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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 ASCEND CAPVENTURES INC., also  
15 doing business as Ascend Ecom LLC;  
16 Ascend Ecomm LLC; ACV; ACV Partners;  
17 Accelerated Ecommerce Ventures; Ascend  
18 Distribution LLC; Ethix Capital; and ACV  
19 Nexus, a Wyoming close corporation profit  
20 corporation;  
21 ASCEND ECOMMERCE INC., also doing  
22 business as Ascend Ecom LLC, a Wyoming  
23 close corporation profit corporation;  
24 ASCEND ADMINISTRATION INC., a  
25 California general stock corporation;  
26 ASCEND ECOM LLC, a Wyoming limited  
27 liability company;  
28 ASCEND DISTRIBUTION LLC, a Texas  
limited liability company;  
WILLIAM MICHAEL BASTA, individually  
and as officer and/or owner of Ascend Ecom  
LLC, Ascend Capventures Inc., Ascend  
Ecommerce Inc., Ascend Administration  
Inc., Ascend Distribution LLC;

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

**ORDER GRANTING AMENDED  
FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION  
FOR PAYMENT OF FEES OF  
RECEIVER, STEPHEN J.  
DONELL, AND HIS  
PROFESSIONALS [ECF NO. 93]**

1 JEREMY KENNETH LEUNG, individually  
2 and as officer and/or owner of Ascend Ecom  
3 LLC, Ascend Capventures Inc., Ascend  
4 Ecommerce Inc., Ascend Administration  
Inc., and Ascend Distribution LLC,  
Defendants.

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7 Before the Court is the Amended First Interim Application for the Payment of  
8 Fees (ECF No. 93 (“Amended Fee Application”)) of Stephen J. Donell (“Receiver”),  
9 the Court-appointed receiver in the above-captioned action, along with the general  
10 receivership counsel, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP (“Allen  
11 Matkins”); the forensic accounting firm, SL Biggs; and local counsel Ross, Smith &  
12 Binford, PC (“RSB”) and Markowitz Ringel Trusty & Hartog, P.A. (“MRTH”)  
13 (collectively, “Professionals”).

14 The Amended Fee Application covers the fees incurred by the Receiver and his  
15 Professionals during the period from September 13, 2024, through October 31, 2024  
16 (“Application Period”). The Court’s prior Order, *see* (ECF No. 89 (“Order”)),  
17 discussed the Professionals’ original First Interim Application for the Payment of  
18 Fees. The Order requested that the Professionals submit supplemental declarations  
19 discussing the reasonableness of the requested fees based on the hourly rate within  
20 the Professionals’ respective professions. Pursuant to that Order, the Professionals  
21 have submitted declarations outlining their credentials, professional experiences, and  
22 comparable fees within their professions. *See* (ECF Nos. 93-3, 93-4, 93-5, 93-6, and  
23 93-7). The Federal Trade Commission has also filed a notice of non-opposition to  
24 this Amended Fee Application. *See* (ECF No. 94).

25 In this Amended Fee Application, the Receiver requests approval and payment,  
26 on an interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$69,897.15 that were incurred during the  
27 Application Period. Allen Matkins requests approval and payment, on an interim  
28 basis, of fees in the amount of \$145,013.85 that were incurred during the Application


1 Period. MRTH requests approval and payment, on an interim basis, of fees in the  
2 amount of \$3,000.00 that were incurred during the Application Period. RSB requests  
3 approval and payment, on an interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$20,317.50 that  
4 were incurred during the Application Period. Finally, SL Biggs requests approval and  
5 payment, on an interim basis, of fees in the amount of \$70,337.00 that were incurred  
6 during the Application Period.

7 The Court, having considered the Amended Fee Application along with the  
8 declarations and exhibits and finding good cause thereof, hereby ORDERS the  
9 following:

- 10 1. The Amended Fee Application is granted in its entirety;
- 11 2. The Receiver's fees in the amount of \$69,897.15, incurred during the  
12 Application Period, are approved;
- 13 3. Allen Matkins' fees in the amount of \$145,013.85, incurred during the  
14 Application Period, are approved;
- 15 4. MRTH's fees in the amount of \$3,000.00, incurred during the  
16 Application Period, are approved;
- 17 5. RSB's fees in the amount of \$20,317.50, incurred during the Application  
18 Period, are approved;
- 19 6. SL Biggs' fees in the amount of \$70,337.00, incurred during the  
20 Application Period, are approved; and
- 21 7. The Receiver is authorized to compensate himself and his Professionals  
22 the above-approved fees, in full, from the funds of the receivership estate established  
23 in this action.

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 DATED: July 22, 2025

  
SHERILYN PEACE GARNETT  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE