

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND  
EXCHANGE COMMISSION,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**THE HEARTLAND GROUP  
VENTURES, LLC, *et al.*,**

**Defendants.**

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**Civil Action No. 4:21-cv-01310-O-BP**

**ORDER**

Before the Court is Receiver’s Expedited Application to Employ Higgs & Johnson as Bahamian Counsel to Receiver Effective as of March 7, 2025 (the “Application”) (ECF No. 709.), filed by Deborah D. Williamson, Court-appointed Receiver in the Case, pursuant to the Court’s December 2, 2021 Order Appointing Receiver (ECF No. 17) entered in this Case. The Court finds that: (i) it has subject matter jurisdiction over the Application; (ii) it has personal jurisdiction over the Receivership Parties; (iii) Higgs & Johnson (the “Firm”) (a) does not represent or hold any interest adverse to the Receivership Parties or the Estates and (b) is disinterested and not otherwise disqualified from representing the Receiver; (iv) the Receiver’s employment of the Firm under the scope outlined in the Application is in the best interests of the Estates; (v) proper and adequate notice of the Application has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; (vi) no objections to the Application were filed, and the Court heard the Application at a hearing held on this date; (vii) (a) the Receiver engaged the Firm on March 7, 2025, and (b) the employment of the Firm should be effective as of that date; and (viii) the Receiver has shown good, sufficient, and sound business purpose and justification for the relief requested in the Application, and that, after

due deliberation, good and sufficient cause exists for approving the relief requested in the Application. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Application is **APPROVED**.
2. Pursuant to the Receivership Order, the Receiver is authorized to employ and retain the Firm as Bahamian counsel in accordance with the compensation terms detailed in the Application effective as of March 7, 2025.
3. The Firm is authorized to provide such professional services in this Case and assist the Receiver in relation to the Issues outlined in the Application, including, without limitation, any ancillary and related issues.
4. The Firm shall cause to be filed, through the Receiver, applications for the approval of compensation of its fees and expenses on an interim and final basis in compliance with the Court's Receivership Order, the local rules of this Court, and such other procedures that may be fixed by an order of this Court. The Receiver shall have no obligation to compensate counsel unless the Court approves such compensation.
5. The Receiver is authorized to remit a retainer to the Firm in the total amount of \$20,000.00 relating to work performed for the Receiver in this Case. The retainer will be held until submission of fees.
6. This Court shall have sole and exclusive authority to hear and decide any controversy or dispute regarding the Firm's engagement by the Receiver in this Case.

It is so **ORDERED** on March 17, 2025.

  
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Hal R. Ray, Jr.  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

