## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:	Chapter 11
MONTESQUIEU, INC.,1	) Case No. 19-10599(BLS)
Debtors.	) Jointly Administered
	) Re: D.I
	,

## ORDER AUTHORIZING RETENTION AND APPOINTMENT OF STRETTO AS CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT <u>NUNC PRO TUNC</u> TO THE PETITION DATE

Upon consideration of the application (the "Application") of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for retention and appointment of Stretto ("Stretto") as claims and noticing agent ("Claims and Noticing Agent") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c), section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code,<sup>2</sup> and Local Rule 2002-1(f) to, among other things, (i) distribute required notices to parties in interest, (ii) receive, maintain, docket, and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases, and (iii) provide such other administrative services – as required by the Debtors – that would fall within the purview of services to be provided by the Clerk's office; and upon consideration of the Vandell Declaration submitted in support of the Application; and it appearing that the receiving, docketing, and maintaining of proofs of claim would be unduly time consuming and burdensome for the Clerk; and this Court being authorized under 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) to utilize, at the Debtors' expense, outside agents and facilities to provide notices to parties in title 11 cases and to receive, docket, maintain, photocopy, and transmit proofs of claim; and this Court

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers include: Montesquieu, Inc. (8069), WG Best Weinkellerei, Inc. dba Montesquieu Winery (California) (0458) and Montesquieu Corp. (California) (4025). The headquarters and service address for the above-captioned Debtors is 8929 Aero Dr, San Diego, California 92123.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the

being satisfied that Stretto has the capability and experience to provide such services and that Stretto does not hold an interest adverse to the Debtors or the estates respecting the matters upon which it is to be engaged; and good and sufficient notice of the Application having been given and no other or further notice being required; and it appearing that the employment of Stretto is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and creditors; and sufficient cause appearing therefor; it is hereby ordered that:

- 1. The Application is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. Notwithstanding the terms of the Engagement Agreement, the Application is approved solely as set forth in this Order.
- 3. The Debtors are authorized to retain Stretto as Claims and Noticing Agent effective *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date under the terms of the Engagement Agreement except as modified herein, and Stretto is authorized and directed to perform noticing services and to receive, maintain, record, and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases, and all related tasks, all as described in the Application.
- 4. Stretto shall serve as the custodian of court records and shall be designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases and is authorized and directed to maintain official claims registers for each of the Debtors, to provide public access to every proof of claim unless otherwise ordered by the Court, and to provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate thereof upon the request of the Clerk.
- 5. Stretto is authorized and directed to provide an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim and to obtain a post office box or address for the receipt of proofs of claim.
- 6. Stretto is authorized to take such other action to comply with all duties set forth in the Application.

- 7. The Debtors are authorized to compensate Stretto in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Agreement upon the receipt of reasonably detailed invoices setting forth the services provided by Stretto and the rates charged for each, and to reimburse Stretto for all reasonable and necessary expenses it may incur, upon the presentation of appropriate documentation, without the need for Stretto to file fee applications or otherwise seek Court approval for the compensation of its services and reimbursement of its expenses.
- 8. Stretto shall maintain records of all services showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred, and shall serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, counsel for the Debtors, counsel for any official committee appointed in these chapter 11 cases, and any party-in-interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices.
- 9. The parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any dispute which may arise relating to the Engagement Agreement or monthly invoices; *provided* that the parties may seek resolution of the matter from the Court if resolution is not achieved.
- 10. Pursuant to section 503(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, the fees and expenses of Stretto under this Order shall be an administrative expense of the Debtors' estates.
- 11. Stretto may apply its retainer to all prepetition invoices, which retainer shall be replenished to the original retainer amount of \$5000.00, and thereafter, Stretto may hold its retainer under the Engagement Agreement during the chapter 11 cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Engagement Agreement.
- 12. In the event that Stretto is unable to provide the services set out in this Order,
  Stretto will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney and, upon approval of the
  Court, cause to have all original proofs of claim and computer information turned over to another
  claims and noticing agent with the advice and consent of the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney.

- 13. The Debtors may submit a separate retention application, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 327 and/or any applicable law, for work that is to be performed by Stretto but is not specifically authorized by this Order.
- 14. The Debtors and Stretto are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.
- 15. Notwithstanding any term in the Engagement Agreement to the contrary, this Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.
- 16. Notwithstanding any provision in the Bankruptcy Rules to the contrary, this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 17. Stretto shall not cease providing claims processing services during the chapter 11 case(s) for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of the Court.
- 18. The Debtors shall indemnify Stretto under the terms of the Engagement Agreement; provided that Stretto shall not be entitled to indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement pursuant to the Engagement Agreement for services other than the services provided under the Engagement Agreement, unless such services and the indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement therefore are approved by this Court. Notwithstanding any provision in the Engagement Agreement to the contrary, the liability of Stretto shall not be limited to the total amount of fees billed or received by Stretto.
- 19. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors shall have no obligation to indemnify Stretto, or provide contribution or reimbursement to Stretto, for any claim or expense that is: (a) judicially determined (the determination having become final) to have arisen from Stretto's gross negligence, willful misconduct, or fraud; (b) for

a contractual dispute in which the Debtors allege the breach of Stretto's contractual obligations if this Court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *In re United Artists Theatre Co.*, 315 F.3d 217 (3d Cir. 2003); or (c) settled prior to a judicial determination under (a) or (b), but determined by this Court, after notice and a hearing, to be a claim or expense for which Stretto should not receive indemnity, contribution, or reimbursement under the terms of the Engagement Agreement as modified by this Order.

- 20. If, before the earlier of (a) the entry of an order confirming a chapter 11 plan in these cases (that order having become a final order no longer subject to appeal), or (b) the entry of an order closing these cases, Stretto believes that it is entitled to the payment of any amounts by the Debtors on account of the Debtors' indemnification, contribution, and/or reimbursement obligations under the Engagement Agreement (as modified by this Order), including without limitation the advancement of defense costs, Stretto must file an application therefor in this Court, and the Debtors may not pay any such amounts to Stretto before, after notice and a hearing, the entry of an order by this Court approving the payment. This paragraph is intended only to specify the period of time under which this Court shall have jurisdiction over any request for fees and expenses by Stretto for indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement, and not a provision limiting the duration of the Debtors' obligation to indemnify Stretto. All parties in interest shall retain the right to object to any demand by Stretto for indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement.
- 21. The portion of section 2 (c) of the Engagement Agreement addressing late charges shall be null, void, and of no further force and effect for postpetition services rendered by Stretto.

22. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Engagement Agreement, including section 6, by this Order, this Court is not authorizing Stretto to establish accounts with financial institutions on behalf of the Debtors.

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- 24. In the event of any inconsistency between the Engagement Agreement, the Application and this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.
- 25. Notwithstanding any term in the Engagement Agreement to the contrary, the Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

Dated: 47 (arch 22, 2019

The Honorable Brendan Emehan Shannon

United States Bankruptcy Judge