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5	Successor Receiver		
6	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
7	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
8	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
9		1	
10	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	Case No. 3:16-cv-01386-EMC	
11	Plaintiff,		
12	v.	RECEIVER'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND	
13	JOHN V. BIVONA; SADDLE RIVER	MOTION TO DISALLOW CERTAIN CLAIMS; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS	
14	ADVISORS, LLC; SRA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES,	AND AUTHORITIES	
15	LLC; FRANK GREGORY MAZZOLA,		
16	Defendants, and		
17	SRA I LLC; SRA II LLC; SRA III	Date: June 27, 2019 Time: 1:30 P.M.	
18	LLC; FELIX INVESTMENTS, LLC; MICHELE J. MAZZOLA; ANNE	Location: Courtroom 5, 17 <sup>th</sup> Floor 450 Golden Gate Ave.	
19	BIVONA; CLEAR SAILING GROUP IV LLC; CLEAR SAILING GROUP V	San Francisco, CA 94102	
20	LLC,		
21	Relief Defendants.		
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24	TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:		
25	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 27, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 5 of the		
26	above-entitled Court located at 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, California, a hearing will be		
27	held on the Motion of Kathy Bazoian Phelps ("Receiver"), Court-appointed permanent receiver for		
28	SRA Management Associates LLC, SRA I, LLC, SRA II, LLC, SRA III, LLC, Clear Sailing Group		

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IV, LLC, Clear Sailing Group V, LLC, Felix Multi-Opportunity Fund I, LLC, Felix Multi-Opportunity Fund II, LLC, Felix Management Associates, LLC, NYPA Fund I, LLC, NYPA Fund II, LLC, and NYPA Management Associates, LLC(collectively, the "Receivership Entities"), to disallow certain claims ("Motion").

The Motion seeks the disallowance of the following claims for the following reasons: (a) for all claims listed in Exhibit "1" to the Declaration of Kathy Bazoian Phelps, as to which shares or funds were previously disbursed, disallow those claims in their entirety; (b) for all claims listed in Exhibit "2" to the Declaration of Kathy Bazoian Phelps, as to which investments on which the claims are founded were made in one or more non-receivership entities, disallow those claims in their entirety; (c) for all duplicate claims listed in Exhibit "3" to the Declaration of Kathy Bazoian Phelps, disallow those claims in their entirety; (d) for all claims listed in Exhibit "4" to the Declaration of Kathy Bazoian Phelps, as to which the investments were made in failed companies for which no public offerings were made, disallow those claims in their entirety, and Practice Fusion shall be deemed to be a Failed Investment and funds paid into the estate of \$15,500.09 from Practice Fusion shall be become part of the general receivership funds; (e) for claims filed with the Receiver or the Former Receiver as of May 14, 2019, the Receiver does not object to any of those claims on the grounds of lateness even though they may have been "late-filed" claims based on the original bar date set in the receivership, but reserves the right to object to those late-filed claims on any other grounds at a later time; and (f) for claims filed after May 14, 2019, if any, the Receiver seeks an order disallowing any such claims without further notice, hearing or order, unless the claimant obtains an order of the Court after notice and an opportunity for hearing by the Receiver and other interested parties explicitly allowing the claim. The Receiver further seeks an order approving as sufficient the manner and adequacy of notice of this Motion based on the Receiver's service of the Notice of Motion on all claimants at their last known, valid email address or by first class mail if no email address is known and posting of the Motion on the Receiver's website for the case.

The Motion is based on the Memorandum of Points and Authorities below, and the Declaration of Kathy Bazoian Phelps filed concurrently herewith. The Motion and supporting

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1 papers available the Receiver's website. 2 http://www.diamondmccarthy.com/saddleriverreceiver, The Receiver has discussed this Motion 3 with counsel for the SEC and the SRA Investor Group and does not believe that they oppose the 4 relief requested in the Motion. 5 **Procedural Requirements**: If you oppose all or part of the relief requested in this Motion, 6 you are required to file your written opposition with the Office of the Clerk, United States District 7 Court, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, California 94102, and serve the same on the 8 undersigned not later than fourteen (14) calendar days after service of the Motion pursuant to Local 9 Civil Rule 7-3(a). 10 IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AND SERVE A WRITTEN OPPOSITION by the above date, the 11 Court may grant the requested relief without further notice. 12 Meet and Confer: The Receiver has met and conferred with counsel for the Securities and 13 Exchange Commission ("SEC"), counsel for the SRA Investor Group, and counsel for Progresso 14 Ventures LLC prior to filing this pleading and they do not object to the relief requested in the 15 Motion. 16 WHEREFORE, the Receiver requests that the Court grant the relief requested herein and 17 such other relief as may be appropriate under the circumstances. 18 19 DATED: May 23, 2019 By: <u>/s/ Kathy Bazoian Phelps</u> 20 Kathy Bazoian Phelps Successor Receiver 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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#### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The original claims bar date established by the Court was January 31, 2018. The large majority of claims were filed by that date. Some claims were filed after that and prior to the Former Receiver's claims report which was filed in June 2018, and additional claims have been filed since that time. The Receiver sent out a new notice of bar date for the limited purposes of permitting claimants who had not previously received notice of a bar date to file claims and to allow the Receiver to serve potential taxing authority claimants. That second bar date ran on May 14, 2019, so it is now believed that all claims have been submitted and reviewed. As a result of the Receiver's new notice of bar date, approximately 23 new claims were received.

The Receiver has reviewed the information aggregated by the Former Receiver and SEC relating to claims, has obtained claims information from the Former Receiver's claims agent, and has conferred with both the SEC and the Investor Group regarding claims issues. As a result, the Receiver has filed this Motion seeking to define the allowed claims to facilitate evaluation of the proposed distribution plan pending before the Court.

After carefully reviewing all claim information forms and supporting documentation submitted to the Receiver by the individuals and entities that invested in the Receivership Entities, the Receiver objects to certain claims on the grounds set forth below. The Receiver proposes that these claims be disallowed in their entirety.

Objection	<b>Identified Claims</b>	<b>Proposed Relief</b>
Previously Disbursed Claims	Exhibit "1"	Disallow in entirety
Investment Not With Receivership Entity	Exhibit "2"	Disallow in entirety
Duplicate Claims	Exhibit "3"	Disallow in entirety
Failed Investments	Exhibit "4"	Disallow in entirety
Late-Filed Claims	See below	Allow if actually submitted through 5/14/19

This Motion addresses many, but not all, of the potential claims objections issues. Additionally, the priority of such claims vis-à-vis other claims and the source of distributions on allowed claims will be addressed separately in connection with the pending filings addressing the proposed Distribution Plan. This Motion is not intended to determine the relative priorities of allowed claims, and the fact that a claim is allowed is not an indication that the claim will receive a full distribution on account of that claim. Rather, in all likelihood, claimants will receive a percentage of their allowed claims, either in the form of cash or securities. Claimants are advised to review the proposed Distribution Plan closely to ascertain their position on the proposed priority of claims for purposes of distributions from the receivership estate.

#### II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") filed a complaint commencing this action on or about March 22, 2016 (ECF 1). A Monitor was appointed in the proceeding on March 25, 2016 (ECF 36). Pursuant to the Stipulated Order Appointing Receiver dated October 11, 2016 (ECF 142), the Court appointed Sherwood Partners, Inc. (the "Former Receiver") as the Receiver to take possession and control of the assets of the following entities: SRA Management Associates, LLC ("SRA Management"), SRA I LLC ("SRA I"), SRA II LLC ("SRA II"), SRA III LLC ("SRA III") (together, "SRA Funds"), Clear Sailing Group IV LLC and Clear Sailing Group V LLC (together, "Clear Sailing"), and third-party affiliated entities NYPA Fund I LLC ("NYPA I"), NYPA II Fund LLC ("NYPA II") (together, "NYPA Funds") and NYPA Management Associates LLC (collectively, "NYPA Entities") and Felix Multi-Opportunity Funds I and II, LLC ("FMOF I and II") (together, "FMOF Funds") and FMOF Management Associates, LLC (collectively, "FMOF Entities") (collectively, the "Receivership Entities").
  - 2. The SEC and the Former Receiver, on the one hand, and Interested party SRA Investor

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Motion does not necessarily include all objections. For example, the Receiver has intentionally excluded consideration of claims in connection with guarantees or backend fees or commissions at this time, as well as potential other miscellaneous objections. The Receiver intends to address any unresolved claims issues by separate motion at a later time.

Group ("Investor Group"), on the other hand, filed competing proposed Distribution Plans, which have been amended.

- 3. At a hearing on February 28, 2019, the Court heard additional arguments on the competing distribution plans, and set a continued hearing for June 27, 2019.
- 4. By Order entered on February 28, 2019, the Court appointed Kathy Bazoian Phelps as the successor Receiver (the "Receiver"), and requested that the Receiver file comments relating to the proposed distribution plan no later than June 6, 2019.
- 5. Prior to the Receiver's appointment, the Former Receiver served a Notice of Bar Date, establishing January 31, 2018 as the claims bar date (the "Original Bar Date").
- 6. Approximately 17 claims were submitted after the Original Bar Date, but prior to the date when the Former Receiver submitted a Claims Report to the Court on June 14, 2018 [Docket No. 340] ("Former Receiver's Claims Report").
- 7. Approximately 7 additional claims were submitted after the filing of the Former Receiver's Claims Report but prior to the appointment of the Receiver.
- 8. At the hearing on February 28, 2019 at which the Receiver was appointed, the Receiver requested authority to serve a new notice of a claims bar date to provide creditors and investors who had not received notice an opportunity to file claims. The date of May 14, 2019 was fixed as the new bar date for these claims (the "Supplemental Bar Date"), and the Receiver served notice of that bar date pursuant to the Court's Minute Order dated February 28, 2019 [Docket No. 470].
- 9. On March 12, 2019, the Receiver served a second Notice of Bar Date on those parties who the Receiver believed may not have received notice of the Original Bar Date.
- 10. Since the Receiver's appointment on February 28, 2019, the Receiver has received 23 new claims that were submitted prior to the Supplemental Bar Date.
- 11. Many proofs of claim identified investments in multiple different companies. For purposes of this claims Objection and for ultimate distribution purposes, individual proofs of claims for investors have been divided and tracked by the intended investment so a particular claimant may see multiple claims listed depending on the number of investments for that particular claimant. As such the

number of entries of objectionable claims will be larger than the number of actual claimants.

- 12. Some investors have previously received disbursements on account of their claims. In many instances, the proofs of claims themselves reflected prior disbursements made and, in other instances, the books and records of the Receivership Entities reflect disbursements made. The claims on which previous disbursements were made are identified in Exhibit "1" attached hereto, and the Receiver proposes to disallow these claims so the claimants do not receive a double recovery and windfall from the estate.
- 13. In other instances, investors paid their money to a non-receivership entity or invested directly into their intended investment, so no money was paid to any of the Receivership Entities in connection with the claims submitted. Since the Receivership Entities did not receive the funds from the claimants, no claim is properly allowed against the estate. The claims which the Receiver proposes to disallow on that basis are identified in Exhibit "2" attached hereto.
- 14. A few investors filed duplicate claims, so the duplicate claims are identified in Exhibit "3" and are appropriate for disallowance. The original claim will be allowed, unless otherwise objected to, but the duplicate claim will be disallowed.
- 15. Some of the intended investments have failed at this time, which are described more fully below (the "Failed Investments"). The underlying companies have filed bankruptcy petitions, been acquired or otherwise wound down their business operations. The claims for recovery in connection with the presently known Failed Investments are identified in Exhibit "4" hereto. The Court has previously indicated its intention to disallow any recovery to claimants in Failed Investments. In the Court's December 20, 2018 Order re Proposed Distribution Plans, Docket No. 443 at 8 9, the Court stated that "there is no compelling equity favoring recovery by those who invested in failed companies." The Court again stated that "There will be no recovery for failed investments . . ." in the Court's Minute Order dated February 28, 2019 [Docket No. 470].
- 16. The Receiver is advised that the Former Receiver accepted late-filed claims and included them in the June 14, 2018 Claims Report submitted to the Court [Docket No. 340]. The Receiver is advised that those claims were previously reviewed and evaluated, so she has not done an analysis of the

claims filed through June 14, 2018. Following the June 14, 2018 Claims Report, additional claims were submitted to the Former Receiver, which were included in the claims information delivered to the Receiver. Following the Receiver's appointment on February 28, 2019, the Receiver sent out the Supplemental Bar Date notice, and 23 additional claims were received. The Receiver has reviewed each of those claims and believes that all of those late claims filed through May 14, 2019 should be accept as timely filed. Those claims have separately been evaluated on the merits for validity and possible objections.

#### III. ARGUMENT

Courts presiding over equity receiverships have extremely broad power to supervise the receivership and promote an orderly and fair administration of receivership assets. *SEC v Hardy*, 803 F.2d 1034, 1038 (9th Cir.1986). "The power of a district court to impose a receivership or grant other forms of ancillary relief does not in the first instance depend on a statutory grant of power from the securities laws. Rather, the authority derives from the inherent power of a court of equity to fashion effective relief." *SEC v. Wencke*, 622 F.2d 1363, 1369 (9th Cir. 1980). As the appointment of a receiver is authorized by the broad equitable powers of the court, any distribution of assets must also be done equitably and fairly. *See SEC v. Elliot*, 953 F.2d 1560, 1570 (11th Cir. 1992).

#### The Ninth Circuit explained:

A district court's power to supervise an equity receivership and to determine the appropriate action to be taken in the administration of the receivership is extremely broad. The district court has broad powers and wide discretion to determine the appropriate relief in an equity receivership. The basis for this broad deference to the district court's supervisory role in equity receiverships arises out of the fact that most receiverships involve multiple parties and complex transactions. A district court's decision concerning the supervision of an equitable receivership is reviewed for abuse of discretion.

SEC v. Capital Consultants, LLC, 397 F.3d 733, 738 (9th Cir. 2005). (citations omitted); see also Commodities Futures Trading Comm'n. v. Topworth Int'l, Ltd., 205 F.3d 1107, 1115 (9th Cir. 1999) ("This court affords 'broad deference' to the court's supervisory role, and 'we generally uphold reasonable procedures instituted by the district court that serve th[e] purpose' of orderly and efficient administration of the receivership for the benefit of creditors."). Accordingly, the Court has broad

discretion in calculating and determining the allowed amounts of claims.

#### A. Proposed Disallowance of Previously Disbursed/Liquidated Claims

Attached hereto as Exhibit "1" is a spreadsheet listing the claims filed for amounts that have previously been disbursed and/or liquidated. The proposed disallowance of these claims is based on the review of each claim by the Former Receiver and the SEC and the reconciliation of each claim with the Receivership Entities' books and records. Specifically, many of the claims for Flurry, Inc. and Square Inc. have already received disbursements. Since the amounts available from those investments have already been distributed to these claimants, they would receive a windfall if the claimants received any additional distributions. Accordingly, the Receiver believes that disallowance of each of the claims set forth on Exhibit "1" is appropriate. Exhibit "1" does not include claims for investments made by claimants in Flurry and Square where the investor claimants have not received prior disbursements; those claims are being separately tracked for allowance.

#### B. Proposed Disallowance of Claims Against Non-Receivership Entities

Attached hereto as Exhibit "2" is a spreadsheet listing claims asserted against the Receivership Estate that involve non-receivership entities. These claimants invested their funds through other companies, or made their investments directly into the company the claimants intended to invest in. The investor funds were not paid to the Receivership Entities based on such investments. Accordingly, the Receiver believes that it is not appropriate to allow a claim against the estate of the Receivership Entities. Rather, these claimants are free to pursue their claims against the company that they invested with or invested in. The Receiver believes that disallowance of each of the claims listed on Exhibit "2" is appropriate.

#### C. Proposed Disallowance of Duplicate Claims

Attached hereto as Exhibit "3" is a spreadsheet listing duplicate claims. The Receiver seeks to disallow all duplicate claims. Exhibit "3" identifies the allowed claim and also identifies the duplicate claim that is proposed to be disallowed in full. The duplicate claim will be disallowed, but the original claim be allowed, unless that claim is identified for objection on another basis.

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### D. Proposed Disallowance of Failed Investment Claims

The currently known Failed Investments are identified below. The Receiver intends the defined term to include any of the investments that may fail in the future. The claims filed in connection with investments made in the Failed Investments are identified in Exhibit "4" attached hereto.

The currently known Failed Investments are the following:

- 1. Aliphcom d/b/a Jawbone: This company began liquidations proceedings in June 2017. The startup company failed so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 2. Badgeville, Inc.: This company was not able to successfully go public and was acquired by Callidus Software on June 2016. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 3. Candi Controls: This company was not able to successfully go public and its intellectual property assets were acquired by Altair Corp. in May 2018. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 4. Glam Media, Inc.: This company was renamed to Mode Media but was then shut down in September 2016. It was then acquired by BrideClick in June 2017. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 5. Jumio, Inc.: This company filed bankruptcy in 2016. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 6. Odesk Corporation: This company was acquired by Upwork Global in 2013. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.
- 7. Practice Fusion: This company was sold to Allscripts in 2018 and is continuing to operate as a subsidiary. However, it will not go public and the Receiver received funds totaling \$15,500.09 as the buyout of the share held by the Receivership Entities. Given the relatively small amount of funds in relation to the net amounts invested claims for Practice Fusion shares (\$4,065,260), the Receiver proposes to disallow all of the Practice

Fusion claims as Failed Investment claims.

8. Virtual Instruments Corp.: The company was acquired by Loan DynamIX, Inc. in March 2016. The company failed to go public so investors will not receive any recovery from this investment.

In connection with the Court's evaluation of competing distribution plans in this receivership case, and as set forth above, the Court has indicated its position regarding disallowance of claims made for funds invested to purchase securities in companies that have now failed and were unable to issue an IPO. *See* Order re Proposed Distribution Plans entered December 20, 2018 [Doc. No. 443] at 8 – 9 and Minute Order dated February 28, 2019 [Doc No. 470].

The Receiver has accordingly included the Failed Investment Claims in these Objections, seeking disallowance in full, so that the claimants will have had notice of the Court's intention to disallow their claims in their entirety as part of the distribution plan process. Accordingly, the Receiver seeks by this Motion to formalize the Court's position and provide notice to claimants in connection with Failed Investments that it is the Court's intention to disallow their claims. The Receiver, therefore, seeks disallowance of these claims by this Motion.

#### E. Late-Filed Claims

A number of claims were filed following the Original Bar Date of January 31, 2018 and prior to the Former Receiver's June 14, 2018 Claims Report. The Receiver is advised that the SEC, the Former Receiver, and the Investor Group were all aware that the June 2018 Claims Report filed by the Former Receiver included claims filed after January 31, 2018, and that no one had any objection to those claims on an untimely basis. Accordingly, the Receiver has not reviewed claims submitted after January 31, 2018 and before the Claims Report in June 2018 and believes that those claims have been accepted as timely filed by the Former Receiver.

The Receiver is further advised that an additional 17 or so claims were filed after the June 2018 Claims Report but before the Receiver's appointment on February 28, 2019. The Receiver does not intend to object to those claims submitted prior to her appointment in light of what appears to have been an uncertain bar date that was disregarded for some claimants. Additionally, since a final distribution

plan has not yet been approved, the Receiver does not believe that there is any prejudice to allowing those claims.

Upon the Receiver's appointment on February 28, 2019, the Court set the Supplemental Bar Date, which ran on May 14, 2019. In the notice and proof of claim form regarding the Supplemental Bar Date, the Receiver requested that each such claimant complete an Attestation under oath as to the reason why a claim had not timely been filed by the Original Bar Date. In each case, the claimants advised that they had not received notice of the Original Bar Date or provided a similarly acceptable explanation for the timing of the submission of the claim following the Original Bar Date. The Receiver has reviewed all claims filed after February 28, 2019, and does not believe that objection to any of those claims is appropriate on the basis of being late-filed. Moreover, the books and records of the Receivership Entities reflect these claims amounts are correct, so the underlying claims themselves appear valid. Finally, the Receiver does not believe there is any prejudice to allowing the claims as timely filed given the current posture of the case.

Accordingly, even though "Late-Filed Claims" is included as a category in this Motion, the Receiver declines to object to claims on the basis of a late-filed objection that were filed after the Original Bar Date but that were submitted on or before the Supplemented Bar Date. The Receiver notes, however, that there may be other bases to object to those same claims and, if so, those claims have been included in other sections of this Motion.

Although the Receiver does not intend to object to any claims on the basis of them being untimely where the proof of claim was submitted on or before May 14, 2019, the absence of a present objection on the basis of untimeliness is not a waiver of any rights of the Receiver to file a subsequent objection on this basis for any claim submitted in writing before or after the May 14, 2019 Supplemental Bar Date, whether any such claim has been submitted in writing or was submitted on an informal basis before or after the Supplemental Bar Date.

Any claimant wishing to assert a claim against the Receivership estate after May 14, 2019 will need to seek leave of Court to do so. The Receiver seeks a finding that, absent a court order allowing such a claim, any claim submitted after May 14, 2019 shall be barred without need to obtain further

order of the Court.

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### IV. NOTICE BY EMAIL OF THIS MOTION SHOULD BE DEEMED

APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT

The Receiver has served the Notice of Motion and Motion on all claimants whose claim is at issue in this Motion at their known, valid email address or by first class mail if no email address is known. Additionally, the Receiver has posted the Notice of Motion and Motion on the Receiver's website at www.diamondmccarthy.com/saddleriverreceiver. The Receiver believes this notice complies with the provisions of Local Civil Rule 66-6. The Receiver requests that the Court approve this form of notice as reasonable, appropriate, and the most cost-effective means of providing notice of the hearing under the circumstances, since there are a few hundred claimants both in the United States and overseas, and to the extent necessary, to approve the notice given as reasonable, limited notice appropriate under the circumstances and in the interests of time and cost. This Court, as a court of equity supervising the receivership estate, may make appropriate administrative orders governing the receivership, including limitations on and changes in notice and other procedures. See F.R. Civ. P. 5(a) and (c) (authorizing the court to modify service procedures when numerous defendants are involved in litigation). By analogy to bankruptcy proceedings, orders limiting notice when the Bankruptcy Code or Rules would otherwise require notice to all creditors are routinely granted in bankruptcy cases to promote the expeditious and economical administration of bankruptcy estates. See In re First Alliance Mortgage Co., 269 B.R. 428, 442 (C.D. Cal. 2001) (referencing in *dicta* in the court's recitation of facts the bankruptcy court's order limiting notice issued in that case); 11 U.S.C. section 102(1)(A) (defining the phrase "after notice and a hearing" to mean "after such notice as is appropriate in the particular circumstances, and such opportunity for hearing as is appropriate in the particular circumstances").

The Receiver will send an email or letter to each investor with a unique identifying Investor I.D. Number assigned to them so that they may identify their particular claim on Exhibits "1" to "4." The Receiver believes it is appropriate to provide notice to the investors in this matter to protect their privacy rather than placing their names and amounts of their claims in the public record. Accordingly, the Receiver believes that each investor will have received proper notice of the Investor I.D. Number as well

as of this Motion. V. **CONCLUSION** Based on the foregoing, the Receiver requests entry of order disallowing the claims set forth herein on the grounds stated. The Receiver requests all other appropriate relief. Date: May 23, 2019 /s/Kathy Bazoian Phelps Kathy Bazoian Phelps Successor Receiver RECEIVER'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISALLOW CLAIMS