly audible in the upstairs portion of Jackson's bedroom where the molestation allegedly had happened. When Star was asked about it, he claimed that it was not audible upstairs because the door at the bottom of the stairway that went upstairs was closed. This was contradicted by Nimmer who testified that they performed the test three different ways, the third time with that particular door closed, and the alarm was audible upstairs in all three tests.

- **Initially Star claimed to have been inappropriately touched as well – later this allegation disappeared.** Initially, the Arvizos claimed that not only Gavin, but also Star had been inappropriately touched by Jackson. The claim was that on one occasion while at Neverland, Star was in a golf cart with Jackson and the entertainer placed his hand on Star's penis, on top of his pants. Star also claimed Jackson touched his butt too. Later, as their allegations evolved, this claim completely disappeared from them and on the stand it was never alleged that Star had ever been inappropriately touched by Jackson.
- **Did Gavin and Star Arvizo ever go into Jackson's bedroom while Jackson was not there?** When asked on the stand in 2005 whether they had ever gone to Michael Jackson's bedroom while the entertainer was not there, Gavin claimed that they never did. His brother contradicted this in his own testimony. Star had pretty vivid memories

of him and his brother not only going into Jackson's room, but even sleeping there while the entertainer was not home. He claimed that Jackson allowed them to do that, but this was a dubious claim, considering the fact that Jackson did not trust this family. Azja Pryor (the girlfriend of actor Chris Tucker at the time) said in her testimony that she had witnessed one occasion when the Arvizo children asked an employee to let them stay in Jackson's bedroom while the singer was not there. The employee refused to let them in, but we know from testimonies, including Star Arvizos' own testimony, that at one point they got hold of the entrance code to Jackson's bedroom. Star claimed that they got the code to Jackson's room from Jackson himself, and a master code that opened each and every door at Neverland from a security guard. However, a young cousin of Jackson's, 10-year-old Rijo Jackson, who hung out with the Arvizo boys while they were staying at Neverland, said that the Arvizo boys went into employees' offices, rummaged through drawers and paperwork and that is how they found out the various combinations to keypad locks on doors throughout the ranch. The fact that Gavin felt the need to deny that they had ever gone to Jackson's bedroom while Jackson was not there, is telling about their dishonesty, once again.

- **What about the pornographic magazines?** The Arvizo kids claimed that Jackson showed them pornographic magazines from a briefcase on two occasions. However, when it came to the details of the story, the brothers contradicted each other on several points again.

On some of the magazines the boys' fingerprints were found, and the prosecution used that fact to argue that it proves their claim that Jackson showed them those magazines. It does not prove that, of course, especially when you know that the Arvizo kids went into Jackson's room while Jackson was not home and they were perfectly able to rummage through his stuff, find and touch those magazines on their own. In actuality, that would be consistent with their behavior around other people as well, as Jackson's lawyer Thomas Mesereau pointed out in his closing argument based on various testimonies that were heard at the trial:

*“And the only forensic evidence they had to hang their hat on are fingerprints on some girlie magazines that were owned by Michael Jackson. And you know that everywhere the Arvizo children went, they would rummage through drawers, rummage through the house. They did it at the dentist's office. They did it in Vernee Watson Johnson's home. This is the way they behave.”*

In his opening statement Mesereau also stated that there was one occasion when Jackson actually caught the Arvizo boys with the magazines, but instead of showing those magazines to them, he took them away from the boys.

The prosecution's theory was that Jackson used those magazines to “groom” the children. However, Gavin's magazine scene did not make much sense as “grooming”. First of all, even by their own allegations, it was not immediately followed by any act of molestation, so the magazines were not used to arouse the alleged victim to molest him. According to the Arvizo's story, the alleged molestation of Gavin happened on totally different occasions and with no pornography being shown to him. Moreover, the comments that Gavin claimed Jackson made while “showing them” the magazines do not make much sense as grooming either. According to Gavin's story, Jackson tried to distance himself from the material claiming that they were Frank Cascio's

(Jackson's personal assistant) and he supposedly made fun of Frank for it using such words as "*stinking*". It would be a strange way to tell a child having such material is cool. However, Jackson distancing himself from the material would make a lot more sense if the defense's version was the true version of the story, ie. that instead of showing the boys those magazines, Jackson actually took them away from them and told them they were not cool to look at.

It should be noted that before the Arvizo children went into Jackson's room and found his adult magazines, not any earlier accuser had claimed that Jackson had shown them such material in order to groom them or for any other reason. Pornography claims were simply not a part of either Jordan Chandler's or Jason Francia's allegations. They became a part of the Arvizo story because the Arvizo boys found the magazines while rummaging through Jackson's stuff.<sup>3</sup>

- **Showing porn on the Internet?** Gavin claimed that when he and his brother Star spent a night in Jackson's room in the summer of 2000 (the night that was described earlier, when Jackson wanted his personal assistant, Frank Cascio to stay in the room as well), Jackson showed them pornography on the Internet on a laptop computer he had just given to Gavin as a gift.

According to the initial claim Jackson himself operated the computer and navigated to pornographic websites. Later this claim changed to Frank Cascio operating and navigating the computer, although they still claimed that Jackson was sitting with them and encouraging and approving of it.

---

<sup>3</sup> While we are at it. In 2016 the tabloid website Radar Online published an article in which they claimed that child pornography had been found at Jackson's premises during the search in 2003. Unfortunately, as it very often happens with claims about Jackson, other media picked it up and it spread like wildfire, with no one, but one magazine bothering to fact-check the claim. Until this day some people refer to this story as fact.

The claim is quite simply not true. Owning child pornography is a federal crime in itself, and Jackson has never been charged with the possession of child pornography, let alone convicted for it. The only publication that bothered to investigate Radar's claim in 2016 was People magazine, who talked to Ron Zonen (a prosecutor in the 2005 case). Zonen told them that it was not true that they found child pornography. They also asked the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office for a comment and they said that the document that Radar posted as a support for its claims was doctored (Radar posted a prosecution motion from 2005, but with inserted pages that were not a part of the original document.) People magazine was the only publication to publish that information. The rest just gladly ran with Radar's story.

The pornography that had been found at Jackson's premises was legal, commercially produced, heterosexual pornography in the form of magazines and DVDs. During the trial the prosecution spent days with showing Jackson's heterosexual magazines on a big screen, which puzzled the jury because they felt they were irrelevant and they did not prove the charge. If anything, they pointed to Jackson's sexual interest in women. It looked like a desperate attempt on the prosecution's part at trying to prejudice a presumably conservative Santa Barbara jury in the absence of real, relevant evidence, but the jury did not fall for it.

The prosecution also confiscated some art photography books that had some nudity in them. Some had children in them (neither in sexual context), but most were of adults. Jackson was a big fan of art photography since his childhood and he had a huge collection of art photography books, some of which naturally had nudity in them. That was the context in which these books were found. The books were commercially produced, legal, most by renowned artists, several of the books are also in the Library of Congress and their material is subject of celebrated exhibitions all around the world.

The prosecution also sent the hard drives of Jackson's computers to the FBI for a forensic examination. None of the computers contained any illegal material or had any traces of access to illegal material on the Internet, including no attempts to find such material. Only legal, adult heterosexual pornography and images of nude women were found cached in their hard drives.

Cascio in his 2011 book, *My Friend Michael*, denied that either Jackson or he had shown the Arvizo children Internet pornography. He said Gavin and Star started to search for such websites on their own and when Jackson realized it, he asked Cascio to make them stop it and he left the room and returned only later.

- **Who chased whom?** Initially, in her interviews with the police in 2003, Janet Arvizo, the mother, tried to portray Jackson as the clingy one, who tried to attach himself to her family and especially Gavin. She claimed that she complained about too long telephone conversations between Gavin and Jackson and Jackson did not like that. However, this narrative became hard to defend when during the investigation cards and letters written by the Arvizo family to Jackson were discovered in which **they** were the ones begging for the singer's attention because he was not answering their phone calls. Gavin on the stand admitted that Jackson stopped calling him as early as in August-September 2000 and that rather than complaining about too long phone conversations, Janet Arvizo had them write cards and letters to Jackson to try to get him contact them. Jackson was the exact opposite of clingy to the Arvizos or Gavin. In actuality, on the stand the boy complained that the entertainer had been actively avoiding him.
- **Changing story about when and how Janet Arvizo learnt about the alleged abuse of Gavin.** In her initial interview in 2003, Janet Arvizo claimed that she had learnt about the alleged abuse of her sons **in February-March, 2003**. This was stated in the prosecution's Statement of Probable Cause document dated November 17, 2003. But a few pages later it is totally contradicted in the very same document when it is claimed that Janet Arvizo learnt about her son's alleged abuse when law enforcement informed her about it **in September 2003**, after interviewing Gavin. Apparently law enforcement just ignored this contradiction.

The web of contradictions becomes even more complicated when we also consider the testimony of **Larry Feldman**, the Arvizos' civil lawyer (yes, the same lawyer who represented the Chandler family in 1993, we will discuss his connection to the Arvizos later in this document), who on the stand in 2005 provided a third version about how Janet Arvizo had supposedly learnt about the alleged abuse of her son. According Feldman, **in June 2003** he sent the Arvizo family to psychologist **Dr. Stanley Katz** (yes, the same psychologist who evaluated Jordan Chandler in 1993) for evaluation and that is where it emerged that Gavin had allegedly been molested. When Dr. Katz reported back to him, Feldman called the Arvizo family back to his office where he discussed with them Katz's findings - including with the mother -, and what kind of legal actions were available to them at that time.

There are many more elements of the Arvizo's story that either changed or proved to be complete lies, or where the family members contradicted each other or earlier versions of their own story, but I think you already get the idea about their credibility. And we have some more information about that in the next chapter as well.

## General Credibility Problems with the Arvizo Family

The credibility issues with this family did not end with their stories in this particular case. They had a history of lying (including under oath) and grifting. This is not irrelevant in a case where there was no other evidence of the alleged crime than the accusing family's words.

### *The J.C. Penney Incident*

In 1998, when Gavin Arvizo was only eight years old, the Arvizo family was involved in an incident at a J.C. Penney department store. The incident started with Gavin stealing two school uniforms from the store and ended with a settlement between the Arvizo family and J.C. Penney in which the store paid the family \$152,200. How did Gavin's shoplifting end up with the department store paying to the family?

When the guards realized Gavin's shoplifting, they went after them (Gavin was with his younger brother, Star and his father, David) and before they reached their van the security guards surrounded them in the parking lot. Meanwhile Janet Arvizo was exiting another building, just in time to witness this and jumped in to protect her husband and sons. There was a scuffle between Janet and the guards, but David was ultimately escorted back to J.C. Penney. According to Janet Arvizo's testimony in 2005, both Janet and David were arrested and taken to jail where their mugshots were taken and they were charged with burglary, assault and battery, and petty theft, but then they were released later that day and the charges were eventually dropped by the store.

The story did not end there, though. According to David Arvizo, upon arriving home Janet ordered him and the boys to write out their version of what happened. When they were done, she took their papers and changed their stories to a version that she wanted to represent. The changed versions were returned to the children and they were required to read and study it on a daily basis. This went on for almost a year, then on July 22, 1999 the Arvizos filed a civil lawsuit against J.C. Penney for battery, false imprisonment and infliction of emotional distress. One more year later in a June 29, 2000 amendment of their complaint, they added sexual assault allegations as well. Janet Arvizo now claimed that a security guard fondled her breasts, squeezed her nipples 10-20 times, punched her with a closed fist, molested her in her vaginal area and she was called racial slurs (the Arvizos are Hispanic). David said that Janet exploited Gavin's illness in raising sympathy and putting J.C. Penney under pressure to settle. Eventually the case was settled on September 24, 2001 with J.C. Penney paying the family \$152,500.

While David Arvizo was Janet's estranged ex-husband and a controversial character himself, and as such one could suspect an axe to grind against his ex-wife, but there is other, independent evidence and testimony to support David's claims that Janet Arvizo lied and was very manipulative in the J.C. Penney case. Some of that evidence came out at Jackson's 2005 trial.

In a testimony at Jackson's 2005 trial, *Elizabeth Mary Holzer*, an office manager and paralegal who worked for the law office that represented the Arvizos in the J.C. Penney case, testified that Janet Arvizo admitted to her that she had been lying about the photographs of her bruises that were used to prove her allegations against J.C. Penney. The photographs showed Janet Arvizo with bruises that she claimed she had got during the altercation with the J.C. Penney guards. However, according to Holzer, Janet Arvizo admitted to her that the

bruises were not caused by the J.C. Penney guards, but by her own husband. The photographs taken by the police on the day of the altercation, right after Janet and David's arrest, do not show any injuries. The photos with the bruises and injuries were not presented by Janet until a week later.

In her testimony in 2005 Janet Arvizo admitted that she had lied in the J.C. Penney case about how she got her bruises. In fact, after she had received the settlement money from J.C. Penney, she filed for divorce from David and during that divorce battle she changed her story about the bruises, now claiming that they were not inflicted by the J.C. Penney guards, but by her husband. She blamed her lying in the J.C. Penney case on being intimidated by David. Then she blamed it on the law office that represented her, claiming that she tried to correct her lies, but the law firm would not allow it. Mary Holzer categorically denied that. She said that instead of trying to come clean about her lying, Janet Arvizo indirectly threatened her and her 9-year-old daughter, when Holzer tried to convince her to talk to the attorney about her false claims.

Holzer further testified that when she tried to take Janet to an independent medical examination for her alleged injuries, Janet threw a tantrum. When they were in the driveway heading to that examination *„she threw herself down on the ground, started kicking and screaming, carrying on that the doctor was the devil, and the nurses were the devil, and they were all out to get her. And I explained to her that they were only asking her standard questions that they ask in an Independent Medical Examination; that -- the history of her injuries and how she obtained the injuries. And she was very defensive. And they asked us to leave because she was so irate.”*

Holzer also testified that Janet told her that her kids had been going to acting classes because she wanted them to be good actors, so that she could tell them what to say and how to behave. She also said: *“This was at the Independent Medical Examination for psychiatric of all three, Gavin, Star and Janet. And when we were at the doctor's office, she was very concerned about them completing general forms, you know, like, “Generally do you feel happy?” “Generally do you feel sad?” You know, “What kind of days” -- “How do you feel when you wake up?” Those kind of forms. And she refused to have the children fill them out. And then she wanted to participate in the medical examinations with the doctor and the children. And I asked her, you know, I said, you know, “It doesn't work that way.” You know, “The doctor sees the children on their own.” You know, “You can't go in there.” **And she said, “Well, I'm pretty sure Gavin will get the story straight, but I'm not sure Star will remember what we practiced and what I told him to say.”***

Holzer also testified that about three or four months before her testimony at Jackson's trial, Janet Arvizo called her again telling her that she wanted to be friends with her.

### ***Welfare fraud***

Not only did Janet Arvizo lie in the J.C. Penney case, but she also committed welfare fraud when she collected \$18,782 in welfare payments claiming that she was indigent, while failing to disclose the fact that she just had got a \$152,500 settlement from J.C. Penney and she also had \$30,000 on her bank account. According to the felony complaint against her, she committed these fraudulent acts, including lying under oath, between November 15, 2001 (so she started two months after the settlement with J.C. Penney and six months after she and David Arvizo had already separated) and March 31, 2003.

At Jackson's trial the jury was not informed of this, because Janet Arvizo invoked her 5th amendment right on this issue and there was an agreement between the prosecution and the defense that they were not going to ask her about it in the presence of the jury.

Nevertheless, on August 23, 2005, only a little more than two months after Jackson's acquittal, Janet Arvizo was charged with five counts of welfare fraud and perjury. She pleaded "no contest" and was eventually sentenced to paying a fine and doing community service time.

### *A history of manipulative behavior and grifting*

The Arvizo family also has a history of grifting and cunning, manipulative behavior. Many witnesses testified about that, and not only witnesses called by the defense, but also witnesses called by the prosecution often ended up implicating the Arvizo family and being good for Jackson's defense and not for the prosecution.

A defense witness, actor **Chris Tucker** testified about his encounters with the Arvizo family. Long before Michael Jackson even came into the picture, Tucker met the Arvizo family at the Laugh Factory where he was approached by the father, David Arvizo who told him that they were going to have a benefit for his son who was dying of cancer. Tucker met Gavin at the benefit. The actor felt sorry for Gavin and he befriended the family. A couple of days after the benefit, Gavin called Tucker on the phone and told him that they had not raised any money at the fund-raiser and that they needed money for his medical bills. Because of that Tucker wired some money to Gavin's foundation. In the hindsight, however, it turned out that it was not true that the family did not raise any money at the fund-raiser. Nor was it true that they needed money for Gavin's medical bills, as the Arvizo family had good health insurance that covered all of Gavin's medical costs.

Tucker also testified about other instances of the Arvizo family emotionally manipulating him, using Gavin's illness for sympathy. He described Gavin as "*sophisticated*", "*smart*" and "*cunning*" and Gavin's brother Star as "*definitely cunning*" - on contrary to the image of the naïve, innocent, wholesome little kids that the prosecution tried to paint of them. The actor even said that he felt that he almost needed to check Star's pockets before they left his home whenever they visited him.

Tucker stated that he once warned Jackson about the mother, Janet Arvizo because at the time he already felt suspicious about her and had an uneasy feeling about the family. By the way, Tucker knew Jackson through Gavin, they did not have any previous relationship with each other.

Tucker then gradually distanced himself from the family because of his distrust in them.

Another comedian that the Arvizo family befriended was **George Lopez**. He testified as a prosecution witness. Just like Tucker, he knew the Arvizos from the Laugh Factory. When Gavin fell ill with cancer, Janet Arvizo called him on the phone to inform him about it. Lopez then went to the hospital to visit Gavin. The father, David Arvizo complained to Lopez that they did not have any money and from then on Lopez regularly gave the Arvizos small amounts of money and gifts to help them and on one occasion he took them to shopping. Lopez further testified that David Arvizo had asked him to organize a fund-raiser



for Gavin at the Laugh Factory but by the time it became apparent to him that it was not about Gavin's health to them, but about the money.

The family led Lopez to believe that they had no health insurance and because of that they needed money to pay Gavin's medical bills. The truth was that the Arvizos did have good health insurance, which covered all of Gavin's medical costs, so they did not actually need all that money that they requested from celebrities and that they were trying to get through fund-raisers by telling people that they were in need of money. Lopez also said that the family had never told him about their lawsuit against J.C. Penney either and the fact that they had \$152,500 from that settlement.

According to Lopez, David Arvizo was pushing him to organize the fund-raiser and after a while he became "*pretty aggressive*", calling Lopez at all the times about when it would happen and about the amount of money that they would raise. The last time Lopez saw David Arvizo was when the latter approached him outside of a restaurant and "*asked me aggressively what was the deal with the fund-raiser. And I told him that I didn't think it was going to happen. And he said, "What do you mean it's not going to happen?" And I said, "It doesn't look like it's going to happen." And then he — his tone changed, and we had words, and that was the last time I ever saw him.*"

In his testimony Lopez also described an incident when Gavin left his wallet in his house (in a room where he was not supposed to go, by the way). Lopez found it and he returned it to the Arvizo family, but he later learnt that David Arvizo told Jamie Masada that Lopez stole \$300 from Gavin's wallet. This contributed to Lopez cutting ties with the family. Lopez later learnt that Masada compensated David Arvizo for the "stolen" \$300, which upset Lopez because he felt it indicated that Masada believed the Arvizos over him.

Lopez further stated that both Gavin and Star were asking him to buy gifts for them. The father was there with them, but never intervened to stop them.

Other than David Arvizo accusing Lopez of stealing from Gavin, another reason for the comedian's distancing himself from the family was that David Arvizo "*got kind of nasty*" when Lopez's wife confronted him about his constant requests for money. Lopez himself also had a heated confrontation with David Arvizo (the one outside of a restaurant that was mentioned above) and then Lopez cut off the family.

Another prosecution witness, **Louise Palanker** was brought in to vouch for the Arvizos as honest and genuine people, but her testimony backfired as well.

On direct examination Palanker was quick to point her finger at David Arvizo whenever she had to concede to anything that would put the Arvizo family in a bad light. For example, she told about how when Gavin underwent chemotherapy she gave the Arvizos \$20,000 to renovate a sterile room in the house of Gavin's grandmother that he needed to recover. Palanker pointed out that it was David Arvizo who she handed the checks to. She said that she was not pressured by the family into giving them the money, it was all her decision, but she also admitted that "*very often from that point forward*" David Arvizo kept asking her for money for such things as paying the rent and utilities. According to Palanker, David claimed that they had already spent the money she had given them and they needed more money. Palanker admitted that she did not believe this was true, and that she later learnt that the family had actually paid the contractor only \$800 for the renovation – just his bare costs, but

they never had paid him for the labor. The contractor eventually decided that he would write off the rest of his fee as a gift to Gavin, although this was not what he and the family had agreed upon previously.

The prosecution's and Palanker's narrative was that the mastermind behind all these dishonest actions was David Arvizo, the since estranged husband, who forced his otherwise "wholesome" family into these dubious things.

On cross examination, however, it came out that in an earlier police interview Palanker's opinion about the Arvizos, and not just David Arvizo, was less favorable. For example, in an interview with the sheriff's investigators on January 7, 2005 Palanker stated that the Arvizo family was "out of balance" and that she felt that "*the kids collaborated in what she [Janet Arvizo] was saying. I just wanted to be out of it.*" This was in the context of her checks to the family. It is curious why she would say the kids collaborated in what Janet Arvizo was saying if she felt that David Arvizo was the mastermind behind all the schemes. Also the \$20,000 that she gave to David Arvizo were deposited into the bank account of the mother of Janet Arvizo. Palanker was not aware of that until a private investigator for the defense informed her about it during the preparations for the trial. This suggests that Janet Arvizo was involved in these schemes, just like David Arvizo was.

In the same police interview Palanker also stated "*This family can be as whacky as they want to be*" and "*I know that Janet's unbalanced. I think she's totally bipolar*" and "*Janet needs to see a psychologist*". She also admitted that she felt that the children were coached to ask her for a laptop computer as a gift. She also said in her police interview in January 2005 that "*these people [the Arvizos] are teaching their kids to lie*". On the stand she explained that it was not her opinion of them, but that of George Lopez and his wife - as if that would make it better.

It has to be noted, and perhaps this explains Palanker's change of tone between her police interview in January and testimony in March 2005, that Palanker had a romantic relationship with one of the case's prosecutors, Ron Zonen. A few years later they eventually got married.

The prosecution narrative that tried to blame all the dishonest actions of the family solely on David Arvizo, was refuted by evidence about actions that can clearly be attributed to Janet and/or her children and show that Janet and their children did not have to be under David's influence to commit such dishonest acts (see the welfare fraud and lying under oath that Janet committed after she and David had already separated, Janet's actions in the J.C. Penney case even after she and David had separated as per Mary Holzer's testimony, the children's and their mother's demonstrable lies and changing stories in this very case, their manipulative behavior to celebrities even after Janet and David had separated etc.).

A defense witness, **Connie Keenan** testified about how Janet Arvizo manipulated her newspaper and its readers for money. Keenan was the editor of the Mid Valley News, a community newspaper in the City of El Monte. She told that one day in 2000 Janet Arvizo called them and asked them to run a story about Gavin's illness and ask their readers to donate money for him. Keenan had an intern, Christie Causer write an article about it, although she was suspicious about the money Janet Arvizo claimed Gavin's treatment cost. For example, she claimed that one chemotherapy injection cost more than \$12,000. The story appeared in the newspaper and then Janet Arvizo asked them to run it for a second time, because they did not raise enough money from the first article. A couple of months later Keenan called the Kaiser Permanente Hospital that treated Gavin and found out that she and

her readers had been “duped”, as she put it, because Gavin’s medical bills were fully covered by insurance.

### ***Wholesome, innocent, naïve kids?***

The prosecution tried to portray Gavin and Star Arvizo as wholesome, innocent little kids who were naïve about sexuality, had never cussed and never drunk alcohol before Jackson allegedly corrupted them. Gavin and the prosecution also made sure to emphasize Gavin and his family’s religiousness. Apparently this was an appeal to the emotions of a presumably conservative Santa Barbara jury and to the religious sentiments of the American general public. However, as we learnt more and more about the family and the kids’ past, it became evident that whether they were religious or not, it did not make them moral.

Two young cousins of Michael Jackson, **Simone and Rijo Jackson** (siblings), were often present at Neverland while the Arvizos were there in February-March 2003. At the time Rijo was 10 years old and Simone was 14. Rijo testified at Jackson’s trial in 2005 that on one occasion he stayed with Gavin and Star Arvizo in their guest unit and the Arvizo boys (who were 2-3 years older than Rijo) were watching an adult program on TV with nude women and started to masturbate under the sheets. They invited Rijo to join them, but he refused and ran away.

Rijo testified that he witnessed the Arvizo boys steal money and other items from the office of the house manager, Jesus Salas and from a drawer where a chef kept his belongings. Rijo stated that he saw the Arvizo boys frequently go to the wine cellar, although he could not tell if they were drinking because he never joined them. He also stated that Gavin and Star went to Michael Jackson’s room several times while the singer was not there.

Rijo's sister Simone testified that one night she witnessed Gavin and Star Arvizo steal wine from the kitchen. When Simone saw that she told them they were not allowed to do it, but they told her to be quiet and not to say anything to anyone. Michael Jackson was not present. Rijo and Simone’s testimonies go against Gavin’s testimony in which he claimed that it was Jackson who made him drink alcohol and he had never gone to the wine cellar and drunk alcohol without Jackson being present. No independent witness (ie. someone who was not a member of the Arvizo family) had ever claimed to have seen Jackson give alcohol to the Arvizo boys. On the other hand, there have been witnesses who saw the Arvizo boys with alcohol and in the wine cellar on their own while Jackson was not there.

Simone also testified that while she was in the pool one time, Gavin and Star repeatedly urged her to take off her bathing suit top. When she refused *"Star called me a pussy and a bitch because I wouldn't take off my top. I called my mom and told her about it. They were really rude and wouldn't leave me alone."* Simone's mother, Peaches Jackson called Michael Jackson's bodyguard, Chris Carter who in turn informed Michael Jackson about the incident. Michael Jackson asked Star to apologize. Simone also said that she witnessed the Arvizo boys steal a laminated \$1000 bill from Jackson's desk in his office.

Other guests and staff at Neverland also reported a disruptive, rude and disrespectful behavior by the Arvizo boys. Employee **Maria Gomez** testified that she saw adult magazines in Star Arvizo’s backpack while she was once cleaning the guest unit where they stayed. Another employee, **Julio Avila** testified that he witnessed Star bringing pornographic magazines to the park and he hid them in various places, including the control box of the park stereo and on the rides. When Avila asked him where did he got the magazines from, Star told him that he

brought them from home. Avila also stated that both Gavin and Star spat at him and other employees while on the rides. They would also drop their shoes from the top of the ferris wheel trying to hit park personnel. They continued to misbehave even after they had been asked by several employees to stop. On one occasion the boys dangerously started a ride by themselves, although they were not allowed to. While confronted about the incident they were belligerent and sarcastic. An ex-employee of Jackson, **Kiki Fournier** testified as a prosecution witness that Star Arvizo once pulled a knife on her in the kitchen, although she considered it a joke.

**Carol Lamir** had known both Michael Jackson and the Arvizos independently for years before the Arvizos even met the singer. She used to work for Jackson as a hair stylist. Independently from that, she met the Arvizos in the mid-1990's when Janet Arvizo enrolled her kids in dancing lessons at a studio run by a friend of Lamir's, Arlene Kennedy.

In interviews that she gave to private investigators in 2004, among other things, she stated that the Arvizo kids had serious behavioral problems – and that before they met Michael Jackson. Specifically she described Star Arvizo as a *"horny nine year old"* and told about how at that age the boy flirted with adult women in an *"unnatural manner"*. She recalled an occasion in a restaurant when Star tried to pick up the waitress by offering her a \$5 tip. Then Star demanded the waitress' phone number and became vocally angered and irate, demanding his money back, when she refused. Lamir also said that Star had a crush on her as well.

Lamir also told that in 2000 the older sister of the Arvizo boys, Davellin lived with her for a while because she did not get along with her mother. Davellin told her stories about their mother physically abusing them, forcing them to shoplift and making them tell lies – among others about their father David sexually molesting Davellin. Lamir described the Arvizo children as *"trained con-artists"*.

Prosecution witness, **Cynthia Ann Bell**, a flight attendant for XTra Jet International testified about her experiences with Michael Jackson and the Arvizo family on the airplane that took them from Miami back to California in early February 2003. Besides Michael Jackson, his children, Janet, Gavin, Star and Davellin Arvizo, there were a number of other associates of the singer on that plane. The prosecution made much of the fact that Jackson drank wine from a soda can on the plane and the Arvizo boys claimed that Jackson gave them alcohol from that soda can, but Bell testified that she never saw Jackson give alcohol to the kids. In actuality, Bell testified that Jackson's intention with drinking the wine from a soda can was exactly that he did not want children to see him drink alcohol. The singer regularly flew with that flight company and Bell testified that he usually drank wine on the plane because he was a very nervous flyer. He usually drank alcohol from *"a plastic thermal, like, mug-looking thing"*, but on that flight there was not any available and it was Bell's idea to put the wine in a soda can instead. Bell testified that she had never seen Jackson behave inappropriately with any child. She had nothing, but nice things to say about the singer, describing him as *"soft-spoken"* and *"very polite"* and she said that his children were likewise very polite, disciplined and well-mannered.

She had the polar opposite view of the Arvizo children and specifically Gavin. She described Gavin as *"very rude"* and she further stated *"The individual was unusually rude, discourteous"* and *"just loud, obnoxious, like, "Serve me my food. This isn't warm. This isn't the way it's supposed to be." And he was just unintelligent. It was embarrassing to have him on board, actually"* and *"Well, he was just incredibly rude. And I find that behavior*

*unintelligent, and strange.*” As soon as they got on the plane, Gavin threw his bag at Bell and started ordering her around. Bell made it clear that Gavin behaved in this unacceptable way during the whole flight and that his mother, although witnessed her son’s behavior, did nothing to discipline him.

Prosecutor Gordon Auchincloss attempted to blame Gavin’s rude behavior somehow on Jackson by asking the question “*Did it seem odd to you that Mr. Jackson didn’t do anything to stop this young boy from being what you said was rude?*”, even though Gavin’s mother was on the plane, witnessed her son’s behavior and it was her place to discipline her son, not anyone else’s. Bell, however, pointed out that Jackson’s own children were very well mannered and disciplined and that Jackson always intervened when they misbehaved. This is worth noting because the Arvizos claimed that it was Jackson who taught them to curse, drink and misbehave. In reality it would be very out of character for him to teach children such things. On the other hand, such behavior was very much in the character of the Arvizo boys who had a history of behaving like that even before they had met Jackson.

The Arvizo family and the prosecution attempted to spin Gavin’s behavior that flew in the face of their “wholesome, innocent, naïve little boy” portrayal and suggest that he was just acting out as a result of Jackson’s alleged sexual abuse of him. Gavin’s sister Davellin, for example, told police investigators in the interviews that were conducted with the family in 2003, that Gavin was a “*loving little boy*” who only became aggressive and argumentative after their stay at Neverland, and Janet Arvizo claimed similar things. Gavin’s brother, Star Arvizo said in a deposition regarding the J.C. Penney incident that Gavin would not steal because he wanted to become a priest (even though it is a proven fact that he *did* steal). However, testimonies like Bell’s clearly refute this notion, because they show that Gavin and his brother were very disruptive and far from innocent and wholesome, even before the date of the alleged molestations.

Also well before date of the alleged abuse by Jackson, Gavin had a reputation of being argumentative and impudent with teachers in school.

He could not hide his brazenness even on the stand during the Michael Jackson case.

*Thomas Mesereau [Jackson’s attorney]: Okay. Do you remember when you were in front of the Santa Barbara Grand Jury, [lead prosecutor] Mr. Sneddon told you there was an order that you not talk to the media, and your response was, “ Oh, man, I was going to have a press conference”. Do you remember that.*

*Gavin: That was probably a joke.*

*Mesereau: That was a joke.*

*Gavin: Yeah.*

*Mesereau: So you’re in front of the Santa Barbara Grand Jury talking about this case and you’re telling a joke.*

*Gavin: Yes.*

## Lawyers being hired and the formation of the allegations

The Arvizos left Neverland for good on March 12, 2003.

On March 24, 2003 Janet Arvizo formally hired a lawyer, William Dickerman. (Informally she was already in contact with this lawyer since February 21. She talked to him about how she could stop the media from using her children's likeness and photos in their publications and on their programs.)

At first they did not claim sexual abuse. The reason for hiring Dickerman, according to their story, was to demand the return of furniture, clothes, documents and various other items which were put in a storage locker after the Arvizos moved out of their Los Angeles apartment on March 1-2. The storage locker was rented in Bradley Miller's name, who was a private investigator working for Jackson's lawyer, Mark Geragos. There were numerous back and forth letters between the two attorneys about the issue of where and how the Arvizos would take possession of their belongings and who should pay the outstanding bill of the storage locker. At the time there were no claims of child sexual abuse, false imprisonment or providing alcohol to a minor.

The sexual abuse allegations emerged a few months later.

According to his own testimony, in early May of 2003 William Dickerman entered into a fee-sharing agreement with attorney Larry Feldman, the same civil attorney who negotiated [the settlement for the Chandlers in 1993-94](#). **This was before Gavin made sexual abuse allegations.** So why would they hire Feldman? Dickerman explained it this way in his testimony in 2005:

*"I began representing the Arvizos in February. And by the time I met with Mr. Feldman, it was the beginning of May. In that period of time I had learned a lot of things. There were a lot of allegations being made, and I realized that the best thing for my clients to do, and for me personally as their attorney, was to get some expert input as to matters of Michael Jackson. The initial things I didn't think I really needed to do that with, but as things developed, I wanted to get some input. So I met with Mr. Feldman, whom, by the way, I knew — not "by the way." It was very important. I knew that he was — by reputation, he was one of the top trial lawyers in California, if not the United States. And actually, previously, not knowing him except by reputation, I had referred a case to him, tried to refer a case to him that I could not handle for various reasons of an old client of mine. And I knew that he was the go-to guy with regard to Michael Jackson matters. Of course, I knew about the 1993 case, so I met with him, with the idea of picking his brain, actually, not to refer any matters to him. And afterwards, he met with them, and they — we all associated together. The Arvizos hired both him and me."*

It is not clear what Dickerman refers to when he says: *"In that period of time I had learned a lot of things. There were a lot of allegations being made"*, because according to the Arvizos' own story, Gavin had not disclosed anything about alleged child sexual abuse to anyone at that point yet. Feldman had previously dealt with only one case regarding Michael Jackson, and that was the allegation of child sexual abuse by the Chandler family in 1993. There is no other claim for him being *"the go-to guy with regard to Michael Jackson matters"*. But we are to believe that Dickerman contacted specifically him just to solve some minor issues regarding Jackson, and they even entered a fee-sharing agreement over that?

Feldman then sent the Arvizos to psychologist, Dr. Stanley Katz, who is the same psychologist who evaluated Jordan Chandler in 1993, and with whom Larry Feldman worked together since 1987. As we have discussed in the section about the Chandler case, Dr. Katz was formerly also involved in the highly controversial McMartin preschool trial.

Gavin testified in 2005 that the first person he ever made his allegations to, was Dr. Katz and that he had not made any such allegations to either Dickerman, Feldman or his mother. Yet, they went to the same lawyer who negotiated a \$15 million settlement for the Chandler family in 1993 in a child molestation lawsuit, and this lawyer then sends him to the same (controversial) child abuse psychologist who had also evaluated the 1993 accuser. Then Gavin, lo and behold, first makes child sexual abuse allegations against Jackson.

In his testimony Feldman claimed that Dr. Katz reported his findings to him in a verbal conversation in his office. Next Feldman called the Arvizo family, including Janet Arvizo, back in his office to tell them about it and discuss their legal possibilities.

As we have mentioned before, Feldman's testimony poked another hole in the Arvizo's story, as it contradicted other statements made by Janet Arvizo, where she claimed that she learnt about the alleged abuse of her son either in February-March, 2003, or alternatively, according to another version of their story, she did not learn about it until September 2003 when law enforcement informed her about it after talking to Gavin.

Although Feldman represented the Arvizos, according to television and radio host *Larry King*, in a private conversation shortly before Jackson's trial began, Feldman admitted that he did not believe them, that he felt they only wanted money and that the mother was a "whacko". King testified about it at Jackson's trial, but due to the hearsay nature of his testimony the jury was not allowed to be present and to take his testimony into consideration. Earlier in April, in his own testimony Larry Feldman denied making these remarks.

During and after the trial, the prosecution tried to argue that unlike the Chandlers, the Arvizos were not interested in money, after all they went to a criminal trial and not a civil trial. That is, however, a misleading half-truth. As you can see here, just like the Chandlers, the Arvizos **did** go to civil lawyers first. In actuality, they went to the same civil lawyer who "negotiated" a 15 million dollar settlement for the Chandlers, which was not a coincidence. The problem for them was, though (as we have discussed in the Chandler section), that the California law that allowed the Chandlers to push the civil trial ahead of the criminal trial in 1993-94 was changed since. That meant that the Arvizos could not use the same strategy as the Chandlers did in 1993. Feldman probably explained it to them that what the Chandlers pulled in 1993 was no longer an option for them. They had no choice but to begin a criminal trial first. And if they had won the criminal case that could have been used to secure an automatic win for them in a civil court too, as both Dickerman and Feldman explained it in their testimonies in 2005.

Whatever Larry Feldman privately thought of the Arvizos, on June 13, 2003 he called Lieutenant Jeff Klapakis at the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office and reported to him Gavin's allegations. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office was not new to the case. Like mentioned earlier, they were already investigating Jackson since February 2003 and, bizarrely, their investigation had started before the alleged molestations even took place, according to the Arvizos' final timeline. Klapakis was personally involved in that investigation since the beginning.

According to Larry Feldman's testimony, in about August, September or October of 2003 (he was not sure of the exact month) he wrote a letter to the Arvizos saying he was not going to represent them. However, from his testimony we have learnt that later he and his law firm did represent various members of the family in related and other matters. For example, in 2004 on behalf of the Arvizos he filed a claim with the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services, seeking monetary damages, because the DCFS's report from February 20, 2003 got leaked to the public.

On November 18, 2003 an arrest warrant was issued for Michael Jackson based on Gavin Arvizo's allegations. Jackson at the time was in Las Vegas, but at the news of his arrest he returned to California and turned himself in. He was then released on a 3 million dollar bail. The same day, in Jackson's absence, 70 sheriffs raided his home, the Neverland Ranch, to carry out a search warrant.

The Prosecution's Statement of Probable Cause (November 17, 2003) document, on which the search and arrest warrants were based, reasoned the request for the warrants as follows:

*"The mere fact of forty-five-year-old Jackson's three-year-long interest in the adolescent Gavin is corroborating in itself; it would strike a reasonable person as grossly abnormal. So is the way that interest manifested itself: endless telephone conversations with the youngster, inappropriate and relatively public touching, kissing, licking and cuddling of him; expensive gifts, cross-country flights, the relocation of the family from their modest quarters in Los Angeles, his efforts to have them take up residence in Brazil."*

As you have seen in this document, in reality Jackson did not have a *"three-year-long interest in the adolescent Gavin"* and *"endless telephone conversations with the youngster"*. In actuality, Gavin himself complained on the stand that Jackson was actively avoiding him during those three years and did not take and return his phone calls. The so-called *"inappropriate, public touching, kissing, licking and cuddling"* was conveniently always only observed by other members of the Arvizo family and there were no independent witnesses to confirm them. As for expensive gifts, Jackson was generous with everyone – children and adults alike. The only cross-country flight (there were no cross-country flights in plural) took place on February 5-6 when the Arvizo family, **including the mother**, went to Miami with actor Chris Tucker to meet Jackson again and Jackson was kind enough to give them a ride back on his chartered plane. The claim about an attempt to relocate the family, to have them *"take up residence in Brazil"* is also a gross misrepresentation of what really happened.

The case went to Court between February-June 2005 and Jackson was found not guilty on all 14 charges on June 13, 2005.



*„Are you infected with the same disease  
Of lust, gluttony and greed?  
Then watch the ones  
With the biggest smiles  
The idle jabbers...  
Cause they're the backstabbers” – from  
the Michael Jackson song „Money”*

## The Wade Robson Allegations

*On May 1, 2013 Wade Robson filed a creditor’s claim/civil lawsuit against Michael Jackson’s Estate and companies for a monetary compensation with claims of childhood sexual abuse by the entertainer. This was a shocker, because Robson previously always defended Jackson against such allegations and denied that anything like that had ever happened to him. So what happened? In this section of the document we will go through the process of Robson’s changing of his story, the circumstances surrounding it, and the legal proceedings in this case.*



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

Wade Robson is a dancer-choreographer, whose career peaked in the early 2000’s as a choreographer for artists like the boy band, NSYNC or teen idol, Britney Spears. As a child he was mentored by Michael Jackson when he and his family moved to the United States from Australia.

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

In 1993, when the [Chandler allegations](#) became public, the police contacted many families and their children who had spent time with Michael Jackson over the years, including the Robsons. Wade Robson (who at the time was 10-11 years old), his mother or any of their family members never said anything incriminating about Jackson during that investigation. In fact, they defended him in a police interview, in a Grand Jury testimony and even in a television interview.

In 2005, during the [Gavin Arvizo criminal trial](#), this time as an adult man, Robson continued to defend Jackson. **He testified at the trial and denied ever having been sexually abused by Jackson.**

Robson continued to defend Jackson privately and publicly alike.

His mother, Joy Robson (who is supportive of Wade and accepts whatever her son claims now) said in her 2016 deposition: “[Wade] would look me in the eye time and time again and tell me that nothing ever happened. He should have had an Oscar. He was very convincing.”

That was up until May 8, 2012 when he changed his story.

So what happened? Why and how did Robson change his story after all those years of defending Jackson?

His claim is that it was not until 2012 that he realized that Jackson had sexually abused him as a child. He does not claim repressed memories, **he claims** that he has always remembered what he now alleges happened to him – only **he did not know until 2012 that it was sexual abuse and that it was wrong.**

That is a quite incredible claim considering that during the 2005 trial Wade was already an adult man and it was discussed everywhere how wrong such alleged acts would be and how there would be nothing consensual about sexual relations between a child and an adult. Another thing to consider is that when the Arvizo allegations became public, just a couple of days later, Robson was asked about them in an interview and he said: ***"I never had that experience and I hope that it never happened to anybody else"***. That sounds like a man who fully understood that a sexual relationship between a man and a child would be wrong. And please consider that, among other things, Wade claims things like anal rape.

He also offered other various, contradictory claims about why he didn't tell his alleged "truth" until 2012. In one version Jackson told him that both of them would go to jail if anyone ever found out, and Robson supposedly believed that until 2012. This seems to contradict the claim that he did not know it was wrong until 2012: if it is something to go to jail for then it is certainly something wrong.

According to yet another version, that he told his mother Joy Robson (as per her deposition), he denied being abused at the 2005 trial because he felt shame about it. Joy Robson: ***"He told me that -- he told me that after he told us about the abuse, when he talked about the trial, and that's why he didn't want to testify. Because if he told the truth, it would be the shame."***

**But Wade contradicted that in his own deposition.** There he was on his version where he didn't know in 2005 yet that what allegedly was done to him as a child was wrong, so he did not feel any shame or guilt about it either at the time.

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

***Wade Robson: "No. I didn't, I didn't have any, as I stated, I didn't have any perspective on it."***

***(...)***

***"I didn't know that at the time. I didn't know that at any, at any time until post May 2012."***

Wade also made the claim that both in 1993 and in 2005, when he was already an adult man, Jackson allegedly coached him on the phone in the form of a "role play" and that supposedly made him a masterful liar – or a **"master of deception"**, as he put it - for more than two decades. What was this powerful "role play" that supposedly made Wade such a convincing "liar" both as a child and an adult?

Well, Jackson allegedly told Robson on the phone: "*They are **making up** all these **lies** about you and me, saying that we did **all this disgusting sexual stuff**. They are just trying to take US down, take away my power and my money, take away **OUR** careers. We can't let them do this. We have to fight them together.*"

That's it. That is the sophisticated, powerful "coaching" and "role playing" method that supposedly made Robson a masterful, Oscar-worthy "liar" for more than two decades.

Although, interestingly, in his 2016 deposition Wade commented at a point that it was his perspective NOW that this was some sort of role play. It sounded like a hindsight re-evaluation of something that at face value would rather point to Jackson's innocence. After all, when an abuser talks directly to his victim they would both know the abuse happened, so it makes no sense for an abuser to deny it and call it "lies" while talking about it directly to his victim. Robson also claims here that Jackson had told him that what was alleged was "*disgusting sexual stuff*", which goes against Wade's claim elsewhere that Jackson taught him to believe that such acts were "an expression of love" and because of that he never realized until 2012 that he was allegedly sexually abused. Here he quotes Jackson himself telling him that such acts would be "*disgusting sexual stuff*", so how would that not ring a bell to an adult man, like Wade was in 2005, that something was wrong with that picture, after all?

**There is no claim that Jackson told Robson in a direct manner before his 2005 testimony what to say or how to testify on the stand.** All Robson can claim is this supposed "role playing" on the phone.

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

In a draft for a book that Wade was shopping about his allegations in late 2012-early 2013 (more about that later), he explains his consistent, convincing denial of sexual abuse by **describing himself as "*a master of deception*"**.

**But was Wade Robson a master of deception all those years while he denied sexual abuse, or is he a master of deception now, when he changed his story and filed a lawsuit amidst monetary demands? Once someone is a self-admitted master of deception, how do you decide WHEN he is deceiving you?**

Because let's not forget: One is under oath and under a penalty of perjury while testifying at a criminal trial **AND** also while making a declaration or testifying at a deposition in a civil case. **That means there is no way around it: Wade Robson is a proven liar who has no qualms about lying under oath and under a penalty of perjury.** He either lied in 2005 or he is lying now that he has changed his story and filed a lawsuit with monetary demands.

Let's investigate further!

## **A Failed Prophecy**

On June 25, 2009 Michael Jackson passed away. Wade and his family mourned him and they went to his public memorial. After Jackson's death Wade had nothing but praise for Jackson, just like during his lifetime.

In an exclusive book, *The Official Michael Jackson Opus* that was published in late 2009, Wade made an entry in which he wrote among others: "*Michael Jackson changed the world and, more personally, my life forever. He is the reason I dance, the reason I make music, and one of the main reasons I believe in the pure goodness of human kind.*"

He also wrote an e-mail to Jeff Thacker, Co-Executive Producer of *So You Think You Can Dance* saying "*I wanted to write you now so if you guys are thinking of doing any dance tribute to MJ on the show, I would like it to be me who does it.*"

He also participated in a tribute by Janet Jackson to her brother at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. In an e-mail dated October 8, 2009 Wade asks James Phares, director Kenny Ortega's personal assistant, if his family could get an invitation to the premier of the *This Is It* movie (a movie made of Jackson's final rehearsals).

For several years after Jackson's death, up until 2011, Wade continued to praise Jackson in various media interviews.

In November 2010 Wade and his wife Amanda had a son. A month later, in December, Wade was offered to direct the dance movie, *Step Up Revolution*, and he accepted the offer. According to his court papers and a blog post he wrote in November 2017, he considered this as the fulfillment of Michael Jackson's "prophecy" to him as a child that he would become a movie director of "epic proportions", bigger than Steven Spielberg.

In early 2011 Wade crumbled under the pressures of the job, which triggered a nervous breakdown in him, made him pull out of the project and left him purposeless.

He wrote about it in a blog post in 2017: "*Additionally, I was now ravaged by a debilitating feeling (sic) of shame that I was a complete failure. I felt that my entire life had been building to this opportunity to become a Film Director. It had arrived, I was fulfilling Michael's prophecy, and then I blew it, therefore my entire life, I believed, had been in vein. Thank God I had [his wife] Amanda and our baby boy because beyond that, I felt no purpose anymore.*"

## **Wade Goes into Therapy**

On May 16, 2011, after his nervous breakdown due to the "failed prophecy" of him becoming a film director of epic proportions, Wade went into therapy. He did not make any allegations of childhood sexual abuse to his therapist or anyone at all.

On May 21, 2011, so only five days after he started therapy, Wade wrote an e-mail to a director of Cirque du Soleil, begging him to let him direct and/or choreograph Cirque's Michael Jackson themed Las Vegas show called "ONE". "*I always wanted to do this MJ show, badly*", Wade wrote in the e-mail.

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

During John Branca's deposition in 2017, Wade's lawyers suggested that Wade was eventually hired to do the Cirque show. Branca, however, answered: "*Huh. That's another -- another Wade Robson fantasy.*" According to Branca, they decided that Jamie King was better qualified for the job and they picked him, rather than Wade. Branca speculated at one point in his deposition that it would be possible that as the director of the show, Jamie King might have hired Wade in some lower position, such as a dancer, but he insisted he was definitely not hired in a leading creative role, such as a director or a lead choreographer that would be validated by the Estate.

Despite of that, in a July 30, 2011 interview, Wade talked about it as if he had a main role in doing the Cirque show. [In this interview](#) he praises Jackson again. **This was only a couple of months before he made his U-turn and first started making allegations against the star.**

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

So what happened between Robson's first therapy in 2011 and his second in 2012? How did he come from praising Jackson and wanting to work on Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson show "badly" in 2011, to claiming childhood sexual abuse by Jackson in May 2012?

Wade now claims that what triggered his "realization" that he had allegedly been sexually abused by Jackson as a child was watching his one and a half years old son and imagining and visualizing him being sexually abused – things that he now alleges had happened to him when he was 7-14 years of age. Apparently he needed to imagine and visualize his infant son being sexually abused to be able to muster up any emotion that he could build on in his own story of alleged childhood sexual abuse.

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

Mind you, visualizing things that he wanted to turn into "reality" was no stranger to Wade. In a 2002 interview he said: *"Learn how to visualize. If (you) have a goal you've got to visualize every little aspect of it. You know, if I want to do a song for somebody, and I really want it happen, I'll put myself in the situation. I'll visualize what the studio looks like when we're recording, I'll picture myself walking to go get coffee, simple little things. But it just places you in the situation and makes it reality before it happens and then there's not even a question that it's going to happen. Every time I've done that, wholeheartedly, it's always happened. It's never failed."*

In 2014 he posted a Neale Donald Wash quote on his Facebook saying: *"Think ONLY what you choose to experience, say ONLY what you choose to make real, and use your mind to consciously instruct your body to do ONLY what you choose to demonstrate as your highest reality."*

Wade also claimed on his blog that what prompted him to "confess" to his therapist was a popular TED talk by Brené Brown about *"The Power of Vulnerability"* that he was listening to on the way to his therapist that day. The talk is about "the courage to be imperfect". It mentions how parents commit a mistake when they raise their children to be "perfect" and want *"to make sure [they] make the tennis team by fifth grade any Yale by seventh"*, which echoes Wade's life who by the age of sixteen choreographed for international stars, such as Britney Spears. The lecture seems more related to Wade's struggle with career expectations and his struggle to be "perfect" in his job from an early childhood (that we will address soon) than sexual abuse.

So these are the things Wade now claims triggered his alleged "realization" of sexual abuse.

**But when we put together all elements of his story, including elements that he omitted from his court documents, a completely different story emerges.**

After his first breakdown in 2011, but still before his turnaround in 2012, Wade returned to work *"with his former sense of invincibility"*, as he put it in his court papers. **However, for a long time he had been struggling with the expectations and pressures of his job. He completely omitted this element from his lawsuit**, but from his blog posts that he has published in 2017 and 2018 (after his lawsuit was tossed) we learn about these struggles in detail.

Moreover, the therapist he went to in 2012, Dr. Larry Shaw, is a therapist whose focus is on people in high pressure jobs, whether in business or entertainment, and especially people who are in those jobs because of their family's high expectations of them.

Dr. Shaw wrote in an article in 2015: *"The guys I've worked with recently have father issues, which means they had very powerful fathers, so there's an aspect of living under the father's shadow. They've got this inner dialogue that's really their father's voice saying, 'You're not good enough. Everyone I've worked with, they all want to get out of the business. They're at the top of their game and they're miserable.'"*

That THIS was Wade's real issue indeed, is echoed in several blog posts that he wrote in 2017-2018. For example, he wrote: *"[A]gain and again, I set my sights higher, believing that the achievements were just not large enough yet, and that was why I hadn't found fulfillment and happiness. But on that quest, I never found them. **On that quest, I eroded and eventually crumbled.**"*

*"I actually became more depressed, the more success I achieved **because time after time, the expectation of fulfillment and happiness was not met. It felt like climbing a mountain and every time I looked up to the summit, it had moved further out of my reach. Nothing was ever enough.**"*

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

In another blog post in April 2018 he reveals that he lost his fun in dancing and music when his career got to a level where a high pressure to achieve and succeed started accompanying those activities, from when he was about 19 years of age.

In yet another blog post in January 2018 he reveals that **it were the pressures to achieve and succeed those lead to his nervous breakdowns:**

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

[...]

*"Through this indoctrination our children learn things like, **"If I'm not busy and stressed, I'm lazy and unworthy,"** "If I'm not the best, I'm nobody at all," and "Never be satisfied, always strive for more."*

**This contradicts the narrative in his lawsuit about the reason for his breakdowns. There he claims that the reason was his realization of alleged sexual abuse by Jackson and that show business was now associated with sexual abuse for him because of that. Otherwise, he claims in his complaint, his career would have continued "an upward trajectory". In his complaint he never mentions that he had a long time struggle with career pressures and expectations and THAT is the reason why he broke down.**

In his declaration (so under oath), Wade claims:

*"Before my final breakdown in 2012, I was on a path to major notoriety and success in my field."*

*"Had it not been for the sexual abuse I suffered as a child, my emotional breakdowns as a result and my subsequent inability to return to the life that [Jackson] "prophesized" I would have, I believe my career would have continued this upward trajectory."*

As you have seen, this is quite simply not true. Based on his own blog posts his career would not have continued "this upward trajectory". On his blog he admits that he has **LONG** struggled with the pressures and expectations of his job, **and that those pressures and expectations were the reason for his breakdowns.** Moreover, his career crumbled way **BEFORE** he "realized" that he had allegedly been sexually abused.

**This means that the whole premise of his lawsuit about his breakdowns being a result of sexual abuse, is nothing but a lie. The reality is that the breakdowns were a result of career pressures and expectations that he couldn't handle.**

And it was a very convenient lie too: He crumbles under career pressures and expectations. According to his mother Joy Robson's testimony, **he also had financial problems at the time**, and worries about how he would provide for his family with his career struggles. **And**

**THEN he suddenly “realizes” that he was allegedly sexually abused by Michael Jackson as a child – allegations that he can then use to sue Michael Jackson’s entities for money. Of course, one cannot sue for a “failed prophecy”, but one can sue if he starts alleging childhood sexual abuse.**

In his deposition and on his blog Wade made claims that it was Jackson who taught him to always work and who is responsible for his unhealthy work attitudes from an early childhood. He tried to blame that on Jackson telling him things like "*study the greats and become greater*" or "*be in the history books*". While Jackson was known to make such comments to people as a way of inspiration and motivation, Robson's perception that this was some sort of "prophecy" that he was entitled to fulfill, and his resentment of Jackson because it did not materialize, is certainly weird.

The reality is that Wade’s mother, Joy Robson, was a very ambitious stage mom and it was her who trained her kids to work hard from an early childhood. **Wade makes absolutely no mention of that in his lawsuit.** However, in a 2011 podcast interview Joy Robson proudly declared that she was the driving force behind her children’s strict working attitude and schedule. Apparently she was the one who “educated her children out of play”.

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

In an article about the Robsons from 1995, we learn: "*Wade was doing three or four auditions between 3-7 pm each day. While Wade worked hard, attending audition after audition, learning lines, practising and rehearsing his dance movements, so too did Joy – his greatest supporter. The two are almost inseparable and make career decisions together.*"

Also from the 1995 article (as well as from the Robsons' testimonies in 2005 or Joy Robson's deposition in 2016) we learn that Jackson was actually hardly present in their life at the time: "*The first 18 months in LA was really tough going. We had taken six suitcases and little money and knew no-one in LA, only Michael who spent much of the time away.*"

Meanwhile, on contrary to Wade’s contention that it was Jackson who taught him that he had work all the time and that he had to give up all fun of life at the altar of work, Jackson actually begged Wade’s mother to let Wade have his childhood. Joy Robson herself testified to that in her 2016 deposition. She said that Jackson **“used to call me and ask -- and beg me not to make Wade work all the time, to let him have his childhood”.**

Despite of clear evidence that it was Wade's mother who made her children work so hard, in Wade’s new version of his life it is Jackson who is made out to be the scapegoat for his unhealthy work attitudes, his own and his mother’s professional or personal failures and he even hints at his father’s suicide in 2002 being a result of anxiety and fear that Jackson might have been sexually abusing Wade, even though Wade's own claim is that he never told or hinted to anyone until 2012 that he had allegedly been sexually abused. That includes his father, who did not even live with Wade, his sister and mother in the United States, but stayed back in Australia with Wade's older brother.



Wade's father was bipolar and according to Joy Robson's deposition the actual issue was that he felt that his family did not care about what he was going through with his mental illness.

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

On top of Wade's career struggles and financial struggles at the time when he first made his allegations, he also had a marital crisis. According to his own deposition, his wife Amanda had a hard time handling his breakdowns and threatened to leave him if he got back to work again and didn't get out of this cycle of breakdowns.

**So this is the context in which Wade - as a quite convenient solution for all of his problems – suddenly “realized” that had allegedly been sexually abused by Michael Jackson as a child.**

This U-turn made it possible for him to sue Jackson's entities for money or to use his new found story in other ways, like seeking a lucrative book deal, since the accused is an internationally known celebrity.

Moreover, apparently his alleged “victimhood” is also something that Wade intends to build on in his new career as a selling point. In a note that he wrote to himself and that the Jackson Estate found out about and presented at his 2016 deposition, Wade stated: *"My story of abuse and its effects will make me relatable/relevant."*

When asked what he meant by that, Wade said that he contemplated a career as a Vedic meditation teacher and he thought potential clients who went through childhood trauma would find someone with a similar story more relatable. The same notes also contain a sentence saying: *"It's time for me to get mine!"* When asked what he meant by that Wade said he did not know.

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

By the way, Wade's “memories” of the alleged abuse also "evolved" during his case. That is it to put it euphemistically that his story has changed even since he first made his allegations in 2012. There are different stories in his book draft that he was shopping late 2012- early 2013 and different ones in his lawsuit.

*"So, have your memories changed as you've gone through that process?"*, asked the Jackson companies' lawyer at one point during Wade's deposition in 2016. *"They've evolved"*, Wade answered.

After Wade first made claims of sexual abuse to his therapist in May 2012, he spent several months e-mailing with his mother, Joy about the events and circumstances surrounding their relationship with Jackson. From the e-mails it is clear that Wade does not have much independent memory of his own about those events, and he has to heavily rely on his mother's recollections to construct a story for his lawsuit.

The e-mails also revealed in discovery that in late 2012-early 2013 Wade was shopping a book about his allegations. He contacted several book publishers, but apparently they all turned him down. During Wade's deposition in 2016, Katherine Kleindienst, an attorney for the Jackson companies revealed that she spoke to Wade's literary agent, Alan Nevins on the phone and he volunteered to her that Wade had asked for "*a large amount of money*" for his book. Wade denied this.

### **No more dance, films, entertainment?**

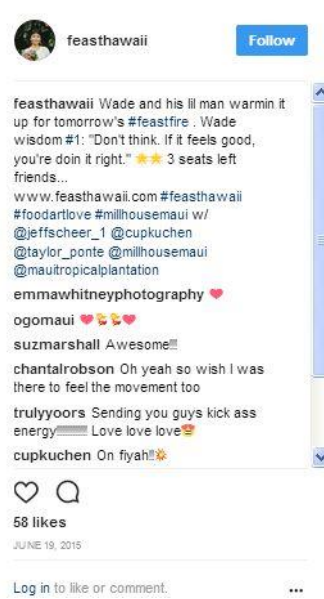
On May 1, 2013 Wade Robson filed a civil lawsuit against Jackson's companies and a creditor's claim against Jackson's Estate. In both he demanded a financial compensation. His claim was that it was due to Jackson's alleged childhood sexual abuse of him why his career crumbled, so Jackson's entities needed to financially compensate him for that. As we have discussed earlier, this is quite simply not true. It were the pressures and expectations of his job why he crumbled.

And this was not the only false claim in his complaint.

Wade claimed that because of Jackson's alleged sexual abuse of him, he was no longer able to do any kind of entertainment activity because those activities were now too associated with Jackson and sexual abuse for him. He claimed that he could not dance, make music, make or even watch films any more because of those activities association with Jackson was so triggering to him.

**The fact is, however, that Wade continued to do all of those activities all the while claiming in court documents that he was so traumatized by such activities' association with Michael Jackson that he would never be able to do them again, so he needed financial compensation.**

On June 19, 2015 Wade's wife, Amanda posted a photo of Wade teaching their son to dance on her Facebook and on her Instagram. Wade also posted the same photo the same day on his own Facebook. Amanda captioned it as "*Wade wisdom #1: "Don't think. If it feels good, you're doin it right."* Rather than it being Wade's own wisdom, it actually echoes Michael Jackson's philosophy in dancing and something that he would likely tell Wade as a child while teaching him to dance.



In 2015 he wrote and directed a dance video entitled “Flight”. Also in 2015, he advertised a dance session with him on his Facebook.



The same year he created a teaser trailer for a dance company. In 2016 he directed another dance video entitled “Life in Color”. On his video channel Wade also posted “making of” footage of it where he is seen dancing, directing, choreographing, laughing and – far from seeming traumatized by dancing or “unable to continue directing in any manner or capacity whatsoever” (like he claimed in his lawsuit) - having a lot of fun with the project.

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



**blakemcgrath** [Follow](#)

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

officialcristian\_\_ Omg omg omg  
 theasherace Major  
 bobbynewberry Yessssssss  
 kbmtalent @blakemcgrath 🍷🍷  
 vtdiaz Outstanding 🇺🇸❤️👍👍👍👍❤️  
 alexandernxg Wish I was home! Hope

1,913 likes  
 SEPTEMBER 20, 2016



**blakemcgrath** [Follow](#)

blakemcgrath So grateful for this team! 🍷🍷🍷🍷 @waderobsoncreations @1triciamiranda 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷 #3rdAlbum #1stSingleVideo #ComingSoon just.being.tony 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷 thereal\_djhollieboii Crazy the 3 of you together! denizaksyyyy I always knew you would be massive michael.mario99 Killer 🍷🍷🍷🍷 sarah\_kelman Whatttttttttt????? bcook98 dance ICONS!! @blakemcgrath can't wait to see what this will be 🍷🍷🍷🍷 1triciamiranda Let's get it!! 🍷🍷🍷🍷 josh\_alexander8 Good looking team @blakemcgrath evucinich Whatttttttttt?????

2,999 likes  
 SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

There are several other dance and film projects that Wade was involved in during the period when he claimed in court documents that he was unable to do such activities in any manner or capacity.

In September 2017 then, while his lawsuit was predictably heading towards dismissal, he declared himself “healed” from the bad associations regarding entertainment activities and announced his return to the dance, choreography and entertainment scene. So, the alleged bad associations and his inability to work were suddenly all gone when his lawsuit was close to dismissal.

## **Robson's Creditor's Claim**

Now, a summary of Robson's creditor's claim and lawsuit. First, the creditor's claim.

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

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

As we have seen before, Robson claimed that he did not understand that he was sexually abused by Michael Jackson as a child until May 8, 2012. "*[Robson] lacked any understanding that his long-term childhood relationship with [Jackson] included ongoing sexual abuse over a seven-year period - the acts giving rise to this claim - prior to May 8, 2012*", we read in Wade's court petition.

In his declaration and creditor's claim, Robson also claimed that he did not know about the administration of Michael Jackson's Estate until March 4, 2013 when he first met with his lawyers, Henry Gradstein and Maryann Marzano: "*Prior to March 4, I did not understand or was even aware that an Estate had been opened for administration or that I could seek to make a claim.*"

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

### **However, this is yet another lie in his complaint.**

As it was revealed during discovery, Wade was well aware of Jackson's Estate years before March 4, 2013. Like we discussed earlier, in 2011 Wade was eager to work on Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson show and to discuss the show, in early 2011 he made a visit to the office of John Branca, one of the executors of the Michael Jackson Estate. Not only he knew that Jackson had an Estate, but he even negotiated with them!

Moreover, Wade's longtime lawyer and family friend, Helen Yu, who helped him in shopping around his book in 2012-2013, discussed the Michael Jackson Estate in an interview on her law firm's website in 2009. She mentioned the Estate's executors, John Branca and John McClain, and she talked about how Jackson "*will most likely earn more dead than alive*" through his Estate.

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

## The Civil Lawsuit

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

In the lawsuit, to get the monetary compensation he desired, Wade portrayed these companies as *"the most sophisticated public child sexual abuse procurement and facilitation organization[s] the world has known"* that knowingly and deliberately "facilitated" his alleged sexual abuse.

### **However, his own mother's deposition in 2016 inadvertently exposed Wade's allegations as lies.**

The Robsons, who are originally from Brisbane, Australia, first met Jackson in 1987 when he was on tour in Australia and Wade, who was 5 year old then, won a dance competition at a Target store where the prize was to meet Michael Jackson.

Wade alleged in his lawsuit: *"[Robson] alleges these "meet and greets" were purposely orchestrated by MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures as a sexual grooming mechanism to acquire minor sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson, disguised as charitable events for minors."*

First of all, the meet-and-greet was not organized by either of Jackson's companies, but by Target, Pepsi and CBS. Wade knows that too, since in his 2005 testimony he himself made mention of Target organizing it.

More importantly, his own mother's deposition in 2016 totally destroyed Wade's narrative in which he attempted to portray this meet-and-greet as some sort of plot to groom him as a sexual abuse victim.

Joy Robson testified that the meet-and-greet was an event where a lot of people were present and they only had a couple of minutes with Jackson. Then Jackson invited Wade to dance on stage with him at one of his upcoming shows. According to Wade's own deposition at the concert he did not spend any time with Jackson off stage, their only interaction was on the stage.

**Their encounter would have ended there, if it was for Jackson or his companies. It was Joy Robson who then made further efforts to contact Jackson again.** She, with her son, had delivered a "thank you" note to Jackson's hotel room a couple of days later and as a result they had another meeting with the star, for about one and a half hours. **Again, this would have been the end of their encounters if for Jackson or his companies.**

Over the next few years Joy Robson sent Jackson letters and videos about Wade's progress as a dancer, but they never heard back from the star. The next time they met or even talked to Jackson again was more than two years later, in 1990, when, **once again, it were the Robsons who sought contact with the star, not the other way around.**

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

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

In January 1990, the Robson family traveled to the USA for Wade and Chantal to perform at Disneyland with a talent school. Before leaving Australia, Joy Robson already tried to obtain contact information for Jackson by calling several Australian television channels and asking if they had any sort of contact for him. Eventually she managed to get the phone number of MJJ Productions.

While in the US, Joy Robson called MJJ Productions and Jackson's personal assistant *Norma Staikos*. At Joy's request, Staikos arranged for the Robson family to meet with Jackson at a recording studio where Jackson was working at the time.

Wade's complaint claims about that meeting: "*[Robson] is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that Ms. (Norma) Staikos was acting on behalf of MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures, as a "madam" or "procurer" of child sexual abuse victims for Michael Jackson. Although disguised as another charitable "meet and greet" between [Robson], his parents and Michael Jackson, this event was purposely orchestrated by Ms. Staikos, MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures as a further means for Michael Jackson to acquire another sexual abuse victim and grooming him and his parents for such.*"

When you read Joy Robson's deposition, Wade's claims are simply absurd. According to Joy Robson's own story, it was Joy who initiated the contact with MJJ Productions and Norma Staikos (MJJ Ventures did not even exist at the time), and her ultimate goal was, of course, to contact Michael Jackson. The companies and Staikos were incidental to that event **and definitely NOT the initiators.**

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

**It is clear that it was Joy Robson who "purposely orchestrated" the meeting, not Norma Staikos, MJJ Productions or MJJ Ventures.** That Wade claims otherwise in his lawsuit seems to be a deliberate lie to try to implicate the Jackson companies and Norma Staikos, because that is the way Wade could sue the companies for money.

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

However, according to Joy Robson's testimony, the idea for the Robsons' immigration to the USA came from Wade's father, Dennis. Joy herself too wanted it: "*You know, I -- I believed that Wade had a future here, and I -- I felt like he had gone as far as he could go in Australia. He really needed to be here*", she said in her 2016 deposition.

The role of Michael Jackson's companies in all this was that when Joy eventually decided to immigrate in September 1991, the Robsons needed a sponsor and an employer in the USA to be able to stay. Joy Robson asked Jackson to help them with that, and Jackson instructed his office to do it.

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

Moreover, the reality is that after the Robsons moved to the USA, Jackson did not even spend much time with them, including Wade. In actuality, in her deposition Joy Robson revealed that she had to be the one to pursue Jackson about calling Wade, putting him in projects such as his *"Jam"* music video in 1992, and that *"Wade felt pushed aside a little bit"* because Jackson would rather spend time with others.

Joy testified that one time she cut ties with Jackson for six months – and that was for Jackson **NOT** calling Wade from the Dangerous Tour. Wade also wanted to go on tour with Jackson, but the star would not take him.

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

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

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

Wade put other stories in his complaint too about which he knew that they were false. For example, he put a story in his complaint by a disgruntled ex-employee, Charli Michaels about which story his own mother told him in an e-mail that it was not true. But because he could use that story to try to implicate Norma Staikos, Wade did not care about it being untrue, he used it anyway.

This shows him as an opportunistic person who does not have any qualms about being dishonest in court documents and to embrace untrue stories if they serve him.

Here we have to mention two other supposed witnesses for Wade, whose stories he previously had denied. These people are ex-employees of Jackson, who came out with claims of inappropriate behavior by the singer during the 1993 Chandler allegations and the



accompanying tabloid media frenzy. **They have been paid money by the tabloid media for their stories.**

One is Mark Quindoy, who worked for Jackson with his wife between 1989 and 1990. In the wake of the Chandler allegations in 1993 they sold stories to the tabloid media, claiming that they quit, because they were so disturbed by what they had allegedly witnessed Jackson do with children, including Wade.

Thing is that the Quindoys gave media interviews about Jackson before the 1993 Chandler allegations too, but those stories never included claims of inappropriate behavior with children. In fact, before the 1993 allegations the Quindoys talked about Jackson as a kind, shy man who was good with children.

Their stories only changed when in 1993 the tabloid media offered money for molestation stories about Jackson. Various journalists revealed that the Quindoys shopped their new found stories for \$250,000 - \$900,000. The Quindoys also tried to shop around a book deal, and court documents revealed that the real reason why they left their employment was because of a disagreement about their wages and conflicts with other employees.

Even tabloid journalists noted about the Quindoys that they found them to be completely untrustworthy.

The other main “witness” of Wade is a maid called Blanca Francia, who worked for Jackson between 1986 and 1991. She is the mother of [Jason Francia, whose allegations we addressed earlier in this document](#).

In 1993, in the wake of the Chandler case, she alleged that on one occasion she witnessed Jackson showering with a child Wade Robson. Francia was paid \$20,000 by the tabloid TV show *Hard Copy* for her story – an amount that was more than her annual salary at the time.

There have been several versions of Francia’s story that she told over the years. At Jackson’s 2005 trial, on direct examination she claimed that although the window of the shower was fogged up, she definitely saw two figures in the shower: one of Jackson, one of Wade. However, on cross-examination it turned out that she said something completely different during the 1993-94 investigation. During Wade’s current case, in 2016, Francia was deposed again and through her recent deposition we got an even more detailed insight into what she actually said in a deposition in 1994.

**In her deposition in January 1994 Blanca Francia admitted that she never saw OR heard Wade Robson in the shower with Michael Jackson.** She admitted that she only ever saw Jackson in the shower and **she never saw a second figure with him.** She also admitted that **she never heard anyone else in the shower than Jackson himself.**

She just assumed Wade to be in the shower (even though that is not what she actually saw) – an assumption that was probably fuelled by the Chandler allegations, in the hindsight. That assumption evolved into a full-blown story by her that she actually **saw and heard** Wade Robson in the shower with Michael Jackson. **Remember, that she testified to that in 2005, which makes her a liar under oath.**

A lot of other details emerged from Blanca Francia's 2016 deposition that show her as unreliable, dishonest and changing her stories at will.

### **Raising Awareness of Facilitators of Abuse?**

The reason why Norma Staikos and Jackson's companies are emphasized so much through these proceedings is that, due to certain legal requirements, Wade needed to make them responsible for his alleged abuse in order to get the monetary compensation that he desired.

This explains why Robson made all those contrived and absurd claims to link the companies and Staikos to his alleged abuse. He needed to demonstrate that the companies and Staikos were in some evil plot to "*acquire him as a sexual abuse victim for Jackson*". But this narrative is clearly a lie based on his own mother's testimony. **The reality is, and Wade knew this full well, that it was his mother who pursued Jackson, not the other way around, and that the companies and Staikos were only incidental to their relationship with the star.**

This leads us to the next point about the alleged purpose of Wade's lawsuit. On his blog he claimed that it was not about money (of course), but about raising awareness of sexual abuse and "*of the people along the way that help facilitate the child abuse directly or indirectly*" and "*to hopefully play any role in helping other victims of Michael Jackson's*".

First, let's see the claim about raising awareness of the people who allegedly facilitate abuse directly or indirectly.

If Wade's story was true then there was no bigger facilitator of his alleged abuse than his own mother, Joy Robson. The mother who pursued the relationship with Jackson. The mother who asked Jackson to help them move to the United States. The mother who admittedly and knowingly allowed Wade to sleep in Jackson's bedroom – and that even after the 1993 Chandler allegations. The mother who, if Wade's story is true, did not pay attention to her son enough to realize that something was wrong. **Yet, Wade does not make ANY mention of his mother's responsibility in his lawsuit at all.**



Joy Robson

Instead, as we have seen above, Joy Robson's actions are twisted into being the actions of Norma Staikos and the companies (eg. about who really orchestrated certain meetings). Wade tries hard to make the companies and Norma Staikos, responsible for his alleged abuse, while **his mother's responsibility is completely missing from the narrative in his complaint.**

In actuality, in his 2016 deposition, in order to implicate the companies, Wade blames Staikos (and Jackson's next personal assistant after Staikos, Evvy Tavasci) more than even Jackson himself:

*"Michael was like a child in a lot of ways, like, he could do his work, he could do his art, right, but beyond that, everyday life stuff, I mean, he could heartly (sic) work a microwave. So, Michael wasn't organizing any of that stuff, [Norma Staikos and Evvy Tavasci] were helping to facilitate all of that stuff."*

In his deposition Wade makes absurd claims like that Staikos should have called the authorities when the Robsons contacted Jackson in January/February 1990. (For what, exactly?) He also blames Staikos because "[Jackson] didn't know about me again until [Staikos] made the connection", **once again "forgetting" that it was his mother who initiated that connection, not Staikos.**

That Norma Staikos is made out to be the main "facilitator" of Wade's alleged abuse instead of his mother, is a big red flag regarding what this case really is about. It has all to do with the fact that this is the way Wade could try to sue Jackson's companies for money.

Coupled with the fact that **his mother's responsibility is completely missing from his lawsuit, this shows Wade's dishonesty when claiming that his lawsuit is for "raising awareness" about people who supposedly "facilitate sexual abuse". His lawsuit and his public communication of it did nothing to raise awareness about his mother's role and responsibility.**

Wade's other claim is that he filed his lawsuit to help Jackson's supposed "other victims", but his treatment of those other alleged victims was certainly inconsistent with that. In his deposition Wade admitted that he never attempted to reach out to [Gavin Arvizo](#), the boy at the center of the 2005 trial. So despite of his claim that he filed this lawsuit, not for money but as some sort of advocacy for Jackson's other "victims", he never bothered to reach out and apologize to the boy whose justice Wade obscured if we believe the current version of his story that he falsely testified at that trial.

He did "reach out" to Jackson's 1993 accuser, [Jordan Chandler](#), but not in the way one would expect from a compassionate fellow "victim". He tried to depose Jordan in support of his lawsuit, despite of Jordan obviously being opposed to it. Instead of respecting the Chandlers' obvious wish to stay away from the case, Wade's legal team aggressively pursued them, filing counter-motions and trying to force them to testify. They even bragged in a tabloid article that they were trying to hunt down Jordan wherever he was hiding from them.

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

Brett Barnes, a fellow Australian who befriended Jackson as a child as well, and always maintained that Jackson never molested him, did not want anything to do with Robson and his so-called "advocacy" either. When Robson's allegations became public in May 2013, Barnes tweeted: "*I wish people would realise, in your last moments on this earth, all the money in the world will be of no comfort. My clear conscience will.*"

The reality is that Robson's lawsuit advocates for no one but his own pocket.

## “How does it feel when you're alone and you're cold inside?”

*“I was wandering in the rain  
Mask of life, feelin' insane  
Swift and sudden fall from grace  
Sunny days seem far away  
(...)  
Here abandoned in my fame  
Armageddon of the brain”  
(Michael Jackson – Stranger in Moscow)*

The allegations and the accompanying relentless, decades long character assassination (that in some portions of the media is still going on after Jackson's death) took their toll on Michael Jackson's health and psyché. In 1993, when the Jordan Chandler allegations came out, Jackson was on tour abroad, but due to the stress of the allegations his health deteriorated, he had to cancel shows due to dehydration and several times he collapsed backstage. In the fall of 1993, at the height of the Chandler frenzy, he wrote a song entitled *Stranger in Moscow* while he was touring the Russian capital. The song was released on Jackson's 1995 *HIStory* album. It gives an insight into his state of mind at the time: the sadness, the loneliness, the pain, his collapsing world - “*Armageddon of the brain*”, as he put it in the lyrics. Eventually on November 11, 1993, he had to cancel the rest of the tour because he developed a dependency on painkillers and he had to seek treatment.



*Michael Jackson and his attorney Thomas Mesereau on verdict day at his 2005 trial*

During the 2005 trial we have seen Michael Jackson's health deteriorate with each passing day and after his acquittal he had to spend some time in hospital to get himself together physically. Emotionally, mentally perhaps he could never recover before his untimely death in 2009.

And while Jackson is not here to witness the posthumous betrayal, it does not make it any less wrong, of course. After all a dead man only has his reputation left. Not to mention the effect it has on his orphaned children and other family members.

In actuality, the posthumous allegations against Jackson are particularly cowardly. Jackson had two highly publicized allegations against him in his lifetime with law enforcement and most of the media being fully supportive of the alleged victims. During Jackson's criminal trial, in 2005, Wade Robson was an adult man. So it is not a case of Robson not having all the opportunities in the world to come out with his allegations while Jackson was alive and could

answer to them. Instead, Robson testified at Jackson's trial in favor of the star. Now, when Robson's career collapsed due to his inability to handle pressure, this "master of deception" suddenly wants to recreate his life in a way that could bring him millions of dollars, set him for life without ever having to work again, and make him "relevant/relatable". And that without having to look Jackson in the eye, and without Jackson having the opportunity to defend himself.

Perhaps we can get a little sense of what Jackson went through emotionally because of these allegations from a story told in a book (*A life for L.O.V.E.: Michael Jackson stories you should have heard before*) by a couple of his fans, Brigitte Bloemen, Marina Dobler, Stephanie Grosse and Sonja Winterholler, who traveled all the way from Germany to Santa Barbara to support Jackson during the trial. One day while waiting for him at the gates of Neverland, a bus carrying Jackson stopped and they had the opportunity to meet the star one by one inside the bus. Their story reveals an emotionally frail and very much wounded Jackson. I felt appropriate to close this document with this story to remind my readers that while Michael Jackson might have been different to "normal" in many ways (and no doubt that, combined with his wealth and fame, contributed to him being an easy and attractive target for opportunists), he was also a human being, who deserves to be treated fairly, regardless of whether you are a fan of his music or personality, or not.

*"Sonja: And there I suddenly stood — right in front of Michael stupidly saying "Hi Michael". I tried so hard to remember the questions we had prepared and I had written down to ask him if possible, but now in this very moment, everything was gone. The only question that came to my mind and that would also make sense in this situation was "How are you?"— and so I asked him that Michael just stood there and didn't answer. He didn't even look at me, but held my left hand with both of his hands very tightly. He then leaned over and kissed me on each cheek, but still he did not say a word. I was a bit confused and didn't know what to do. So the next thing I asked him was "Are you fine?" He finally looked directly at me and bursted out, "No!" And he continued while squeezing my hand: "I just pretend to be fine, but I'm not - I'm not." In the same second, he hugged me very tightly and I realized that he was crying. Oh my God, now I began to understand why he hadn't said anything before. He had tried not to lose his poise and not to cry, but my questions didn't help..."*

*We stood there for quite a while just hugging each other. Michael sobbed a few times and I felt that he was shaking, although it was quite warm inside the bus. It took me at least half a minute to really understand that in this moment Michael was hugging me, crying and just showing and telling me his true feelings. Until this moment I had thought he really would be that strong and positive about the upcoming trial, like he had shown the public at the first arraignment a few days before. How naive I was! Of course, he was scared and of course he was hurt as much as one can be, facing these terrible allegations, when all he ever wanted to do was to help this kid, as he had helped so many sick children before and after that. Given these thoughts and feeling him shiver, I also had to fight with the tears."*

[...]

*Marina: I stopped when I saw Michael waiting at the top of the stairs, looking towards me. Sheepishly I said "Good morning, Michael" to him. At first he just looked at me not moving at all. It seemed he wanted to say something but after a few moments, he suddenly took my hands and pulled me up the two remaining stairs, kissed me on each cheek and embraced me*

tightly. In that moment all the pent-up tension, all the fear and sorrow for him, all the concern, all the sympathy but mostly all the love for him finally unloaded and tears streamed down my face. "I love you so much, Michael!" were the only words that came out of my mouth. Now Michael could not stay composed either, even though he had tried so hard, and so he broke into tears as well, while saying "I love you so much more". He embraced me even tighter than before, trying to console me by caressing my head and back.

We both couldn't stop crying and it seemed to escalate more and more. I felt and experienced in those moments, how totally upset, deeply hurt and broken Michael was by all the terrible things that went on in his life. He was not at all confident, as he had tried to show the world a few days earlier at the court building in Santa Maria. At some point Michael began to tremble from top till toe. It was so obvious that he desperately needed people in his life that he could lean on and trust and who believed in his innocence. For quite a while we simply held each other sobbingly, when he suddenly with a broken voice said, "...you know they hurt me so much with this, they try to destroy me..." His whole body shivered badly as he said those words and I helplessly tried to console him as best as I could by caressing his back, yet found no words of consolation, because I knew the situation he was in was just terrible and to claim anything else would have been a blatant lie. "I know..., I know..." was all I could stammer and again we both had to cry so much, that we could hardly breathe. It felt like Michael was drowning and desperately tried to grasp at straws when he embraced me even tighter, it almost hurt. Yet in this moment of deepest desperation, he now tried to speak again, almost voiceless from all the crying, he croaky whispered in a desperate and beseeching way, "...but we must heal the world and help the children". The way he uttered those words worried me more than anything, because they held a feeling of "Goodbye" in them, as if he tried to indicate that he would not be here with us for very much longer and needed us (fans) to fulfill his mission. Instinctively I answered: "Oh, we will - but we will do it together with you, Michael!", trying to tell him that we all need him so much. By these words he literally broke down again and sobbed so badly that I needed to hold him up, in a way, and keep the balance for us both. Again we cried so much and it took quite a while until Michael suddenly found the strength to pull himself together. I tried to follow his example and both still shaking and our faces wet from each other's tears, we finally said Goodbye to one another, before I shakily went down the stairs again, feeling completely worn out, heartbroken and empty."

[...]

Brigitte: Shyly and slowly I climbed up the stairs towards Michael, still avoiding to look up at him. I did not want to look him straight in the eyes, not to embarrass him and myself, so I just held out my hand towards Michael to say "Hi". But before I could say a word, he grabbed my hand and pulled me towards him and immediately hugged me tightly.

I was kind of hanging there, about two stairs lower than where Michael was standing while he was pulling me closer and closer. There was a small barrier in the bus to define a place behind the driver and prevent people from falling down which also had a handle for people going up the last stairs to hold on. And since I could not climb up all the stairs for Michael had grabbed me before, I happened to have this barrier directly in my stomach which was not very comfortable, especially since Michael was pulling me against it real hard and was not letting go.

*Anyway, so early in the morning, being tired, frozen, nervous and confused, your senses are working quite selectively sometimes — so I managed to forget having this barrier pushed into my stomach after mere seconds. It was only after a while that I realized how warm Michael felt and that he tried to warm me up by rubbing my back with his hand. He must have felt me shaking like crazy. The sound that the rubbing on the jacket made finally “woke me up” and I could feel Michael was also shaking a bit and he was weeping on my shoulder. We both stayed like this for at least one or two minutes without saying anything. Then, I heard his voice whispering in my ear: “Go on the internet...”. As I said before, I was not completely myself then and there, and I just heard something about the internet, and was wondering, what he is talking about. However, after finally concentrating and probably telling my ear to listen, I could hear him go on: “Go on the internet and tell them all, tell all the fans I love them so much and they should come next time to the court! It’s SO important to me!” Having said that, Michael pulled me even harder towards himself. I could barely breathe, but I responded: “I promise they will come - it meant a lot to us as well” (meaning it made us feel better, too, to be finally able to help and support him and to give back to him after he gave so much to the world for years). After that Michael started to cry again. I felt kind of helpless and confused, I was shaking and sobbing, but could not really cry. It felt more like being in shock, I instinctively started rubbing his back as he did before. He hugged and embraced me tighter for a few moments, I could feel him breathing and sobbing - then he finally let go. He stepped back a bit, held his hands pressed together in front of his face and quietly whispered “I love you”. I said “I love you more”, turned around in total shock and almost fell down the stairs I was still standing on. Just before going down the stairs further, however, I saw I still had the three postcards from Munich which we had written to Michael last night in one hand. They were a bit bended since they had been stuck somewhere between the barrier, Michael and me, but I turned around once more, said “oh and this is for you” and gave them to him. He said a quiet “oh, thank you” while still wiping away some tears.”*

[...]

*That cold January morning changed all of us. It was the most heart-breaking, most hurting experience of our life to feel that someone you love so much is hurting so bad, yet to understand that you are unable to truly help, besides supporting him with all your heart and by simply being there for him. But what impressed us the most and made us truly understand who Michael really is, was that even in those darkest and most hopeless moments of his life, Michael’s heart went out to others, to the ones in need, especially to sick and poor children and to our hurting planet! We understood that this is what Michael really was all about! He was about helping and loving and caring for one another! And no matter how many times people tried to ridicule, belittle and hurt him and even, like in the last years, tried to destroy him, Michael never lost his ability to love and care and his deep desire to help others! He simply loved more!”*