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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In the Matter of:

ARCAPITA BANK B.S.C.(C), et al, CASE NO. 12-11076-shl

Debtors.

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U.S. Bankruptcy Court
One Bowling Green
New York, New York

June 26, 2013
2:18 PM

B E F O R E :
HON. SEAN H. LANE
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

ECRO - MATTHEW

1 HEARING Re Doc #12 Motion to Authorize - Debtors' Motion for
2 Interim and Final Orders (A) Authorizing Debtors to (I)
3 Continue Existing Cash Management System, Bank Accounts, and
4 Business Forms and (II) Continue Ordinary Course
5 Intercompany Transactions; and (B) Granting an Extension of
6 Time to Comply with the Requirements of Section 345(b) of
7 the Bankruptcy Code

8
9 HEARING Re Doc #1197 Motion to Authorize/Motion of Official
10 Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of Order Under 11
11 U.S.C. 1103(c) and 1109(b) Granting Leave, Standing and
12 Authority to Prosecute Turnover and Avoidance Claims

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Transcribed by: Sheila Orms

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE COURT: Good afternoon, please be seated.

All right. Our 2 o'clock now on the calendar is Arcapita Bank, motion to authorize the entry of an order authorizing the committee to have standing for certain claims, as well as I believe some cash collateral issues.

MR. ROSENTHAL: Good afternoon, Your Honor, Michael Rosenthal with Allen Moskowitz from Gibson Dunn on behalf of the Arcapita debtors.

MR. FLECK: Good afternoon, Your Honor, Evan Fleck of Milbank Tweed on behalf of the official committee of unsecured creditors.

THE COURT: All right. Who else is appearing?

MR. VENDITTO: Michael Venditto from Reed Smith on behalf of BNY Mellon, Corporate Trustee Services in opposition to the committee's motion.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. ROSENTHAL: You're right, Your Honor, two matters, one is the debtor's cash management motion, the continuation of our interim budget. Hopefully it's one of the last ones we -- we just thought that it would -- made sense to continue that same process that we've been going through. And then the committee's motion for standing to pursue the turnover and Borden (ph) sections.

I think if we get the cash management motion out

1 of the way first, that would be helpful.

2 As usual, Your Honor, the debtor's budget is the
3 product of discussions with the committee, and I think it's
4 generally agreed it has been filed with the Court as the
5 proposed 16th interim budget. Do you have a copy of that?

6 THE COURT: I have seen it, yes.

7 MR. ROSENTHAL: Okay. As with other budgets,
8 there are so open items that are subject to additional
9 discussions with the committee. And as we've said before,
10 and as has been our practice, it's our intention to resolve
11 those matters with the committee before we actually spend
12 the funds in the budget.

13 I just want to highlight a couple of them. One is
14 there's an item for reimbursement of Standard Charter for
15 some expenses about \$1.3 million that the committee is
16 reviewing for reasonableness. There's an item for about
17 four and a half million dollars related to our -- what is
18 called our AGUD investment, again the committee is reviewing
19 that.

20 We have some money budgeted for wind down expenses
21 for some of the non-debtor entities in Singapore and the
22 Cayman Islands and Hong Kong that the parties are -- I think
23 there's a general view that that money would be spent, or
24 some portion of it would be spent, but everybody wants to
25 take a closer look at what it's going to be spent for.

1 There is about \$600,000 that may be owed for some
2 work that was done on the headquarters, and there's about
3 \$2.4 million in tax liabilities, withholding tax liabilities
4 that relate to what we call our IIP and IPP Programs. These
5 are employee stock programs, that are resolved as part of
6 the plan, and the Court has previously ordered an order on,
7 and again we're all thinking about how best to do that.

8 And then finally, there's an amount budgeted for
9 an increase in accounting fees for one of the accounting
10 firms, Ernst & Young in Bahrain. That's the subject of
11 continuing discussions. The Court may well see a motion, an
12 application on that in the next day or two. It has not been
13 filed yet.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 MR. ROSENTHAL: So, Your Honor, with that, those
16 reservations, we would ask the Court to enter the 16th
17 interim cash management order approving the debtor's budget.

18 THE COURT: All right. Anyone wish to be heard on
19 this request?

20 (No response)

21 THE COURT: All right. I'm happy to grant it,
22 consistent with the practice in this case of interim orders
23 of this type, and again as I have said on other occasions, I
24 appreciate the efforts of the debtors and the committee and
25 their ability to work together on budget items, a process

1 that has become progressively more smooth as the case has
2 gone on. So I again appreciate everyone's efforts on that
3 regard, so I'll grant the motion.

4 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Your Honor. Now, I'd
5 like to turn the podium over to the committee.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 MR. FLECK: Once again, Your Honor, for the
8 record, Evan Fleck on behalf of the official committee of
9 unsecured creditors.

10 This is the committee's motion for standing, leave
11 and authority to prosecute turnover and avoidance claims.
12 One of the rare occasions in the case where we have -- the
13 movant is the committee, and so I'll enjoy our time here at
14 the podium, but mindful of other matters on Your Honor's
15 docket, it won't take too much time. I did want to --

16 THE COURT: Take what you need.

17 MR. FLECK: Thank you, Your Honor. I did want to
18 note at the outset that the one objecting party, Bank of New
19 York is a member of the committee, Bank of New York did not
20 participate in any discussions at the committee level with
21 regard to this matter. That was at their request, at the
22 committee's request. Certainly that was consensual, and I
23 just -- that's in our papers as well, I just wanted to make
24 sure that was clear for the record.

25 Your Honor, the committee seeks standing to

1 prosecute certain turnover and avoidance claims on behalf of
2 the debtors, in order to significantly increase recoveries
3 to holders of allowed unsecured claims under the plan.

4 First, Your Honor, the committee seeks authority
5 to pursue claims against three Bahraini banks. The names
6 might be familiar to Your Honor. They've been the subject
7 of some updates and discussions on the record. They're
8 Albaracka, Tadhamon and Bahrain Islamic Bank for a total
9 turnover claim of approximately \$33 million. Those are
10 proceeds that we believe those banks owe to Arcapita under
11 certain prepetition short term investments that were made
12 between Arcapita and those banks.

13 The second category of actions that are subject to
14 the committee's motion are constructive fraudulent transfer
15 claims to avoid a guarantee that was issued by one of the
16 debtors, IAHL in connection with a 2011 Sharia compliant
17 bond issuance. The defendant in this action, as I
18 mentioned, and is clear from the pleadings is the Arcsukuk
19 trustee, Bank of New York, which is in its capacity as
20 delegate to the Arcsukuk trustee and the certificate holders
21 for that issuance.

22 The last of the suite of actions that are the
23 subject of the motion is a preference claim, this is for
24 \$1.3 million that the Arcsukuk defendants, the same
25 defendants that were the subject of the second matter that I

1 just described received within 90 days of the petition date.

2 And, Your Honor, one objection has been filed with
3 respect to the motion, that was by Bank of New York.

4 They've objected to the committee's request for standing to
5 prosecute the avoidance claims against the Arcsukuk
6 defendants. Bank of New York does not object to standing
7 with respect to the placement actions, and as such, that
8 request of the committee is unopposed.

9 Your Honor, the committee requests that the Court
10 overrule the objection that was filed by Bank of New York,
11 and grant the motion in its entirety. The committee
12 satisfies the relevant standards for standing under the 2nd
13 Circuit with respect to each of the claims, and specifically
14 each claim is colorable, and if successful, would result in
15 significant benefits to the estate at relatively small cost.

16 Your Honor, I'd first --

17 THE COURT: Well, let me ask you, you're applying
18 the Commodore test, which deals with consent, and I
19 certainly saw in the objection a dispute about that. And my
20 question deals with sort of the details of consent here.

21 I saw in footnote 39 a reference to the placement
22 claims. And then in footnote 48, a reference to the
23 Arcsukuk claim the second of the claims. And I didn't see
24 any specific language that I thought went to the third of
25 the claims.

1 So that was my sort of initial question before we
2 find ourselves dealing with Commodore under all three of
3 those claims. So what's your argument as to consent on that
4 third claim?

5 MR. FLECK: Your Honor, the debtor's position with
6 respect to each of the categories of the claims is the same,
7 and I don't think that is in dispute, at least with respect
8 to Bank of New York. I know it's not a dispute with respect
9 to the debtors. There was a modification to the plan that
10 was made to address what was a technical issue, and it was
11 discussed at the confirmation hearing that the debtors
12 indicated that they do not object to the committee seeking
13 standing, and then if standing is obtained, pursuing that
14 third category of claim, the preference claim as well.

15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. So none of
16 these are differently situated, they're all essentially the
17 subject of the same kind of language that -- I could only
18 locate the first two, so that's why I wanted to get out of
19 that way from the very get go. All right. Thank you,
20 that's helpful.

21 Just for the record, where is that language?
22 Again, I have in front of me, and I know there are just a
23 dizzying number of versions of documents, so I don't profess
24 to have the right one, but I know in looking at footnote 39
25 and page 108, and then looking at footnote 48 on page 185.

1 So maybe you can just for the record.

2 MR. FLECK: Yeah, if I may, Your Honor, if I can
3 do that perhaps after Mr. Venditto makes his presentation --

4 THE COURT: That would be fine. That would be
5 fine.

6 MR. FLECK: -- I'll clarify that for the record.

7 But I think that is the appropriate place to
8 start, Your Honor, with respect to what is the standard. I
9 think Bank of New York takes the position that the standard
10 is STN. We believe it's Commodore, and the 2nd Circuit did
11 expand the standard and making it easier for official
12 committees to obtain standing for these types of actions
13 where the debtor consents.

14 Under Commodore, a committee should be granted
15 standing if three things have been satisfied. The first is
16 that the committee's proposed claims are colorable. The
17 second is that the litigation in the best interests of the
18 bankruptcy estate. And third, the litigation is necessary
19 and beneficial to the fair and efficient resolution of the
20 bankruptcy proceedings.

21 So I think Bank of New York raises the issue and
22 brings into question which standard applies. In the
23 committee's view, we think we satisfy both standards;
24 however, we do think that Commodore is satisfied, and
25 Commodore is the applicable standard to look to, because in

1 this case, the debtors are not opposing the motion.

2 Bank of New York takes the position that agreeing
3 not to object is different than providing consent for
4 Commodore purposes. In our view, agreeing not to object is
5 tantamount to consent, as far as standing is concerned, and
6 I think some relevant context for the case is appropriate.

7 In the course of the discussions, pursuant to
8 which the debtors and the committee reached a consensual
9 approach with respect to the plan, there were discussions
10 regarding numerous causes of action and potential causes of
11 action. And as is reflected in the cooperation plan term
12 sheet, which as Your Honor knows, was the -- reflected the
13 -- all of the agreements, or at least the principle
14 agreements that had been reached among the parties. There
15 is a section that deals with the claims that -- at least
16 categories 1 and 2 -- 3 really followed from a broader
17 discussion of avoidance claims and preference actions.

18 But categories 1 and 2 were specifically addressed
19 in the cooperation plan term sheet, and it was discussed as
20 between the committee and the debtors that the committee
21 would seek standing to pursue the actions, and we simply
22 reflected in the term sheet that the debtors would not
23 object to the committee's pursuing standing for the actions.

24 This is quite different than what Judge Gerber was
25 dealing with in Adelphia, and he didn't deal with the issue

1 on the merits in the end, because the moving party just
2 actually pursued the standing under STN, but Judge Gerber
3 said that when a party is simply absent, in that case, the
4 debtor, in response to the equity committee's motion, it's
5 fair to question whether they really were at the table, and
6 looking at the matter. Here the debtors are here --

7 THE COURT: Well, that's why I asking whether
8 there was specific language as to the third category,
9 because I think it indicates a consideration by the debtors
10 in an active way, as opposed to simply a passive not
11 weighing in at all, which you could derive several different
12 messages from potentially.

13 MR. FLECK: Understood, Your Honor, and I'll get
14 you that citation.

15 In addition, it's clear that the committee does
16 need to meet a standard with respect to the claims
17 themselves and their viability. To find that claims are
18 colorable under the relevant standards, the Court does not
19 need to conduct a detailed assessment of the merits, or
20 evaluate the defenses. The Court needs to determine whether
21 the claims would likely survive a motion to dismiss for
22 failure to state a claim.

23 And again in Adelpia, Judge Gerber said that he
24 was noting that a colorable claim is a relatively easy
25 showing to make. Similarly defined that the litigation is

1 necessary and beneficial, and in the best interests of the
2 estate, the Court need only find that there is a fair chance
3 that the claim -- that the claims benefits would exceed
4 their costs. We think, Your Honor, that we've plainly
5 satisfied that standard, based upon our representations in
6 the motion.

7 THE COURT: Well, let me ask you about that. In
8 Judge Glenn's decision in -- it's unpublished, but it's
9 nonetheless electronically published, Dewey & LeBoeuf which
10 was from November, he talked about litigation costs, and he
11 cited other case law for the proposition that, you know,
12 what are the arrangements that have been made. And there I
13 think he said, well, I've been told enough details that I'm
14 satisfied, and I think the details were that it was either
15 going to be done in whole or in part on a contingency fee
16 basis.

17 So I saw the statements that were made by the
18 committee, and I was wondering if you could put more details
19 on it. Because if I'm supposed to determine whether
20 something is, and I forget which case uses the term, a
21 sensible expenditure, that sort of presupposes you have some
22 idea what the scope of the expenditure is, even though
23 obviously it's not a precise calculation. So I think the
24 way I read Judge Glenn's opinion is that he's looking for
25 some indication, he wants some parameters. And once he got

1 some parameters, he felt that criteria was satisfied.

2 MR. FLECK: Your Honor, with respect to the cost,
3 the -- a lot of the work for these claims has already been
4 done. The committee viewed it as part of its statutory
5 mandate to investigate the claims, and in order to be in a
6 position to file the standing motion, the work of counsel
7 and financial advisors to the committee needed to be
8 invested.

9 So that before we got to this stage, the committee
10 effectively has claims that are trial ready, and as a
11 result, believe that the additional expenditure at this
12 point to be able to move forward with the claims would not
13 be significant.

14 Furthermore, in connection with the -- based upon
15 the actual nature of the claims, we would expect that there
16 would not be a significant amount of discovery that would be
17 required from either party. We think that many of the facts
18 would not be in dispute, but that obviously can change over
19 the course of time. But we think the claims are fairly
20 straight forward. Of course, with the placement actions,
21 there's the overlay of jurisdiction. Those are legal
22 arguments. There may be difficulty enforcing with respect
23 to those parties, although as we addressed I believe in the
24 motion, but it is the committee's view, in consultation with
25 Bahraini counsel, that we would be able to satisfy

1 requirements to have any decision of this Court enforced
2 there.

3 So overall, looking at the litigation, we don't
4 think that this is the type of matter that would significant
5 -- additional expenditure of attorney or financial advisor
6 time. I'd also note that with respect to the committee, the
7 professionals that are working on this in part, are not on
8 an hourly basis, and are billed on a monthly basis.

9 Lastly, Your Honor, depending on the course of
10 litigation, there may be separate arrangements that need to
11 be worked out between the committee and its advisors to make
12 this an economically efficient endeavor, but given the size
13 of the claims, the committee believes that it's important.

14 THE COURT: No, I understand that, although the
15 things you just said in the last two minutes I think are the
16 kind of details that I'm asking you about. Again, I think
17 he cited, and I just found the reference, he cited STN
18 Enterprises for the quote, that the terms relative to
19 attorney's fees on which a suit might be brought, are
20 relevant to evaluation of whether a prosecution of the
21 claims is in the best interests of the estate.

22 So that's why it would be helpful to get a little
23 bit of flesh on the bones. And again, I think in that case,
24 he found the explanation to be satisfactory, talking about
25 essentially the attorney's fees arrangement, even though

1 there hadn't been something on the record as to exactly who
2 was going to be retained.

3 So if you have details about essentially sort of
4 the monthly arrangement, and how long you expect it to last,
5 that might be helpful in me making that kind of evaluation.

6 MR. FLECK: Your Honor, the committee has had
7 discussions with its financial advisors, and the expectation
8 would be that the monthly arrangements that are in place
9 would be reduced after the effective date of the plan,
10 reduced in terms of the economics, to support certain wind
11 down matters with which -- in which the committee is still
12 involved at that point. But those discussions have not been
13 finalized, but I will --

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. FLECK: I can report to the Court that the
16 committee has throughout the cases, and I think the record
17 is clear on this, been keenly aware of costs and making sure
18 that there are benefits to the estate, and has been focused
19 on the fact that when you look at the economics of pursuing
20 claims or certain action or even motions before the Court,
21 there needs to be a benefit that would flow to unsecured
22 creditors. And clearly if the costs of pursuing the claim
23 would even nearly approximate the recoveries or potential
24 recoveries the committee has in the past determined, and I
25 expect would continue to determine not to move forward. It

1 also manages budgets.

2 THE COURT: No, I understand that. The awkward
3 thing about it, is that the standard seems to impose a
4 requirement of the Court, that the Court spend some time
5 thinking about that, and everyone thinking about it
6 beforehand, which is a bit uncomfortable and certainly in
7 litigation, it is difficult also to, although it's certainly
8 something that folks do, to say, well, you're authorized and
9 then go, and then I don't know that I have a mechanism to
10 revisit. So once the case has been confirmed, what is my
11 mechanism for any oversight, I don't think there really is
12 any.

13 So I think that may be something that factors into
14 the policy reasons of why the standard is this way. So
15 that's why I'm asking those kind of detailed questions. I
16 realize that it's always difficult, but I think it's just
17 sort of called for in the standard.

18 MR. FLECK: Understood, Your Honor. And I guess
19 all that I can say more on that, is just that, given the
20 size of the potential recoveries in each of these matters,
21 it's the committee's view that the standard is satisfied. I
22 understand that doesn't give you the facts perhaps to put
23 more meat on the bones there, with --

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 MR. FLECK: -- with respect to that element.

1 Your Honor, with respect to the placement claims,
2 as I mentioned, those have been before the Court on previous
3 occasions, or at least in updates to the Court. I'm happy
4 to go into the claims, but noting that there has been no
5 objection to that part of the relief, I can either
6 abbreviate that for you --

7 THE COURT: No, I think given that there's no
8 objection, and that I've been hearing about these claims for
9 some time, I don't think I have any questions about this and
10 the colorability of those claims.

11 MR. FLECK: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

12 With that, I'll move on to an overview of the
13 avoidance claim with respect to the IAHL guarantee.

14 The committee, as you know, Your Honor, seeks
15 authority to pursue the claim against, on account of the
16 guarantee that was issued for the Arcsukuk facility. The
17 debtors entered into the Mirahabi (ph) and Wakalla (ph)
18 agreement dated September 7, 2011, among the trustee IAHL
19 and Bank of New York as delegate. And in connection with
20 this facility, IAHL issued the guarantee in favor of the
21 Arcsukuk trustee and Bank of New York.

22 Arcapita and IAHL entered into the facility to
23 satisfy obligations under a prior facility which was from
24 2010. That facility matured when the Arcsukuk facility
25 closed.

1 Under the Arcsukuk facility, the issuer issued
2 certificates in the aggregate amount of \$100 million to
3 third party investors, and used the proceeds to make
4 available \$100 million to Arcapita under the Mirahabi
5 agreement.

6 In the committee's view, that transaction, the
7 issuance of the guarantee was a fraudulent transfer. We
8 believe that IAHL was insolvent at the time, it was not made
9 in exchange for reasonably equivalent value.

10 Avoidance of the guarantee, Your Honor, would
11 benefit IAHL's unsecured creditors that hold allowed claims
12 against IAHL. These creditors would include, but are not
13 limited to the holders of approximately \$1.1 billion
14 syndicated Mirahabi facility that's been the subject of a
15 fair bit of discussion on the record.

16 Your Honor, the claim to avoid the IAHL guarantee
17 as a constructive fraudulent transfer is colorable. Bank of
18 New York does not contest the fact that the claim is
19 colorable. There are other bases for its objection.

20 As Your Honor knows, to prevail on a claim for
21 fraudulent transfer, we must establish that the debtor did
22 not receive reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the
23 obligation incurred, and that it was insolvent to satisfy
24 the standard under 548(a).

25 First, Your Honor, IAHL did not receive reasonably

1 equivalent value for what was an upstream guarantee, that it
2 issued in connection with the facility. When determining
3 whether the debtor guarantor has received reasonably
4 equivalent value for an upstream guarantee, the Courts
5 subject that guarantee to heightened scrutiny to look to
6 whether there was actual benefit. Here, the guarantee was
7 upstream pursuant to which IAHL guaranteed a hundred percent
8 of Arcapita's \$100 million obligation under the facility.

9 In the committee's assessment, Arcapita -- rather
10 IAHL did not receive anything in return, or at least
11 anything close to \$100 million in exchange for issuing that
12 guarantee.

13 Second, Your Honor, the committee expects to be
14 able to establish that at the time of the issuance that IAHL
15 was insolvent, was left with unreasonably small capital, or
16 left with debts beyond its ability to pay.

17 The committee's claim to avoid the guarantee is in
18 the best interests of the estate, Your Honor, moving to the
19 next element that we need to satisfy, because it has the
20 potential to reduce significant claim burden on the IAHL
21 estate, up to \$100 million. Bank of New York has objected
22 to the motion on the grounds that the pursuit of the claim
23 is not in the best interests of the estate, and now moving
24 to specifically the objection.

25 Bank of New York argues that the claim would

1 improperly benefit one group of creditors, and they cite the
2 syndicated facility holders, at the expense of others, would
3 be unnecessarily costly to litigate, and lastly, should
4 instead be transferred to the reorganized debtors to let the
5 new board evaluate and potentially pursue the claim.

6 The committee disagrees with Bank of New York's
7 arguments as follows.

8 First, Your Honor, the committee disagrees with
9 respect to the point of whether the claim would improperly
10 benefit one group of creditors over others. We addressed
11 this in the reply. If there are less claims against the
12 IAHL estate, all the other creditors would benefit. There
13 is no effort here to direct the benefits from an avoidance
14 to any particular class of creditors, it's the class of
15 unsecured claimholders of IAHL.

16 I think it's also important, at least for the
17 committee to have it noted on the record, that the committee
18 represents the interests of all unsecured creditors. The
19 committee reached a decision to pursue standing on this
20 motion on behalf of unsecured creditors, and takes issue
21 with the characterization that perhaps it would be seeking
22 to pursue an action to benefit one creditor constituency, at
23 least the suggestion is, over another one.

24 The committee conducted an independent analysis of
25 this claim, decided it was in the best interests of

1 creditors generally to pursue the claims.

2 And as we noted in our reply, Your Honor, only two
3 of the five committee members who participated in the
4 decision-making process actually have claims in the
5 syndicated facility, which we think lends additional
6 credibility to the position that this was a decision taken
7 by the committee as a whole in its fiduciary capacity for
8 creditors.

9 Second, Bank of New York argues that the claim to
10 avoid the guarantee would not -- they argue that it would be
11 unduly expensive. We've discussed that Your Honor a bit.
12 The benefits of pursuing the claim will at a minimum, have a
13 fair chance of exceeding the claims' cost, and that that is
14 what at least one of the Court, it wasn't Judge Glenn's
15 articulation, but that is what Courts have looked to in some
16 cases, to decide whether the costs would exceed the
17 litigation, or at least as it applies to whether the Court
18 should grant standing.

19 Contrary to Bank of New York's assertion, the
20 claim is not too costly to pursue, simply because the
21 committee will need to collaborate closely with the debtors
22 on the litigation.

23 And I think that on this point, Your Honor, there
24 appears to be some misapprehension of how the debtors will
25 look as of the effective date. The committee will need to

1 work with the debtors if it has standing to pursue this
2 claim.

3 As of the effective date, at least the current
4 contemplation, is that there will be no employees of the
5 debtors. RA Holdings Corp, which is the name of the top co
6 entity, will not have employees. And if it does have
7 employees, they may not be employees that actually worked at
8 Arcapita prepetition. The reality of the arrangement that
9 was reached is that the -- many of the employees who were
10 debtor employees will be employed by AIM and many others are
11 going to move on to other pursuits.

12 So the fact that the committee or the movant, or
13 the plaintiff in this action will need to work with the
14 debtors is really of no moment. The committee has already
15 -- has been working with the debtors throughout the cases,
16 and specifically with respect to these claims, in order to
17 conduct its investigation.

18 Third, Your Honor, there is no merit to Bank of
19 New York's contention that to avoid the IAHL guarantee, that
20 that avoidance action should be moved over to the board of
21 directors and somehow the committee, as a result of the
22 board structure should lose the opportunity to pursue the
23 claim, or that it would be better suited for the board to do
24 it.

25 The committee has already spent considerable time

1 investigating the claim, is well positioned to pursue the
2 claim. The type of claims that are at issue here are very
3 much of the type that committees do pursue during the course
4 of Chapter 11 cases, or at this stage of cases. And in our
5 view, it would actually be inefficient to have the board
6 look fresh at the claims and make a decision. And the board
7 does not have the benefit of the work that the committee
8 members have done on the claim, the board does not have the
9 advisors who have been working on it. So in terms of
10 efficiency and cost, we think it actually cuts the other
11 way.

12 I just have a couple of more points, Your Honor.
13 I think for record purposes it's also important that Your
14 Honor understand that, there are -- there is at least a
15 representation that's relevant, that we believe is
16 incorrect. In Bank of New York's objection, paragraph 29,
17 they indicate that the debtors concluded that the Arcsukuk
18 fraudulent transfer claim lacks factual support and
19 concluded that the Arcsukuk preference claim is subject to
20 one or more complete defenses.

21 The disclosure statement simply does not say that,
22 Your Honor. It doesn't say at the cited pages, it doesn't
23 say it at all. It doesn't say that the debtors believe that
24 avoidance lacks factual support. What it says is that the
25 debtors have agreed not to object to the committee's

1 pursuing the claims. And with respect to other preference
2 claims, the debtors do speak to the fact that they believe
3 that there are defenses available.

4 Lastly, Your Honor, I'd just look again to what
5 Judge Gerber said in Adelpia, in light of some objections
6 to a motion that is similar to this one for standing. And
7 he said, perhaps significantly, neither of the committee's
8 motions is opposed by anyone other than the defendants in
9 the litigation to be prosecuted. Those with an interest in
10 maximizing the value of the estate, as contrasted with those
11 with an interest in defeating the claims to be asserted
12 here, do not seem to be troubled by the committee's proposed
13 use of the estate resources for the litigation, the
14 committee wishes to prosecute.

15 And then he concluded, the Court necessarily must
16 take the defendant's prostrations as to what is in the best
17 interests of the estate with a grain of salt. Your Honor,
18 that's the committee's position here at bottom. We
19 understand that Bank of New York would prefer that the
20 action not be pursued, that perhaps the board would reach a
21 different conclusion. We think the efficiencies are
22 present, and that the committee should be granted standing
23 to pursue the action. And we believe that the relevant
24 standard, whether it be Commodore or STN had been satisfied.

25 Thank you, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

2 All right. Let me hear from anybody else who is
3 not the objecting party before I hear from them, and they
4 clean-up, so to speak.

5 MR. ROSENTHAL: Your Honor, I have very little to
6 add.

7 THE COURT: I expected you would have very little
8 to say in this particular motion.

9 MR. ROSENTHAL: You know we have, as part of the
10 cooperative term sheet agreement, as Mr. Fleck indicates,
11 we've agreed we would not object to the committee's request
12 for standing here. And that's why we have taken the
13 position that we have.

14 There -- these were issues that were considered as
15 part of the overall discussion, so that was the -- in part,
16 the agreements that were reached.

17 THE COURT: All right. And in your mind does the
18 not object material -- materially different in your mind
19 than the consent language, that the cases talk about? I
20 know that's probably the uncomfortable question you'd hope I
21 had -- would not ask, but.

22 MR. ROSENTHAL: There was a discussion about how
23 that would be framed, and it was deliberately framed as
24 would not object.

25 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. That's what I

1 thought your answer would be.

2 MR. VENDITTO: Good afternoon, Your Honor, Michael
3 Venditto --

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

5 MR. VENDITTO: -- from Reed Smith on behalf of BNY
6 Corporate Trustee Services, in opposition to the committee's
7 motion.

8 Your Honor, as you're well aware, nowhere in the
9 Bankruptcy Code is there a provision for a committee to
10 derivatively prosecute causes of action, which properly
11 belong to the bankruptcy estate and they're normally to be
12 prosecuted by the estate's fiduciary.

13 However, starting with the STN case and a series
14 of cases including Commodore and Housegraft (ph), the 2nd
15 Circuit has crafted sort of a judicial process by which a
16 committee can be granted derivative standing in very
17 particular circumstances.

18 In doing so, the 2nd Circuit has emphasized that
19 the Court is to act as a gatekeeper in ensuring a process
20 where the claims that are prosecuted are appropriate and
21 colorable and in the best interests of creditors. The Court
22 is not to act as a rubberstamp for an agreement between the
23 debtor and the committee, as to moving over a responsibility
24 for prosecuting claims.

25 As a result, the case law has developed with some

1 very specific requirements for the showing that's necessary
2 before a committee is granted derivative standing. It's our
3 position that in this case, the committee has failed to
4 satisfy those standards.

5 First and foremost is the issue of whether or not
6 we're dealing with the STN standard, or the more lenient
7 Commodore standard. The significant difference between the
8 two is that the consent of the debtor eliminates the
9 necessity for the committee to demonstrate that the decision
10 not to prosecute the claims was unjustifiable.

11 THE COURT: Right. Well, let me -- on that point,
12 that's why I went looking for specific language in various
13 documents, including the disclosure statement, which seemed
14 to be more than the mere failure to show up or make any
15 comment at all, that was contemplated in the case before
16 Judge Gerber.

17 So what is your take of what that language means?

18 MR. VENDITTO: I think, Your Honor, that the
19 debtor has not consented, for whatever reason, it doesn't
20 want to give its consent. It does not want to put its
21 imprimatur on the prosecution of these claims, and so it is
22 deliberately withheld its consent, although it is for other
23 reasons, agreed with the committee that they will not oppose
24 the committee's attempt to satisfy the STN standard.

25 I think it's significant because in the disclosure

1 statement on page 108, we read that the debtor has made a
2 determination that if there were no viable fraudulent
3 conveyance claims.

4 THE COURT: Well, but won't that always be the
5 case? I mean, one of the arguments in your -- sort of thing
6 that permeates your objection is essentially that they made
7 these determinations, they're not going to pursue them
8 because they made a decision not to pursue them. And that's
9 always going to be the case in one of these motions, right?

10 So if I adopt that standard, then you never grant
11 one of these motions. I mean, if a debtor says in a
12 disclosure statement we think these things are meritorious
13 and should be pursued, there are going to be a lot of
14 questions about why the estate is not pursuing them.

15 MR. VENDITTO: I think that's precisely why in the
16 STN case, the standard is unjustifiable refusal. And the
17 question is whether or not the determination by the debtor
18 here was an unjustifiable refusal to prosecute claims.

19 THE COURT: Well, I agree with you to the extent
20 that we're talking about the STN standard, but if we're
21 talking about Commodore, Commodore does not have that
22 requirement.

23 MR. VENDITTO: True.

24 THE COURT: All right. I didn't mean to interrupt
25 your train of thought.

1 MR. VENDITTO: Well, I think that there are a
2 number of issues which permeate the committee's motion.
3 Essentially, I think the problem is a lack of support or
4 evidentiary support for the findings that the Court is
5 required to make under the STN line of cases, including
6 Commodore and Housegraft. You're not supposed to merely
7 exceed to the committee's desire to overtake the prosecution
8 of the causes of action. You're supposed to make certain
9 very specific findings.

10 If we're dealing with the STN standard, you have
11 to make a determination that the decision by the debtor not
12 to prosecute the claims was unjustifiable. If, however,
13 we're dealing with the Commodore standard or under the STN
14 standard the unjustifiable standard has been met, you now
15 have to look at whether or not the claims are colorable,
16 whether or not prosecution would be in the best interests of
17 the estate, and whether or not the prosecution of those
18 claims is necessary and would produce a benefit.

19 So let's place to one side the issue of whether or
20 not the debtor's decision not to prosecute the claims was
21 unjustified, because there's nothing in the record that
22 would permit the Court to make any finding whatsoever on
23 that issue.

24 The only way you could proceed to the rest of the
25 consideration of this motion, would be to say, STN doesn't

1 apply because I'm going to assume that the failure to object
2 is tantamount to consent. That would be a decision of first
3 impression, because no other cases specifically held that a
4 failure to object equals consent.

5 And I think for the reasons that the debtor has
6 chosen not to consent, means that there's a difference, and
7 whatever that difference is, is meaningful, at least in the
8 debtor's view.

9 THE COURT: Well, I do distinguish this situation
10 from one where a party is absent and has -- there's no
11 evidence that they've thought about the issue, considered
12 the issue, there being discussions on the issue. And
13 certainly I agree with you that there's been a conscious
14 decision to use a particular terminology here, but it does
15 appear that the agreement and the language that's in various
16 documents, including the disclosure statement is struck with
17 the understanding that the committee would go forward,
18 absent a denial of their -- of a request for standing.

19 MR. VENDITTO: And I would submit that that does
20 not equal consent, particularly when we know that the debtor
21 which is, of course, a fiduciary and the one with the
22 statutory obligation to prosecute the claims, made a
23 determination according to what they said in the disclosure
24 statement, that there are no viable fraudulent conveyance
25 claims.

1 So when you put --

2 THE COURT: I think that's almost always going to
3 be true in dealing with this issue, right?

4 MR. VENDITTO: Well, no, I disagree. Because
5 that's exactly why the standard, that the 2nd Circuit has
6 articulated uses the word unjustified. I would submit to
7 Your Honor that what we have here are two preeminent law
8 firms, two preeminent sets of professionals, apparently
9 looking at the same facts, doing the same legal research,
10 and coming to different conclusions.

11 Now, whether or not the decision by one set of
12 professionals over another set of professionals to prosecute
13 a cause of action or claim that the other group of
14 professionals doesn't think is viable, I don't know that you
15 can characterize that as unjustified. And I certainly don't
16 know if as a result of that, you can just on -- without
17 further articulation or evidence make a determination that
18 the resulting claim to be prosecuted is colorable.

19 I think the fact that the committee --

20 THE COURT: Well, I didn't see anything -- I saw
21 your pleadings to challenge consent, I also saw them to
22 challenge the second part of the test dealing with, you
23 know, whether it's a reasonable exercise. I didn't see
24 anything that challenged the colorable nature of the claims
25 under that specific prong. I saw your argument really to be

1 more of a cost benefit analysis given all the factors. Am I
2 understanding your argument right?

3 MR. VENDITTO: Well, not entirely, Your Honor.
4 Because it's the committee's obligation to prove the
5 elements, and you have to make a factual determination based
6 on the proof that's submitted. It's not my obligation to
7 disprove whether or not the claims are colorable. I could
8 tic off a number of legal impediments to the --

9 THE COURT: Well, I know, but I also look to see
10 what people have objected to, so if you don't have a section
11 entitled, the claims are not colorable, then I certainly
12 take from that a certain message that you're not
13 specifically teeing up a challenge to that part of the
14 standard. But that's fine.

15 MR. VENDITTO: Quite frankly, Your Honor, the
16 articulated legal standard for what constitutes a colorable
17 claim is so low, that --

18 THE COURT: And that's why I suspected you did not
19 choose that, to fight on that particular turf.

20 MR. VENDITTO: I mean, as far as I'm concerned,
21 the committee has read Section 547 and 548, put the
22 appropriate words in their brief. We haven't even seen the
23 proposed pleading, and I guess that may meet the standard in
24 this district for what constitutes a colorable claim.

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 MR. VENDITTO: Your Honor, that takes us then on
2 to the best interest and the benefit issues.

3 First and foremost, I think we need to understand
4 it, because I was very, very surprised to hear Mr. Fleck say
5 that the work necessary to prosecute these claims has been
6 substantially completed. As I look at what the claim is,
7 according to their papers, they want to set forth that IAHL
8 was insolvent on two specific dates, September in 2010 and
9 September of 2011.

10 Now, you know that the portfolio of investments
11 held by IAHL was substantial, varied, and there's been a lot
12 of work put in to determine values. I don't know that any
13 work has been done to determine values in 2010 and 2011,
14 which would be the necessary predicates to move forward with
15 this claim. But I'll take Mr. Fleck at his word that they
16 have done that work.

17 I can't imagine that as a result of that work,
18 that the preparation of the expert reports that would be
19 necessary to get by a motion for summary judgment, or to
20 come up with a colorable claim at trial could not far exceed
21 the potential recovery into the estate.

22 Remember, Your Honor, that --

23 THE COURT: Well, are you telling me they're going
24 to spend more than \$100 million on litigation?

25 MR. VENDITTO: Your Honor, they're not recovering

1 \$100 million. The potential recovery is only \$1 million,
2 which is the preference claim, for which they don't have to
3 do any of that work. All of the heavy lifting with respect
4 to the fraudulent conveyance claim in 2010 and 2011, has to
5 do with the avoidance of the guarantee.

6 The result of victory, absolute victory for the
7 committee in the prosecution of that fraudulent conveyance
8 claim is that the Arcsukuk's claim in Class 4B goes away,
9 and they're only a creditor in Class 4A. So it results in a
10 redistribution of distributions under the plan. It doesn't
11 bring dollar one into the estate.

12 So every dollar essentially that's spent in the
13 prosecution of the fraudulent conveyance claim is a dollar
14 tossed out the window of the debtor's estate. And that's
15 why I suggest to Your Honor that they have not demonstrated
16 that the prosecution of the claims is in the best interests
17 of the estate, or is it necessary or beneficial for the
18 estate.

19 You could -- and you're unfortunately going to
20 have to read a little bit between the lines, because there
21 is no evidence before you, that the debtor has made some
22 similar type of analysis as how much are we going to spend
23 in the prosecution of this fraudulent conveyance claim, and
24 what is the benefit coming back into the estate.

25 There's been no demonstration or showing by the

1 committee in that area. We have some again repetition of
2 some of the words that you see in some of the cases, but no
3 evidence on which you could make that determination.

4 I can't imagine that they could possibly --

5 THE COURT: Well, I don't see anything in the
6 cases that made this particularly an evidentiary matter, and
7 I -- given my background, and I think anybody who's appeared
8 in front of me knows that I certainly am probably a bit
9 obsessed with evidence in its proper form, but there are
10 times when I look at the cases and don't really see that
11 it's an evidence driven inquiry, and this doesn't seem to
12 be. This essentially seems to be, people come in, they say
13 here are what our allegations are, and here's what we can
14 tell you about the benefit, including the costs. But I --
15 it certainly doesn't look something that is driven by
16 detailed evidence here.

17 So when you use that term, what do you
18 contemplate?

19 MR. VENDITTO: Well, in the STN case, the 2nd
20 Circuit talked about affidavits or evidence. And if you're
21 going to make a determination that the prosecution of this
22 cause of action is in the best interests of the estate,
23 you're going to have to have some sense what this will cost,
24 and I think you begin to get into that inquiry with Mr.
25 Fleck, but you didn't get very much in the way of specifics.

1 And what is the resulting benefit into the estate?
2 Now, the creditors who are dependent on distributions out of
3 the estate under this confirmed plan for their recoveries
4 are going to be very, very much concerned about whether or
5 not money is being properly spent. I know there's been
6 concern about budgets and how much is being allocated for
7 overhead, and these expenses and that, litigation
8 expenses --

9 THE COURT: Well, but I don't have any objections
10 from anybody else, so I certainly would expect if that was a
11 concern motivating other creditors, that I would have seen
12 them in here in the courtroom.

13 MR. VENDITTO: Well, perhaps they would have if
14 there were numbers in the motion on which they could have
15 formed some determination.

16 THE COURT: I actually think it's the opposite
17 way. The lack of numbers always scares people more than the
18 actual numbers, but we can -- I beg to differ on that.

19 MR. VENDITTO: Your Honor, the complexity of the
20 underlying issues for the fraudulent conveyance claim are so
21 substantial, the type of expert testimony that will be
22 necessary, the number of people who are qualified to provide
23 that type of expert analysis on insolvency, of all of these
24 investment portfolios over a two-year period, are going to
25 be very limited, and I think that is going to be extremely

1 expensive.

2 The benefit to the estate of that expenditure is
3 not obvious on the record before you, and I don't know on
4 what basis you could make a determination that it's
5 beneficial to the estate to prosecute this.

6 Yes, there are certain creditors who would benefit
7 if the guarantee claim were extinguished because then one
8 group of creditor pool would be smaller than another. But
9 for the overall group of creditors, I don't think it's
10 necessarily beneficial.

11 Now, obviously, you look at me with a jaundiced
12 eye when I make that argument, because we're the ones who
13 have a direct economic interest in defeating the committee's
14 motion, but I also think your obligation is to act as the
15 gatekeeper, you're responsible for making that determination
16 that there's sufficient basis on which the committee has
17 established that it's in the best interest of the estate to
18 prosecute this claim.

19 Now, just because the motion is denied doesn't
20 mean that the claim will never be prosecuted, because as we
21 pointed out in our motion, under the terms of the plan, the
22 debtor, the reorganized debtor retains that cause of action
23 and claim, a determination can be made by the board of
24 directors of the reorganized debtor.

25 THE COURT: But I think that's always true in

1 these -- in all these motions, right, so if that --

2 MR. VENDITTO: Not necessarily. Not necessarily.
3 Because there could be circumstances where for whatever
4 reason, a board of directors will not act, or that the board
5 of directors as you control of people who are the subjects
6 of causes of action, so it's not necessarily true to say
7 that this is a common circumstance. I think this is a
8 highly unusual circumstance for this type of a SDN motion.

9 In reality, what we have here is odd dynamic, and
10 unfortunately that odd dynamic isn't really fleshed out for
11 you in the motion papers to understand exactly why the
12 debtor's professionals decided not to prosecute the cause of
13 action. The committee's professionals have decided to, and
14 want to, even though the board of directors that is going to
15 be taking over from management post confirmation is going to
16 be responsible for prosecuting the claim if its viable. And
17 they're the ones obviously are going to have to account for
18 the expenses. The committee would be disbanded on the
19 effective date or shortly thereafter when the remaining
20 conditions to effectiveness are satisfied.

21 So essentially what you're being asked to do is to
22 prolong the life of the committee and its professionals to
23 pursue this cause of action, rather than to allow it to sit
24 with the reorganized board of directors, who have the best
25 ability to control the expenses.

1 I think Your Honor yourself noted in response to
2 your colloquy with Mr. Fleck that once you approve this
3 motion, you're sort of letting the cat out of the bag, and
4 you're not going to have the ability to control the
5 expenditures that get incurred.

6 In my view, this will be a ferociously expensive
7 litigation if it moves forward. I believe that we have
8 substantial defenses. We may be able to knock it out on a
9 12(b)(6) motion, but if not, and the cause of action moves
10 forward, there will be incredible amount of discovery in
11 countries around the world.

12 I mean, in fact, the connection of this litigation
13 to the United States is questionable. The payments were
14 made from Bahraini entity to a Cayman entity through a bank
15 in London, and the certificate holders were all non-U.S.
16 citizens. So the discovery will be taking place outside the
17 U.S. and around the world.

18 The discovery -- the expert work, same thing, will
19 take place around the world. The cost to the estate of
20 prosecuting that litigation, let alone the cost of the
21 Arcsukuk of defending that litigation will be substantial.
22 And I think before the Court authorizes or permits that type
23 of expenditure of estate funds or creditor funds, that it
24 needs a better developed record, and better substantiation
25 for the merits of the claim, the benefit to be received by

1 creditors.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MR. VENDITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 MR. FLECK: If I may, Your Honor, Evan Fleck again
6 for the committee. I'll be brief. I just want to respond
7 to a couple of points, but before I do that, I wanted to --
8 I apologize for having my Blackberry, but that's the way
9 technology works, and to give Your Honor the cite.

10 The disclosure statement reads on page 185, and I
11 can read it to Your Honor -- well, if you have it there,
12 I'll just start the section as described in Section 6(b)(10)
13 above, the committee believes there may be a viable
14 fraudulent conveyance claim against the Arcsukuk trustee
15 related to the Arcsukuk guarantee. The plan preserves the
16 right of any party withstanding to pursue such an avoidance
17 action against the Arcsukuk trustee.

18 Footnote 48, the debtors have agreed that will not
19 oppose any attempt by the committee to obtain standing to
20 pursue such avoidance action against the Arcsukuk trustee.

21 The avoidance action is defined as including the
22 preference action that's the subject of the motion.

23 THE COURT: All right. That's -- because when I
24 looked at this without reference to that definition, it
25 seems on its own to relate simply to the Arcsukuk guarantee,

1 which I know is the thing you're trying to avoid in the
2 second claim. So you're saying that essentially the
3 definition of avoidance action includes the preference claim
4 dealing with the transfer of -- alleged transfer of cash for
5 Arcapita to the Arcsukuk trustee within 90 days of the
6 filing?

7 MR. FLECK: That is my understanding, Your Honor.
8 I know the facts to be correct and Mr. Rosenthal has
9 confirmed that it's the same -- the debtor's position is the
10 same with respect to both actions. It's been confirmed to
11 me but I don't have the document unfortunately in front of
12 me that confirms that the defined terms are the same.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. FLECK: I think it's important, Your Honor,
15 that I just clarify a couple of things for the record.
16 First of all, Mr. Venditto referenced a number of times the
17 committee's professionals are looking to pursue this action.
18 I think it's important that Your Honor hear from us directly
19 again that this is an action that the committee, after
20 considered, based upon considered judgment, believes to be
21 in the best interests of the estate.

22 The fact that again the avoidance of the guarantee
23 will result in a reallocation or an appropriate allocation
24 among creditors is really of no moment with respect to the
25 colorability, and the standard here, Your Honor.

1 The committee has an obligation as do the debtors,
2 in fact, to be sure that appropriate claims are allowed
3 against the estate. It's our view that the Arcsukuk
4 guarantee should not be an allowed claim against the estate.

5 The committee could certainly file an objection to
6 that claim but there's no -- we don't need to satisfy a
7 standing requirement. Certainly any party in interest could
8 file an objection to that claim. We're approaching this
9 more openly that we believe that there's an avoidance action
10 here, and what backs up the objection to the claim has been
11 put before the Court in our motion. But certainly we have
12 that right, as does every party in interest to object to the
13 claim, and we think it's appropriate, and it's consistent
14 with the charge and the mandate of a committee and our
15 duties to be sure that only parties that have appropriately
16 allowed claims should receive a distribution from the
17 estate. So if we approach it --

18 THE COURT: I understand that. I understood that
19 point to go the upside of the potential monetary gain, so
20 that even though it's a \$100 million guarantee, what I
21 understood the position of New York Bank Mellon to be is
22 that it can only net out as a million dollars' worth of
23 benefit to anyone, because it's a reallocation rather than
24 any sort of influx of funds or something else.

25 MR. FLECK: Well, what I heard them to say is that

1 there's the million plus of the preference claims, that's
2 the actual money back into the estate, and that I think
3 their position would be that there's no economic benefit to
4 the estate of avoiding a \$100 million guarantee, and
5 therefore, whenever you have an action where a committee is
6 actually seeking to pursue an avoidance claim where one
7 creditor group might benefit from it, another one may be
8 harmed, it could never satisfy that prong of the standard
9 because there will actually be costs that the committee
10 would need to incur. And they wouldn't be, for lack of a
11 better of word, recouped, or you couldn't actually kind of
12 have a ledger sheet, look at the costs, and then look at the
13 actual dollars into the estate.

14 This is a different type of matter, and I think
15 the Courts should be flexible enough to recognize that
16 distinction. There are certainly dollars into the estate
17 that we're talking about, at least potentially, with respect
18 to the placement actions. And as Mr. Venditto, I think he
19 was referring to the preference action with respect to the
20 Arcsukuk trustee, where there would be dollars in the door.

21 The last point I wanted to make, Your Honor, is to
22 clarify again. I think the suggestion was made repeatedly
23 both in the papers and then again in the oral presentation,
24 that there was something that was not put before the Court
25 with respect to an agreement between the debtors and the

1 committee on this action.

2 And I don't think it was deliberate in Mr.
3 Rosenthal's statement at all, but I think it's important
4 that Your Honor know. The difference between when the
5 committee and the debtors were deciding how we were going to
6 characterize this action really went to whether the debtors
7 wanted to be a cheerleader for this action, and wanted to be
8 out front, or wanted to -- as opposed to recognizing the
9 allocation of responsibilities, and that the committee had
10 spent the time on this action to move forward and pursue it.

11 So the distinction, it's not as though there was a
12 long debate between Mr. Rosenthal and myself, as to whether
13 the language should be consent, because we knew the
14 Commodore -- and we should have, but that wasn't the case at
15 all, Your Honor. We weren't looking to the standard in
16 trying to make the question more difficult for Your Honor.
17 And I think perhaps had we been focused on the standard, we
18 probably would've used the word consent because certainly in
19 our view, when you look at the definition of consent, that's
20 really what -- that's what the debtors are doing here.

21 They are certainly not opposing it, they're not
22 standing on the sidelines, and they are openly recognizing
23 the fact that the committee would be pursuing this action or
24 this collection -- these collection of actions for the
25 benefit of creditors of the estate. And I believe with

1 that, I'll cede the podium.

2 THE COURT: All right. Anybody else wish to be
3 heard on this motion?

4 MR. VENDITTO: Your Honor, if I may just clarify
5 that one point that you just discussed with Mr. Fleck.

6 My point was, that the cost of the litigation has
7 to be balanced against the potential recovery into the
8 estate. There is two claims, the \$100 million guarantee
9 claim and the \$1 million preference claim. So the potential
10 for a dollar recovery into the estate from the prosecution
11 of claims against the Arcsukuk is limited to the million
12 dollars.

13 The \$100 million avoidance claim doesn't produce
14 any dollar benefit into the estate. It results in a benefit
15 to creditors in Class 4B, but doesn't produce any benefit to
16 the estate.

17 And so when you look at the determination of --
18 one of the required determinations is the benefit to the
19 estate. You have to look at the cost of the litigation,
20 which so far is unknown to the potential benefit of the
21 prosecution of that claim.

22 THE COURT: All right. Although doesn't that
23 circumstance help explain why the debtors would be less
24 excited, and this would be something that a committee in
25 trying to figure out who should get the appropriate share of

1 the pie would -- is not surprisingly a party that's
2 interested in bringing the action?

3 MR. VENDITTO: Obviously, the creditors who
4 benefit from the litigation have the most interest in it.
5 We can't read into what the other committee members were
6 thinking, probably listening to the advice of counsel, in
7 terms of what their duties were, et cetera.

8 We don't know how much of a cost benefit analysis
9 they went through. But ultimately, that obligation is
10 yours, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 MR. VENDITTO: Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Anyone else wish to be
14 heard?

15 (No response)

16 THE COURT: All right. What I would like to do is
17 the following. I do think it is incumbent upon me to get
18 before me, as I think my first or second question to Mr.
19 Fleck was, some evidence of the litigation costs here and
20 the parameters. Because for better or worse, I think that
21 that's the inquiry, and I know that there is certainly cases
22 that talk about a fair chance of litigation exceeding the
23 cost, but again, that presumes that we have some idea of
24 what the cost is.

25 And I think the reason why I reference Judge

1 Glenn's decision is because I think it shows that it doesn't
2 have to be, you know, an exacting budget necessarily,
3 although certainly more details make it easier, rather than
4 less to determine the appropriateness of it. But I do think
5 it means you have -- a Court has to have some sense of what
6 is going to happen going forward.

7 So what I'd like to do is get that information,
8 and then I'll give folks a chance to address it at another
9 hearing, and then I'll make my decision at that time. That
10 I do think is sort of the missing piece of the puzzle from
11 my point of view.

12 Obviously to the extent that you're getting me
13 that information about costs, and costs are obviously on one
14 side, and benefits obviously on the other, I'm perfectly
15 fine if you want to take the opportunity to talk about the
16 benefits as well, in terms of whatever declaration you're
17 going to give me. And then I'll give the objectors or
18 anybody else a chance to respond to that. But I do think
19 that that's something I feel like I need some additional
20 information, and I'll leave it to your professional judgment
21 as to how detailed that information should be.

22 Obviously, Mr. Fleck as you mentioned, there are
23 times when you can make life easier for a Court, and there
24 are times when you say, well, here's what we have. So I'll
25 leave it to you to say what you think is appropriate to say

1 under the circumstances. But I do think that the teachings
2 of the case law are that the 2nd Circuit found STN to be a
3 bit too narrow. But in opening up the standard, is still
4 very concerned about cost versus benefit in some meaningful
5 way, and so that's what I would like parties to do.

6 So if you all want to work out some schedule for
7 that, I'm happy to defer to your professional judgment to
8 figure that out, and contact chambers for -- to take this up
9 at an adjourned hearing.

10 MR. FLECK: We'll do that, Your Honor, we'll work
11 together and come up with a schedule.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. FLECK: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Anything else we need to discuss
15 today?

16 MR. ROSENTHAL: Your Honor, I have one scheduling
17 matter to raise with the Court, and I know we're running
18 over.

19 We have a status conference on -- a status hearing
20 on -- or I'm sorry, a monthly hearing on July 18th, at which
21 also set for that day are the Eurolog fee matters.

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. ROSENTHAL: We have heard from Linklaters that
24 they have a potential conflict on the 18th, and were -- and
25 we've consulted with the committee, and we're wondering

1 whether we could move that hearing from the 18th until the
2 25th. It's just a request, but we -- I thought we'd take it
3 up with the Court now.

4 THE COURT: Yeah, I have no problem. Obviously, I
5 can't magically produce somebody if they're in another spot
6 on the globe. My only problem in addressing that request
7 right now is just this morning, I had a request in another
8 matter that was the 17th, 18th to move to another date, and
9 we may have just put them on the 25th. And I also am
10 informed by people who are paying more attention in the
11 details of this than I am, is that I have an American
12 Airlines hearing on the 25th, and I'm never quite sure
13 exactly how long those are going to go. They start at 11,
14 and can last several hours or longer, depending on
15 circumstances.

16 So hold on one minute.

17 (Pause)

18 THE COURT: Yeah, and I think I also have another
19 mega case that got moved from the 17th to the -- yeah, so
20 let me do this. I'm happy to reschedule that date, but let
21 me not do it here, because if I do it here I'm going to do
22 it wrong, and you'll have to talk to somebody who's the
23 right person later.

24 MR. ROSENTHAL: Let me modify my request. The
25 only date that the Milbank litigator who's handling this

1 said that he could do it other than the 18th would be the
2 25th. If the Court cannot do it on the 25th, and it sounds
3 like it would be difficult, then we will move heaven and
4 earth to get Linklaters who said that if they absolutely
5 have to do it, they would do it -- they could do it on the
6 18th. We don't want to give up the 18th, you know, unless
7 we get the 25th.

8 So rather than searching for another date, if it
9 seems -- it seems as if that's not a doable date, so let's
10 just stick with the 18th and I'll --

11 THE COURT: And I will tell you, absent sequester,
12 I'd be happy to put you on the 25th and we get it done for
13 however long it takes. I no longer have that option, which
14 is something I avail myself of numerous times until somebody
15 told me I had to stop doing that, so.

16 MR. ROSENTHAL: Well then forget I made the
17 request.

18 MR. FLECK: There -- I just wanted to mention just
19 for ease of scheduling, our litigators can -- there are
20 other dates in July that work, it was just that the request
21 was -- the proposal was made, can you do it the week after
22 the 18th, so I think the only date is the 25th that works
23 for the trial, and I think just to remind Your Honor, this
24 is going to take a bit of time, there at least will be some
25 evidentiary presentation.

1 THE COURT: How long do you anticipate? I was
2 figuring at least half a day and maybe --

3 MR. ROSENTHAL: Yes. Your Honor, there's one
4 witness, we have one witness, and we think -- we were
5 estimating two hours is what I -- Mr. Millet who's probably
6 going to handle it, and I think Mr. LeBlanc had talked.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 MR. ROSENTHAL: But I don't think our direct
9 witness I would suspect --

10 THE COURT: Yeah, see it's witnesses, I'd hate to
11 bring somebody in and then essentially we all turn into a
12 pumpkin at 5 o'clock, because we have to turn off the lights
13 figuratively speaking.

14 MR. ROSENTHAL: I think that's the only witness,
15 though.

16 THE COURT: All right. I would assume right now
17 that the 25th is not going to work. If in consultation with
18 everyone you say well, there's more flexibility and we
19 really do want to avoid the 18th, just contact my chambers.
20 I'm happy to move it. I just -- it is -- it would be
21 unfortunate to bring somebody in as a witness on the 25th,
22 and then mid-sentence at 5 o'clock ask them to stop talking
23 and come back the next day.

24 MR. ROSENTHAL: Understood. We're going to leave
25 here with the 18th.

1 THE COURT: All right. That's fine. And again,
2 write your local congress person and senators, we have often
3 in this courthouse, we've had hearings to all hours of the
4 day and night, somebody viewed that as a bad idea, but
5 generally the idea is to get people the service they need as
6 quickly as possible, and it is frustrating to not have that
7 option available, or otherwise I'd just put you in the
8 afternoon the 25th and we'd get it done.

9 So my apologies, but again, if you come up with a
10 more creative solution, feel free to call chambers and we'll
11 do the best we can, subject to funding restrictions.

12 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Your Honor.
13 Frustrating for everyone.

14 THE COURT: Yes, it is. All right. So that
15 concludes the Arcapita Bank hearing for today, and I will
16 wait to hear from the parties to this motion when you want
17 to tee the adjourned date up, and you can either submit that
18 by letter. I scarcely think it's worth the effort of a
19 stipulation, but I'll leave it all to your professional
20 judgment what you'd be most comfortable with.

21 MR. FLECK: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 MR. VENDITTO: Thank you.

23 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

24 (Proceedings concluded at 3:27 PM)

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I N D E X

R U L I N G S

IDENTIFICATION

PAGE

Doc #12 Motion to Authorize - Debtors' Motion 7
for Interim and Final Orders (A) Authorizing
Debtors to (I) Continue Existing Cash Management
System, Bank Accounts, and Business Forms and
(II) Continue Ordinary Course Intercompany
Transactions; and (B) Granting an Extension of Time

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Sheila G. Orms, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Dated: June 28, 2013

Shelia G. Orms

Digitally signed by Shelia G. Orms
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