

GRACE: Richard Herman just stated that the attorneys who had been counseling John Mark Karr behind bars have caused more trouble than helped whatsoever in the case, even for him. Take a listen to what they had to say.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JAMIE HARMON, ATTORNEY: My overall opinion of him is that he's a very intelligent man, that he is a different sort of person than most of us walking around on the face of the planet, and that differentness has been construed in the media as wrong or somehow unbalanced, and I don't find that to be true at all. I found him to be very engaging, very bright, very articulate, and very, very much appropriate in his emotional response to what's going on.

Mr. Karr has been portrayed by the media of late as being mentally unstable, attention-seeking, unwell, mentally unwell, and he is none of those things. And he is anxious to have an opportunity to address the allegations against him, to be portrayed in a more accurate and more complete way.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GRACE: That is attorney **Jamie Harmon**, who met at length with John Mark Karr behind bars but now says she is not his attorney. We will be taking a press conference from her and another attorney, Patience Van Zandt, at 8:30 sharp Eastern, when it goes down.

I want to go out to Dan Simon. Dan, I know you heard what **Jamie Harmon** said. She went on and on about how articulate, how well-adjusted, how appropriately emotionally this guy was acting. It sounded to me like an ad on Match.com. But didn't she ruin any possibility of an insanity defense down the road? And is he being segregated right now under suicide watch?

GRACE: Straight out live to a presser by defense attorneys **Harmon** and Van Zandt, who have counseled John Mark Karr. Right now we're trying to pull up the audio. As you see, there is **Jamie Harmon**, Patience Van Zandt. Both of them have been counseling John Mark Karr for hours.

JAMIE HARMON, DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR JOHN MARK KARR: We have so informed the California and Colorado authorities. Second, and this is probably the much more interesting part, regarding the timing of Mr. Karr's anticipated transport to Colorado, we have repeatedly attempted to learn from both the L.A. County sheriff's department, as well as the Boulder County district attorney's office, when Mr. Karr will be transported to Colorado.

The L.A. sheriff's department has refused to provide any information to us at all. And quite frankly, I think the reason for that is that they don't know.

We have also received a communication this afternoon from Boulder County, from the D.A.'s office, Pete McGwire (ph), who is one of the prosecutors involved closely with this case. And Mr. McGwire has informed us that he is, quote, "unable to share," unquote, with us any details concerning Mr. Karr's transportation to Colorado. He also indicated that he does not expect a first appearance in Boulder for Mr. Karr sooner than next week, early next week.

It's been very difficult to communicate with Boulder County about this case in any way, shape, or form. I'm sure most of you are finding that to be true, as well. It's somewhat baffling for us that they won't communicate with us. I do understand there are security concerns about his transportation. But the bottom line at this point is that they're telling us they don't expect him to arrive in Colorado much before early next week.

OK, and that's it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can you say your first name and spell it, both your last name, so we can get it on the record?

HARMON: Sure. My first name is **Jamie**. It's spelled **J-a-m-i-e**. This is Patience. Her name is spelled P-a-t-i-e-n-c-e. My last name is **Harmon**, **H-a-r-m-o-n**. Hers is Van Zandt, V-a-n Z-a-n-d-t, one word.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ... photographs that supposedly indicate that he was not in Colorado at the time, but was in Georgia? The family is talking about those photographs.

HARMON: I haven't heard about those today. Is this new information?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, one of the brothers talked about it.

HARMON: Well, you should be aware if you're not that one of the brothers has retained a talent agent to represent him. One of the brothers and the father, I believe, have retained this talent agent. And they are now attempting to put all kinds of interesting information into the media, and I don't know how much of it is true and how much of it is not true. We haven't received any photographs.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you have a retainer for your services?

HARMON: We don't talk about that. That's privileged information.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE) Mr. Karr himself (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: I can't tell you why, because that would require us to disclose confidential information, but it is Mr. Karr who has hired us.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE) you represented him earlier?

HARMON: Patience did.

PATIENCE VAN ZANDT, ATTORNEY REPRESENTING JOHN MARK KARR: It was I who represented him in 2001.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And your relationship?

HARMON: My relationship with him now is that I'm his lawyer, and I became his lawyer this morning. I met with him with Patience over the course of the few days we were in Los Angeles and developed a rapport with him.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Are you in communication with this person that's supposed to be a talent agent?

HARMON: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you have no idea what they're doing in that respect?

HARMON: Well, I have some idea what they're doing. I don't have to talk to him to know what they're doing. But I haven't spoken to him, nor do I intend to.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ms. **Harmon**, you had actually criticized the Sonoma County authorities for not releasing any of the taped conversations or e-mails until just recently. Can you elaborate on that?

HARMON: I did? Apparently not. I haven't criticized the Sonoma County authorities about absolutely nothing, OK?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE) there are some people who have been critical of the two of you and some of the statements you've made previous to being his -- when you were his legal adviser, such as getting on the record (OFF-MIKE) being very clear about what an intelligent, lucid person he is, the same person who made some very incriminating statements (OFF- MIKE) tie your hands (OFF-MIKE) the lawyers hands down the road when you make those kinds of statements. People have been very critical of what you two of you have been saying. How do you respond to that?

HARMON: I think there is an element out there who is critical of that, and to me that sort of criticism is ridiculous. We're talking about a crime that occurred 10 years ago. So his state of mind as of today or yesterday, which is the time that I was referring to him, and his state of mind 10 years ago are completely different issues.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, we're talking about his state of mind a few days ago when he made some very incriminating statements about himself.

HARMON: Yes, his incriminating statements were made days before I met him. And I can't say under what circumstances those were made. I know, when I spoke to him, when we spoke to him together, his statements were very lucid and clear.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE) article about you, an investigative piece, that in three cases you've misled clients and gave them incorrect legal advice. Some of those cases were (OFF-MIKE) now you're going to represent a high-profile case. Can you speak to that (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: Yes, that article was -- that series of articles was to further the political agenda of a person who was running for district attorney, who has enormous animosity towards me personally, and who wanted to use that forum in order to give her animosity some exercise. And I don't really have any further comment about that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: No, I don't admit anything about that newspaper article being in any way accurate, Lloyd. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ABC News actually found Karr's first wife.

HARMON: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He married when he was 13. Are you going to be speaking with her? And, if so...

HARMON: I have no idea. Potentially, sure.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What is your feeling about him marrying a 13-year-old girl?

HARMON: I don't have any feelings about it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE) what happens to that? Are you fighting any move to Colorado (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: No. His greatest wish is to get there as quickly as possible, and we want to expedite his agenda in that connection.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: We went to see him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You went to see him?

HARMON: Because of Patience's relationship with him.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You say the L.A. authorities haven't been (OFF- MIKE) forthcoming about his (OFF-MIKE) but at the same time (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: It doesn't frustrate me so much not knowing. I do understand the position in which they've been placed. And they have to keep that close to the vest. They're afraid that, if they tell us anything, that we'll tell somebody else. I don't know why they think that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: At this point, it seems so, yes. We're making contact there now.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: At this point, it seems so, yes. We're making contact there now.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: I don't want to tell Boulder County anything. I just want them to communicate with us.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I didn't hear what you said. You said right now his greatest concern is what?

HARMON: Is expediting his trip to Colorado. He wants to get there.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (OFF-MIKE) representing him? You are officially...

HARMON: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Jamie, when you last saw him, could you describe how he's faring, his state of mind, what he's thinking? What you can share with us?

HARMON: Well, he's completely isolated from any kind of media contact at all, so he doesn't have any idea what's going on in the wide world about his case or himself. And so I think that assists in allowing him to become more grounded as time goes by. I spoke with him this morning; he seemed to be doing fairly well.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What was your reaction to his asking you to be his attorney? Were you expecting this? Were you surprised? (OFF-MIKE)

HARMON: I don't know that my reaction is particularly relevant. I was glad.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So you approached him or he approached you? How did you get involved?

HARMON: It wasn't a question of approach. We went to see him because we were concerned about the way he was being portrayed in the media, and we wanted

to encourage him to stop talking.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Has he agreed to that?

HARMON: Absolutely. It was a requirement of our relationship.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can you expand on that?

HARMON: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How much harm do you think he did to himself by talking previous to your retention?

HARMON: I really have no idea at this point. I have no idea.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you think that Boulder authorities and L.A. authorities are not recognizing you as the attorney?

HARMON: Well, they...

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ... this is a major development today and...

HARMON: It is a major development today because they have been unwilling to communicate with us in any sort of substantive way. They've provided us with some procedural information and some basic stuff about it, but they have not particularly been willing to communicate with us. And...

GRACE: You are hearing a live press **conference** as it closes down, with defense attorneys **Jamie Harmon** and Patience Van Zandt, who are now publicly stating they are representing JonBenet murder suspect John Mark Karr.

(NEWSBREAK)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KARR: JonBenet, God, what a powerful thing to just be alone with that little girl, the doll face. You know, she was just so incredible in mind and so unreal in death. She's just so alive. She's so alive. She's so alive. She's so alive. I mean, she's wonderful.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GRACE: Man, he may be right with a statement like that. He may even be able to overcome a DNA non-match.

Now, CNN cannot independently verify the authenticity of that tape. That is from Wendy Hutchens. She claims the voice is Karr's. When we spoke to Hutchens' rep asking to interview her for copies, they indicated they wanted monetary compensation, and we declined.

I want to go out quickly to Richard Herman. We have just brought you live a press **conference** from his newly announced defense team. I've got a couple of problems right off the bat, Richard Herman. Number one, our research says neither one of them are licensed to practice in Colorado. Number two, they have released what could be the defense. They're saying, "Well, he wasn't crazy when I spoke to him."

But translation: Maybe he was crazy 10 years ago. Hasn't spoken to the guy, Larry Garrison, the producer the family has cut a deal with to tell this guy's story, to tell Karr's story. Doesn't know if they're going to talk to the first wife. I mean, of course, the Boulder D.A. is not talking with them. All along they've been saying they're not his defense attorneys.

HERMAN: Nancy, not only that. They've probably I would venture say have never tried a criminal case in Colorado. I would also venture to say they're not admitted in Colorado. They can get over that. They can get in pro hac vice for this particular case.

But her ineptness was just displayed to you when she says to you, "Well, the murder was committed 10 years ago, so my observations of his mental condition have no bearing whatsoever." Meanwhile, a day or two before, this is when he made his confession. Was he competent to make that confession? This is outrageous.

She wants face time on TV. That's why she called for this press **conference**. They're not going to be the lawyers when he gets moved to Colorado. And there's also solicitation issues, solicitation. How did they just walk into his cell and say, "We want to be your lawyer"?

GRACE: To Keith Lindsay, agree or disagree? Why are these people -- you know, Keith, when you and I prosecuted together for all those years in the district attorney's office, we were told one thing: Don't speak to the press. Period. Doesn't matter. Why are they doing this?

KEITH LINDSAY, FORMER PROSECUTOR: I completely agree with Mr. Herman. It appears that it's nothing more than a ploy to get publicity for them and their practices. I was also shocked that she would come forward and say that it did not matter what his state of mind was two days ago when he made his confessions.

In fact, she should be playing it the opposite way, and I would be playing it the opposite way if I were her, saying that the statements he was making are just evidence that he is a deluded individual with a fantasy obsession of JonBenet Ramsey that has led him to give these confessions for his 15 minutes of fame. That ought to be the defense.

GRACE: And when you hear that statement that he gave, it is so chilling, it is so convincing. On the other hand, to Dr. Jeff Gardere, he could have convinced himself he did it.

JEFF GARDERE, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST: Absolutely. This guy can be so delusional. Whether he did it or not, he could be so delusional that he just doesn't know what the reality is anymore.

He can convince himself that now he's in the time line, he's part of that history, and now he's just bringing in all sorts of information that he may have already read or found out about on television shows, you know, in the books, in newspapers, and has now brought that into his own reality.

GRACE: Well, it's interesting that you would say that, because CNN's Dan Simon just reported that this was investigated in California in 2001 and those authorities simply believed that this guy was totally fixated on JonBenet Ramsey, not that he was an actual murder suspect.