FILED

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS **AUSTIN DIVISION**

CLERK, U.S. DISTRI WESTERN DISTR

UNITED STATES COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. A-12-CV-0862-LY

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Defendants.

# ORDER ON RECEIVER'S FIRST AMENDED MOTION TO RETAIN RECEIVERSHIP ACCOUNTANT

Before the Court is the Receiver's First Amended Motion for Retain Receivership Accounting Firm Ahuja & Clark, PLLC.

The Receiver is requesting approval for Ahuja & Clark, PLLC to prepare the required tax forms for calendar year 2022:

- 1. For four foreign law firms at \$500.00 per form
- 2. 1099's for one U.S, based entity, the Receiver and his paralegal for \$300.00 per form

Having considered the Motion, the evidence presented, and arguments of counsel, if any, the Court finds the Motion should be, and is hereby, GRANTED.

SIGNED this 23rd day of West,

# THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

UNITED STATES COMMODITY	§	
FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
V.	§	Civil Action No. A-12-CV-0862-LY
	§	
SENEN POUSA, INVESTMENT	§	
INTELLIGENCE CORPORATION,	§	
DBA PROPHETMAX MANAGED FX,	§	
JOEL FRIANT, MICHAEL DILLARD, and	§	
ELEVATION GROUP, INC.,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

# RECEIVER'S FIRST AMENDED MOTION TO APPROVE RETENTION OF A RECEIVERSHIP ACCOUNTANT

Comes Now Guy M. Hohmann, this Court's Appointed Receiver (the "Receiver") and files this First Amended Motion to Approve Retention of a Receivership Accountant (the "Motion") and respectfully shows unto the Court as follows:

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On September 18, 2012, The Court granted the Receiver authority to hire the accounting firm Padgett Stratemann & CO, LLP.<sup>1</sup> At the time, Padgett Stratemann was a small regional accounting firm located in San Antonio, Texas. The Receiver used Padgett Stratemann to assist

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Under paragraph 20(i) of the Statutory Restraining Order issued on September 8, 2012 [Dkt. # 4], the Receiver was authorized and directed to: "i. Choose, engage and employ attorneys, accountants, appraisers, and other technical specialists as the Receiver deems advisable or necessary in the performance of duties and responsibilities under the authority granted by this Order."

with Receivership tax reporting to the Internal Revenue Service ("the "IRS"). Since that time, the Padgett Stratemann firm was acquired by RSM US LLP (RSM). RSM is a significantly larger firm with a global presence and significantly higher billing rates than Padget Stratemann.<sup>2</sup>

From 2012 to the present, the Receivership's need for IRS reporting accounting activities has been relatively low. The Receiver has only recently been in a position to pay his U.S. and foreign counsel's fees and invoices for their assistance in the Receiver's successful recovery efforts.

In February of 2022, the Court granted the Receiver's Motions to Pay Fee Expenses and [Dkt. #'s 251,216,217,218,219,220,225]. The IRS requires tax reporting forms for funds paid to foreign counsel and to U.S counsel including fees the Receiver and his paralegal are paid.

The Receiver considered several accounting firms with expertise in receivership tax reporting. Through his research with the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers, the Receiver identified the accounting firm Ahuja & Clark, PLLC.<sup>3</sup>

#### A. Ahuja & Clark, PLLC.

Ahuja & Clark ("A&C") is a small regional accounting firm located in Plano, Texas. They have extensive experience in Receiverships and understanding their complex accounting and tax requirements. They have similar engagements with receivers in the following cases: *U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission v. Heartland Group Ventures, LLC, et al. No. 4:21-cv-01310; U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission v. William Neil "Doc" Gallagher, Gallagher Financial* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> RSM has 51,000 professionals in 123 countries around the globe. Retrieved from RSM 's website on June 9, 2022, https://rsmus.com/about html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> NAFER Service Providers. Retrieved from Accounting/Tax Services June 9, 2022, https://nafer.connectedcommunity.org/network/members/serviceproviders

Group, Inc., and W. Neil Gallagher, Ph.D. Agency, Inc., No. 3:19-cv-0575-C (USDC NDTX filed March 7, 2019).

#### **B.** Compensation Terms

A&C provided the Receiver with a proposal which includes the receivership support services they offer which includes filing of the required tax forms. Their proposed engagement proposal reflects their discounted hourly rates.<sup>4</sup> The fees for filingW-8 BENS will be \$500.00 each and the fees for filing 1099s will be \$300.00 each. (*See* exhibit 1).

- a. IRS requires Form W-8 BEN be issued to:
  - 1. Van Oosten Advocaten (Netherlands)
  - 2. PCB Litigation (UK London)
  - 3. Kinstellar (Hungary)
  - 4. Montanios & Montanios Llc (Cyprus)
- b. IRS requires Form 1099 be issued to:
  - 1. Munch Hardt (U.S.)
  - 2. Guy Hohmann (U.S.)
  - 3. Ryn Hohmann (paralegal U.S.)

#### **CONCLUSION AND PRAYER**

For the reasons set forth above, the Receiver respectively requests this honorable Court grant this Motion to allow the Receiver to retain the accounting firm of Ahuja & Clark, PLLC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ahuja Clark (November 7, 2022). Team member resumes are available on their website. Madhu Ahuja resume is located at https://www.ahujaclark.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/M.-Ahuja-AC-Resume-1.pdf. Retrieved from: https://ahujaclark.com/team/

Respectfully submitted,

THE HOHMANN LAW FIRM, LLC

By: /s/ Guy Hohmann Guy Hohmann State Bar No.09813100 guyh@hohmannlaw.com 114 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 495-1400 (512) 499-0094 (Facsimile)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

I have conferred via email with Tim Mulreany of the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission takes no position on this motion.

By: <u>/s/ Guy Hohmann</u> Guy Hohmann

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

On November 14, 2022, I electronically filed this motion and proposed order with the Clerk's Office in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas Austin Division.

I hereby certify that I will serve parties individually or through their counsel of record, electronically, or by other means authorized by the Court or the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

By: <u>/s/ Guy Hohmann</u> Guy Hohmann



# Ahuja & Clark, PLLC Certified Public Accountants

November 10, 2022

Receivership Support Re: United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission v. Senen Pousa, Investment Intelligence Corporation et al., No. 1:19-cv-00930-LY (hereafter referred to as, "IB Capital ProphetMax").

Ahuja & Clark, PLLC (referred to as "Proposer" or "A&C"), is submitting this proposal to provide services in support of Mr. Guy Hohmann ("You", "Receiver") in the above referenced matter. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal regarding the above referenced services. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

### IRS REQUIRED TAX SERVICES:

IRS requires Form W-8 BEN, Form W8-BEN, Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner (referred to as Form W-8 BEN) be provided to the payer for payments made to foreign persons in order to determine the amount subject to withholding for the following foreign persons. A&C will gather Form W8-BEN, for United States tax withholding and reporting (for four international law firms). A&C will determine withholding requirements of the Receiver based on information provided on Form W8-BEN.

The Receiver's foreign counsel who received payment from the IB Capital ProphetMax receivership in year 2022 are as follows:

- 1. PCB Litigation (UK London)
- 2. Kinstellar (Hungary)
- 3. Montanios & Montanios Llc (Cyprus) (YP/MMM/302366
- 4. Van Oosten Advocaten (Netherlands)

A&C estimates that the fees for the preparation of each Form W8-BEN and the calculation of withholding will be \$500 per form. A&C will also assist the Receiver in depositing the withholding from the payments to the IRS. A&C estimates the fees for creating an account with the IRS and depositing the withholding to take approximately 8 hours of CPA time (estimated fees approximately \$2,000)

The IRS requires Form 1099 be provided to the payer for payments to U.S. persons in order to determine the amount subject to withholding for U.S persons.

A&C will issue Form 1099's to the Receiver and U.S Counsel Munch Hardt (U.S.) Guy Hohmann (U.S.)

Ryn Hohmann (U.S.)



A&C estimates that the fees for the preparation of each Form W8-BEN and the calculation of withholding will be \$300 per form.

# **A&C** proposed budget:

Based on the information provided, the budget is estimated to be approximately \$4,900.

## **Proposed Hourly Rates By Level**

A&C is proposing discounted rates based on the professional level of expertise to be provided. See proposed discounted rates below.

	Discounted Rate	Standard Rate
Engagement Leader	\$325	\$365
Managers/CPA/CFE/EA	\$250	\$280
Senior Associate/Project Manager	\$180	\$210
Associate	\$120	\$150