UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM SOUTHER เกี่ยวสะวา อุกสะอิสาคร Docket 03/14/2008 Page 1 of MIAMI DIVISION

Case No.: 04-60573-CIV-MORENO

IN RE:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

Plaintiff,

VS.

MUTUAL BENEFITS CORP., JOEL STEINGER a/k/a JOEL STEINER, LESLIE STEINGER a/k/a LESLIE STEINER and PETER LOMBARDI,

Defendants,

and

VIATICAL BENEFACTORS, LLC, VIATICAL SERVICES, INC., KENSINGTON MANAGEMENT, INC. RAINY CONSULTING CORP., TWIN GROVES INVESTMENTS, INC., P.J.L. CONSULTING, INC., SKS CONSULTING, INC., and CAMDEN CONSULTING, INC.

Relief Defendants.

ELEVENTH INTERIM APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OF FEES AND COSTS OF ACCOUNTANTS FOR RECEIVER

Pursuant to Court Order, any objections to this Application must be filed on or before ten days from the date of service indicated on the Certificate of Service attached hereto.

Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, LLP ("BDPB"), accountant to Roberto Martinez, court-appointed receiver (the "Receiver") of Mutual Benefits Corp. ("MBC"), Viatical Benefactors, LLC ("VBLLC") and

Page 2 o

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 Viatical Services, Inc. ("VSI"), (collectively the "Receivership Entities"), hereby requests the Court to enter an order authorizing the Receiver to pay the reasonable accountant's fees and costs incurred by BDPB for the three-month period, from October 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007, inclusive from the receivership estate, and in support thereof states the following.

By this Eleventh Interim Application, BDPB requests compensation for services rendered October 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007 (the "Application Period") in the amount of \$240,319.13 for fees and \$0.00 for expenses to be paid by the Receivership Entities. This fee application includes fees of approximately \$123,000.00 incurred by BDPB's information technology professionals in connection with the design, development, testing and implementation of a Premium Billing and Tracking System, created to enable VSI to allocate the billing of administrative fees and policy premiums to investors, track the collection of these fees and premiums, and reallocate fees and premiums among investors as required. At the Receiver's request, this work continues to represent a significant additional expenditure of time by BDPB in order to create the necessary framework for the disposition process going forward and for VSI to be able to continue to function after the Receivership is concluded. This request reflects the application of a ten percent (10%) discount to our standard rates for all professionals and paraprofessionals working on this matter totaling \$26,702.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

During the Application Period, BDPB has rendered extensive and necessary services for and on behalf of the receivership estate. BDPB was particularly involved in assisting the Receiver with the implementation of this Court's Disposition Order, which

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 continues to require BDPB's assistance with the design of information systems to administer the billing, collection and payment of insurance premiums. In addition, BDPB rendered the following services:

Page 3

- a) the analysis and preparation of death benefits for distribution to investors;
- preparation of analyses used in connection with the sale of Sell policies to third party investors;
- c) analysis and calculation of amounts due to the Receiver for reimbursement of policy premiums expended by Receiver on behalf of investors;
- d) preparation of premium cash flow analyses to assist Receiver in management of premium fund assets.
- e) assist in the preparation of various reports filed by the Receiver with the Court,
- f) posting of journal entries in accounting system, reconciling of books and records to bank accounts, selecting and printing of checks, payment of bills for Receivership entities;
- g) assist counsel to the Receiver in the recovery of assets for the benefit of investors:
- h) assist management in the preparation of financial statements for each of the Receivership entities; and
- providing regular and ongoing advice and assistance to Receiver, counsel
 to Receiver and management of Receivership entities in connection with
 numerous other issues that impact this Receivership.

COMPENSATION:

The determination of fees to be awarded is largely within the discretion of the trial court. *Monaghan v. Hill.*, 140 F.2d 31 (9th Cir. 1944). This discretion is, however, predicated on the assumption that careful consideration is given to all evidence of the value of the accountants' services in the light of the factors relevant to a determination. These factors are set forth in *In re Gypsum Cases*, 386 F.Supp. 959 (N.D. Cal. 1974) and *In re Norman v. Housing Authority of City of Montgomery*, 836 F.2d 1292 (11th Cir. 1988), as follows: (1) the time and labor properly employed in the servicing of the case; (2) the quality of services rendered; (3) the scope of the activity and conspiracy under attack; (4) the financial risk involved; (5) the magnitude, complexity and novelty of the issues involved; (6) the beneficial results obtained; and (6) the degree to which, if any, efforts were supported by prior governmental action. BDPB requests the Court to consider these factors in determining reasonable compensation for the services rendered to date by BDPB, as summarized below:

- a. <u>Time and Labor Required</u> The exhibits attached to this application include: The Summary of Third Interim Application for Compensation of Fees and Costs of Accountants for the Receiver (Exhibit 1); Summary of Professional and Paraprofessional Time (Exhibit 2); and the Summary of Professional and Paraprofessional Time by Activity Code Category (Exhibit 3).
 - b. Novelty and Difficulty of Services and Skills Requisite to the Accounting.

BDPB maintains detailed time records that are kept contemporaneously with the services performed. Receiver's counsel (CHE) will retain BDPB's detailed time records and will provide them to the Court for review in camera at the request of this Court.

Page 5 c

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008
The issues presented in this case are novel given the size of the Receivership
entities, the difficulty of dealing with the records and the unique nature of the
Receivership Entities' businesses. Additionally, certain key accounting staff left the
employ of MBC prior to or in connection with the appointment of the Receiver, and were
not available to assist the Receiver during this application period.

The extensive experience and capabilities of the professionals involved with this case possess the accounting, financial analysis, tax and consultation skills required for the successful completion of the objectives of the Receiver.

- c. The Skill Requisite to Perform the Services Properly. BDPB has staffed the engagement with personnel experienced in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, reporting and disclosure, tax compliance and information technology.
- d. The Preclusion of Other Employment by the Professional Due to

 Acceptance of this Case. BDPB has not been precluded from any other employment
 due to the acceptance of this case.
- herein BDPB charges commercial clients on one or more of the following criteria: reasonable fee for services rendered, hourly charges, or fixed fee. To the extent hourly charges are relevant, BDPB commands from commercial clients hourly rates ranging from \$95 an hour to \$400 per hour depending on the level of professional skill required.
- f. Whether the Fee is Fixed or Contingent. The fee is contingent inasmuch as the Receiver relies upon a Court Order approving the fee. BDPB has not entered into any agreement to fix a fee.
- g. <u>Time Limitations Imposed by the Client or Other Circumstances</u>. BDPB was directed to commence work by the Receiver on May 4, 2004 to assist the Receiver

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 as forensic accountants with respect to any and all litigation consulting services, investigatory accounting services, forecasts, advise on the accounting aspects of litigation matters, tax considerations, valuations and other services as required.

- h. <u>The Amount Involved and the Results Obtained</u> The above summary, together with exhibits, details the time, nature and extent of the professional services rendered by BDPB for the benefit of the investors and creditors.
- i. The Experience, Reputation, and Ability of the Professional. BDPB is an established accounting firm comprised of thirteen directors and over 100 personnel. Its professionals and staff working on this case are experienced in matters of this kind.
- j. <u>Undesirability of Case</u>. This case is not undesirable. BDPB is privileged to have the opportunity to serve the Receiver and appear before the Court in this proceeding.
- k. <u>Nature and Length of Professional Relationship With Client</u> BDPB's relationship with the Receiver began on May 4, 2004.
- I. Awards in Similar Cases. The amount requested by BDPB is reasonable in terms of awards in cases of similar magnitude and complexity. The compensation which BDPB requests comports with the mandate of the Bankruptcy Code, which directs that services be evaluated in light of comparable services performed in non-bankruptcy cases in the community. Considering the results obtained thus far, this fee request is appropriate. Likewise, as with all major accounting firms, BDPB's overhead expenses are substantial. Much of the fee, which the Court awards BDPB, will merely defray such significant overhead expenses already incurred and paid during the pendency of this case.

Case No. 04-60573 CIV-MORENO

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 Page 7 o k. Government Support - Although the SEC investigated and filed the initial pleadings in this case, BDPB has assisted the Receiver to secure and protect the assets of the Receivership Entities and investigate the operations of the Receivership Entities through investigation and analysis.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests that this Court authorize the Receiver to compensate BDPB for their accountants' fees for reasonable and necessary services rendered during the Application Period in the amount of \$240,319.13 to be paid by the estate of the Receivership Entities.

Respectfully submitted,

Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, LLP Accountants for the Receiver 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Sixth Floor Miami, FL 33131

Tel: (305) 379-7000 Fax: (305) 379-8200

Scott M. Bouchner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 Page 8 I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this // day of March, 2008, I electronically filed

the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF. I also certify that the foregoing document is being served this day on all counsel of record or pro se parties identified on the attached Service List in the manner specified, either via transmission of Notices of Electronic Filing generated by CM/ECF or in some other authorized manner for those counsel of parties who are not authorized to receive electronically Notices of Electronic Filing.

s/CURTIS B. MINER
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SERVICE LIST OF RECEIVER.

se 0:04-cv-60573-FAM

Document 2035

Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008

Page 9 of 10

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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Page 10 of	ў.
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>v-60573-FAM Document 2035-2 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008

SUMMARY OF ELEVENTH INTERIM APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OF FEES AND COSTS OF BERKOWITZ DICK POLLACK & BRANT

1	Name of applicant	Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants & Consultants, LLP				
2	Role of applicant	Accountants for Receiver				
3	Name of certifying professional	Scott Bouchner				
4	Date Receiver appointed	May 4, 2004				
5	Date of application for employment	May 26, 2004				
6	Date of Order approving employment	June 3, 2004				
7	Dates of services rendered	October 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007				
8	Total Fees requested for this period	\$ 240,319,13				
9:	Total expenses requested for this period					
10	Total fees and expenses requested to be awarded	S 240,319.13				

HISTORAGOE ECE APPLICATIONS

Application Number	Application Period	Date Submitted	- T	Amount Requested	An	iount Awarded	Date Awarded
The second secon			2				11 - 12 - 13 - 17
A	05/04/04 - 06/18/04	07/02/04	\$	228,589.43	\$	228,589.43	10/22/04
2	06/18/04 = 09/30/04	12/15/04	\$	193,806.45	\$	193,806,45	06/01/05
3	10/01/04 - 01/31/05	03/16/05	\$	266,723.10	\$	266,723:10	06/01/05
4	02/01/05 - 05/31/05	07/20/05	\$	201,553.00	\$	180,107.00	08/18/05
5	06/01/05 - 09/30/05	11/04/05	5:	168 136 20	\$	120,000.00	01/10/06
6	10/01/05 - 12/31/05	03/09/06	\$	177,969.25	\$	150,000.00	03/26/06
7	01/01/06 = 09/30/06	10/25/06	S	563,457.83	\$	490,000.00	02/21/07
8	10/01/06 = 12/31/06	03/22/07	5	251,193,98	5	250,000.00	05/07/07
9	01/01/07 - 05/31/07	07/06/07	\$	659,815.88	\$	500,000.00	09/04/07
10	06/01/07 - 09/30/07	11/06/07	\$	498,807.00	\$	300,000.00	01/08/08
TOTAL	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR		:\$:	3,210,052.12	S	2,679,225.98	gunerra gganera.

Case No. 04-60573-Civ-Moreno

Page 1 of

Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008 Document 2035-3 ase 0:04-cv-60573-FAM

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL AND PARAPROFESSIONAL TIME FROM OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2007 EXHIBIT 2

		: : :	Standard		
Name	Director, Associate Or Paraprofessional	Total Hours	Hourly Rate	Agreed-Upon Hourly Rate	Discounted Fee
Richard Pollack	Director	10	\$400.00	\$360.00	\$360.00
Jeffrey Mutnik	Director	0.3	\$400.00	\$360,00	\$108,00
Scott Bouchner	Director	28.8	\$375.00	\$337.50	\$9,703.13
Andreea Cloara	Associate	0	\$275.00	\$247.50	\$1,980,00
Richard Fechter	Associate	6	\$275.00	\$247.50	\$2,475.00
Joe Schima	Associate	291.5	\$265.00	\$238.50	\$69,522.75
Greg Brogna	Associate	81.5	\$225.00	\$202.50	\$16,503.75
Michelle Elsner	Associate	0.12	\$225.00	\$202,50	\$4,252.50
Aaron Smith	Associate	187.0	\$175.00	\$157,50	\$29,452.50
Juan Bernal	Associate	138.0	\$175.00	\$157.50	\$21,735.00
Roger Vizcaino	Associate	272.0	\$175.00	\$157.50	\$42,840.00
Susan DiNardo	Associate	152.0	\$150.00	\$135.00	\$20,520.00
Martha Loverin	Associate	9 68	\$150,00	\$135.00	\$12,082.50
John Vides	Associate	9.0	\$135.00	\$121.50	\$607.50
Dustin Grizzle	Associate	70.5	\$125.00	\$112.50	\$7,931,25
Julio Modia	Associate	1.8	\$110.00	\$59.00	\$173.25
Tere Ambriz	Para Professional	2	\$80.00	\$72.00	\$72.00
	TOTAL	1,358.8			\$240,319,13

Page

0:04-cv-60573-FAM Document 2035-4 Entered on FLSD Docket 03/14/2008

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL AND PARAPROFESSIONAL TIME BY ACTIVITY CODE CATEGORY FROM OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH NOVEMBER 31, 2007

EXHIBIT 3

Name	Director or Associate	Hours	Agreed-Upon Hourly Rate (1)	Discounted Fee
	Veannigle.	nours.	Honity Rate (1)	DISCOUNTED Fee
Accounting Assistance				
John Vides	Associate	2.8	\$360,00	\$334.13
Michelle Elsner	Associate	21.0	\$337.50	\$4,252,50
Susan DiNardo	Associate	152.0	\$238.50	\$20,520.00
Dustin Grizzle	Associate	70.5	\$194.03	\$7,931,25
Accounting Assistance Total	Ų.	246.3		\$33,037.88
ee Application				
Scott Bouchner	Director	2.5	\$315.00	\$843.75
Tere Ambriz	Pera Professiona		\$238.50	\$72.00
Fee Application Total	<u> </u>	3.5	15	\$915.75
Information Technology		,	:•	
Greg Brogna	Associate	81.5	\$202.50	\$16,503.75
Martha Loverin	Associate	89.5	\$202.50	\$12,082.50
Aaron Smith	Associate	187.0	\$ 157.50	\$29,452.50
Juan Bernal	Associate	138.0	\$157.50	\$21,735.00
Roger Vizcalno	Associate	272.0	\$157.50	\$42,840.00
Scott Bouchner	Director	1.8	\$126.00	\$590.53
Information Technology Total	<u> </u>	769.8	th resource to broadly and	\$123,204,38
ligation	-		·별	
Scott Bouchner	Director	2.5	5319.74	2402/12/22
Richard Fechler	Associate	10.0	\$247.60	\$843.7 <i>5</i>
Application of the Company of the Co	menu-standam F		9247.GU	\$2,475.00
Litigation Total	ė <u>p</u>	12.5	125 G.€	\$3,318,75
Receivership Operations				
Richard Pollack	Director	1.0	\$360.00	\$360.00
Scott Bouchner	Director	21.5	\$331.88	\$7,256,25
Joe Schima	Associate	291.5	\$238.50	\$69.522.75
Receivership Operations Total	- (m	314,0		
1993 von Haufert, Leeponder ein zeit, die gestellt von stad beer das 2 find in dem sendante.	27	31416	- i	\$77,139.00
ax issues	Minne	1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	<u> </u>	出述的 证据来,
Jeffrey Mutnik Scott Bouchner	Director	0.3	\$360.00	\$108.00
	Director	0,5	\$337,50	\$168.75
Andreea Cioara	Associate	8.0	\$240.58	\$1,980.00
John Vides	Associate	2.3	\$121.50	\$273.36
Julio Modia	Associate	1.8	\$72.00	\$173. <u>25</u>
Tax Issues Total	Î	12.8	٠.	\$2,703.38
Srand Total		1.358.8		