Five Star Development Resort Communities, LLC v. iStar RC Paradise Valley LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FIVE STAR DEVELOPMENT RESORT COMMUNITIES, LLC,

Plaintiff,

-V-

ISTAR RC PARADISE VALLEY, LLC,

Defendant.

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<u>Order</u>

Plaintiff Five Star Development Resort Communities, LLC ("Plaintiff") moves, seeking an order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b), certifying the Court's September 18, 2012, Memorandum Decision and Order for interlocutory appeal. The Court has reviewed the motion papers thoroughly and hereby denies the motion.

A district court may certify an order for interlocutory appeal if "the district judge 'is under the opinion that such order involves a controlling question of law as to which there is substantial ground for difference of opinion and that an immediate appeal may materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation." <u>United States v. Culbertson</u>, 598 F.3d 40, 45 (2d Cir.2010) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b)). Interlocutory appeal as provided for in 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) "is a rare exception to the final judgment rule that generally prohibits piecemeal appeals." <u>Koehler v. Bank of Bermuda Ltd.</u>, 101 F.3d 863, 865 (2d Cir.1996). "Moreover, these criteria supply only the minimum standard that movants must meet" and "[d]istrict court judges have broad discretion to deny certification even where the statutory criteria are met." <u>Bishop v.</u> <u>Best Buy</u>, No. 08 Civ. 8427(LBS), 2011 WL 4011449, at *12 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 8, 2011) (citations

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omitted).

The three factors set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) weigh against "departing from the basic policy of postponing appellate review until after the entry of a final judgment" in this instance. <u>Picard v. Estate of Madoff</u>, 464 B.R 578, 582 (S.D.N.Y. 2011). Plaintiff's appeal does not involve a "pure question of law that the reviewing court could decide quickly and cleanly without having to study the record." <u>Picard</u>, 464 B.R. at 582 (internal quotation marks omitted). This Court's September 18, 2012, Order involves a question of law that is significantly intertwined with the factual record in the case. Second, there is no "substantial ground for a difference of opinion." <u>Picard</u>, 464 B.R. at 582. No issue is raised over which there is "conflicting authority," or one that is "particularly difficult and of first impression." <u>Id</u>. Third, an interlocutory appeal would not "materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation." <u>Id</u>. This final prong is established if an appeal "promises to advance the time for trial or shorten the time required for trial." <u>In re Enron Corp.</u>, No. 01 Civ. 16034(SAS), 2007 WL 2780394, at*2 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 24, 2007). This appeal would do neither, and if anything, would lengthen the time required for trial. The parties have been instructed to be trial-ready by the beginning of January of 2013.

Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion for certification is denied. This Order resolves docket entry no. 196.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York October 5, 2012

AYLOR SWAIN United States District Judge