COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE EFiled: Oct 30 2003 4:26P

Filing ID 2630941

WILLIAM B. CHANDLER III CHANCELLOR

P.O. Bo **GEORGETOWN DELAWARE 19947** TELEPHONE (302) 858-5424 FACSIMILE (302) 858-5251

October 30, 2003

VIA e-FILING

Joseph A. Rosenthal Rosenthal, Monhait, **Gross &** Goddess, PA. 919 North Market Street Wilmington, DE 19801

R. Franklin Balotti Richards, Layton & Finger P.O. Box 551 Wilmington, DE 19899

Robert K. Payson Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP P.O. Box 951 Wilmington, DE 19899

Joel Friedlander Bouchard Margules & Friedlander 222 Delaware Ave., Suite 1102 Wilmington, DE 1980 1

David C. McBride Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP **P.O.** Box 391 Wilmington, DE 19899-0391

A. Gilchrist Sparks, III Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnel1 P.O. Box 1347 Wilmington, DE 19899

Re: In **re The** Walt Disney Co. Derivative Litig. Civil Action No. 15452-NC

Dear Counsel:

This letter addresses Michael Ovitz's motion to compel plaintiffs' answers to certain interrogatories before discovery is completed. For the reasons set forth below, I grant the motion.

On August 26, 2003, Ovitz served the plaintiffs with eleven interrogatories. The first nine interrogatories are "contention" interrogatories. The tenth interrogatory requests information related to plaintiffs' damages calculations. The eleventh interrogatory requests the number of shares owned by the named plaintiffs. Plaintiffs

understand, before his deposition, the factual basis for the claim against him. Plaintiffs

have already completed substantial discovery and should have a sufficient basis to answer

these interrogatories expeditiously. (Of course, plaintiffs are only required to answer the

interrogatories based on the information currently available to them.) Plaintiffs have

expressed the concern that responding to the interrogatories would sidetrack them from

preparing for several depositions scheduled in the coming weeks. But this concern is

unavailing as the interrogatories were filed on August 26 and any time pressure caused by

this Court's decision is due to plaintiffs' own machinations.

As Ovitz withdrew his motion to compel an answer to the tenth interrogatory

(relating to plaintiffs' damages calculations) because of the plaintiffs' representation that

the information sought will be provided in the report of plaintiffs' damage expert, my

ruling is limited to the first nine interrogatories. I have entered an Order consistent with

this decision.

Very truly yours,

S/William B. Chandler III

William B. Chandler III

WBCIII:meg

oc:

Register in Chancery

xc:

Vice Chancellors

Law Libraries