

Page 160 9 Good morning again. 10 I am here on behalf of Amanda Campbell. My 11 name is Todd Krouner. I was recently retained 12 by her. She is a widow now in Brentwood, 13 Tennessee, whose husband, Lawrence Campbell, a 14 police officer with that police force, shot 15 himself with his service revolver last month 16 on March 16, 2008. 17 Ms. Campbell regrets that, given 18 her current circumstances, she is not able to 19 afford the trip here to Maryland today. 20 In a March 25, 2008, article 21 reported in the OSN supersite, Dr. Richard 22 Lindstrom, who you know as President of ASCRS Page 161 1 and OSN Chief Medical Editor, is quoted as 2 asserting that there is no correlation 3 whatsoever between adverse LASIK outcomes and 4 suicide. 5 Presumably, Dr. Lindstrom did not 6 have the benefit of reading police officer 7 Campbell's suicide note. 8 In my April 15, 2008, written 9 submission to the FDA, I referred to Dr. 10 Lindstrom's assertion, but in my letter I also 11 questioned the integrity of certain Titans in 12 the LASIK industry, and I want to be clear 13 that none of those comments are meant to cast 14 any such aspersion on Dr. Lindstrom. However, 15 I respectfully disagree with his absolute 16 position based on the explicit statements in 17 police officer Campbell's suicide note from 18 just last month. 19 He states: "No one knows what I am 20 feeling, constant pain, blurred vision, stress 21 that I never had before. If only Dr. Robert 22 P. Selkin had done a pre-op and knew I was not Page 162 1 a candidate for LASIK surgery. 2 "No one understands truly my burden 3 I carry, dry eyes, cannot light a fire, cannot 4 stand in front of air conditioning, cannot 5 cook without opening a window, cannot spray 6 deodorant. The list goes on and on. 7 "I just cannot burden my family for 8 a poor decision, eye surgery, which Selkin 9 knew was wrong but only wanted money, and I 10 will not live on drugs, Xanax. I never used 11 that drug wrong, a half a milligram at night 12 and sparingly in the afternoon on a bad day. 13 I am not a drug user. Never could I do this, 14 as it has ruined so many lives." 15 He goes on to state, "Do not have 16 LASIK surgery. Tell the media." 17 On behalf of the Campbell family, 18 that is why I am here on their behalf today. 19 If there were any question about the cause of 20 police officer Campbell's suicide, he states 21 explicitly: "To blame for this, Selkin eye 22 surgery. Eye surgery has taken my life out of Page 163 1 me. The pain, distorted vision, chronic dry 2 eye is not bearable" -- emphasis in original. 3 Out of fairness to Dr. Robert P. 4 Selkin, I do not know today if he committed 5 medical malpractice in the tragic Campbell 6 case. However, out of fairness to Lawrence 7 Campbell's widow and two children, to date 8 inexplicably they have been denied access to 9 eye records. 10 What is clear in this case -- and I 11 emphasize this one case -- is that LASIK 12 surgery clearly constituted a material 13 contributing factor, if not the sole factor, 14 to police officer Campbell's suicide. 15 To Mrs. Campbell's knowledge, 16 prior to his LASIK surgery she reports that 17 her husband suffered from no mental illness 18 whatsoever. 19 Now you have heard today and 20 certainly recognize that LASIK surgery helps 21 the vast majority of patients who have it. 22 For a small minority, their regret is Page 164 1 profound. 2 For a smaller minority of patients 3 still, depression associated with their visual 4 disability is real. The association with 5 suicide and bad LASIK outcomes, however rare, 6 cannot be dismissed, and warrants further 7 investigation. 8 As a final point, I would just like 9 to call the FDA's attention to its reporting 10 obligations. The FDA's work should be 11 transparent and readily available to the 12 public. It is not always. 13 Nine months ago, my law firm served 14 a Freedom of Information request to obtain 15 information concerning the Administration's 16 recall of the Alcon LADARVision 6000. To 17 date, we have still received no substantive 18 response. 19 Vindication of injured patients' 20 rights depends on timely disclosure of such 21 information. Thank you.