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Opening Statement (Oral Argument) for the Plaintiffs:

Your Honor, Members of the Jury,

We stand here today to reopen one of the most egregious violations of civil rights in American history, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre—a crime not just against the Black citizens of Greenwood, but a stain on the conscience of this nation. Our case seeks justice, long delayed but never forgotten, for the families who lost loved ones, homes, businesses, and a way of life, through violence that was allowed—if not outright enabled—by the inaction and complicity of local and federal government officials.

Legal Grounds for the Case

1. Violation of Constitutional Rights:

The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection under the law. The government's failure to protect the citizens of Greenwood, and its direct complicity in the destruction, represent a gross violation of these fundamental rights.

2. Failure of Duty:

Local law enforcement, rather than protect the people of Greenwood, either participated in the violence or stood idly by as hundreds of homes and businesses were looted and destroyed. This failure constitutes a breach of the government's duty to protect its citizens and uphold the rule of law.

3. Civil Conspiracy and Cover-Up:

After the massacre, no significant prosecutions were pursued against those responsible for the killings, looting, and arson. Furthermore, the government actively suppressed evidence, denied insurance claims to survivors, and allowed mass graves to go uninvestigated for decades. This cover-up was an extension of the violence and deprivation of rights suffered by the Black community.

4. Negligence and Willful Disregard:

Despite numerous pleas from the victims of the massacre, the city and state government refused to provide compensation or assist in rebuilding the once-thriving Greenwood District. This negligent inaction exacerbated the damage, ensuring generations of economic and social harm to the descendants of the massacre.

Why This Case Deserves to be Reopened

It is not enough to offer apologies in the face of such profound injustice. Justice is not a passive concept—it requires action. Reopening this case is not merely about restitution, but about accountability. The government that allowed the massacre to happen, that failed to protect its citizens, must now be held accountable.

We bring this case today because justice has no expiration date. The time has come to right a historic wrong, to bring closure to those who still feel the weight of injustice on their families, and to make clear that no government is above the law when it comes to the protection of its people.

Key Points for Oral Argument:

1. **Government Complicity:** The U.S. and local governments failed in their fundamental duty to protect the lives and property of their citizens. Instead of offering protection, government agents either participated in or allowed the massacre to happen.
 2. **Constitutional Violations:** The massacre represents a clear violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, as Black citizens were denied the protection and due process afforded to other citizens.
 3. **Systematic Cover-Up:** For decades, evidence of the massacre was actively suppressed. Historical records were altered, insurance claims were denied, and the true scale of the massacre was buried—both literally and figuratively.
 4. **Economic and Social Harm:** The massacre wiped out generational wealth in the Black community, and the refusal to prosecute offenders or provide any reparations or compensation has ensured long-lasting harm. The descendants of the victims have been deprived of both justice and the opportunity for economic stability.
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Closing Argument for the Plaintiffs:

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury,

We cannot undo the past. We cannot bring back the hundreds of lives lost in Greenwood. We cannot restore the homes and businesses that were burned to ash. But what we can do is seek justice—today. What we can do is ensure that the systemic failure of government to protect its people is not overlooked, and that those responsible for these crimes—both by action and inaction—are held accountable.

The survivors and their descendants have waited over a century for justice. They have lived under the shadow of a massacre that has shaped their lives in ways that cannot be fully comprehended. The denial of justice has compounded their trauma, and we owe it to them to give their grievances the serious legal consideration they deserve.

This case is about accountability for a government that failed its people and covered up that failure for generations. It is about ensuring that no community—regardless of race, background, or economic status—will ever be abandoned by the very institutions meant to protect them.

We ask this court to do what should have been done long ago: to recognize the undeniable wrongs committed, to hold those responsible to account, and to provide the survivors and their descendants with the restitution and justice they are entitled to under the law.

We seek justice, not just for the victims of the Tulsa Race Massacre, but for the promise of equal protection under the law for every American.

Thank you.

Requested Relief:

- **Monetary Compensation:** Financial reparations to the descendants of the survivors for the loss of property, livelihood, and generational wealth.
- **Official Apology and Memorialization:** A formal acknowledgment from the U.S. government and state of Oklahoma of their complicity and failure, with public memorialization of the massacre.
- **Restitution and Investment in the Greenwood Community:** Investment in education, economic programs, and housing to rebuild the Greenwood District, creating opportunities for descendants of the victims.