

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,
Plaintiff,
v.
ASCEND CAPVENTURES INC., et al.,
Defendants.

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

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
AMENDED FIRST INTERIM
APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF
FEES OF RECEIVER, STEPHEN J.
DONELL, AND HIS
PROFESSIONALS**

Date: April 23, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Ctvm: 5C
Judge Hon. Sherilyn Peace Garnett

Before the Court is the *Amended First Interim Application for the Payment of Fees* (the "Amended Fee Application") of Stephen J. Donell (the "Receiver"), the Court-appointed receiver in the above-captioned action, along with his general receivership counsel, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP ("Allen Matkins"), his forensic accounting firm, SL Biggs, and local counsel Ross, Smith & Binford, PC (now, Ross & Smith PC ["RSB"]) and Markowitz Ringel Trusty & Hartog, P.A. ("MRTH", and together with Allen Matkins, SL Biggs, and RSB, the "Professionals").

1 The Amended Fee Application covers the fees incurred by the Receiver and
2 his Professionals (collectively, the "Applicants") during the period from
3 September 13, 2024 through October 31, 2024 (the "Application Period").

4 The Receiver requests approval and payment, on an interim basis, of fees in
5 the amount of \$69,897.15 that were incurred during the Application Period. Allen
6 Matkins requests approval and payment, on an interim basis, of fees in the amount
7 of \$145,013.85 that were incurred during the Application Period. MRTH requests
8 approval and payment, on an interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$3,000.00 that
9 were incurred during the Application Period. RSB requests approval and payment,
10 on an interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$20,317.50 that were incurred during
11 the Application Period. Finally, SL Biggs requests approval and payment, on an
12 interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$70,337.00 that were incurred during the
13 Application Period.

14 The Court, having considered the Amended Fee Application, and good cause
15 appearing therefor,

16 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that

- 17 1. The Amended Fee Application is granted, in its entirety;
- 18 2. The Receiver's fees incurred during the Application Period, in the
19 amount of \$69,897.15, are approved;
- 20 3. Allen Matkins' fees incurred during the Application Period, in the
21 amount of \$145,013.85, are approved;
- 22 4. MRTH's fees incurred during the Application Period, in the amount of
23 \$3,000.00, are approved;
- 24 5. RSB's fees incurred during the Application Period, in the amount of
25 \$20,317.50, are approved;
- 26 6. SL Biggs' fees incurred during the Application Period, in the amount of
27 \$70,337.00, are approved; and
28

1 7. The Receiver is authorized to pay himself and his Professionals the
2 above-approved fees, in full, from the funds of the receivership estate established in
3 this action.

4
5 Dated: _____

Hon. Sherilyn Peace Garnett
United States District Judge