



## Bill to prevent the sale of aborted babies fails to pass the Senate.

Missouri House members stand for life. Missouri Senate falters.

~ Susan Klein  
MO Right to Life Legislative Liaison

While the Senate Republicans defunded \$380,000 from Planned Parenthood and subpoenaed them for information on the disposition of the bodies of aborted babies, pro-life Missourians are profoundly disappointed in the Missouri State Senate.

In spite of the fact that both the House and Senate investigations revealed discrepancies in the disposal of the bodies of aborted babies and received no proof that they aren't being sold, the Senate failed to bring to the floor HB2069, legislation addressing this issue that had already passed the Missouri House. HB 2069 would also have given whistleblower protection to workers who want to tell the truth about what goes on with the babies' bodies after abortion. HB 2069 passed the House with a bipartisan veto-proof majority of 120 votes.

Another bill left on the table was SB 1129, which would have given standing to a mother who seeks custody of her IVF embryos that were conceived prior to the divorce.

The inaction on these two bills calls into question the possible behind-the-scenes opposition by the research industry.

MRL has long believed that the abortion industry and research industry are intrinsically connected. We have stressed that researchers should focus

on ethical research that neither creates incentives for abortion nor destroys human life. Read the related article on RYH4K to see further implications of the research industry's far-reaching drive to get state dollars to underwrite their research with no boundaries. (See article on back page.)

By not addressing what is going on inside Planned Parenthood, the Missouri legislature hinders the efforts to end abortion in Missouri. Allowing the possible sale of aborted human embryos to continue creates an incentive to legalized abortion. The ability to purchase aborted embryos for research without restrictions will drive the market for the destruction of unborn children. It's already well established that researchers want to perform life-destroying research on unimplanted IVF embryos.

Other legislation to protect babies in the womb also failed to pass the Missouri Senate. A ban on dismemberment abortions, which has passed in 5 other states, died in Missouri as well as Simon's law, which would have allowed parents to control the health decisions of their children.

Missouri Right to Life, as well as other groups in the capitol, worked hard to pass multiple pieces of life affirming legislation, and yet the pro-life supermajority in the Missouri legislature failed to deliver.

### ~ **BUDGET BILLS PASSED WITH PRO-LIFE PROVISIONS**

- Alternative to Abortion Funding.
- Maintained pro-life protective language on Department of Economic Development bill to prevent public monies from being used for research on aborted babies, embryos, and human cloning.
- For the purpose of providing expansion of courier services for delivery of cord blood to the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank at SSM Cardinal Glennon Hospital.
- Show-Me Healthy Babies Program Funding.
- Family planning dollars in the state budget (\$380,000) will now be funded by the state and not the federal government. These monies can be used for family planning provided that none of the funds appropriated may be expended to directly or indirectly subsidize abortion services or procedures or administrative functions. None of the funds appropriated may be paid or granted to an organization that provides abortion services.
- Better Health Care for Women that does not include abortion!





## **"I can only imagine" ~ a beautiful triumph of the human spirit**

By Dave Andrusko

We got up at 4:45 Sunday to be able to take our oldest daughter to compete in a short race (by her standards) of six miles. Beautiful day, up to a thousand runners, nice background music – couldn't ask for more.

Lisa and I stood about 10 feet away from the finish line. Having not seen Emily complete previous races (there can be a lot of people bunched together), we were bound and determined this time to actually see our first daughter complete her six miles and give her a high-five. Emily teaches vocational skills ("life skills") to adolescents with special needs.

As we waited for Emily, members of the group that were running 3 miles began to cross the finish line, one by one, including a mom pushing a double stroller with two little kids in tow.

And then ... one of those moments you don't forget.

A guy, I'm guessing in his late thirties, finished unnoticed. He was pushing an adult-size stroller.

For a moment, I thought it was another double stroller. Looking online afterwards, I'm guessing it was a variation of what is called an "advance mobility freedom push chair." His compatriot in the race was a young man, probably in his late teens. He was safe and secure and warm, bundled up under a kind of protective tarp, his face beaming pure joy as they completed the race.

This special young man had a special need. His dad, his brother, his friend – whoever it was that pushed him around the small tarmac where the race took place – unceremoniously kissed him on the forehead and placed the medal they'd received for finishing the race around his

neck.

I'm guessing that many of our readers have seen the "Team Hoyt" video to which people have added as background music, "I can only imagine" by Casting Crowns. For those who haven't, what is Team Hoyt?

It began, according to Jacqueline Mitchell, in 1977 when 15-year-old Rick, who was paralyzed at birth due to oxygen deprivation, told his dad he wanted to participate in a 5-mile run to benefit a lacrosse player who had been paralyzed.

Since then, Dick and Rick completed thousands of marathons and triathlons, including six Ironman competitions -- that's a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, followed by the 26.2-mile marathon.

I cry from beginning to end every time I watch the Team Hoyt video. The final scene, when they cross the finish line, leaves me bawling like a baby.

As best I can tell, nobody was there yesterday at our little local airport (which closed down for a couple of hours to allow the race), with camera in hand, ready to take pictures and maybe write a story about this small but important triumph of the human spirit. I'm sure the man was not looking for publicity. He was just doing the right thing.

But I was there. And I was blessed. And so I wrote this story.

NRL News May 2016

## **Adult stem cells yield "miraculous results" as they reverse condition of patients with MS**

By David Prentice, Ph.D.

The U.K. press are reporting heartening results for the use of adult stem cells to treat relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS), including descriptions of "remarkable" improvements and "miraculous" results. Yet this is not hype; these are descriptions from some of the doctors themselves, who treated the patients, made detailed examinations of their progress, and scientifically validated the observations.

The results are part of an FDA-approved, ongoing clinical trial, with collaborations between investigators in the U.S., U.K., Sweden and Brazil.

The phase 3 trial originally started in 2006, and has been adding patients and observing results since that time.

The adult stem cell treatment procedure was developed by Dr. Richard Burt of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and is a variation of some standard cancer treatments. MS is an autoimmune condition, where some of the body's immune cells have gone rogue and started to attack the body's own nervous tissue, leading to the neurological symptoms seen with MS.

Patients have their adult stem cells collected from bone marrow or blood, then receive chemotherapy to kill the rogue immune cells. After this conditioning step, the patient's adult stem cells are re-infused into their body and make their home in the bone marrow, where they produce fresh immune cells. The process acts to "reboot" the immune system. Dr. Burt had published promising results in 2009 from an early trial for patients with the relapsing-remitting form of MS.

In early 2015, the international group reported some of their own initial results with relapsing-remitting MS patients that were surprising. Not only did the adult stem cell reboot stop disease progression, but it actually reversed the neurological disability for many patients. As their peer-reviewed publication in *JAMA* noted, no FDA-approved therapy has reversed MS symptoms or improved quality of life for these patients. But the adult stem cell treatment which they administered improved the neurological condition of the patients, in some cases putting them into a remission from the MS. Dr. Burt noted that this is the only therapy to date shown to reverse neurologic deficits in relapsing-remitting MS.

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National Right to Life Affiliate



*You* put the smiles on our faces and get us through the rough times.  
*We couldn't do it without you!*

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*From the Executive Director ~*

## *Always in touch with the grassroots*

In the battle to protect innocent human life, there are many blessings and challenges.

While various pro-life groups specialize in a particular aspect of this battle, Missouri Right to Life seeks to save lives through legislation. Through our state and federal political action committees, MRL focuses on political action to facilitate the passage of pro-life legislation. The work of MRL PAC has benefited the work of all the other pro-life organizations.

This doesn't diminish in any way the efforts and successes of organizations that focus on education, alternatives to abortion, and witnessing at abortion clinics. All these efforts are needed and critically important. By maintaining a limited focus, each one supplements and complements the work of other organizations without duplicating efforts or diluting precious resources. Legislation that requires waiting periods for abortion creates opportunities for crisis pregnancy centers; and legislation mandating ultrasounds and providing mothers with information on the development of their unborn child motivates these mothers to consider alternatives to abortion.

Missouri Right to Life's success is due in large part to our grassroots organization. Our structure and procedures bring people from across Missouri to make decisions on our policies, legislation, and our PAC endorsements. Our organizational chart is truly a V shape with the people of Missouri, through our local chapters, forming the uppermost tier. These chapters then elect delegates to the six MRL regional boards which elect delegates to our state board. These delegates bring to our state board a wealth of information from communities around Missouri. These individuals decide on the legislation and policies that MRL supports or opposes, and it is from the ranks of these MRL leaders that our MRL PAC board is chosen. By having a presence throughout the state, MRL is able to communicate with pro-life citizens on legislative priorities, and during election years, MRL PACs encourage voters to support only those candidates with proven pro-life positions and records.

Missouri Right to Life's limited focus and state-wide network helps MRL avoid some of the pitfalls that could weaken our efforts. Our chapters and regions adopt the same policies as their parent organization and support the same legislation. MRL decisions aren't made by one or two people. All major decisions are voted on by our state board delegates. All of these safeguards are put in place to ensure that Missouri Right to Life is the most effective grassroots pro-life organization possible.

Abortion numbers continue to drop in Missouri as political action is rewarded with increased protections for life. While not every legislative effort succeeds, by working to maintain pro-life majorities in the Missouri legislature and engaging our grassroots network, every legislative session offers great opportunities to safeguard the most innocent among us.

In 26 years of serving this organization, I have been involved in every decision made by the state board. Never once have I known this organization to do less than its utmost for the protection of innocent human life.

I am humbled and proud to serve Missouri Right to Life. We are grateful to you, our members, who make our life-saving work possible. I ask you to continue that support and, to the extent you are able, gain additional supporters for our life-saving work.



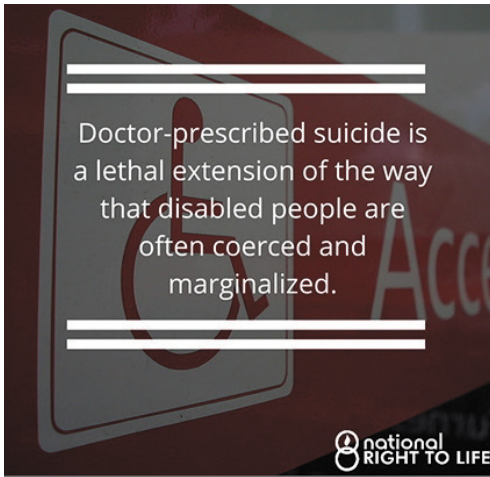
**Patty Skain**

In Respect for Life,  
**Patty Skain**

# The True Face Of Assisted Suicide

By Richard M. Doerflinger

Since California legalized assisted suicide last year for people diagnosed as terminally ill, the former Hemlock Society — now a multi-million-dollar operation called “Compassion & Choices” or C&C — has stepped up efforts to pass similar laws in other states. At the



center of its campaign is the late Britanny Maynard, an attractive 30-year-old cancer patient who moved to Oregon to obtain a lethal drug overdose prescribed by a physician. Her husband is now a paid spokesperson for C&C.

[In February] the state of Oregon released its 2015 figures on assisted suicide deaths, indicating how C&C’s portrayal compares to the reality.

State-sanctioned suicides in Oregon keep rising. There were 105 deaths in 2014 (44% higher than the previous year) and 132 in 2015 (another 26% higher). In each of these years, exactly one patient was under 35 years old (that must have been Ms. Maynard herself in 2014).

## Those most affected

Last year, 78% of those obtaining lethal drugs were aged 65 and over, with a median age of 73. Most were women; most had no health insurance, or only government insurance; most had no living spouse or registered domestic partner. More than 96% received no psychological evaluation to test for depression or other conditions that can lead to suicidal thoughts.

Compassion & Choices presents its agenda as a boon to autonomous people who live life on their own terms and want to exit life the same way to avoid intractable pain. The usual reality is different. When asked why they were obtaining the drug overdose, 96% of patients said they were less able to engage in activities that make life enjoyable; almost as many said they were losing their autonomy or their dignity; about half said they had become a “burden” on family or caregivers. Fewer than 30% cited any concern about pain. Incidentally, 90% died in a private home (their own or that of relatives or friends), allowing an educated guess as to who they were “burdening” and who was present to “assist” their final act — in 79% of cases no health professional was present.

## Is elder abuse a factor?

This profile should be eerily familiar to public health experts: it describes people most at risk of elder abuse. A review of “Elder Abuse” in the November 13, 2015 *New England Journal of Medicine* estimates that about 10% of seniors are victims, with financial exploitation of seniors “a virtual epidemic.” More likely to be victims are women aged 65 to 74, living with household members other than a spouse, of lower income, and feeling isolated or without social support. Basically Oregon has provided a “safe and legal” (safe for the perpetrators, that is) way to practice, and cover up, a most final form of elder abuse. The only reporting is by the physician prescribing the drugs (who then steps out of the picture), and deaths are recorded as caused by the person’s illness.

One more demographic question: What age group in America is least supportive of legalizing assisted suicide? In many polls it is those aged 65 and over. In a national poll commissioned by the U.S. bishops’ conference in 2014, for example, only 46% of seniors supported the idea. Strongest support (60%) was among their grown children -- 35- to

44-year-olds, the “sandwich generation” now often caring and paying for both children and aging parents.

How tempting it might be, for those in this situation with no strong moral compass, to believe that assisted suicide is a new “freedom” for one’s parents.

Eighteen years ago Derek Humphry, Hemlock’s founder, wrote in his book *Freedom to Die* that “in the final analysis, economics, not the quest for broadened individual liberties or increased autonomy, will drive assisted suicide to the plateau of acceptable practice.” C&C wants to draw the curtain over this aspect of its agenda. The rest of us, especially seniors, need to open our eyes and see through the masquerade.

*Richard M. Doerflinger recently retired as the Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops where he worked for 33 years. This article first appeared at Life Issues Forum.*



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# Missouri Right to Life Statement on "Personhood" Ballot Legislation

Pro-lifers may be interested in the recent attempt here in Missouri to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would declare every human being to be a legal person from the moment biological existence begins, HJR 98.

While we agree that it expresses the truth about the humanity and personhood of unborn children, it will have no effect on the federal constitution.

Abortion law is controlled by the federal constitution, as interpreted by the U. S. Supreme Court. The federal constitution supersedes anything to the contrary in state constitutions or state laws. Based on its past decisions, the majority of the judges that make up the United States Supreme Court, even before the death of pro-life Justice Antonin Scalia, were not in favor of overturning Roe v Wade.

The court said in Roe that it would not allow Texas, and by extension any state or branch of government, to overcome the constitutional right to abortion (as conjured up by the Court)

by adopting a certain "theory" of human life. Roe, 410 U.S. at 162. The Court knew the facts of human development at the time that Roe was decided, and the majority of judges on the bench still believes that Roe was rightly decided.

Therefore, if the amendment is meant to be a direct attack on Roe v. Wade, it is poorly advised. Direct attacks in law, as in war, lead to defeat if they are mounted in the wrong circumstances.

Pro-lifers have dedicated themselves to the hard discipline of perseverance that real change requires. The laws enacted in the last 43 years have saved millions of lives, closed abortion clinics, and helped to open the eyes of the public to the horrors of abortion.

Missouri Right to Life will continue to forge ahead with laws and education that will produce real results and save real lives.

For additional information on Personhood, see <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2009/personhood.html>

## **The federal constitution supersedes anything to the contrary in state constitutions or state laws.**

### ***Memorials***

*In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend,  
these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

<i>In memory of ~</i>	<i>Given by ~</i>
<b>Lois A. Wilhelm</b>	<b>Robert Wacker</b>
	<b>Joseph &amp; Frances Svezia</b>
	<b>Debbie Capps</b>
	<b>Betty Wilhelm</b>
	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Wayne Laford</b>
	<b>Steve &amp; Karen Mattson</b>
	<b>Tim &amp; Lisa Berra</b>
	<b>Joan Kane</b>
	<b>Mary Tretter</b>
	<b>Tom &amp; Lisa Suntrup</b>
	<b>Sue &amp; Norman Friedmeyer</b>

<i>In memory of ~</i>	<i>Given by ~</i>
<b>Clara Gladbach</b>	<b>Mary Moore</b>
<b>Judy Schaefer</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Jane Frank</b>
<b>Theresa Ismert</b>	<b>Michael Gunter</b>
<b>Charlie &amp; Mildred Tichacek</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Douglas Munsell</b>
<b>Ann Verhulst</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Pam Fichter</b>
	<b>Richard &amp; Geribeth Auslander</b>
	<b>Mary Ernstmann</b>
	<b>Eileen Dyer</b>

*Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones  
or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.*

### **Ann Verhulst Rest In Peace**



MRL's dear friend and super volunteer Ann Verhulst passed away in April. She and her husband, Allen, have been active in the pro-life movement for many years, giving countless hours and effort to both the MRL state organization and the Western Region.

Ann is survived by Allen and by her five children.

A loving advocate for the unborn and the elderly, she touched the hearts of many and will be sorely missed.



## Missouri Right to Life President Steve Rupp

**"If we do nothing, then nothing will change. I'd rather fail while trying mightily, than fail for not having tried at all. Please dare to dream big with me. We can and will change America!"**

*~ Steve Rupp*

He is positive.

He is affirming to the many he works with in the pro-life movement.

He knows that God has dominion. And he believes deeply that we must respond to the call to be God's "hands and heart" in this world.

Steve wears many hats in his pro-life work!

He is serving his second year as president of Missouri Right to Life. In that service, he is not only involved in the day-to-day operation of MRL, but has traveled across Missouri speaking at pro-life gatherings and meeting the many people who work, support, and pray for our crucial mission.

In his ten years of work with MRL, Steve served several terms as Eastern Region Chairman, and he has been involved in pro-life work for twenty years.

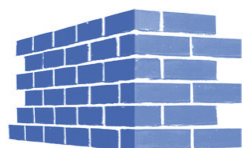
Additionally, Steve is a volunteer teacher in the St. Louis Archdiocese Right Start Program which teaches eighth graders

about fetal development, the realities of abortion, and God's gift of chastity.

He is also active with his parish's pro-life apostolate. Among other things, they are putting pressure on the satellite Planned Parenthood clinic in Florissant MO. They have a group of pro-lifers who regularly contact the landlord and other businesses in the strip center and ask them to close Planned Parenthood. This same dedicated group stands on the sidewalk two days a week in front of Planned Parenthood with signs informing passersby, "Planned Parenthood harvests baby body parts." Since beginning the project, the clinic is closing early some evenings and has been closed on Saturdays a number of times.

Steve's favorite ministry? He gets to play Santa Claus at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mercy Hospital-St. Louis, bringing Christ (through St. Nicholas, aka - Santa!) to the sick little ones.

Steve and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 42 years and have 3 sons and a daughter. And the prize -- 7 glorious grandchildren!



# BUILDING A PRO-LIFE FUTURE

**National Right to Life  
Convention 2016**

**Herndon VA July 7 - 9, 2016**

The National Right to Life Convention is the essential pro-life educational and training event of the year.

During this three-day event, national experts on life issues gather in one place to equip the pro-life grassroots with the knowledge and skills they need to advance our cause.

Since 1971, the National Right to Life Convention has offered workshops and extraordinary general sessions featuring religious leaders, nationally-recognized journalists, and political leaders.

This is the place to be this summer if you want to know how best to build a pro-life future for America!

For more information, see the NRLC website, [nrlc.org](http://nrlc.org).

### ***Just A Reminder ~***

Your next newsletter will have Missouri Right to Life Political Action

Committees' major-party candidate information. It will include MRL PACs' ratings and endorsements.

Make certain you watch for it. There will be information that you will want before voting in the August 2nd Primary.

July 6th is the last day you may register to vote in the August Primary.



# Pro-Life Across Missouri

save  
date

Saturday,  
June 18

**Missouri Right to Life Statewide Meeting** ~ 10 a.m. at Pleus Hall, 1208 E. McCarty, Jefferson City. **All are welcome.** Lunch will be provided.

Guest speaker will be James Harris who has been a political strategist for several years and has worked on campaigns in 12 states and at the national level. Clients have included several members of Congress, gubernatorial campaigns, and Fortune 500 companies. Harris has served as an advisor to several members of Congress, assisting the campaigns of Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO), Congressman Billy Long (MO), and Congressman John Carter (TX). In addition, he served on the national finance committee for multiple presidential campaigns.

Harris lives in Jefferson City, with his wife Jillian, their daughter Margaux, and their son Jack. They are members of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

July 7 - 9

**National Right to Life Convention,** Herndon VA ~ The National Right to Life Convention is the essential pro-life educational and training event of the year.

## South County Chapter's Pro-Life Billboard Project enters its 23rd year

Since 1993, MRL-South County Chapter has sponsored their Pro-Life Billboard Project. To the right is their latest billboard.

Because of the efforts of the chapter members who raise the funds and coordinate the project, these messages are seen by thousands every day as they travel about St. Louis. This billboard will be in south St. Louis County, either on Interstate 55 or on Highway 270, until October 2016.

*Have you been thinking about donating, but just haven't gotten around to it?*

*If this might be you, we could really use your help!*

*This little lady thinks that would be awesome.*

*And gives you a big thumbs up!*



Above - The Wardsville Walk for Life, held on April 3rd, included displays from various pro-life organizations. Susan Klein, MRL's Legislative Liaison, helped man the Missouri Right to Life table during the event.





Inside ~

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- The True Face of Assisted Suicide
- "Personhood" Ballot Legislation



### Missouri Right to Life statement regarding tobacco initiative sponsored by Raise Your Hand for Kids

Missouri Right to Life has released the following statement in response to the Early Childhood Health and Education Amendment, an initiative sponsored by Raise Your Hand for Kids. This constitutional amendment will appear on your November ballot.

"We are pleased that Raise Your Hand for Kids (RYH4K) added protections to this amendment ensuring that funding will go to the noble purposes at the root of the measure - early childhood education, healthcare for children from birth to five years old, and programs that will encourage more expectant mothers to choose not to smoke," said Susan Klein, legislative liaison for Missouri Right to Life.

"Missouri's infant mortality rate is higher than the national average, and one in six pregnant mothers smoke, despite the serious health problems that this can cause. After careful analysis to ensure that money from this initiative would not go to unethical research, Missouri Right to Life (MRL) has declared neutrality on the RYH4K ballot proposal."

Those who support human cloning, and research on embryos and aborted babies oppose this initiative because of the pro-life protections on it that would prevent accessing these funds for unethical research.

### Sen. Roy Blunt's message to MRL members

"I want to thank Missouri Right to Life and National Right to Life for standing with me in opposition to the confirmation of President Obama's nomination to the Supreme Court. On April 8th, I made clear that I will not be meeting with the nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, because he shouldn't be confirmed.

This is a lifetime appointment to the highest court in the land. My view is that we are too close to a historic election to confirm this nomination, and the American people should have a say. So many of the issues you and I care about hang in the balance.

Just this year, the justices will consider two critical cases impacting the right to life and religious freedom: *Zubik v. Burwell*, on the Little Sisters of the Poor's case against the HHS mandate, and *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, on abortion clinic regulations in Texas, a case that could be one of the most important pro-life cases at the court since *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. I was proud to join amicus briefs in support of both of these crucial cases.

Whether it be the right to life, religious freedom, or any other constitutional issue, the next Supreme Court nomination could be the deciding vote on these questions. In accordance with its duty to provide "advice and consent" to the President's nomination, the Senate has decided that it will not take up the Garland nomination. The Constitution sets this process up as a 50-50 obligation, a two-part puzzle that has to come together before a confirmation happens.

The American people spoke when they elected a Republican-led Senate as a check-and-balance to the president, and they should have the opportunity to be heard again before a new justice is confirmed."

*On Monday, May 16, the U.S. Supreme Court did not offer an opinion on the case of the Little Sisters, but rather sent it back to the lower courts for the parties to negotiate a compromise at the appellate level.*

