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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH
CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RAPOWER-3, LLC; INTERNATIONAL
AUTOMATED SYSTEMS, INC.; LTB1,
LLC; R. GREGORY SHEPARD; NELDON
JOHNSON; and ROGER FREEBORN,

Defendants.

TWENTIETH INTERIM FEE
APPLICATION FOR RECEIVER AND
RECEIVER'S PROFESSIONALS FOR
SERVICES RENDERED FROM JULY 1,
2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Civil No. 2:15-cv-00828-DN-DAO

District Judge David Nuffer

In accordance with the Corrected Receivership Order (the "Receivership Order"),¹ R. Wayne Klein, the Court-Appointed Receiver (the "Receiver") of RaPower-3, LLC and related entities ("Receivership Defendants"), hereby submits this twentieth interim "Fee Application," seeking approval by the Court of fees and expenses incurred by the Receiver and his staff at Klein and Associates, PLLC ("Klein and Associates") and the Receiver's legal counsel, Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, P.C. ("Parr Brown") for the period of July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 (the "Application Period"), and authorization to pay all authorized fees and expenses from unencumbered funds of the Receivership Estate.

¹[Docket No. 491](#), filed Nov. 1, 2018.

In support hereof, the Receiver states as follows.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The United States commenced this case on November 23, 2015 against defendants RaPower-3, IAS, LTB1, Johnson, Shepard, and Roger Freeborn.² The United States alleged, and the Court found, among other things, that defendants operated a massive tax fraud.³

2. On October 31, 2018, the Court entered its *Receivership Order* ("Order"),⁴ which, among other things, appointed the Receiver and continued a previously entered asset freeze.⁵

3. Upon his appointment, and in accordance with the Receivership Order, the Receiver employed Parr Brown as his legal counsel and Lone Peak as his forensic accountants ("Retained Professionals"), and such retention was approved by the Court.⁶

4. During the present Application Period, the Receiver and his professionals have provided actual and necessary services for the benefit of the Receivership Estate which are set forth in greater detail below. The Receiver respectfully submits that the fees and expenses requested in the Fee Application are reasonable and should be approved.

5. The Receiver submitted the Fee Application to Plaintiff for review, comment, and objection prior to filing. The Plaintiff provided comments to the Receiver, and the Plaintiff has informed the Receiver that it has no objection to the fees and expenses as requested herein.

²*Complaint*, [Docket No. 2](#), filed Nov. 23, 2015.

³*Amended and Restated Judgment*, [Docket No. 507](#), filed Nov. 13, 2018; *Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law*, [Docket No. 467](#), filed Oct. 4, 2018.

⁴[Docket No. 490](#). A *Corrected Receivership Order*, which corrected formatting errors, was entered the following day. [Docket No. 491](#), filed Nov. 1, 2018.

⁵*Memorandum Decision and Order Freezing Assets and to Appoint a Receiver*, [Docket No. 444](#), filed Aug. 22, 2018.

⁶[Docket No. 500](#), filed Nov. 6, 2018.

II. SERVICES PERFORMED

6. The actions of the Receiver and his retained professionals during the Application Period are summarized in the *Receiver's Twentieth Quarterly Status Report* ("Twentieth Status Report"), filed October 12, 2023.⁷ That report indicates that the primary Receivership work during the Reporting Period was trial preparation, negotiating a settlement with LaGrand Johnson, dealing with the bankruptcy filing by Randale Johnson (including working with the trustee assigned to that case), attempting mediation of one of the pending litigation cases, reviewing appeal rulings, and preparing assignments of judgments.

7. The primary tasks remaining for the Receivership are litigating the remaining cases, challenging Randale Johnson's attempt to discharge his judgment, and awaiting action by the holder of a purchase option on three real properties. Preparation for the remaining trials will require significant time by the Receiver, his counsel, and his forensic accountants.

III. BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE RECEIVERSHIP ESTATE

8. The Receivership Estate maintains a Receivership checking account and a savings account at Wells Fargo Bank and a money market account at Wells Fargo Advisors. These accounts had a September 30, 2023 combined balance of \$928,201.71.

9. The Nineteenth Fee Application, covering work done during the second quarter of 2023, was approved on August 31, 2023.⁸ These amounts were paid during the Reporting Period.

⁷Docket no. 1258, filed October 10, 2023.

⁸Docket no. 1255, filed August 31, 2023.

10. If the Court approves this Fee Application, the Receiver will pay the approved fees and expenses from the Receivership account. Given the amount requested, the Receivership account has sufficient funds to pay these fees and expenses.

IV. REQUEST FOR COURT APPROVAL OF FEES AND EXPENSES

11. The Receivership Order provides, in relevant part, that:

72. The Receiver and Retained Personnel are entitled to reasonable compensation and expense reimbursement which shall be paid from the receivership estate upon approval of a filed motion for the payment of fees and expenses. The parties shall have 14 days to file a response to any such motion.

73. Unless otherwise ordered, within 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Receiver and Retained Personnel shall apply by motion to the Court for compensation and expense reimbursement from the receivership estate (the "Quarterly Fee Motions"). At least 30 days prior to the filing of each Quarterly Fee Motion with the Court, the Receiver shall serve upon counsel for the United States a complete copy of the proposed motion, together with all exhibits and relevant billing information.

74. All Quarterly Fee Motions will be interim and will be subject to cost benefit and final reviews at the close of the receivership. . . .⁹

12. The Receiver now respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order approving on an interim basis and authorizing payment from the Receivership Estate of the reasonable compensation and expenses outlined herein for the Application Period of July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. The total fees and expenses requested for the Receiver and his Retained Professionals are \$68,086.00, which are summarized in the table below:

	RECEIVER	PARR BROWN	LONE PEAK
Fees	\$17,400.00	\$50,686.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$17,400.00	\$50,686.00	\$0.00

⁹[Receivership Order ¶¶ 72-74.](#)

13. A detailed description of the work by the Receiver and his staff is attached as Exhibit A.

13. Detailed invoices showing Parr Brown's work are attached as Exhibit B.
Summaries of the expenses incurred are included in the invoices.

14. There were no billings by Lone Peak during the Reporting Period.

15. In compliance with ¶ 73 of the Receivership Order, the Fee Application, including the invoices in Exhibits A and B, were provided to plaintiff and after review and comment, the United States has informed the Receiver it has no objection to the fees and expenses requested.

16. The Receiver and his professionals understand that the authorization and payment of fees and expenses is interim in nature. All fees and expenses allowed on an interim basis will be subject to final review at the close of the case and the discharge of the Receiver when the Receiver files a final accounting and final fee application.

17. The Receiver and his Retained Professionals each certify that they have read the Fee Application and that to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the Fee Application and all fees and expenses therein are true and accurate.

18. The Receiver and his Retained Professionals affirm that the fees and expenses included herein were incurred in the best interests of the Receivership Estate.

V. CONCLUSION

19. The Receiver respectfully submits this Fee Application and requests that the Court enter an Order approving the actual and necessary fees and expenses incurred on behalf of and for the benefit of the Receivership Estate. For all the reasons stated, the Receiver submits that he and his Retained Professionals have provided a significant benefit to the Receivership Estate.

There are sufficient funds in the Operating Account to pay the fees and expenses requested herein.

20. A proposed Order is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

The Receiver, Klein and Associates and Parr Brown verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 9th day of November, 2023.

RECEIVER

/s/ Wayne Klein

Wayne Klein, Receiver

PARR BROWN GEE & LOVELESS, P.C.

/s/ Jeffery A. Balls

Jonathan O. Hafen

Jeffery Balls

Attorneys for R. Wayne Klein, Receiver

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above TWENTIETH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION FOR RECEIVER AND RECEIVER'S PROFESSIONALS FOR SERVICES RENDERED FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 was filed with the Court on this 9th day of November, 2023 and served via ECF on all parties who have requested notice in this case.

Notice was also mailed by U.S. Mail to the following Receivership Defendant:

Neldon Johnson
Post Office Box 95332
South Jordan, Utah 84095

/s/ Wendy V. Tuckett