

# RECEIVER'S FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION TO ALLOW AND PAY (1) RECEIVER'S FEES AND EXPENSES AND (2) ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT

TO THE HONORABLE JEFF KAPLAN, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE:

Michael J. Quilling, Receiver, files this his First Interim Application to Allow and Pay
(1) Receiver's Fees and Expenses and (2) Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and in support of such would show unto the Court as follows:

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. On November 13, 1998, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") initiated Civil Action No. 3:98-CV-2689-M styled Securities and Exchange Commission vs. Funding Resources Group, et al (the "SEC Proceedings") and, in connection therewith, sought the appointment of a receiver as to each of the named Defendants. On November 13, 1998, the Court issued its Order Appointing Temporary Receiver in the SEC Proceedings pursuant to which Michael J. Quilling was named Receiver ("Receiver").

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2. On July 23, 1999, the Court issued an Order in the SEC Proceedings freezing the

assets of and appointing Michael J. Quilling as the Receiver for Hammersmith Trust, LLC and a

number of related entities.

3. Pursuant to the terms of each of the foregoing Orders, the Receiver was authorized

to employ such attorneys as is necessary and proper for the collection, preservation, maintenance and

operation of the Receivership's Assets. Subsequent to his appointment, the Receiver employed the

law firm of Quilling, Selander, Cummiskey, Clutts & Lownds, P.C., now known as Quilling.

Selander, Cummiskey & Lownds, P.C. ("QSC&L") as his general counsel. The Receiver is an

attorney and a shareholder of the law firm and has rendered many of the legal services which are the

subject of this Application as well as performing his duties as the Receiver.

4. These proceedings were initiated by the Receiver as a consequence of his pursuit of

Receivership Assets and causes of action against third parties to recover funds which the Receiver

believes rightfully belong to defrauded investors.

5. This Application seeks approval and payment of the fees and reimbursement of

expenses for the Receiver and QSC&L for the time period from June 1, 2000 through

August 31, 2000. The Receiver did not establish a separate billing file for these proceedings until

June 1, 2000.

6. During the period covered by this Application, the Receiver has incurred fees and

expenses with respect to his activities as Receiver and with respect to QSC&L as to these

proceedings on a monthly basis as follows:

RECEIVER'S FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION TO ALLOW AND PAY
(1) RECEIVER'S FEES AND EXPENSES AND (2) ATTORNEY'S FEES

<b>Month</b>	<u>Fees</u>	<b>Expenses</b>		
June 2000	\$ 825.00	\$ 150.00		
July 2000	25.00	0.00		
August 2000	<u> 150.00</u>	_40.00		
TOTAL:	\$1,000.00	\$ 190.00		

purposes conveys the following information for the time period of June 1, 2000 through August 31, 2000: (a) the number of hours worked by each attorney and staff member on a particular day, (b) the manner and type of work performed by each attorney and staff member, (c) the customary billing rate for each person rendering service in this matter, and (d) the monetary value assigned to each task performed by a given attorney and/or staff member. Each of the invoices attached hereto as Exhibit "A" reflect aggregate expenses by category during a given month. Expense items in excess of \$500.00, if any, have been itemized under Exhibit "B."

#### **JOHNSON FACTORS**

8. In support of this request for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses, the Receiver and QSC&L respectfully direct this Court's attention to those factors generally considered by courts in awarding compensation to professionals for services performed in connection with the administration of a receivership estate. As stated by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Migis v. Pearle Vision, Inc.*, 135 F.3d 1041, 1047 (5th Cir. 1998) "The calculation of attorneys fees involves a well-established process. First, the court calculates a 'lodestar' fee by multiplying the reasonable number of hours expended on the case by the reasonable hourly rates for the participating lawyers. (cite omitted.) The court then considers whether the lodestar figure should be adjusted upward or downward depending on the circumstances of the case. In making a lodestar

adjustment the court should look at twelve factors, known as the Johnson factors, after *Johnson v.*Georgia Highway Express, Inc., 488 F.2d 714 (5th Cir. 1974)." Those factors as applied to the services rendered in this case by the Receiver and QSC&L are addressed below.

- (a) The Time and Labor Required. The Receiver and QSC&L respectfully refer the Court's attention to Exhibit "A" which details the involvement of the Receiver and QSC&L's attorneys in this case during the three month period covered by this Application during which a total of more than 4 hours of attorney and Receiver time have been expended.
- (b) The Novelty and Difficulty of the Questions. Many of the tasks reflected in Exhibit "A" involved factual and legal questions which were of substantial complexity.
- (c) The Skill Requisite to Perform the Service. The Receiver believes that the services performed in this case have required individuals possessing considerable experience in asset seizure, tracing and liquidation. Both the Receiver and QSC&L have considerable experience in such areas.
- (d) The Preclusion of Other Employment Due to Acceptance of the Case. The Receiver and QSC&L have not declined any representation solely because of their services as Receiver and counsel for the Receiver.
- (e) The Customary Fee. The hourly rates sought herein are commensurate with the rates charged by other practitioners of similar experience levels in the Northern District of Texas. During the course of these proceedings, the following lawyers at QSC&L have performed legal services on behalf of the Receiver with respect to these proceedings: Mike Quilling (\$250.00 per hour), licensed in 1982 and Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Civil Trial Law; Andy Trusevich (\$200.00 per hour) licensed in 1992 and Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law and Dee Raibourn (\$125.00 per hour) licensed in 1998.

(f) Whether the Fee is Fixed or Contingent. The Receiver's and QSC&L's fees are fixed insofar as monies exist by way of Receivership Assets from which to pay such fees.

Payment of such fees, however, is subject to Court approval.

(g) <u>Time Limitations Imposed by the Client or Other Circumstances</u>. The time

requirements during the period covered by this Application have been normal.

(h) The Amount Involved and the Results Obtained. This is an action by the

Receiver to clear and obtain title to a \$400,000.00 piece of property and house located on the

shorefront of Lake Michigan. The Receiver has filed a Lis Pendens to protect the receivership

estate's interest. During the period covered by this Application, the Receiver has prepared and filed

a lawsuit against the named Defendants.

(i) The Experience, Reputation, and Ability of the Attorneys. QSC&L has

several attorneys who specialize exclusively in the practice of civil trial law. The practice of those

attorneys regularly includes the representation of bankruptcy trustee and receivers. The reputation

of QSC&L's attorneys is recognized and respected in the community.

(j) The Undesirability of the Case. The representation of the Receiver incident

to this case has not been undesirable.

(k) The Nature and Length of the Professional Relationship with the Client.

OSC&L did not represent the Receiver in these proceedings prior to being retained in these

proceedings.

(1) Award in Similar Cases. QSC&L believes that the fees requested in this case

are less than or equal to those which have been awarded in similar cases in this District.

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(1) RECEIVER'S FEES AND EXPENSES AND (2) ATTORNEY'S FEES
AND EXPENSES AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT - PAGE 5

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Receiver and QSC&L request that this Court approve all of the fees and expenses as set forth herein and for such other and further relief, general or special, at law or in equity, to which the Receiver and QSC&L may show themselves justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

QUILLING, SELANDER, CUMMISKEY & LOWNDS, P.C.
2800 One Dallas Centre
350 North St. Paul, Suite 2800
Dallas, Texas 75201-4240
(214) 871-2100 (Telephone)
(214) 871-2111 (Facsimile)

Bv:

Michael J. Quilling

State Bar No. 16432300

ATTORNEYS FOR RECEIVER

#### **CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

Prior to filing this Application, as required by the Order Appointing Temporary Receiver, I conferred with Bob Brunig of the SEC regarding the filing of this Application. The SEC consents to payment of the requested fees and expenses and believes them to be necessary and reasonable.

Michael J. Quilling

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2000 a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via first class mail, postage pre-paid, on:

Robert B. Brunig Securities & Exchange Commission 801 Cherry Street, 19th Floor Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Wendell A. Odom, Jr. 440 Louisiana, Suite 800 Houston, Texas 77002

S. Cass Weiland Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay, P.C. 1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4400 Dallas, Texas 75201-4618

Jeffrey D. Saxon 9370 Leverett Dr. Semmes, AL 36575 Deborah Goodall Goodall & Sooter 12830 Hillcrest Rd., Suite 111 Dallas, Texas 75230

Dan R. Waller Secore & Waller, LLC 13355 Noel Road, Suite 2290 Dallas, Texas 75240

Jack Higgins
Trustee for the Wolcott Lifetime Trust
2745 Scenic Highway 98, Unit 2
Destin, Florida 32541

Michael J. Quilling

# QUILLING, SELANDER, CUMMISKEY & LOWNDS

# A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

### BRYAN TOWER 2001 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 1800 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-4240

TAX ID #75-2459334

TELEPHONE: (214) 871-2100 TELECOPIER: (214) 871-2111

Michael J.	Quilling,	Receiver			Page: 06/30/0
	_		Client	No:	911-55
			Invoice	No:	4041

Re: Funding Resources - Wolcott Lifetime Trust

06/07/00			1	Hours		
06/07/00 MJQ Begin draf Lifetime T	ting of lawsuit agair rust.	st Wolcott		1.50	375.0	
06/08/00 MJQ Continued	work on lawsuit again	st Wolcott	Trust	1.00	250.0	
06/09/00 MJQ Continue w	ork on Wolcott Lifeti	me Trust la	wsuit.	.50	125.0	
06/16/00 MJQ Finalize l	awsuit against Wolcot	t Lifetime	Trust.	.30	75.0	
For Curren	t Services Rendered			3.30	825.0	
Recapitulation						
Timekeeper		Hours Hou	rly Rate	•	Total	
Michael J. Quil	ling	3.30	\$250.00	\$8	25.00	
Filing Fee	for Receiver's Origi	nal Complai:	nt			
Wolcott	101 110001101 0 01-5-				150.0	
Total Expe	nses Thru 06/30/00				150.0	
Total Curr	ent Work				975.(	

PLEASE NOTE: NEW BILLING ADDRESS
DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT



Michael J. Quilling, Receiver

Page: 06/30/0

Client No: Invoice No:

911-55 4041

Re: Funding Resources - Wolcott Lifetime Trust

Balance Due

\$975.0

NOTE: PLEASE REFERENCE THE CLIENT NO. WITH PAYMENT

# QUILLIN SELANDER, CUMMISKEY LOWNDS

# A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

### BRYAN TOWER 2001 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 1800 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-4240

TAX ID #75-2459334

TELEPHONE: (214) 871-2100 TELECOPIER: (214) 871-2111

Michael J. Quilling, Receiver

Page: 1 07/31/00

Client No: 911-55M

Invoice No: 40974

Re: Funding Resources - Wolcott Lifetime Trust

07/28/00			I	Hours	
MJQ Review of Orders issued by Court relating to case.			ing to	.10	25.00
For Current	Services Rendered			.10	25.00
Timekeeper Michael J. Quill:	Recapitula ing		Hourly Rate \$250.00		Total  \$25.00
Total Curre	nt Work				25.00
Balance Due					\$25.0(

NOTE: PLEASE REFERENCE THE CLIENT NO. WITH PAYMENT

PLEASE NOTE: NEW BILLING ADDRESS
DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

#### QUILLIN, SELANDER, CUMMISKEY LOWNDS

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

#### **BRYAN TOWER** 2001 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 1800 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-4240

TAX ID # 75-2459334

TELEPHONE: (214) 871-2100

TELEFAX: (214) 871-2111

Michael J. Quilling, Receiver

Page: 1 08/31/00

Client No:

911-55M Invoice No: 41522

Re: Funding Resources - Wolcott Lifetime Trust

08/30/00		Hours			
	Preparation of Fee Application a regarding the same.	nd Order		.60	150.00
	For Current Services Rendered			.60	150.00
Time	Recapitulat keeper		ourly Rate	ı	Total
Micha	ael J. Quilling	0.60	\$250.00	\$1	50.00
Paid to the US District Court, Southern District of Alabama for filing fees for 28 USC Sec. 754 Paid to the US District Court, Western District					20.00
of Michigan for filing fees for 28 USC Sec. 754 filing.			Bec. 734	20.00	
	Total Expenses Thru 08/31/00				40.00
	Total Current Work				190.00
	Balance Due				\$190.00

NOTE: PLEASE REFERENCE THE CLIENT NO. WITH PAYMENT

PLEASE NOTE: NEW BILLING ADDRESS **DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT**