PERRIN CONFERENCES

NATIONAL ASBESTOS LITIGATION CONFERENCE

Charleston, SC | September 15-16, 2026

Trial Attorney Perspectives



Jennifer L. Alesio, Esq.
Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP



James Campbell, Esq.
The Lanier Law Firm



Haley L. Hansen, Esq.
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

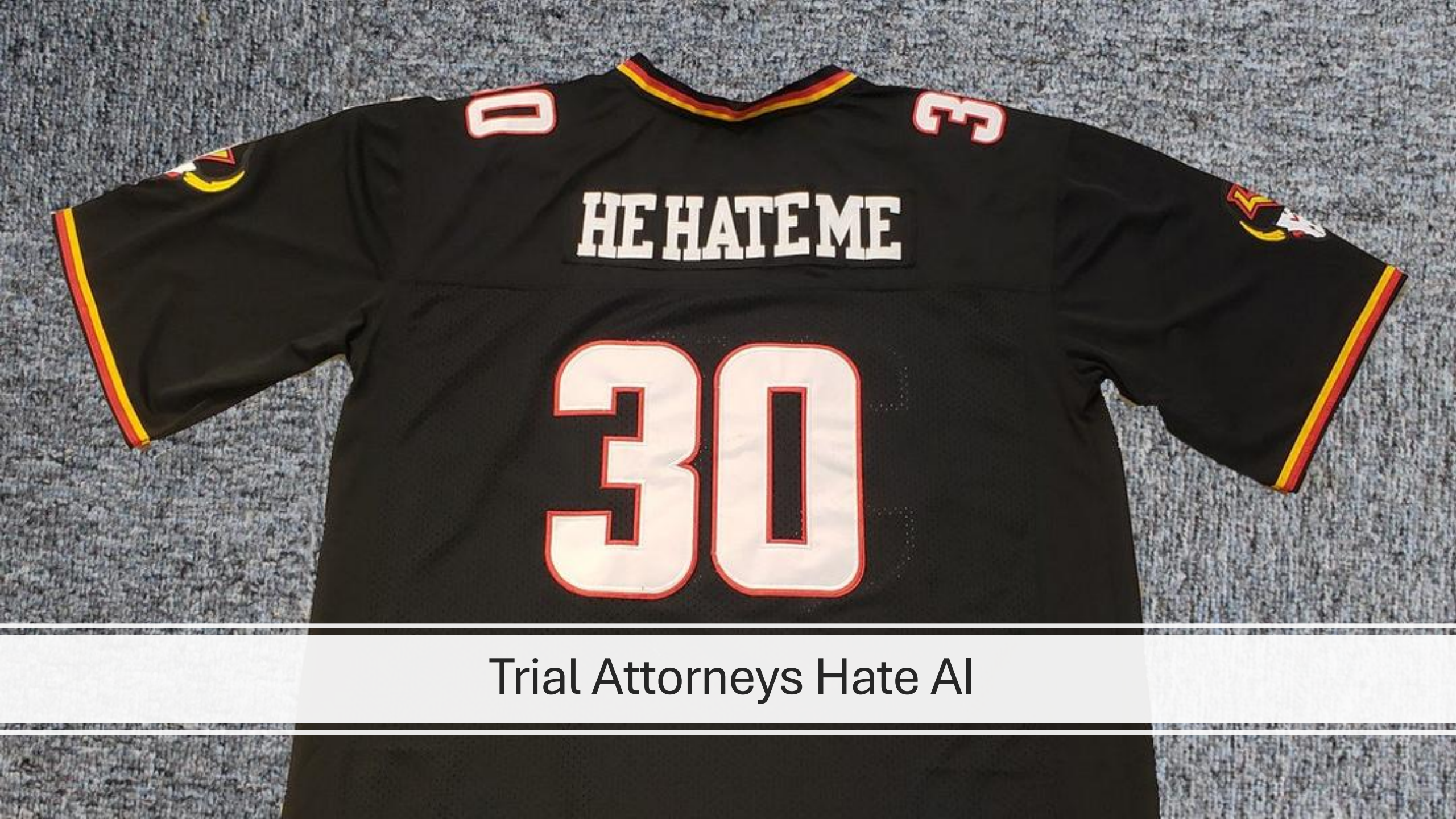


Brittany A. Russell, Esq.
Weitz & Luxenburg P.C.

©2026 Perrin Conferences LLC. All rights reserved. The views are shared for educational purposes only and provided for use only in connection with this conference.

AI Considerations for Trial Attorneys

Perrin National Asbestos Litigation Conference



Trial Attorneys Hate AI

ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1

- Rule 1.1: Competence
  - A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.
  - Comment 8 (Maintaining Competence):
    To maintain the requisite knowledge and skill, a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology . . . .
  - Rule 1.1 is universal.



AI is a tool



AI as a Trial Tool: Two categories of Benefit

- Save Time through Data Analysis
- Foster Creativity

AI as Trial Tool: Two Major Risk Categories

- Cut Corners to the detriment of your work product
- Outsource creativity

Plaintiff and Fact Witness Trial Prep



How to: Upload transcripts into Chat, Claude, etc. (.txt files work best) and give the LLM a specific assignment.



Example: “I represent the plaintiff and we are preparing for trial. Please identify all inconsistencies in my client’s testimony and identify all areas where defense counsel may attack my client’s credibility at trial. Support with page and line citations”



Useful method for trial attorneys to learn the case.

Plaintiff and Fact Witness Transcripts: Good Use vs Bad

- Best Practice: Save time by having AI perform specific data analysis: "find the inconsistencies in my client's memory versus what is stated in the social security records."
- If you use it to summarize or outline, use it as a starting point in the process.
- Imprudent Use Is falling victim to the illusion that your work is done when you ask it to write an outline.

Experts

- Same process can be employed with experts. Upload their deposition, CV, report, and/or past testimony and ask for:
  - Direct
  - Cross (with page and lines from the depo)
  - Areas of improvement
  - Areas of attack
  - Get creative, and ask a lot of questions and modify your prompts.



Experts: Good Use vs Bad

Good use of the AI tools in this context uses the outline as a starting point in the process.

Get Specific: E.g., “using these transcripts, find the most up to date number on how much $ this expert has made testifying for plaintiffs in asbestos litigation. " No more wasted time digging for stuff that can be pulled in seconds.

Imprudent Use Is falling victim to the illusion that your work is done after you spend five minutes asking AI to write your cross outline.

Trial Prep: Theme Generation

Upload relevant transcripts, materials and/or provide pertinent facts and ask for 5, 10, 20 trial themes.

More specificity the better: Incorporate themes from Damages 3, for example.

Good Use: Think of yourself as a late night talk show host and AI is your team of writers.



AI help with Jury Research

- Jury Consultants (e.g., Magna) equipped with AI Tools can find social media posts quickly.
- Best Use: Know what you want and use AI to find it much faster.
- Poor Use: Rely exclusively on this data and outsource your thinking to a machine.



Voir Dire: Cause Challenges

- If you have it, feed the real time transcript into AI and legal standard and ask for cause challenges with support.
- Risky Practice: Trying to get AI to do your job for you.



Legal Argument at Trial

Rather than relying solely on memory, upload the trial transcripts every day. This will allow more precise arguments.

Best practice: The more data, the better.

Best Practice: Do not be over reliant—use the tool for specific tasks, e.g., tracking a ruling on a MIL.





Trial Exhibits and Demonstratives

Trial Exhibits and Demonstratives: Good use versus bad

Comes down again to diligence. Don't be sloppy.

Put in the work and make sure the demonstrative, photo/video simulation is accurate.

Live at Trial: Impeachment and Tracking Proceedings

- Lots of Data generated at trial.
- Cut through that data quickly and for specific purposes, e.g., "did my client's live testimony differ from the factual assumptions my expert made in her report?"
- Risky use of AI is to ask it to do too much and do your job for you; e.g., "what themes are resonating?"
- Use it to quickly gather ammo for closing and post-trial motions.



The Future

- Photo and Video and simulations
- AI driven focus groups
- Juror audio and facial recognition technology





My Summer Vacation

[Your name] • [Summer year]

[A few words that describe your summer]

My Summer ~~Vacation~~ Trials

Jennifer Alesio, Simmons Hanly Conroy • Summer 2026

Where I spent my summer

THE PLACE

[Where you went or stayed]

THE PEOPLE

[Who you spent time with]

[One detail about this place]

[Add your photo here]

[Photo caption: place or people]

Where I spent my summer

THE PLACE

Long Beach, Hayward and Downtown Lost Angeles, CA

THE PEOPLE

Defendants and counsel who were . . . new(er) to asbestos and talc litigation.

(Or, You know it's bad when I miss your shining faces . . .)



The Hilton Long Beach central lobby

Three things I did

01

[First activity]

[What made it fun or interesting]

02

[Second activity]

[Something you tried or discovered]

03

[Third activity]

[One detail you want to share]

Three things I (WE) did

01

Paula Shadle vs. Beckman Coulter, Inc.

Scientific Equipment supplier packaged lab chemicals in Libby vermiculite well into the late 1980s.

02

Amir Azar vs. PPG, Inc.

Automotive paints and primers containing talc (no added asbestos), bystander only exposures, late 90s-2000s.

03

Michael Smith vs. Oatey Co.

Ditto the above, but 30 years earlier (late 60-72) and with mixed automotive friction exposure.

My favorite moment

[Add your photo here]

[Give this memory a short caption]

[Name your favorite moment]

WHAT HAPPENED

[Tell the story in 1–2 sentences]

WHY IT MATTERED

[How it made you feel]

My favorite moment



Murder heels.

Trial Cross of A Corporate Representative

WHAT HAPPENED

Very Bad Things for the Trial Defendant.

WHY IT MATTERED

“Know nothing” Reps will either
1)Get you sanctioned; or
2) Worse yet, punitive damages

What I’ll remember

Something I learned

[A skill, discovery, or lesson]

Next summer, I’d like to…

[Something you want to do]

[My summer in three words]

Thank you for listening!

What I'll ren

Something I learne

er, I'd like to...

The genetics "defense
in California.

s ☺



SO literally the only
expl

em there was by blatant
ummer.



Stephenson v. Mole Richardson

Los Angeles, CA

Plaintiff:

- 80 year old plaintiff living with pleural mesothelioma
- Single, no children but adores his stepson
- 23 defendants sued

Trial Defendant:

- Mole Richardson, a manufacturer of asbestos containing stage lights

Exposure:

- Plaintiff was a career “cameraman” exposed to asbestos textile insulation used on the exterior cord



Stephenson v. Mole Richardson

February 27, 2026

Verdict:

- $3.64 Million Past Pain & Suffering
- $29.7 Million Future Pain & Suffering
- 100% responsible
- Plus punitive

Total: $33.34 Million



George Stephenson v. American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 25STCV11597

Lead Trial Counsel: Jamie Mattera, Esq.



George Stephenson v. American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 25STCV11597

Lead Trial Counsel: Jamie Mattera, Esq.

Jon Widercrantz v. American Biltrite Inc.



NYCAL

Plaintiff

- 70 years old, pleural mesothelioma

Claims

- Design Defect, Failure to Warn
- Punitive Damages

Exposure

- Worked in theaters and in construction.
- Installed and removed VATS at hundreds of jobsites from 1974 to 1987/88.
- Also had exposure to insulation from boilers, pumps and valves.

Jon Widercrantz v. American Biltrite Inc.

April 6 & 7, 2026

Verdict

$10 Million past pain & suffering

$10 Million future pain & suffering

$5 Million punitive damages

90% to American Biltrite



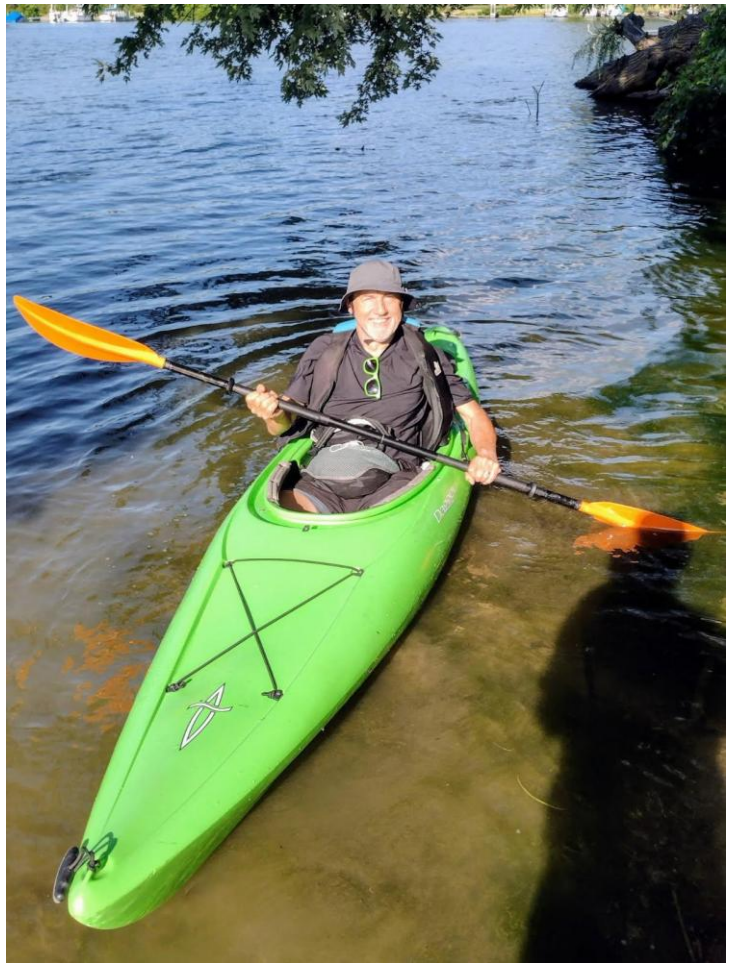


©2026 Perrin Conferences LLC. All rights reserved. The views are shared for educational purposes only and provided for use only in connection with this conference.

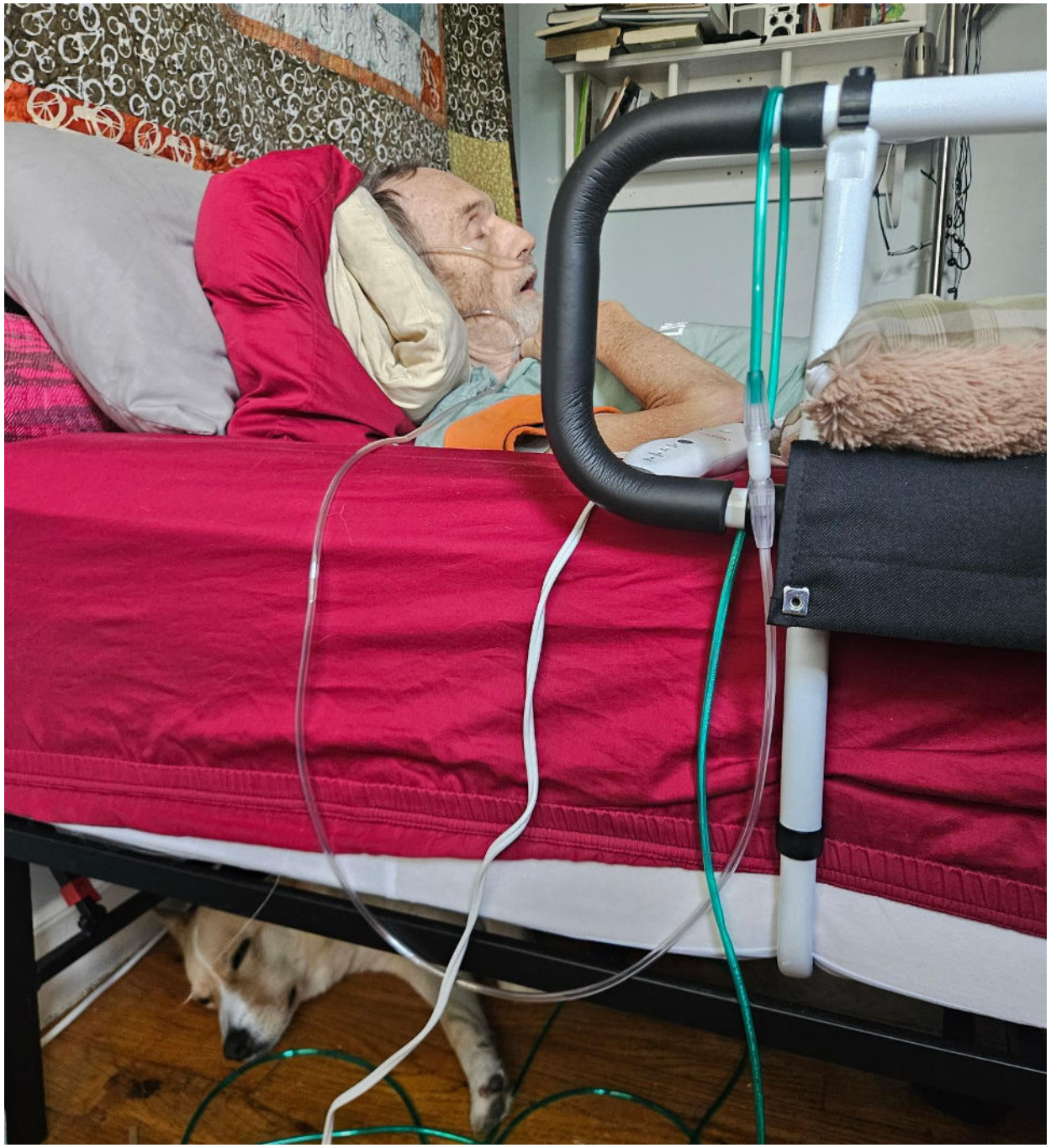


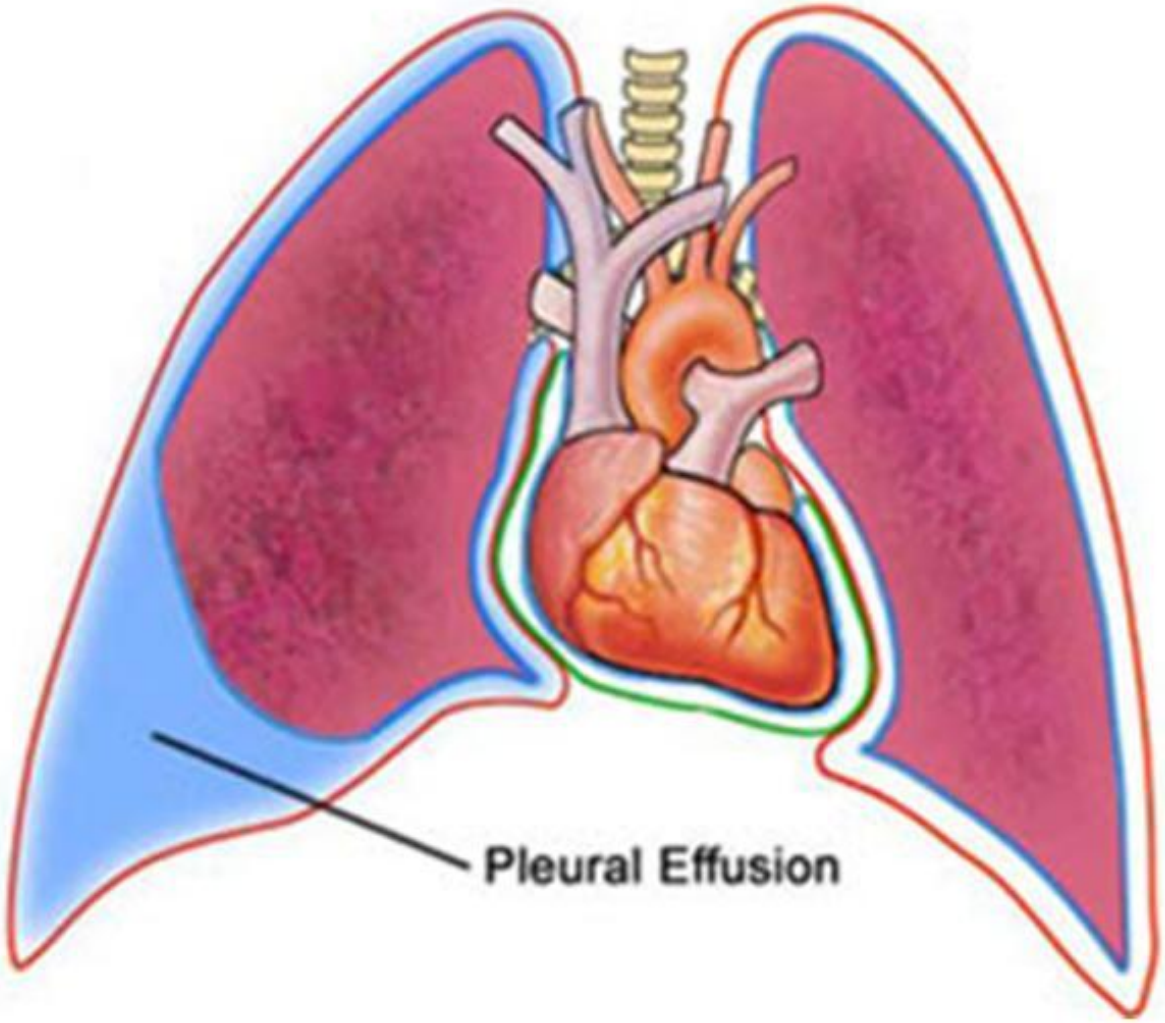
Jon Widercrantz
Past Medical History

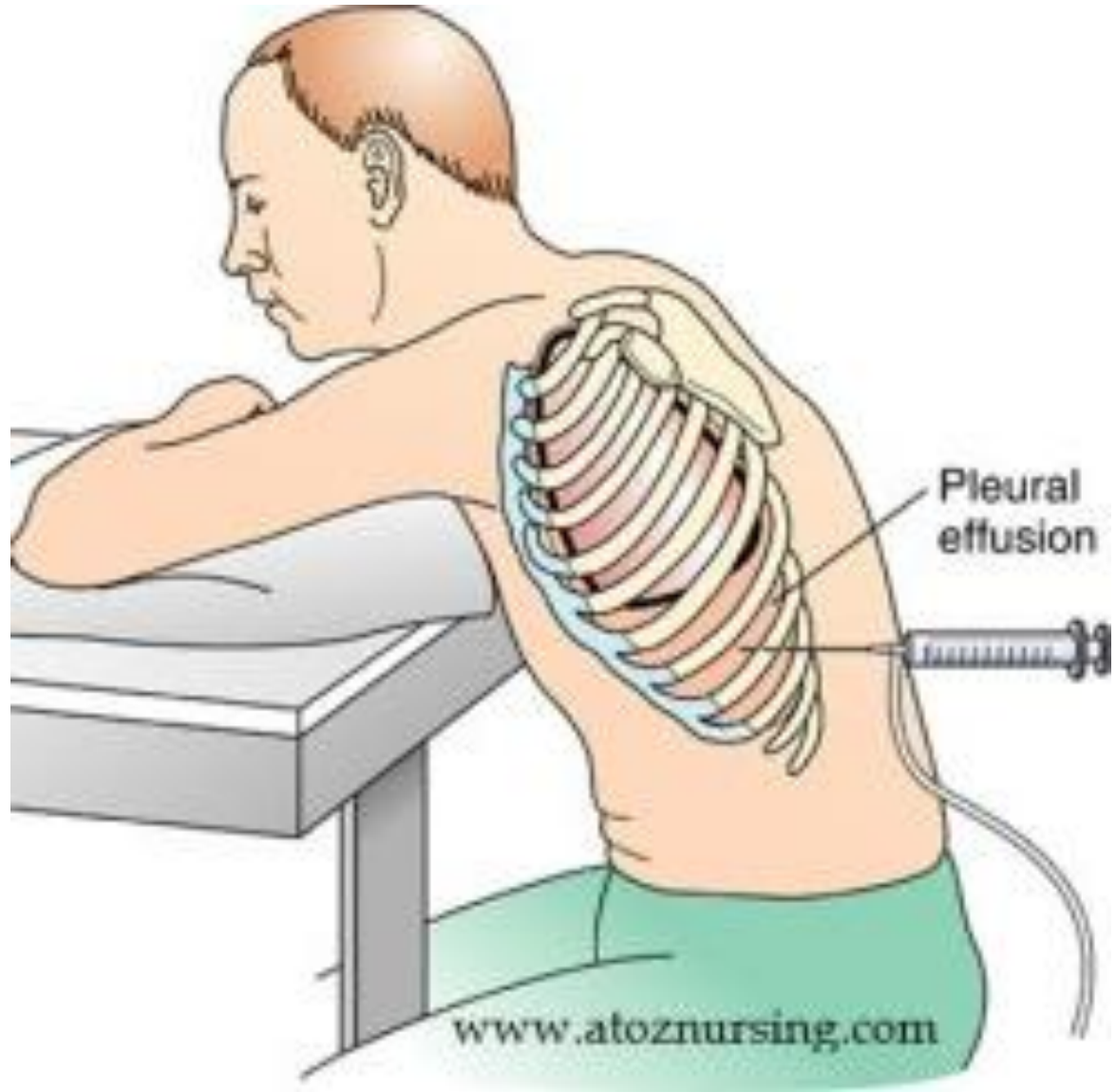


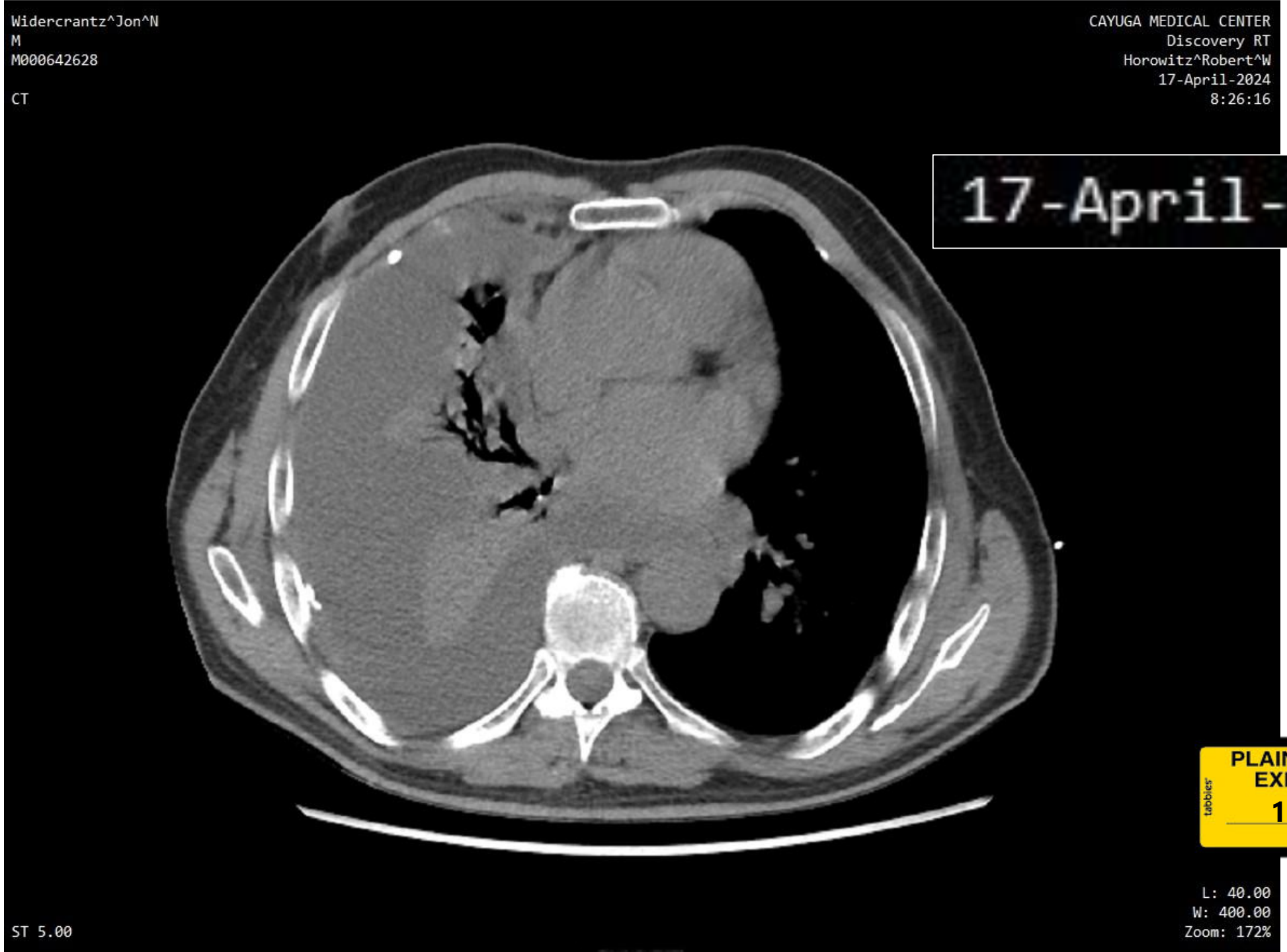






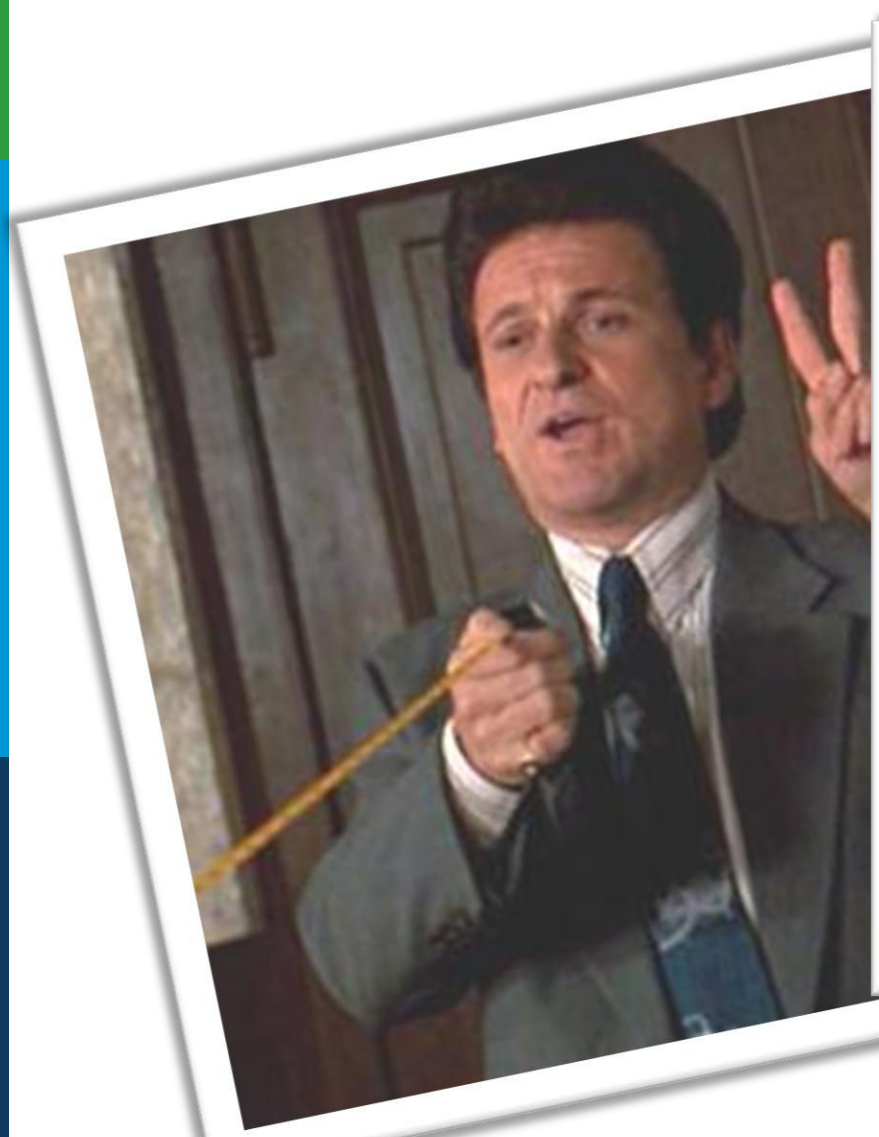

Pleural Effusion


Pleural
effusion
www.atoznursing.com

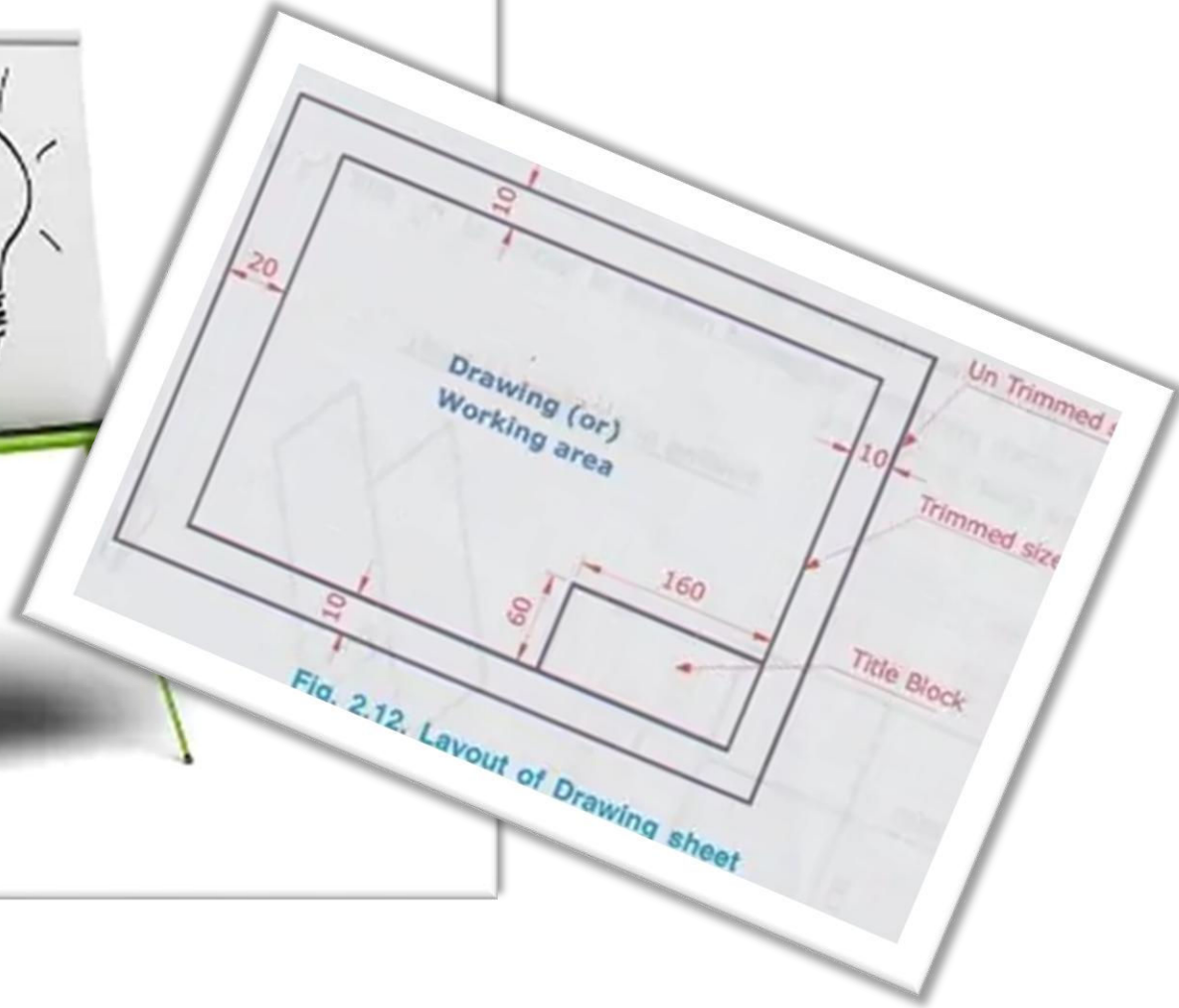

Widercrantz^Jon^N
M
M000642628
CT
CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER
Discovery RT
Horowitz^Robert^W
17-April-2024
8:26:16
17-April-2024
PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
107
tabbies
L: 40.00
W: 400.00
Zoom: 172%
ST 5.00

Demonstratives

PERRIN CONFERENCES
NATIONAL ASBESTOS LITIGATION CONFERENCE







Jury Selection



What's new?

What's old?

DEFENSE VERDICTS 2025-2026

PERRIN CONFERENCES
NATIONAL ASBESTOS LITIGATION CONFERENCE

- *Carpenter* – July 2025 – Los Angeles County, California
- *Johnson* – October 2025 – Richland County, South Carolina
- *Bassett* – April 2026 – Cook County, Illinois
- *Passmore-Meyer* – May 2026 – Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
- *Newell* – August 2026 – King County, Washington



Motions in *Limine*

PERRIN CONFERENCES
NATIONAL ASBESTOS LITIGATION CONFERENCE



To file…

…or not to file…

…that is the QUESTION?