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8 STEPHEN J. DONELL

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11
12 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

13 Plaintiff,

14
15 v.

16 ASCEND CAPVENTURES INC., et al.,

17
18 Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-CV-07660-SPG-JPR

DECLARATION OF JOSHUA A. DEL CASTILLO IN SUPPORT OF EX PARTE APPLICATION OF RECEIVER, STEPHEN J. DONELL, FOR ORDER AUTHORIZING REJECTION OF WAREHOUSE LEASE AND ABANDONMENT OF ASSOCIATED WAREHOUSE INVENTORY

[Ex Parte Application; Declarations of Stephen J. Donell and Joshua Jennifer Guillen; and [Proposed] Order submitted concurrently herewith]

Judge Hon. Sherilyn Peace Garnett

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DECLARATION OF JOSHUA A. DEL CASTILLO

I, Joshua A. del Castillo, declare as follows:


1. I am an attorney at the law firm of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, counsel of record for Stephen J. Donell (the "Receiver"), the Court-appointed receiver in the above-captioned action. I am a member in good standing of the State Bar of California and have been admitted to practice before this Court. I make this Declaration in support of the Receiver's concurrently filed *Ex Parte Application for Order Authorizing Rejection of Warehouse Lease and Abandonment of Associated Warehouse Inventory* (the "Application"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration and, if called as a witness, could and would testify competently to such facts under oath.

2. On February 4, 2025, I provided notice to counsel for the plaintiff Federal Trade Commission and defendants William Basta and Jeremy Leung of the Receiver's intent to file the Application, the nature of the Application, and the grounds therefore. I further met and conferred with counsel on February 4 and 5, 2025. Based on my discussions with counsel, the Receiver understands that the parties have no opposition to the Application.

3. On February 3, 2025, I corresponded with Jennifer Guillen a representative of the landlord (the "Landlord") on that certain Office/Warehouse Lease Agreement for the real property located at 901-904 Avenue N., Grand Prairie, Texas 75050 (the "Warehouse"), to which Ascend Distribution, LLC – a receivership entity – is a party. Ms. Guillen advised me that another tenant in the building in which the Warehouse is located had offered to lease the Warehouse space, if it could be made available by March 1, 2025, but also that this tenant expected to vacate the building entirely at the end of its lease term, if the Warehouse could not be made available for occupancy by March 1, 2025.

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on February 6, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.



Joshua A. del Castillo