

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

MICHAEL P. DENVER (CA Bar No. 199279)
THE DENVER LAW GROUP
514 West Pueblo St., Ground Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Telephone: (805) 896-4967
Email: mdenver@denverlawgroup.law

Marc P. Cook (NV Bar No. 4574)
COOK & KELESIS, LTD.
517 South 9th Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 737-7702

Attorneys for Thomas A. Dillon, Independent
Fiduciary of Employers Mutual, LLC and the Employers
Mutual Plans, and the Class Representative of the Class of Individuals

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

THOMAS A. DILLON, INDEPENDENT
FIDUCIARY OF EMPLOYERS MUTUAL,
LLC, AND THE EMPLOYERS MUTUAL
PLANS, AND, THE CLASS
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CLASS OF
INDIVIDUALS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JAMES GRAF; WILLIAM KOKOTT;
NICHOLAS E. ANGELOS; EMPLOYERS
MUTUAL, LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

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

**ORDER FOR FINAL
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FILED	<input type="checkbox"/> RECEIVED
<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVED ON
COUNSEL/PARTIES OF RECORD	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>SEP - 1 2022</p> </div>	
CLERK US DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
BY: _____	DEPUTY

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1
2 1. The Court makes the findings of fact below based on the evidence submitted in support
3 of the Motion to Distribute Funds by Thomas A. Dillon as the Class Representative of the Class
4 of Individuals in this action and as the Court-appointed Independent Fiduciary and Receiver (the
5 "Independent Fiduciary").¹ That evidence includes the Independent Fiduciary's accounting of
6 his appropriately incurred costs, as well as his sworn estimates of his appropriate future
7 expenses (including fees payable to him) for winding up the quasi-bankruptcy proceeding
8 ordered in the related matter styled *Walsh v. Graf, et al.*, Case No. CV 01-0698 – ECR (the
9 "ERISA Proceeding"). See ERISA Proceeding Dkt #73 (quasi-bankruptcy order). In the record
10 citations below, "Dillon Decl." refers to the declaration of Thomas A. Dillon filed in support of
11 the Motion, and unless otherwise stated, docket numbers refer to the docket in the ERISA
12 Proceeding. The Dillon Declaration in turn includes the Independent Fiduciary's sworn
13 accounting of the quasi-bankruptcy estate's ("Estate," created by order at Dkt #73) assets and
14 expenses. The Estate comprises the receivership's assets and expenses. Dkt #73 ¶ 4.

15 2. In the above-captioned action, *Dillon v. Graf, et al., CV-N-03-0119-DAE-VPC* (D. Nev.)
16 (the "Malpractice Action"), Dillon obtained four groups of settlements ("Settlement Waves I-
17 IV") that gave him, as Independent Fiduciary, a net recovery totaling \$11,500,069 (Decl. ¶ 31).
18 In addition to the Malpractice Action, Dillon recovered substantial additional funds (roughly \$5
19 million) from other sources as detailed in his accompanying Declaration. (Decl. ¶¶ 30-32).

20 3. By its order of November 21, 2012, the Court authorized the Independent Fiduciary to
21 issue a partial distribution of funds. Docket No. 388. In that order, the Court approved the
22 Independent Fiduciary's claims administration and adjudication process, approved the plan of
23 partial distribution to cover administrative expenses and pay benefits, and directed the
24 Independent Fiduciary to: (i) reserve funds to cover potential tax liabilities; (ii) reserve funds to

25
26 ¹ In addition to serving as the Independent Fiduciary and Receiver, Dillon was appointed to
27 represent the "Class of Individuals," which encompasses all persons who purchased the alleged
28 health insurance outside of an ERISA-governed employment relationship (see Dillon Decl. ¶ 29
and Case No. CV-01-0698, Dkt. #209).

1 pay expenses incurred by his administrative service providers (“Administrative Creditors”);
2 and (iii) distribute \$6,146,162.49 to pay 100% of the covered insurance benefit claims of
3 Employee Welfare Benefit Plan (“EWBP” or “Plan”) participants and other covered
4 individuals who have paid for covered medical services out-of-pocket (“Category A
5 Creditors”); and (iv) partially pay (20 cents on the dollar) the covered claims of medical
6 care providers (“Category B Creditors”). See Docket No. 388, approving the partial
7 distribution, as well as Docket No. 73; the “Quasi-Bankruptcy Order,” defining categories of
8 Creditors; and Docket No. 209, defining the Class of Individuals. Dillon carried out the Court-
9 approved partial distribution plan, including paying out the \$6,146,162.49 for insurance benefits
10 in accord with the Court’s orders. (Decl. ¶ 72).

11 4. Following the partial distribution in 2012, the Independent Fiduciary had to devote
12 higher-than-anticipated time, energy and money to resolve the tax issues for which the Court
13 had approved holding back funds in the 2012 partial distribution order. Independent Fiduciary
14 Dillon also had to spend unanticipated time, energy and money to address state-by-state
15 escheatment issues for those payees whom Dillon was unable to locate through reasonable
16 efforts. Unanticipated in 2012 and necessary to Dillon’s administration of the receivership,
17 these several tasks required Dillon to spend amounts beyond the amounts approved for
18 administrative expenses in the 2012 order. (Decl. ¶ 73).

19 5. Offsetting the increased administrative expenses is the fact that Dillon resolved the tax
20 issues successfully: the receivership had no income tax liability. Employers Mutual’s expenses
21 exceeded revenues, and there were loss carryovers from year to year. At the end, the
22 receivership’s only required tax-related payment was \$12,600 in penalties and interest due to
23 roughly 100 incorrect or invalid employer identification numbers (“EINs”) utilized in the initial
24 partial distribution. After subtracting these penalties and interest from the previous and
25 Court-approved \$5,582,196.92 reserve for unresolved tax issues, \$5,569,596.92 is now
26 available for the final distribution to pay costs of administration and pay additional insurance
27 benefits. (Decl. ¶¶ 114-115).

28

1 6. The Independent Fiduciary has now moved the Court to: (i) approve his already-paid
2 administrative expenses; (ii) authorize him to withhold funds to cover the future administrative
3 costs and possible escheatment penalties anticipated in the closing of the file; (iii) approve a
4 reserve for his updated estimate of his own fees and expenses, the payment of which shall be the
5 subject of a separate application; and (iv) grant him authority to distribute remaining funds to
6 further partially pay the covered claims of medical care providers (“Category B Creditors”).

7 7. Independent Fiduciary Dillon’s declaration in support of this motion sets forth the details
8 concerning this necessary increase in administrative expenses, much of which resulted from the
9 time and effort needed to resolve income tax issues and from state-by-state escheatment issues.
10 (Decl. ¶¶ 73-108).

11 8. In support of his final distribution plan, Dillon also requests the Court to: (i) approve his
12 estimated hourly fees as the Independent Fiduciary which, because of the unanticipated time and
13 work required by the income tax and escheatment issues, have increased by \$80,000 from the
14 previously approved 2012 amount, with the caveat that Dillon will seek the Court’s approval for
15 payment of the final amount of fees via a separate filing; (ii) approve the newly-encountered
16 escheatment expenses, for which Dillon anticipates he will pay Sovos Compliance, LLC (a
17 consultant specializing in escheatment procedures) \$115,000; (iii) approve a reserve of \$100,000
18 for Dillon to address state-by-state escheatment charges and penalties; (iv) approve already-paid
19 administrative expenses above the amounts approved in the 2012 order; and (v) approve a
20 reserve for future anticipated administrative expenses. The already-paid administrative expense
21 amounts above the amounts approved in the 2012 order total \$520,984.33 (Decl. ¶ 109). Dillon
22 estimates the administrative expenses yet to be incurred in winding this litigation down will be
23 an additional \$534,000. (Decl. ¶ 109). For administrative expenses, the chart below
24 summarizes: (1) the amounts by which already-paid amounts exceed the 2012 order and (2)
25 Dillon’s estimates of anticipated additional amounts needed to wind up the receivership:
26
27
28

Administrative Expense:	Amount Approved in 2012	Amount Paid as of 2021	Difference Between 2012 Approved Amount And Amount Already Paid	Anticipated Future Expense
Claims Administration:	\$3,102,870.20 (Decl. ¶¶ 83-84)	\$3,656,877.62 (Decl. ¶ 87)	\$554,007.42 (Decl. ¶¶ 87, 89)	\$260,000.00 (Decl. ¶¶ 78, 88-89)
Legal Fees & Costs:	\$486,292.23 (Decl. ¶ 96)	\$679,743.35 (Decl. ¶¶ 95-96, 100)	\$193,451.12 (Decl. ¶¶ 96, 100)	\$139,000.00 (Decl. ¶¶ 98-100)
Accountants:	\$196,795.00 (Dkt No. 388 at 4-5)	\$105,267.00 (Decl. ¶ 106)	(\$91,528.00) (Decl. ¶ 106)	\$25,000.00 (Decl. ¶ 106)
Banks:	\$24,851.55 (Decl. ¶ 68)	\$34,725.31 (Decl. ¶ 107)	\$9,373.76 (Decl. ¶ 107)	\$25,000.00 (Decl. ¶ 107)
Other:	\$285,205.49 (Decl. ¶ 108)	\$140,885.52 (Decl. ¶ 108)	(\$144,319.91) (Decl. ¶ 108)	\$85,000.00 (Decl. ¶ 108)
TOTALS	\$4,096,214.47 (Decl. ¶¶ 80, 109)	\$4,617,498.80 (Decl. ¶¶ 109, 117)	\$520,984.33 (Decl. ¶ 109)	\$534,000.00 (Decl. ¶ 109)

(Decl. ¶ 109).

9. The Independent Fiduciary also requests authority to distribute all remaining funds (net of authorized costs and fees) to pay further benefits to Category B Creditors and requests authority to follow the same pro rata plan of distribution previously ordered in the 2012 partial distribution order (Dkt. # 388). (Decl. ¶¶ 47-67).

1 10. In the 2012 order approving the partial distribution (Dkt. 388 at § II.4), the Court
2 previously approved the final claims report setting forth the thousands of covered claims (the
3 “Final Claims Report,” attached to Dkt. 381-1 as Exh.7), as well as the Independent Fiduciary’s
4 plan to pay those claims on a pro rata basis out of recovered funds (Decl. ¶¶ 64-67). The 2012
5 partial distribution Order directed pro rata payment of the claims for insurance benefits of
6 Category B Creditors identified in the Final Claims Report. (Docket No. 388 p. 6, ¶ 5).

7 11. The proposed final distribution does not include distributions to Category A Creditors
8 (the Plan Participants), as those claims were paid 100% by the prior partial distribution. Nor
9 does the proposed final distribution plan include distributions to Category C or D Creditors.
10 This is because: (i) no Category C or D creditors have submitted claims; (ii) the Independent
11 Fiduciary has not identified any Category C Creditors; and (iii) the combined claims of
12 Category B Creditors far exceed available funds, leaving no funds for distribution to Category C
13 Creditors. Under the Quasi-Bankruptcy Order (Dkt No. 73 ¶ 6.4, Dkt No. 284 ¶ 6), Category C
14 Creditors can receive a distribution only if Category B Creditors have been paid 100% of their
15 allowed claims, and Category D Creditors can be paid only if Category C Creditors receive
16 100% of their allowed claims. (Decl. ¶ 67).

17 12. Before any reductions to pay costs or to pay benefits, Dillon recovered total assets of
18 \$16,594,207.86, which amount includes roughly \$35,000 in earned interest since 2012. (Decl.
19 ¶¶ 70, 108 & 116).

20 13. The amount of funds available for the final distribution to Category B Creditors is
21 calculated by starting with the \$16,594,207.86 amount discussed in the prior paragraph and then
22 reducing that figure by the combined amount of: (i) the partial distribution to pay benefits
23 totaling \$6,146,162.49; (ii) the above-described administrative expenses (not including Dillon’s
24 own estimated Independent Fiduciary fees and costs) incurred as of 2021, totaling \$4,617,498;
25 (iii) the 2012 already-approved estimated fees of the Independent Fiduciary, which are \$735,000;
26 (iv) the 2021 estimate for future Independent Fiduciary fees, totaling \$80,000; (v) the 2021
27 estimate for future fees and expenses of other (non-Independent Fiduciary) Administrative
28

1 Creditors, totaling \$534,000; (vi) a reserve for potential escheatment penalties of \$100,000; (vii)
 2 an estimated \$115,000 for the Sovos firm’s escheatment-compliance; and (viii) the \$12,600 paid
 3 in income tax penalties. These items “(i)” through “(viii)” total \$12,340,260.49. Subtracting this
 4 \$12,340,260.49 from the \$16,594,207.86 in assets discussed in the prior paragraph, Dillon has
 5 roughly \$4,253,947.37 left to further pay claims for insurance benefits to Category B Creditors
 6 in the final distribution. (Decl. ¶¶ 109, 117).

7 14. The below chart graphically illustrates the calculation of the amount left to be distributed
 8 to Category B Creditors:

ASSET SUMMARY	
Recovered Assets	\$16,594,207.86
Less Partial Distribution	-\$6,146,162.49
Less Admin Exp. Incurred as of 2021	-\$4,617,498.00
Less 2012 Approved Est. Fees of Independent Fiduciary	-\$735,000.00
Less 2021 Est. Future Fees of Independent Fiduciary	-\$80,000.00
Less Other Est. Future Administrative Creditor Exp.	-\$534,000.00
Less Possible Escheatment Penalties	-\$100,000
Less Est. Future Escheatment Costs	-\$115,000.00
Less Incurred Tax Penalties	<u>-\$12,600.00</u>
Amount Available For Final Distribution to Category B Creditors	<u>\$4,253,947.37</u>

21 (Decl. ¶ 118).

22 NOW THEREFORE, THE COURT HEREBY ADJUDGES DECREES AND ORDERS AS
 23 FOLLOWS:

24 The Court HEREBY APPROVES AND AUTHORIZES Dillon’s plan to reserve funds
 25 for the possible escheatment penalties totaling \$100,000.

26 The following categories and corresponding amounts for incurred and anticipated
 27 expenses are HEREBY APPROVED: (i) the increase of \$80,000 to Dillon’s estimated hourly
 28

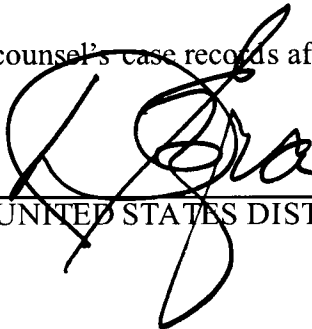
1 fees as the Independent Fiduciary from \$735,000 to \$815,000 with the caveat that Dillon will
2 seek the Court's approval for payment of the final amount of fees via a separate filing; (ii) the
3 newly-encountered escheatment expenses, for which Dillon anticipates paying Sovos \$115,000;
4 (iii) the \$520,984.33 in administrative expenses (Decl. ¶¶ 80, 109) paid above the \$4,096,214.47
5 authorized in the 2012 order (Dkt. No. 388); and (iv) Dillon's estimate of \$534,000 for future
6 administrative expenses summarized in paragraph eight above.

7 Dillon's plan to distribute the receivership funds remaining (roughly \$4,253,947.37 after
8 his reductions for the above-noted expenditures), to further pay pro rata insurance benefits to
9 Category B Creditors (set forth in ¶¶ 13-14, above), is HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND
10 APPROVED, and the Independent Fiduciary is ORDERED to carry out the final distribution in
11 efficient manner.

12 The Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for future approvals and the eventual
13 discharging of the Independent Fiduciary.

14 Dillon's counsel is authorized to destroy counsel's case records after 3 years' time from
15 the date of this Order.

16 Dated: Sept. 1, 2022

By 
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28