

Flight – NTSB Hearing

ELLEN BLOCK

Mr. Whitaker, do you now or have you ever had a problem with alcohol dependency, alcoholism or drug addiction?

WHIP

No.

ELLEN BLOCK

Okay, Mr. Whitaker, we're about done. Due to the severe turbulence during the early part of the flight, you asked the flight crew to suspend the beverage service on the plane. Is that correct?

WHIP

Yes. I suspended the drink service.

ELLEN BLOCK

Are you aware that our investigators found two single service Vodka bottles in the galley trash bin?

WHIP

Yes.

ELLEN BLOCK

There were 5 crew members on board the flight who would have had access to the beverage trolley. Less than an hour after the accident, blood was taken from each of the crew members. Yourself... First Officer Evans, flight attendant Margaret Thomason and posthumously from Camelia Satou and Katerina Marquez.

ELLEN BLOCK (CON'T)

A toxicology analysis was performed and three of these tests came back negative, one was disqualified for technical reasons...

ELLEN BLOCK (CON'T)

And one tested positive for alcohol. It registered a .17 blood alcohol level. Are you aware of that?

WHIP

I am now.

ELLEN BLOCK

Miss Marquez was not only a colleague, but you knew her outside of work? Correct?

WHIP

Outside of work? Not really.

ELLEN BLOCK

Did you know that Miss Marquez had a drinking problem?

WHIP

No. I did not.

ELLEN BLOCK

Did you ever see her drink to excess?

WHIP

No. I did not.

ELLEN BLOCK

Did you know that she was twice treated for alcohol addiction? The last time was 16 months ago and paid for by SouthJet Airlines?

WHIP

No. I did not.

ELLEN BLOCK

Is it your opinion that Katerina Marquez drank the vodka on the plane?

WHIP

Can you repeat the question?

ELLEN BLOCK

Your opinion Captain. Is it your opinion that Katerina drank on that flight?

WHIP

I'm sorry. My what...

ELLEN BLOCK

Since her toxicology report is the only toxicology report that is admissible in this hearing, and she in fact tested positive for alcohol, is it your opinion that Katerina Marquez drank those 2 bottles of vodka on the flight?

ELLEN BLOCK (CON'T)

I'm sorry Mr. Whitaker, I couldn't hear you. What did you say?

WHIP

I SAID...God help me...

ELLEN BLOCK

Yes, well. However, is it your opinion...

WHIP

IT'S MY OPINION... It's my opinion... Trina DID NOT... drink the vodka.

ELLEN BLOCK

Excuse me, Mr. Whitaker...

WHIP

She saved that boy's life...

ELLEN BLOCK

Captain Whitaker can you speak louder-

WHIP

I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT SHE DID NOT DRINK THAT VODKA...

WHIP (CON'T)

... because I did. I drank the vodka.

WHIP

I drank the vodka bottles on the plane.

ELLEN BLOCK

Mr. Whitaker, in light of that remark, would you like to readdress...

WHIP

You don't have to readdress anything. I DRANK THE VODKA!

ELEN BLOCK

On the three nights before the accident, October 11<sup>th</sup> –

WHIP

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> I was intoxicated. I drank alcohol on all of those days. I drank to excess.

ELLEN BLOCK

Mr. Whitaker, on the morning of October –

WHIP

I was drunk. I'm drunk right now, Miss Block... I'm drunk right... I'm drunk now, because... Because I'm an alcoholic.