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9 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 10 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

11 Thomas A. Dillon, Independent Fiduciary of
 12 Employers Mutual, LLC, and the Employers
 13 Mutual Plans, and the Class Representative of the
 14 Class of Individuals, on behalf of himself and all
 15 others similarly situated,

CASE NO.: CV-N-03-0119-DAE-VPC

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO
 DISTRIBUTE PARTIAL FUNDS**

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 James Lee Graf, et al.,

16 Defendants.

17
 18 NOW THEREFORE, based on the submissions of the Independent Fiduciary, the
 19 pleadings on file and the lack of any objection, the Court hereby FINDS, ADJUDGES AND
 20 DECREES as follows:

21 **I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

22 1. The Court makes the findings of fact below based on the evidence submitted in
 23 support of the Motion to Distribute Partial Funds ("Motion"), by Thomas A. Dillon as the Class
 24 Representative of the Class of Individuals in this action and as the court-appointed Independent
 25 Fiduciary and Receiver (the "Independent Fiduciary").¹ That evidence includes the Independent
 26 _____

27 ¹ In addition to serving as the Independent Fiduciary and Receiver, Dillon was appointed to
 28 represent the "Class of Individuals", which encompasses all persons who purchased the alleged
 insurance outside of an ERISA governed employment relationship (see Dillon Decl. ¶ 29 and
 Case No. CV 01-0698 – ECR, Docket # 209).

1 Fiduciary's accounting of his appropriately incurred costs, as well as his sworn estimates of his
2 appropriate future expenses (including fees payable to him) for winding up the quasi-bankruptcy
3 proceeding ordered in the related matter styled *Solis v. Graf, et al.*, Case No. CV 01-0698 - ECR
4 (the "ERISA Proceeding"). See ERISA Proceeding Dkt # 73 (quasi-bankruptcy order). In the
5 record citations below, "Dillon Decl." refers to the declaration of Thomas A. Dillon filed in
6 support of the Motion, and unless otherwise stated, references to Docket numbers refer to the
7 Docket in the ERISA Proceeding. The Dillon Declaration in turn includes the Independent
8 Fiduciary's sworn accounting of the quasi-bankruptcy estate's ("Estate," created by order at Dkt
9 # 73) assets and expenses.

10 2. In his Motion, the Independent Fiduciary moves the Court to approve his proposed
11 distribution of part of the total distribution eventually due the Class of Individuals and the
12 Estate's Category A Creditors and Category B Creditors, which are defined at Dkt #73 ¶¶ 5 and
13 6. For distribution purposes, members of the Class of Individuals are to be treated equally with
14 Category A and B Creditors (see Dillon Decl. ¶ 29 and Docket # 209), and references in this
15 Order to Category A and B Creditors shall encompass the Class of Individuals.

16 3. The proposed plan of distribution limits distributions to Administrative and Category
17 A & B Creditors. It does not include any distributions to Categories C or D Creditors because:
18 (i) no Category C or D creditors have submitted claims; (ii) the Independent Fiduciary has not
19 identified any Category C Creditors; and (iii) the combined claims of Category A & B Creditors
20 far exceed available funds. Further, under the Quasi-Bankruptcy Order (Dkt #284 ¶ 6.4.a
21 through ¶ 6.4.e), Category D Creditors can receive a distribution only if Category C Creditors
22 have been paid 100% of their allowed claims.

23 4. The Independent Fiduciary holds a Gross Distributable Amount (defined by order at
24 Dkt # 284 § 6.1.d) of \$13,453,961.95. This \$13,453,961.95 figure is the sum of the following
25 assets held by and expenses incurred by the Independent Fiduciary:

26	Net Malpractice Action Recovery	\$ 11,500,069.00
27	Premium Deposits	1,784,518.24
28	Interest Earned	1,131,519.69
	Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds	2,143,466.95

1 Expenses Incurred or Paid
2 as of May 31, 2011 (3,105,611.93)

3 Gross Distributable Amount \$13,453,961.95

4 See Dillon Decl. ¶¶ 68-91. The ERISA Proceeding Court's order, Dkt # 284 ¶ 6.1.c (modifying
5 quasi-bankruptcy order, Dkt # 73), explains the origin of the Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds.

6 5. Prior to May 31, 2011, the Independent Fiduciary incurred or paid expenses totaling
7 \$3,105,611.93 which were owed to the Estate's Administrative Creditors defined at Dkt # 73 ¶
8 5.a. [Dillon Decl. ¶ 77 (total), ¶¶ 68-77 (itemized)]. In part of his Motion, the Independent
9 Fiduciary moves the Court to approve this \$3,105,911.93 expense figure and its constituent line
10 items.

11 a. This \$3,105,911.93 expense figure contains the Independent Fiduciary's
12 \$555,000 estimate of his hourly fees incurred through May 31, 2011, as authorized in the
13 ERISA Proceeding Court's order that appointed him (Dkt # 30 ¶ 12, specifying his fee of
14 \$150 per hour).

15 b. This \$3,105,911.93 expense figure does not include, however, the
16 Independent Fiduciary's completed payment of his attorneys' fees and litigation costs in
17 the above-captioned matter (the "Malpractice Action"). Court Orders entered in the
18 Malpractice Action separately authorized these payments.

19 6. In his declaration in support of his Motion, the Independent Fiduciary estimates that
20 – out of the Gross Distributable Amount of \$13,453,961.95 – he needs to reserve \$1,725,602.54
21 to pay his estimated post-May 31, 2011 expenses which are being incurred or will be incurred in
22 the process of distributing all remaining Estate assets, winding up the Estate, and obtaining his
23 discharge from his judicial appointment as Independent Fiduciary. Dillon Decl. ¶ 90, detailed in
24 ¶¶ 78-90.

25 7. The Independent Fiduciary also estimates that he similarly must reserve
26 \$5,582,196.92 for unresolved potential income tax liabilities of the Estate and the receivership.
27 Dillon Decl. ¶ 89.

28

1 8. Based on his foregoing figures, the Independent Fiduciary's Motion asks for
2 authority to distribute \$6,146,162.49 to the Estate's Category A Creditors and Category B
3 Creditors, as summarized below:

4		
5		
6	Gross Distributable Amount	\$13,453,961.95
7	Minus Reserve for Post-May 31,	
8	2011 Expenses	(1,725,602.54)
9	Minus Reserve for Taxes	<u>(5,582,196.92)</u>
10	Proposed Partial Distribution	<u>\$ 6,146,162.49</u>
11	to Category A & Category B	
12	Creditors	

13 9. This \$6,146,162.49 proposed partial distribution includes the \$2,143,466.95 in
14 Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds (see Dkt # 284 ¶ 6.1.c) held by the Independent Fiduciary.

15 **II. ORDER**

16 Based on the Independent Fiduciary's Motion, the foregoing findings of fact, and on the
17 absence of opposition from the remaining parties to this action, the Court grants the Independent
18 Fiduciary's Motion to Distribute Partial Funds to following extent:

19 Expenses Incurred and Estimated Future Expenses

20 1. Within the Independent Fiduciary's expenses of \$3,105,611.93 incurred as of May
21 31, 2011, the Court approves the Independent Fiduciary's previous expense payments of
22 \$2,550,611.93, which is the sum of his following expense payments itemized in ¶¶ 68-77 of his
23 declaration in support of his Motion:

24	Travel, Meals, & Office	
25	Expenses	\$ 99,128.33
26	Claims Administration	2,083,070.20
27	Attorneys Fees	125,989.69
28	Mailing	171,077.16

1	Accounting	46,795.00
2	Bank Fees	<u>24,851.55</u>
3	Total Fees Incurred or Paid	<u><u>\$2,550,611.93</u></u>

4
5 As to the remainder of the \$3,105,611.93 figure above – the Independent Fiduciary's estimated
6 incurred hourly fees of \$555,000 – the Court authorizes the Independent Fiduciary to reserve
7 \$555,000 from the Estate's current assets. The Independent Fiduciary may pay all or part of his
8 accrued hourly fees to the extent that he files and the Court in the ERISA Proceeding approves
9 each of his periodic financial reports showing the accrual of his requested hourly fee payments.
10 See Dkt # 30 ¶¶ 12-13.

11 2. With respect to additional expenses paid after May 31, 2011, and estimated expenses
12 to be incurred in the future as the matter winds down (itemized at Dillon Decl. ¶¶ 78-90,
13 including his own hourly fees), the Independent Fiduciary may reserve from Estate assets the
14 \$1,725,602.54 that he has estimated will be necessary to pay the Estate's and the receivership's
15 non-tax administrative expenses through the windup of the Estate and the receivership. The
16 Independent Fiduciary's payment of these expenses estimated to total \$1,725,602.54 is hereby
17 approved. By amount and category, these approved non-tax administrative expenses are:

18	Hollister & Brace, fees incurred prior to October 31, 2011	\$ 96,680.00
19		
20	Hollister & Brace, expenses incurred prior to October 31, 2011	18,622.54
21		
22	Hollister & Brace, estimated fees and costs incurred or to be incurred after October 31, 2011	118,000.00
23		
24	Independent Fiduciary – estimated future hourly fees	170,000.00
25		
26	Independent Fiduciary - estimated future expenses	10,000.00
27		
28	Estimated Future Claims Processing Expense	194,800.00

1	Estimated Future Legal Fees (other than Hollister & Brace)	127,000.00
2		
3	Estimated Future Accounting Fees	150,000.00
4	Estimated Future Office Expenses - Independent Fiduciary	15,000.00
5		
6	Estimated Distribution Costs (e.g., printing, mailing)	825,000.00
7		
8	Estimated Future Bank Fees	<u>500.00</u>
9	TOTAL	<u>\$1,725,602.54</u>

10 3. The Independent Fiduciary also may reserve from current Estate assets the
11 \$5,582,196.92 that the Independent Fiduciary estimated for the Estate's and the receivership's
12 potential tax liabilities. See ¶ I.5 above.

13 Partial Benefits Distribution to Category A Creditors and Category B Creditors

14 4. The Court approves the Independent Fiduciary's determination of the benefits
15 amount due each Category A Creditor and each Category B Creditor (together, all benefits
16 claimants) set forth in Exhibit 7 to the Motion. The Court incorporates Exhibit 7 into this order.

17 5. The Court authorizes distribution of \$6,146,162.49 (the "Partial Benefits
18 Distribution") to creditors in Categories A and B, as set forth immediately below. As noted in
19 § I.7 above, this authorized distribution includes the Estate's Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds of
20 \$2,143,466.95, which, under Dkt # 284 ¶¶ 6.2.a and 2.b, can be distributed only to creditors in
21 Categories A and B.

22 a. In calculating the requested Partial Benefits Distribution to Category A
23 Creditors and to Category B Creditors, the Independent Fiduciary shall follow the
24 accounting steps ordered in Dkt # 284 ¶¶ 6.2 – 6.4.

25 b. The Independent Fiduciary shall maintain accounting records of the fraction,
26 within each distribution payment to a creditor in Category A or B, attributable to the
27 Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds.

28

1 c. The Independent Fiduciary shall distribute the Forfeiture Restoration
2 Proceeds (\$2,143,466.95) to all creditors in Categories A and B pro rata according their
3 approved claims amounts listed in Exhibit 7 to the Dillon Declaration.

4 6. After subtracting the above-described \$2,143,466.95 in Forfeiture Restoration
5 Proceeds from the proposed \$6,146,162.49 Partial Benefits Distribution, the balance remaining
6 is \$4,002,695.54. The Independent Fiduciary shall distribute this \$4,002,695.54 to all Category
7 A and Category B Creditors in accordance with Dkt # 284 ¶ 6.4.

8 7. If, as to a Category A Creditor or a Category B Creditor, the Independent Fiduciary
9 issues a distribution check and that check is returned to the Independent Fiduciary undelivered,
10 then the Independent Fiduciary shall take as many of the following two steps as necessary to
11 identify a current address for such creditor:

12 a. use the letter-forwarding service of either (but not both) the Internal Revenue
13 Service or the Social Security Administration, and

14 b. use a commercial locator service.

15 8. If, for a Category A Creditor or Category B Creditor, the Independent Fiduciary
16 locates a current address through ¶7.a or ¶ 7.b above, he need not resort further to the other of
17 those two methods. In addition, the Independent Fiduciary need not follow ¶¶ 7.a – 7.b if he
18 obtains a current address at reasonable cost through an alternative means.

19 9. For any Category A Creditor or Category B Creditor for whom the steps in sections 7
20 and 8 above do not yield a current address, the Independent Fiduciary may weigh further
21 potential costs for search and mailing against that creditor's total potential distribution from the
22 Estate.

23 10. As to any Category A Creditor or Category B Creditor as to whom (1) the
24 Independent Fiduciary has complied once with ¶¶ 7.a – 7.b above and (2) reasonable further
25 costs for search and mailing would exceed the Estate's total potential distribution to the creditor,
26 the Independent Fiduciary will have satisfied his fiduciary responsibility to search for a current
27 address.

28 11. For any Category A or Category B creditor as to whom the Independent Fiduciary
has complied once with ¶¶ 7.a – 7.b above but reasonable further costs for search and mailing

1 would be less than the Estate's total potential distribution to that creditor, the Independent
2 Fiduciary will have met his fiduciary responsibility to search for a current address if he
3 completes one additional search using any reasonably efficacious and cost-effective means.

4 12. The Independent Fiduciary will have completed his entire obligation to search for a
5 creditor's current address for this Partial Benefits Distribution if:

6 a. for a distribution check returned as undeliverable, the Independent Fiduciary
7 has complied with ¶¶ 7 through 11 above without obtaining a current address for the
8 creditor; or

9 b. if, within six months after its date of issue, a distribution check mailed by the
10 Independent Fiduciary has not returned to either the Independent Fiduciary or such
11 drawee bank.

12 13. For a distribution check that is returned undelivered, is drawn on a bank account
13 that holds Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds, and as to which ¶¶ 7-12 above apply, the
14 Independent Fiduciary shall return the Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds funds underlying that
15 check to the applicable asset forfeiture fund maintained by the U.S. Department of the Treasury
16 or other applicable federal agency. The Independent Fiduciary shall do likewise with the
17 Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds funds underlying any distribution check (drawn on a bank
18 account that holds Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds) that, after mailing by the Independent
19 Fiduciary and within six months after its date of issue, has not returned either to the Independent
20 Fiduciary or to the drawee bank.

21 14. For Estate distribution funds not attributable to Forfeiture Restoration Proceeds, the
22 Independent Fiduciary may transfer those Estate funds to the unclaimed property fund of the
23 state applicable to the creditor where:

24 a. the Independent Fiduciary has complied with ¶¶ 7-12 above and either

25 (1) has not obtained the creditor's current address or

26 (2) has mailed a returned distribution check to a second address for the
27 creditor and had it returned as undeliverable a second time; or
28

1 b. within six months after its date of issue, a distribution check mailed by the
2 Independent Fiduciary has not returned either to the Independent Fiduciary or to the
3 drawee bank.

4 Such a transfer to a state unclaimed property fund shall complete the Estate's distribution to the
5 applicable creditor of the Estate funds underlying that check. If in such instances the
6 Independent Fiduciary determines that a creditor either has died or (if the creditor is a business)
7 has gone out of business, the Independent Fiduciary may pay that creditor's distribution amount
8 to either the applicable state's unclaimed property fund or to the creditor's current successor in
9 interest.

10 15. As soon as practicable after he has resolved the Estate's and the receivership's
11 outstanding income tax issues, the Independent Fiduciary shall move the Court for approval to
12 distribute all remaining Estate and receivership assets, wind up the Estate and his receivership,
13 and discharge him from his judicial appointment as Independent Fiduciary and Receiver in this
14 action. See Dkt #30 ¶¶ 12-13 (preliminary injunction order sections governing the Independent
15 Fiduciary).

16 16. The Independent Fiduciary's attorneys at Hollister & Brace are authorized to
17 destroy all documents from the above-captioned matter (not including the Independent
18 Fiduciary's approved claims or tax information, which the Independent Fiduciary possesses) in
19 3 years' time, unless otherwise instructed by the Court.

20 17. In all respects not specifically granted above, the Court denies the Motion. The
21 Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of administering
22 distribution of settlement proceeds that plaintiff Thomas A. Dillon has received in this action,
23 which he filed in the exercise of his authority as the court-appointed Receiver and Independent
24 Fiduciary in Solis v. Graf, et al., 3:01-cv-00698-DAE -VPC (D. Nev.).

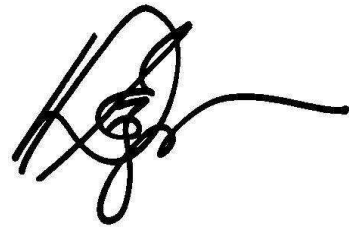
25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 Signed this 20th day of November, 2012.

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David A. Ezra
United States District Judge