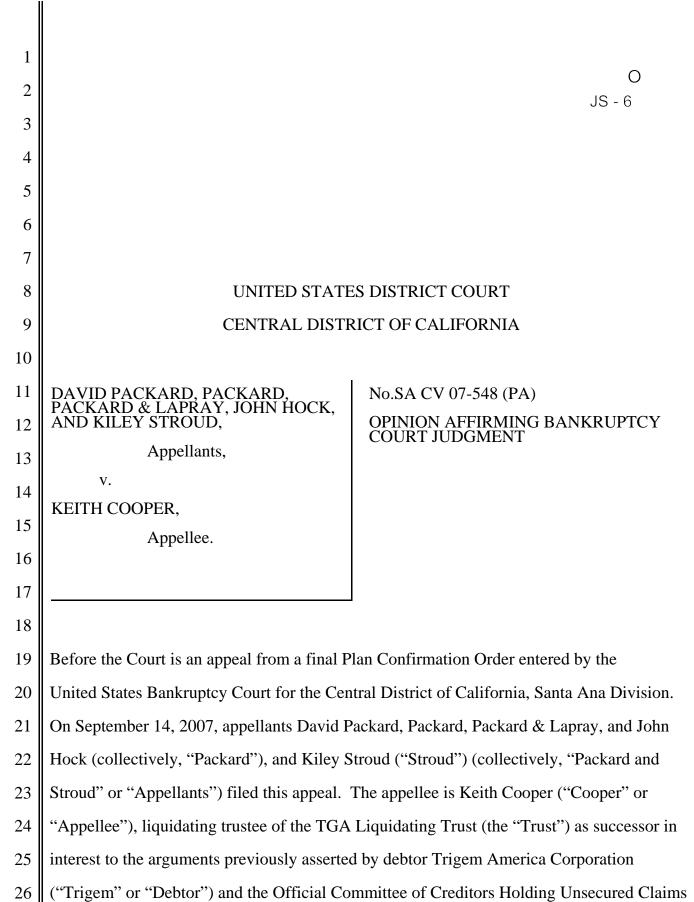
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(the "Committee"). Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 78, Local Rule 7-15, and

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Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 8012, the Court finds that this matter is appropriate for decision without oral argument.

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I.

FACTUAL & PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2005, Trigem commenced bankruptcy proceedings by filing a voluntary
petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. On July 13, 2006, Trigem and the
Committee proposed a liquidation plan, and filed the First Amended Liquidating Plan of
Reorganization (the "Plan") and Disclosure Statement.

9 The Plan provides for the establishment of the Trust to receive all assets of the 10 bankruptcy estate. Creditors Hewlett Packard Co. ("HP") and Toshiba Corp. ("Toshiba") 11 will serve as board members of the Trust, along with a third member nominated jointly by 12 Korea Development Bank ("KDB") and the National Agricultural Cooperative Foundation 13 ("NACF"). Cooper is designated as the trustee. The Plan also prioritizes the claims of 14 Trigem's creditors into a class of secured claims, three classes of general unsecured claims 15 designated Classes 1 through 3, and a fourth class of interest holders designated Class 4. 16 The Plan provides for full payment of various administrative expenses, priority tax claims, 17 the secured claims, and the Class 1 general unsecured claims, pro rata payment of the Class 18 2 claims from any remaining assets of the Trust, and no payment of the remaining claims.

19 On July 17, the bankruptcy court approved the Disclosure Statement, and set August 20 11 as the last day for creditors to vote for acceptance or rejection of the Plan and as the last 21 day for creditors to file objections to confirmation of the Plan. On August 11, Packard and 22 Stroud, who are each currently litigating class action lawsuits against Trigem, asserted Class 23 2 claims under the Plan for \$150 million and \$1.5 billion respectively, voted to reject the 24 Plan and filed objections. Though six of the remaining seven Class 2 claim holders voted to 25 accept the Plan, the purported value of the class action claims represented such a high 26 percentage of the amount of Class 2 claims that the Plan could not be approved by the class 27 without Packard and Stroud's approval. See 11 U.S.C. § 1126(c) ("A class of claims has 28 accepted a plan if such plan has been accepted by creditors, other than any entity designated

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under subsection (e) of this section, that hold at least two-thirds in amount and more than
one-half in number of the allowed claims of such class held by creditors, other than any
entity designated under subsection (e) of this section, that have accepted or rejected such
plan.").

5 The Committee then filed objections to Packard's and Stroud's claims, and sought an 6 estimation of their claims for voting purposes only from the bankruptcy court. After 7 extensive briefing, the court held a two-day evidentiary hearing on the matter and ruled on 8 February 21, 2007, that the claims should be estimated for voting purposes at \$10,955,435 9 and \$22,328,271 respectively. Using these estimates, the Committee reported that a two-10 thirds majority of the amount of Class 2 claims and a one-half majority of the number of 11 claims had voted to accept the Plan. Accordingly, the bankruptcy court found that Class 2 12 had voted to accept the Plan, and that 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10) had been satisfied, as 13 required for confirmation. The court announced that it would confirm the Plan with some 14 modifications on April 25, and then entered an order to that effect on May 9, to become 15 effective on May 21.

16 After the hearing, Packard and Stroud filed a motion to stay the order confirming the 17 Plan pending appeal. They argued to the bankruptcy court that Hewlett Packard, Toshiba, 18 KDB, NACF, and Cooper are not qualified to serve as Trust fiduciaries and that the 19 procedure by which their Class 2 claims were discounted for voting purposes was improper. 20 The court denied the motion on May 14. That same day, Packard and Stroud filed a Notice 21 of Appeal and Emergency Motion in this Court seeking the same relief requested of the 22 bankruptcy court. This Court denied that motion on May 18. Appellants now appeal the 23 final Plan Confirmation Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158(a).

Appellee filed a Motion to Augment Record on Appeal and Request for Judicial
Notice on October 5, 2007. This Court granted the Motion as to the request to augment the
record on appeal on October 25. This Court now takes judicial notice of Supplemental
Excerpts of Record Nos. 130, 131, 132, and 134, concerning post-Confirmation
developments, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 201. Although the Motion does not

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discuss Supplemental Excerpt of Record No. 133, submitted with the Motion, the Court
 takes judicial notice of Supplemental Excerpt No. 133 as well, as it consists of a prior order
 by this Court.

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II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

6 "An order approving a reorganization plan is reviewed for an abuse of discretion. A 7 court abuses its discretion 'when it bases its decision on an erroneous view of the law or a clearly erroneous view of the facts." First Fed. Bank of Cal. v. Cogar (In re Cogar), 210 8 9 B.R. 803, 808 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1997) (internal citation omitted) (quoting Lewis v. Tel. 10 Employees Credit Union, 87 F.3d 1537, 1557 (9th Cir. 1996)); see also Computer Task 11 <u>Group, Inc. v. Brotby (In re Brotby)</u>, 303 B.R. 177, 184 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003). "The 12 bankruptcy court must confirm a Chapter 11 debtor's plan of reorganization if the debtor 13 proves by a preponderance of the evidence either (1) that the Plan satisfies all thirteen 14 requirements of 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a), or (2) if the only condition not satisfied is the eighth 15 requirement, 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(8), the Plan satisfies the 'cramdown' alternative to this 16 condition found in 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b), which requires that the Plan 'does not discriminate 17 unfairly' against and 'is fair and equitable' towards each impaired class that has not accepted 18 the Plan." Liberty Nat'l Enter. v. Ambanc La Mesa Ltd. P'ship (In re Ambanc La Mesa Ltd. 19 P'ship), 115 F.3d 650, 653 (9th Cir. 1997) (citations omitted).

20 Appellants assert that mixed questions of law and fact are reviewed de novo. See In 21 re Capital W. Investors, 186 B.R. 497, 499 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 1995). Appellants, however, 22 fail to explain which questions on appeal are mixed questions of law and fact, if any. The 23 Court deems this issue abandoned, as it is not supported by argument. See Wilkins v. 24 United States, 279 F.3d 782, 786 (9th Cir. 2002); Kohler v. Inter-Tel Tech., 244 F.3d 1167, 25 1182 (9th Cir. 2001) ("Issues raised in a brief which are not supported by argument are 26 deemed abandoned."); Entm't Research Group, Inc. v. Genesis Creative Group, Inc., 122 27 F.3d 1211, 1217 (9th Cir. 1997) ("[i]udges are not like pigs, hunting for truffles buried in 28 briefs" (alternation in original)).

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III. ANALYSIS

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2 Appellants make a series of arguments that the Plan violates various provisions of the 3 Bankruptcy Code. The arguments can be categorized mostly as variations on a theme 4 Appellants have been pursuing since the proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court: the Plan is 5 inequitable because it gives other creditors more power and protection than it gives 6 Appellants. This theory attempts to find support in Appellants' claim that the Trust board is 7 crippled by conflicts of interest, and the other allegedly self-serving creditors are incapable 8 of acting fairly. Appellants, however, have not explained adequately why the Plan's 9 protections against conflicts of interest are insufficient. And Appellants' other, more 10 technical arguments carry no greater weight. The Court will address each of Appellants' arguments in turn. $\frac{1}{2}$ 11

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Reversal Is Not Required By the Bankruptcy Court's "Boilerplate" Conclusions

Appellants argue that the bankruptcy court's findings of fact and conclusions of lawin support of confirmation of the Plan are boilerplate and require reversal. What matters on

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(C) commencement of distribution under the plan.

28 include distributions to creditors).

As a preliminary matter, Appellee attacks the appeal generally by claiming that the appeal is moot because the Plan has been substantially consummated. See, e.g., Bank of Montreal v. Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (In re Am. HomePatient, Inc.), 420
 F.3d 559, 563 (6th Cir. 2005). Substantial consummation under the Bankruptcy Code means:

 (A) transfer of all or substantially all of the property proposed by

the plan to be transferred;

⁽B) assumption by the debtor or by the successor to the debtor under the plan of the business or of the management of all or substantially all of the property dealt with by the plan; and

¹¹ U.S.C. § 1101. Appellee admits that there has been no distribution to creditors yet. (See Appellee's Opening Brief, p. 19.) The appeal is therefore not moot under the plain language of the statute. See In re Antiquities of Nev., Inc., 173 B.R. 926, 929 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1994) (describing different approaches to defining "substantial confirmation," both of which

appeal, however, is whether the findings were properly supported, not whether the
bankruptcy court spelled out its reasoning for each finding in pedantic detail. <u>See, e.g.</u>,
<u>Simeonoff v. Hiner</u>, 249 F.3d 883, 891 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing <u>Unt v. Aerospace Corp.</u>, 765
F.2d 1440, 1444 (9th Cir. 1985)). Appellants have done little to develop their argument that
the record does not support confirmation of the Plan, failing to explain what should be in the
record but is not. Accordingly the Court finds no reason to reverse on this ground.

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2. There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(7)

Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(7), which requires that a
reorganization plan "contain only provisions that are consistent with the interests of creditors
and equity security holders and with public policy with respect to the manner of selection of
any officer, director, or trustee under the plan and any successor to such officer, director, or
trustee." Appellants argue that the Plan violates this subsection for several different reasons.

14 First, Appellants make vague allegations regarding conflicts of interest among the 15 Trust board members and Trustee of the Trust, claiming that these conflicts of interest 16 violate public policy. In Appellants' prior Emergency Motion, the Court rejected this 17 argument because it was unsupported and because even assuming there were conflicts of 18 interest, Appellants failed to explain how the Trust board's recusal mechanism was 19 insufficient. Once again, Appellants have failed to explain why the Trust board's recusal 20 mechanism is insufficient. Appellants have not even attempted to correct this inadequacy in 21 their prior argument, despite having it brought to their attention by this Court.

Appellants also argue that section 1123(a)(7) is violated because the Plan provides exculpation for negligence. This issue was addressed in the prior Emergency Motion as well. The exculpation provision, which was approved by the Class 2 claim holders, expressly excludes claims of "gross negligence, willful misconduct and breach of fiduciary duty" and is limited in its effect "[t]o the maximum extent provided by law," so that it cannot possibly cover conduct that would be unlawfully exculpated. "The trend among bankruptcy courts . . . has been to confirm chapter 11 plans with express discharge or

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indemnification provisions for nondebtors if they meet certain tailored criteria or overall
necessity." In re Birting Fisheries, Inc., 300 B.R. 489, 504 n.16 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003)
(citing In re WCI Cable, Inc., 282 B.R. 457, 479 (Bankr. D. Or. 2002) ("[i]ndemnification
and exculpation clauses can be included in chapter 11 plans as the products of negotiation
among interested parties," though "decisions in the Ninth Circuit appear not to favor
exculpation or indemnification provisions that limit liability for negligence or breaches of
fiduciary duties")).

8 Finally, Appellants argue that section 1123(a)(7) is violated because claimants
9 against the liquidating trustee, Trust board members, or any of their officers, members,
10 employees, professionals, agents, or representatives are limited to recovering from the assets
11 of the estate. As in the prior Emergency Motion, Appellants have cited no law in support of
12 this theory.

It is not entirely clear what Appellants' second and third arguments have to do with
the selection of an officer, director or trustee pursuant to section 1123(a)(7). Even if they
were pertinent under a broad interpretation of section 1123(a)(7)'s public policy
requirement, however, they would fail for the reasons stated above. Appellants have not
demonstrated that the bankruptcy court abused its discretion in finding that the Plan
complies with section 1123(a)(7).

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 3. There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application

 20
 of 11 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(5)

21 Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § $1129(a)(5)(A)^{2/}$, which requires 22 that:

(i) [t]he proponent of the plan has disclosed the identity and
affiliations of any individual proposed to serve, after
confirmation of the plan, as a director, officer, or voting trustee
of the debtor, an affiliate of the debtor participating in a joint

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²⁸ Appellants quote section 1129(a)(5)(A)(ii), although they cite the quote as section 1123(a)(7). (Appellants' Brief, p. 20.)

1 plan with the debtor, or a successor to the debtor under the plan; 2 and 3 (ii) the appointment to, or continuance in, such office of such 4 individual, is consistent with the interests of creditors and equity 5 security holders and with public policy. 6 To the extent that Appellants argue that the appointment to or continuance in an office of an 7 individual under the Plan is inconsistent with the interests of creditors, equity security 8 holders, and public policy, the vagueness of the arguments and lack of an explanation as to 9 why the Plan's recusal provisions are insufficient to solve any conflicts of interest likewise 10 preclude a finding of an abuse of discretion on this ground. 11 Appellants make a more pointed argument that the Plan fails to comply with section 1129(a)(5)(A)(i)'s disclosure requirements because two of the individuals who will serve on

12 13 the Trust board—one an unnamed person representing and selected by HP, one an unnamed 14 person representing and selected jointly by KDB and NACF—were not disclosed. It is clear 15 from the face of the statute, however, that there is no requirement that the identity and 16 affiliations of Trust board members be disclosed. See 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(A)(i); In re 17 Beyond.com Corp., 289 B.R. 138, 145 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2003). The court in In re 18 <u>Beyond.com Corp.</u> did read the statute broadly enough to encompass disclosure of the 19 identities of board members, but it acknowledged that its reading was not required by 20statute, and it discussed other problems with the plan in that case simultaneously. <u>See id.</u> 21 The Court therefore finds no abuse of discretion on this ground.

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There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10)

Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10), which requires that "[i]f a class of claims is impaired under the plan, at least one class of claims that is impaired under the plan has accepted the plan, determined without including any acceptance of the plan by any insider." Appellants take issue with the fact that the Plan proponents did not object to Appellants' claims against Trigem until after ballots for or against the Plan were

1 cast on August 11, 2006. Thus, they contend, there was no acceptance of the Plan by an 2 impaired class as of the date of the vote because at that point Appellants' votes, which were 3 given significantly more weight before they were objected to, outweighed those of Plan 4 proponents. There is no legal prohibition, however, on filing a claim objection after a 5 creditor votes to reject a reorganization plan. See 11 U.S.C. § 502(a); Fed. R. Bankr. Proc. § 6 3007; In re Orosco, 77 B.R. 246, 250 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 1987). Because the Bankruptcy 7 Code allows objections to claims to be filed even after a creditor votes to reject a 8 reorganization plan, the motives of Trigem and the Committee in doing so are irrelevant. 9 The bankruptcy court therefore did not abuse its discretion in failing to find a violation of 11 10 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10).

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5. There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(7)(a)(ii)

13 Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(7), which requires that 14 holders of a claim in an impaired class "will receive or retain under the plan on account of 15 such claim or interest property of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, that is not less 16 than the amount that such holder would so receive or retain if the debtor were liquidated 17 under chapter 7 of this title on such date." Appellants argue that section 1129(a)(7) was 18 violated because the liquidation analysis was hypothetical, and because it was attached to the 19 disclosure statement and not admitted into evidence. Appellants also argue that the 20 liquidation analysis could not be relied on because its stated effective date was June 20, 21 2006, eleven months before the date of confirmation.

The application of the "best interests" tests, comparing what creditors would receive
under Chapter 7 versus Chapter 11, must be based on a hypothetical application of Chapter 7
to a Chapter 11 plan. See In re Lisanti Foods, Inc., 329 B.R. 491, 500 (Bankr. D. N.J. 2005).
And at least one federal circuit has explicitly found that a separate liquidation analysis
submitted to the court is not required if a liquidation analysis is included in a disclosure
statement. See Tranel v. Adams Bank & Trust Co. (In re Tranel), 940 F.2d 1168, 1172 (8th
Cir. 1991).

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1 The language of section 1129(a)(7) does appear to require that the "best interests" 2 comparison be effective as of the date of the Plan. The Court, however, is unable to locate 3 an objection to the use of an allegedly stale liquidation analysis at the bankruptcy court 4 level. Appellants did object to the Plan on 1129(a)(7) grounds, but did not object to the date 5 of the liquidation analysis. (Excerpts of Record Tab 5, pp. 11–12; Tab 6, pp. 11–12.) Yet 6 closer to the date of the Confirmation of the Plan, when a staleness objection would appear 7 more likely, Appellants still neglected to object to the use of the liquidation analysis 8 although they made plenty of other objections to the Plan. (See, e.g., Excerpts of Record 9 Tab 48, Tab 73.) By failing to object to the bankruptcy court's reliance on the liquidation 10 analysis, Appellants have failed to preserve this issue on appeal. See Price v. Kramer, 200 11 F.3d 1237, 1252 (9th Cir. 2000).

Even if Appellants did not waive this argument, however, they have failed to show that there has been any change since the submission of the liquidation analysis such that the outcome of the "bests interests" test may have been different had the bankruptcy court not relied on it at the time of confirmation. This Court therefore finds no abuse of discretion on this ground.

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There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(4)

19 Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(4), which requires that a 20reorganization plan "provide the same treatment for each claim or interest of a particular 21 class, unless the holder of a particular claim or interest agrees to a less favorable treatment 22 of such particular claim or interest." Appellants claim that because some Trust board 23 members have powers that other creditors do not, including the power to change 24 management, the Plan treats members of the same class differently. The case Appellant 25 relies on, Acequia, Inc. v. Clinton (In re Acequia), however, clarifies that this provision 26 refers to treatment of "claims" or "interests," and distinguishes between a creditor's position 27 as a claimant and a creditor's position as a provider of services to the estate. See 787 F.2d 28 1352, 1363 (9th Cir. 1986). That case does not suggest that one creditor having the power to change management violates section 1123(a)(4), as Appellants claim; it simply states that in
their capacity as claimants against the debtor, parties must be treated alike. <u>Id.</u> ("Both Haley
and Clinton are prohibited from *exercising their shareholder voting rights* to elect or remove
directors; neither may act *in his or her capacity as a shareholder* to alter the composition of
the board of directors." (emphasis added)). The Court therefore finds no abuse of discretion
on this ground.

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There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii)

9 Appellants argue that the Plan violates 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii), the absolute 10 priority rule, which requires that "[w]ith respect to a class of unsecured claims . . . the holder 11 of any claim or interest that is junior to the claims of such class will not receive or retain 12 under the plan on account of such junior claim or interest any property." Appellants claim 13 that the rule is violated because the claims of KDB and NACF, who own sixty percent of the 14 stock of Trigem's parent company, are subject to subordination, and because KDB and 15 NACF retain management and control of the Trust through their power to designate a board 16 member.

17 On August 2, 2007, Appellee filed challenges to the claims of KDB and NACF, 18 seeking to disallow or subordinate those claims. Even assuming the claims are subordinated 19 and the absolute priority rule applies, however, it is unclear how section 1129(b)(2)(B)(i) is 20 violated by KDB and NACF's power to designate a Trust board member. Appellants appear 21 to argue that KDB and NACF "retain" property for "purposes of control" because they are 22 claimants entitled to appoint a Trust board member. This argument misinterprets the 23 language of Nw. Bank Worthington v. Ahlers, 485 U.S. 197, 208, 108 S. Ct. 963, 969, 99 L. 24 Ed. 169 (1988), which Appellants cite for support. In that case, the Supreme Court clarified 25 that retention of an interest by a junior creditor, even if "only for purposes of control," 26 violated the absolute priority rule if a dissenting senior creditor was not provided for in full. 27 See id.

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1 But Appellants have provided no support for the proposition that section 2 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) was concerned with the status of claims prior to distribution. Having a 3 claim pre-distribution that allows a creditor to appoint a Trust board member is not 4 equivalent to keeping property post-distribution—which is what section 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) 5 addresses. If the Plan provides for full distribution to senior creditors before any distribution 6 to junior creditors, there does not appear to be any violation of the absolute priority rule, 7 regardless of whether those junior creditors choose a board member or not. The Court 8 therefore finds no abuse of discretion on this ground.

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There is No Abuse of Discretion as to the Bankruptcy Court's Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b)(1), § 1129(a)(3), § 1129(a)(1), or § 1129(a)(2)

11 Appellants argue generally that based on the same facts used to support their more 12 specific arguments, the following subsections of 11 U.S.C. § 1129 are also violated: section 13 1129(b)(1), requiring that a reorganization plan "does not discriminate unfairly, and is fair 14 and equitable;" section 1129(a)(3), requiring that a plan "has been proposed in good faith 15 and not by any means forbidden by law;" section 1129(a)(1), requiring that a plan comply 16 with the applicable provisions of Title 11 of the United States Code; and section 1129(a)(2), 17 requiring that the proponent of a plan comply with the applicable provisions of Title 11 as 18 well. For the same reasons that Appellants' more specific claims fail, these general claims 19 also fail.

20 Appellants do flesh out their section 1129(a)(2) argument slightly that the Plan 21 proponents failed to provide adequate disclosure of information pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 22 1125. Appellants provide a list of allegedly key information not disclosed. Yet this list 23 consists, once again, of vague assertions of conflicts of interest, and the argument is not 24 adequately explained or supported. Similarly, in their Reply, Appellants close with a long 25 argument concerning post-Confirmation adversary proceedings and what they reveal about 26 these alleged conflicts of interest. In order to find an abuse of discretion by the bankruptcy 27 court, however, this Court must find that the bankruptcy court took an erroneous view of the 28 law or a clearly erroneous view of the facts. In re Cogar, 210 B.R. at 808. Nebulous

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1	allegations about the relationships of other parties involved in this matter are insufficient.
2	Appellants simply have not met their burden to demonstrate to this Court that the bankruptcy
3	court erred.
4	
5	CONCLUSION
6	For all the foregoing reasons, the Court affirms the bankruptcy court's order
7	confirming the Plan.
8	DATED: November 13, 2008
9	Ter, allen
10	programmed
11	Percy Anderson UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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