

1 PHILIP M. MILLER (SBN 87877)  
 ANNE M. BEVINGTON (SBN 111320)  
 2 SALTZMAN & JOHNSON LAW CORPORATION  
 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2110  
 3 San Francisco, California 94104  
 Telephone: (415) 882-7900  
 4 Facsimile: (415) 882-9287  
 5 [pmiller@sjlawcorp.com](mailto:pmiller@sjlawcorp.com)  
[abevington@sjlawcorp.com](mailto:abevington@sjlawcorp.com)

6 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 10 (SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION)

12 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
 13 AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES WELFARE  
 FUND, et al.,  
 14  
 Plaintiffs,  
 15 v.  
 16 CAPITOL EXPRESSWAY FORD,  
 17  
 Defendant.

Case No.: C 09-4945 JL

**PLAINTIFFS' CASE MANAGEMENT  
 CONFERENCE STATEMENT;  
 [PROPOSED] ORDER**

**Date: January 12, 2011**  
**Time: 10:30 a.m.**  
**Location: Courtroom F, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**450 Golden Gate Ave., SF**  
**Judge: Hon. James Larson**

20 Plaintiffs Board of Trustees of the Automotive Industries Welfare Fund, et al., file this  
 21 Case Management Conference Statement. Because the defendant has not appeared in the  
 22 action and is in default, Plaintiffs file this statement separately.

23 I. JURISDICTION AND SERVICE

24 This is an action by Trustees of multi-employer benefit plans to recover delinquent  
 25 contributions from the Defendant employer that were required to be made by the employer's  
 26 collective bargaining agreement with the Machinists Union. The Machinists Union is not a  
 27 party to this case.

1 This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action, pursuant to Section  
2 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act (29 U.S.C. § 185(a)) and Section 502(e)(1) of the  
3 Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(1)).

4 The sole Defendant in this case, Capitol Expressway Ford, was served and defaulted,  
5 default having been entered against it on November 20, 2010.

6 Venue is proper in the Northern District of California under Section 502(e)(2) of the  
7 Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2)).

8 II. FACTS

9 Defendant Capital Expressway Ford was signatory to a collective bargaining  
10 agreement, a Health and Welfare Agreement and a Pension Agreement with Machinists  
11 Automotive Local 11101. Pursuant to these agreements, Defendant also became a party to the  
12 Trust Agreement for each Trust Fund, and agreed to be bound by the provisions of the Trust  
13 Agreements and by the rules and regulations adopted from time to time by the Trustees of the  
14 Trust Funds. These agreements required Defendant to make fringe benefit contributions to the  
15 Trust Funds for certain of its employees and provide that employers will pay interest and  
16 liquidated damages on delinquent fringe benefit contributions, as well as court costs,  
17 reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' fees, and other costs incurred by the Trust Funds in  
18 connection with an action to collect delinquent contributions.

19 The Plaintiff Trustees, as fiduciaries, have a duty to participants and beneficiaries to  
20 collect amounts owing by employers. As part of their duties, the Trustees periodically conduct  
21 audits of employers to determine whether contractually required contributions are being made.  
22 The agreements between the parties provide that Defendant must permit audits and can be  
23 required to reimburse the Trust Funds for the cost of an audit if the audit reveals that full and  
24 prompt contributions were not made.

25 Plaintiffs conducted an audit of Defendant's records for the period November 1, 2005  
26 through August 31, 2007. The Trust Funds' auditors issued their report on May 7, 2009,  
27 finding delinquent contributions, interest, liquidated damages and auditors' testing fees owing,  
28

1 and also finding that Defendant had made some improper payments. This action is based on  
2 that audit report. The amounts sought are set forth in Section XI, below.

3 Payment has been demanded, but the Defendant has not paid any of the amounts found  
4 due under the 11/1/2005 – 8/31/2007 audit.

5 III. LEGAL ISSUES

6 Defendant is in default and, not having appeared, has not raised any legal issues.

7 IV. MOTIONS

8 Plaintiffs will file a Motion for Default Judgment.

9 V. AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS

10 Plaintiffs do not anticipate amending their complaint.

11 VI. EVIDENCE PRESERVATION

12 Plaintiffs intend to maintain all of their available documents and information,  
13 electronic and paper, regarding Defendant's account with the Trust Funds during the relevant  
14 time period.

15 VII. DISCLOSURES

16 The parties have not exchanged initial disclosures due to defendant's default.

17 VIII. DISCOVERY

18 The parties have not exchanged initial disclosures due to Defendant's default.

19 IX. RELATED CASES

20 Plaintiffs are aware of no related cases.

21 X. CLASS ACTION

22 This is not a class action.

23 XI. RELIEF

24 Plaintiffs seek recovery under ERISA § 502(g)(2) (29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)) of unpaid  
25 delinquent contributions of \$28,352.50, interest thereon at 10% simple interest per year to the  
26 date of judgment (interest is \$11,514.11 through January 4, 2011), liquidated damages in an  
27 amount equal to interest, auditors' testing fees of \$12,480.00, court costs and reasonable  
28 attorneys' fees. The total amount of the claim based on the 11/1/2005 – 8/31/2007 audit as of

1 January 4, 2011, exclusive of court costs and attorneys' fees, is \$63,860.72, less \$21,346.50 in  
2 refundable improper payments, for a total of \$42,514.22 plus court costs and attorneys' fees.

3 XII. SETTLEMENT AND ADR

4 Because Defendant has defaulted, there is no stipulation regarding ADR. Defendant  
5 has sent a letter appealing the audit to the Board of Trustees, which the Trustees are scheduled  
6 to consider at their upcoming quarterly meeting on February 6, 2010.

7 XIII. CONSENT TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR ALL PURPOSES

8 Plaintiffs consent to a Magistrate Judge for all purposes.

9 XIV. OTHER REFERENCES

10 This case is not suitable for reference to binding arbitration, a special master, or the  
11 Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

12 XV. NARROWING OF ISSUES

13 Plaintiffs have not yet identified any issues that could be narrowed by agreement or by  
14 motion.

15 XVI. EXPEDITED SCHEDULE

16 Plaintiffs do not believe this case is suitable for an expedited schedule.

17 XVII. SCHEDULING

18 Plaintiffs propose that the Court set a further Case Management Conference in  
19 approximately 90 days, by which time Plaintiffs should have filed their motion for default  
20 judgment or, if a settlement is reached, a dismissal.

21 XVIII. TRIAL

22 No trial date should be set since Defendant is in default.

23 XIX. DISCLOSURE OF NON-PARTY INTERESTED ENTITIES OR PERSONS

24 The participants and beneficiaries in the Automotive Industries Welfare Fund and the  
25 Automotive Industries Pension Fund, who are too numerous to list, but are or may be entitled  
26 to benefits from those Funds, are interested persons who could have a financial interest in the  
27 subject matter in controversy.

28

1 XX. OTHER MATTERS

2 There are no other matters that the Plaintiffs wish to address.

3  
4 Date: January 4, 2011

SALTZMAN & JOHNSON LAW CORPORATION

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7 By: \_\_\_\_\_ /S/  
Anne M. Bevington  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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**ORDER**

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The initial Case Management Conference having been held on January 12, 2011,

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a further Case Management Conference is set for

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April 6 \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom F, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 450 Golden Gate Ave.,

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San Francisco, California.

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Dated: January 10, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_.

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JAMES LARSON  
United States Magistrate Judge

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