

		Case:	Doe v. Mineo et. al.
		Witness Name:	Gabriella Alderete
		Witness DOB:	on file
Investigator:	E. Hernández	Witness Contact:	(210) 362-0684
Report Date:	June 3, 2021		

SYNOPSIS

On May 31, 2021, I interviewed Gabriella Alderete about her experience with Bryan Mineo and One with the Ocean (OWO) in San Diego. She stated the following:

STATEMENT

I am a 14-year cancer survivor. I started swimming with Bryan (Mineo) in Oceanside. I'm not an ocean swimmer. I found him through a tri club in San Diego. He and a lifeguard, Antony Nguyen, helped me recover from a hip injury. We had a coffee friendship and we bonded because we're both from Texas.

After my hip surgery I had a cane and a foam belt. Since they knew me, they would help me in and out of the ocean. After I no longer needed the cane, I started swimming with them. We were a small group, and no fees were collected, although we were encouraged to donate to OWO often.

In October 2019, Bryan told me I would benefit from a series of private training sessions. On October 28, 2019, I paid Bryan \$850 for a series of 8 lessons, I received one. I also sent several payments to his personal Venmo account for OWO gear (t-shirts, sweaters and stickers).

During my time in the water with them, I followed his leadership. At this time, Bryan and Emily were usually in front and Benny stayed in the middle, but they never had anyone at the rear. I was always in the rear, usually alone because I'm not a strong swimmer.

It was during an Odyssey Swim that I was completely abandoned in the water. We were experiencing a king tide; Bryan knew I was still recovering from GB surgery and I spent a lot of time hanging on to the board and just floating along with the group. At this time I would just do a loop or ½ a loop and hang on for the rest of the swim. So, when I looked up for support I noticed I was completely alone. I was tired, freaking out, hyperventilating, dry heaving and kept looking for assistance. I knew I had to keep swimming or die. I had a full panic attack in the ocean. I could see the paddlers, Bryan, Emily and Benny on boards, ahead of me in the shore break, never looking back. At one point, Emily and Benny stayed in the water, on their boards, chatting. Bryan went on shore to meet up with private clients. I had to dig deep, I told myself that this is not how I was

going to die. I've been through way too much and survived through it all. I'm only alive because of sheer will and anger over being left behind.

When I was super close to shore Emily paddled over, surprised to see me. She asked if I wanted to hang on to her board, I cursed at her and kept going. Once on shore, I grabbed my stuff and left. They messaged me, Bryan apologized and said he had another client to meet. I told him it was his responsibility to get his first client out of the water before greeting any others. I posted about my experience on social media without naming or tagging them. But people knew it was OW and reached out with similar stories. Shortly after, I was contacted by one of Bryan's fans and told to remove my post. I left it up because people need to know what they're getting themselves into,

End of statement