# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA Charlotte Division

Case No. 3:05 CV 391-MU

In re: Chapter 7

Joseph A. DiBruno, Sr. Bankruptcy Case Number 05-33007

Bankruptcy Case Number 05-33006

Joseph A. DiBruno, Jr. Bankruptcy Case Number 05-33005

Nicholas DiBruno

Vendy DiBruno

Jointly Administered

Debtors

## AMENDED MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN UNSECURED CREDIT

The motion of Langdon M. Cooper, trustee herein ("Trustee"), by and through counsel, respectfully represents as follows:

- 1. The debtors filed their chapter 7 petitions on July 26, 2005. The Trustee is the duly appointed chapter 7 trustee in each case.
- 2. Section 364(b) of Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Code") allows the court, after notice and hearing, to authorize the Trustee to obtain unsecured credit or to incur unsecured debt other than under Section 364(a) of the Code, allowable under Section 503(b)(1) of the Code as an administrative expense.
  - 3. According to the schedules of the Debtors, these are all no asset cases.
- 4. Locke Holland and Cynthia Dimmette ("Holland & Dimmette") are scheduled as creditors with a claim of zero in these cases. However, Holland & Dimmette hold a consent judgment against each of the debtors, entered in the Mecklenburg County Superior Court on March 2, 2005. According to the consent judgment, Holland & Dimmette hold a claim against Nicholas DiBruno of \$200,000; against Joseph DiBruno, Jr. of \$1,800,000; and against Joseph DiBruno, Sr. of \$1,200,000.
- 5. Holland & Dimmette filed their amended complaint against the debtors in state court on September 29, 2004 ("State Court Action"). They have conducted an extensive investigation of the financial affairs of the debtors and have accumulated significant work product that the 3JAH:360833 v1

Trustee believes will be useful to the Trustee in his investigation of the financial affairs of the debtors, including the work product of a private investigator retained by Holland & Dimmette (the "Holland & Dimmette Work Product"). Upon information and belief, Holland & Dimmette have spent in excess of \$250,000 in connection with their investigation of the debtors and the prosecution of their civil action through the time of the appointment of Johnston Allison & Hord, P.A. and Grier Furr & Crisp, P.A. as special counsel ("Holland & Dimmette Investigative Costs").

- 6. By separate application, the Trustee sought and this Court approved and confirmed the appointment of the firms of Johnston Allison & Hord, P.A. (which represented Holland & Dimmette in the State Court Action) and Grier Furr & Crisp, P.A., (bankruptcy counsel to Holland & Dimmette), as special counsel to the Trustee (the "Special Counsel"). Further the Trustee is seeking the appointment of Ronald T. Guerette as a private investigator for the estate, Alan Fisher as an auctioneer and appraiser for the estate, and Bill E. Branscum also as a private investigator for the estate.
- 7. Holland & Dimmette have agreed to advance to the Trustee, for the purposes set out herein, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (the "Holland & Dimmette Advance") to be used to pay a portion of the allowed administrative claims for the fees and expenses of the Trustee and his general counsel, Mullen Holland & Cooper, P. A., and Holland & Dimmette have also agreed to make available to the Trustee the Holland & Dimmette Work Product to assist the Trustee in his investigation of the financial affairs of the debtors.
- 8. Holland & Dimmette have also agreed to pay directly the allowed administrative claims for the fees and expenses of the Trustee's Special Counsel, of Ronald T. Guerette, of Alan Fisher and of Bill E. Branscum, and also the costs of storage and appraisal of estate assets, and the relocation of estate assets to the storage facility, including the fees for services of the United States Marshals. Holland & Dimmette will continue to pay the allowed administrative expenses identified in this paragraph (the "Administrative Claims") until they in their sole discretion decide to terminate the funding, and in this regard they will provide the Trustee with two weeks' prior notice of any termination of funding and they will pay all the Administrative Claims accrued through and to the end of the two week notice period. In the event of such notice by Holland and Dimmette, the Trustee will act in good faith to minimize the legal services he seeks to have his Special Counsel perform during such notice period. Once they have paid Administrative Claims, Holland & Dimmette will be subrogated to the claimants' status as holders of the allowed Administrative Claims under Section 503(b)(1) of the Code.
- 9. The Trustee believes that, with the Holland & Dimmette Advance, the Holland & Dimmette Work Product, and Holland & Dimmette's direct funding of the Administrative Claims, his chances of recovering assets for the estates are greatly enhanced.
- 10. Except as provided below, payment of the Administrative Claims by the estate to Holland & Dimmette as subrogees shall be subordinate to the administrative claims of the Trustee for his commission and Mullen Holland & Cooper, P.A. for its fees and expenses.
- 11. In exchange for the Holland & Dimmette Advance, the Holland & Dimmette Work Product, and Holland & Dimmette's funding of the Administrative Claims, all as described herein, the Trustee will pay to Holland & Dimmette, as soon as reasonably possible and at reasonable intervals, the following:

JAH:360833 v1 2

a. From the first aggregate \$300,000 in receipts in these estates (other than the Holland & Dimmette Advance):

- i. Pay 75% of the aggregate \$300,000 in receipts to Holland & Dimmette first as repayment for the Holland & Dimmette Investigative Costs and then as repayment of the funding by Holland & Dimmette of the payment of the Administrative Claims, and the Trustee shall retain 25% of the remaining balance as general funds of the estates to be used first to pay the Trustee's fees and the fees and expenses of his general counsel, Mullen Holland & Cooper, P.A. The exact amount of the Holland & Dimmette Investigative Costs is subject to review and approval by the Trustee, and Holland & Dimmette have agreed to provide a satisfactory accounting to the Trustee as to the Investigative Costs.
- b. From the next aggregate \$500,000 (after the first \$300,000) in receipts in these estates (other than the Holland & Dimmette Advance), the Trustee will:
  - i. Pay 50% of the aggregate \$500,000 in receipts to Holland & Dimmette first as repayment for the Holland & Dimmette Investigative Costs and then as repayment of the funding by Holland & Dimmette of the payment of the Administrative Claims, and the Trustee shall retain 50% of the remaining balance as general funds of the estates to be used first to pay the Trustee's fees and the fees and expenses of his general counsel, Mullen Holland & Cooper, P.A., The exact amount of the Holland & Dimmette Investigative Costs is subject to review and approval by the Trustee, and Holland and Dimmette have agreed to provide a satisfactory accounting to the Trustee as to the Investigative Costs.
- c. From any additional receipts in the estates in excess of \$800,000 in the aggregate (other than the Holland & Dimmette Advance), the Trustee will:
  - i. Pay twenty-five (25%) percent of such receipts to Holland & Dimmette as repayment of the funding by Holland & Dimmette of the payment of the Administrative Claims and to repay the Holland & Dimmette Advance, until such time as the funding by Holland & Dimmette of the payment of the Administrative Claims, and the Holland & Dimmette Advance, has been repaid in full, and Trustee shall retain the remaining balance as general funds of the estates to be used first to pay the Trustees' fees and the fees and expenses of his general counsel, Mullen, Holland & Cooper, P.A.;
  - ii. Reserve for accrued administrative claims, and pay in full the allowed administrative claims of the estates, including full payment to Holland & Dimmette as subrogees of the Administrative Claims; and
  - iii. Pay Holland & Dimmette, as an administrative claim, ten percent (10%) of any additional receipts in the estates. Holland & Dimmette agree to credit their unsecured claims in each case, dollar for dollar, by any sums received pursuant to this subparagraph.

JAH:360833 v1 3

12. Pursuant to Rule 4001(c)(2), the Court was advised of the Trustee's request for an interim hearing on September 20, 2005, on the original motion after case-wide notice in each of the Debtors' cases, and only the Debtors objected. The Trustee requests that the court conduct a final hearing on this amended motion only if the Debtors request such a hearing within fifteen (15) days of the date of the Court's order approving this amended motion.

## WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests that the court:

- a. Based on the fact that no party but the debtors objected to the original motion at an interim hearing on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, conduct a final hearing on this amended motion on shortened notice on 17 October 2005;
- b. Authorize the Trustee to incur as unsecured credit the Holland & Dimmette Advance and to make all other disbursements contemplated in this amended motion;
- c. Authorize specifically the distributions from estate funds to Holland & Dimmette as described herein; and
  - d. Grant such further relief as is just.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005.

/s/ Langdon M. Cooper

Langdon M. Cooper N.C. State Bar No. 936

MULLEN HOLLAND & COOPER P.A. Attorneys for the Trustee 301 South York Street P.O. Box 488 Gastonia, NC 28053-0488 Telephone: (704) 864-6751

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JAH:360833 v1 4

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

CERTIFIED that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005, I served a copy of the Amended Motion for Authority to Obtain Unsecured Credit and Notice of Hearing by placement in a postpaid envelope addressed to the parties hereinafter named, at the place and address stated below, which is the last known address, and by depositing the envelope and its contents in the United States mail:

John Bramlett Bankruptcy Administrator 402 West Trade Street Charlotte, NC 28202 Joseph W. Grier, III Grier, Furr & Crisp, P.A. (served via email - jgrier@grierlaw.com)

Gary J. Welch Johnson, Allison & Hord, P.A. (served via email – gwelch@jahlaw.com)

John Miller, Jr.
Albert F. Durham
Rayburn Cooper & Durham
(served via email - adurham@rcdlaw.net

Others on attached sheet(s)

Sandra Cummings (served via facsimile 704-376-3334 and US mail)

/s/ Langdon M. Cooper

Langdon M. Cooper N.C. State Bar No. 936

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Filed 10/10/2005 Page 6 of 13 Pool Service

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2 of 2

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2 of 3 10/10/2005 6:48 PM

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3 of 3

## Case 3:05-cv-00391

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3 of 3