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

In re:

CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al., 1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 25-10603 (TMH)

(Jointly Administered)

# APPLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF GIBBONS P.C. AS ITS COUNSEL NUNC PRO TUNC TO APRIL 13, 2025

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") appointed in the chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") of the above-captioned debtors and debtors-in-possession (the "Debtors") hereby files this application (this "Application") for entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, authorizing the retention and employment of Gibbons P.C. ("Gibbons" or the "Firm") as its Counsel nunc pro tunc to April 13, 2025. In support of this Application, the Committee relies on the Declaration of Robert K. Malone, Esq. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 in Support of the Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Gibbons P.C. as its Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to April 13, 2025 (the "Malone Declaration"), attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, and the Declaration of Spencer Patton Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 in Support of the Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.



the Employment and Retention of Gibbons P.C. as its Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to April 13, 2025 (the "Patton Declaration"), attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue of this proceeding and this Application is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 2. The statutory bases for the relief requested herein are sections 1103(a) and 328(a) of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2014 and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") and Rule 2014-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Local Rules").

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 3. On March 30, 2025 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief in this Court, commencing these Chapter 11 Cases. The Debtors continue to manage and operate their businesses as debtors in possession under sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. To date, no trustee or examiner has been appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 4. On April 10, 2025, the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the "<u>U.S. Trustee</u>") constituted and appointed the Committee, consisting of: (i) InterPrivate III Financial Partners Inc., (ii) Socure Inc., (iii) Eden Reforestation Projects and Compassionate Carbons, LLC, (iv) Clarity AI Inc., and (v) Sandline Discovery LLC. [D.I. 59]. Thereafter, on April 13, 2025, the Committee selected and retained, subject to Court approval, Gibbons P.C. as its counsel and Dundon Advisers LLC as its financial advisor. Spencer Patton of Sandline Discovery, LLC was thereafter selected as the Chairperson of the Committee.

#### **RELIEF REQUESTED AND BASIS THEREFOR**

- 5. By way of this Application, pursuant to sections 328(a) and 1103(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 2014, the Committee respectfully requests entry of the proposed order attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, approving the employment and retention of Gibbons, *nunc pro tunc* to April 13, 2025, as its counsel in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 6. The Committee determined that Gibbons' combination of relevant financial restructuring and bankruptcy related experience, preparation and analysis of issues, among other considerations, warranted selection of the Firm. Gibbons' attorneys have, over their respective careers, represented more than fifty (50) creditors' committees, among many other major chapter 11 engagements.
- 7. Pursuant to section 1103(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Committee requests that this Court approve the employment of Gibbons as its counsel to, among other things:
  - (a) Attend the meetings of the Committee;
  - (b) Review financial and operational information furnished by the Debtors to the Committee;
  - (c) Investigate and determine the value of unencumbered assets;
  - (d) Analyze and negotiate the budget and the terms of the Debtors' use of cash collateral;
  - (e) Assist in the efforts to sell assets or equity of the Debtors in a manner that maximizes the value for creditors;
  - (f) Review and diligence the proposed sale(s) of the Debtors' assets;
  - (g) If applicable, review and analyze chapter 11 plan issues and pursue confirmation of a plan or plans as may be appropriate to provide distributable value to the holders of general unsecured claims;
  - (h) Review and investigate the liens of any purported secured parties;

- (i) Review and investigate prepetition transactions in which the Debtors and/or their insiders were involved;
- (j) Confer with the Debtors' management, counsel and financial advisors;
- (k) Review the Debtors' schedules and statements of financial affairs;
- (l) Advise the Committee as to the ramifications regarding all of the Debtors' activities and motions before this Court;
- (m) File appropriate pleadings on behalf of the Committee;
- (n) Review and analyze the Debtors' financial professionals' work product and report to the Committee on that analysis;
- (o) Provide the Committee with legal advice in relation to these Chapter 11 Cases;
- (p) Prepare various applications and memoranda of law submitted to the Court for consideration; and
- (q) Perform such other legal services for the Committee as may be necessary or proper in this proceeding.
- 8. Gibbons has advised the Committee that it intends to apply to the Court for compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and any administrative compensation order entered in these Chapter 11 Cases. The proposed rates of compensation, subject to final Court approval, are the customary hourly rates in effect when services of this nature are performed by the attorneys, legal assistants and staff who may be called upon to provide services to the Committee. The Firm's current hourly rates range from \$275.00 for paralegals to \$1,600.00 for the Firm's most senior partners. The current hourly rates of the primary Gibbons professionals anticipated to be staffed on this engagement are as follows:

Timekeeper	Title	<b>Hourly Rates</b>	
Robert K. Malone	Director	\$1,375.00	
Brett S. Theisen	Director	\$850.00	
Katharina Earle	Director	\$825.00	
Christopher P. Anton	Counsel	\$850.00	
Kyle P. McEvilly	Associate	\$525.00	
Neal Mitchell	Paralegal	\$375.00	

Gibbons has advised the Committee that the Firm's hourly rates are subject to periodic adjustments, of which the Firm will provide notice.

- 9. Consistent with the Firm's policy with respect to its other clients, Gibbons will charge the Debtors' estates for all charges and disbursements incurred in rendering services to the Committee. These customary items include, among other things, photocopying, facsimiles, actual out-of-pocket expenses for travel, lodging, and business meals, computerized research, postage, witness fees, and other fees related to trials and hearings. Internal costs or overhead cost and document production services (including regular secretarial and word processing time), will not be charged for separately.
- 10. As part of the terms of its engagement, Gibbons has agreed not to bill the Committee for non-working travel time between its offices in New York, New Jersey and Delaware. If the Firm's professionals are required to travel beyond New York, New Jersey and Delaware, the Firm's attorneys will time at 50% of applicable rates for non-working travel time.
- 11. Based upon the Malone Declaration filed contemporaneously herewith, the Committee is satisfied that (i) Gibbons does not hold or represent an adverse interest in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases, and that its employment is in the best interest of the estates, (ii) Gibbons has no connection with the U.S. Trustee or any other person employed in the office of the U.S. Trustee, and (iii) Gibbons has not been paid any retainer against which to bill fees and expenses.

To the best of the Committee's knowledge, Gibbons has no connection with creditors or any other party in interest except as otherwise noted in the Malone Declaration.

12. Nunc pro tunc relief is warranted with respect to Gibbons' retention. The Firm has been diligent since its selection by the Committee in preparing and prosecuting its Application in a timely manner under the circumstances of these Chapter 11 Cases and working on behalf of the Committee. An initial focus of the Firm's work was necessarily devoted to the Second Day Hearing (the "Hearing") held by the Court on May 14, 2025. Upon its selection, Gibbons immediately engaged with counsel to the Debtors and the lenders, raised a number of concerns, filed a limited objection and reservation of rights in connection with the Debtors' bid procedures and DIP financing motions, appeared with the Debtors at the Hearing to advise the Court of the Committee's concerns and potential paths forward, and conducted an expedited due diligence investigation. By the time the Committee retained Gibbons, the Debtors' sale process was well underway and proceeding on an expedited track. Gibbons has been actively working with the Debtors' professionals to come up to speed and resolve the Committee's concerns with respect to the sale of the Debtors' assets. These circumstances warrant nunc pro tunc relief. See, e.g., In re United Cos. Fin. Corp., 241 B.R. 521, 526 (Banks. D. Del. 1999) ("In fact, the [United States Trustee] recognizes that in large chapter 11 cases, given the press of urgent matters to be determined in the early days of the chapter 11 proceeding, the preparation and filing of retention applications for all professionals may be delayed. If such applications are filed within 30 days of the petition date, therefore, the [United States Trustee] will, not ordinarily object.").

#### STATEMENT REGARDING U.S. TRUSTEE GUIDELINES

13. Gibbons intends to apply for compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases, subject to

approval of the Court and in compliance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and

applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, and any other applicable procedures

and orders of the Court, on an hourly basis, plus reimbursement of actual, necessary expenses and

other charges incurred by Gibbons. Gibbons also intends to make reasonable efforts to comply

with the U.S. Trustee's requests for information and additional disclosures, as set forth in the

Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed

under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Case Effective as of November 1, 2013,

(the "UST Guidelines"), both in connection with this Application and the interim and final fee

applications to be filed by Gibbons in these Chapter 11 Cases.

**NOTICE** 

14. Notice of this Application has been given to (i) the U.S. Trustee; (ii) counsel for

the Debtors; and (iii) those persons who have requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

The Committee respectfully submits that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or

further notice need be given.

**CONCLUSION** 

WHEREFORE, the Committee hereby respectfully requests that it be authorized to retain

and employ Gibbons P.C. as its counsel nunc pro tunc to April 13, 2025, that Gibbons be paid such

compensation as may be allowed by this Court in accordance with sections 330 and 331 of the

Bankruptcy Code, and that the Committee be awarded such other further relief as is deemed just and

proper.

Dated: May 27, 2025

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of CTN Holdings, Inc., et al.

By:/s/ Spence Patton

Spencer Patton, solely in his capacity as

Chairperson of the Committee

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### EXHIBIT A

**Proposed Order** 

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

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CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 25-10603 (TMH)

(Jointly Administered)

Re. Docket No.:

## ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF GIBBONS P.C. AS COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS NUNC PRO TUNC TO APRIL 13, 2025

Upon the application (the "Application")<sup>2</sup> of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") for entry of an order authorizing the Committee to employ and retain Gibbons P.C. ("Gibbons") as its counsel nunc pro tunc to April 13, 2025, the date the Committee determined to employ Gibbons as its counsel in these Chapter 11 Cases, pursuant to sections 328(a) and 1103 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"); and upon the Malone Declaration attached to the Application as Exhibit B; and upon the Patton Declaration attached to the Application as Exhibit C; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Application and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and 157, and the Amended Standing Order of Reference dated February 29, 2012, from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware; and it appearing that the Application is a core matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2) and that the Court can enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and venue being proper in this Court pursuant to sections 1408 and 1409 of title 28 of the United States Code; and the Court being

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used, but not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Application.

satisfied that notice of the Application and the opportunity for a hearing on the Application was appropriate under the particular circumstances and no further or other notice need by given; and the Court being satisfied, based on the representations made in the Application and the Malone Declaration, that Gibbons does not hold or represent an adverse interest in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases, and that Gibbons is a "disinterested person" as such term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code; and the Court having determined that the relief sought in the Application is in the best interests of the Committee, the Debtors, their creditors, and all parties in interest; and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application and the Malone Declaration, and at the hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

#### It is hereby **ORDERED** that:

- 1. The Application is **GRANTED** as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to sections 328(a) and 1103(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Committee is authorized to employ and retain Gibbons as bankruptcy counsel *nunc pro tunc* to April 13, 2025.
- 4. Gibbons shall apply for compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases in compliance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Rules and Local Rules, and applicable orders of this Court. Gibbons intends to make all reasonable efforts to comply with the U.S. Trustee's requests for information and additional disclosures as set forth in the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Case Effective as of November 1, 2013*, both in connection with this Application and the interim and final fee applications to be filed by Gibbons in these Chapter 11 Cases.

- 5. Gibbons shall provide ten (10) business days' notice to the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, and the Committee before any increases in the rates set forth in the Application or any agreement entered into in connection with the Committee's retention of Gibbons are implemented and shall file such notice with the Court, provided, however, that in the event that Gibbons attorneys responsible for this matter do not have sufficient advance notice of such rate increases, Gibbons shall provide notice to the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, and the Committee as soon as practicable after the information regarding rate increases becomes available to Gibbons attorneys responsible for this matter. The U.S. Trustee retains all rights to object to any rate increase on all grounds, including, but not limited to, the reasonableness standard provided in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increases pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 6. No agreement or understanding exists between Gibbons and any other person, other than as permitted by section 504 of the Bankruptcy Code, to share compensation received for services rendered in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases. Gibbons shall not share or agree to share compensation received for services rendered in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases with any other person other than as permitted by section 504 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 7. All fees and expenses incurred by Gibbons and approved by the Court shall be treated as administrative expenses under section 503(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. Gibbons shall not seek reimbursement of any fees or costs arising from the defense of its fee applications in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 9. The Committee and Gibbons are authorized to take all actions they deem necessary and appropriate to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.

- 10. To the extent the Application, the Malone Declaration, and the Patton Declaration are inconsistent with this Order, or any agreements between the Committee and Gibbons are inconsistent with this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.
- 11. The terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 12. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from the implementation of this Order.

### **EXHIBIT B**

**Malone Declaration** 

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

In re:	Chapter 11
CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1	Case No. 25-10603 (TMH)
Debtors.	(Jointly Administered)

DECLARATION OF ROBERT K. MALONE, ESQ. PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1746 IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF GIBBONS P.C. AS ITS COUNSEL NUNC PRO TUNC TO APRIL 13, 2025

**ROBERT K. MALONE**, of full age, under penalty of perjury, hereby declares as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney at law admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and admitted *pro hac vice* to appear before this Court. I am a Director at the law firm of Gibbons P.C. ("Gibbons" or the "Firm") in the Firm's Financial Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Practice Group. I make this Declaration pursuant to section 1103 of chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2014.
- 2. Gibbons is a law firm of approximately 165 attorneys, which maintains an office at 300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1015, Wilmington, Delaware 19801-1671, among other locations. Subject to this Court's approval, Gibbons proposes to provide legal services to the Official Committee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.

of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") of CTN Holdings, Inc., *et al.* (the "Debtors"), at the rates approved by the Court, in compliance with sections 328(a), 504 and 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code, and to provide disclosure required under Rules 2014(a) and 2016(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Unless otherwise stated in this Declaration, I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. To the extent any information disclosed herein requires amendment or modification upon Gibbons' completion of further review or as additional party-in-interest information becomes available to it, a supplemental declaration will be submitted to the Court reflecting such amended or modified information.

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

3. The Committee seeks to employ Gibbons as its counsel because of the Firm's recognized experience and the extensive knowledge of its attorneys in fields of creditors' rights and corporate reorganizations under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. I have been a practicing attorney in the area of Corporate Bankruptcy and Restructuring for over 35 years since completion of my judicial clerkship for the Honorable William H. Gindin, United States Bankruptcy Judge, District of New Jersey in 1986. Since that time, I have represented numerous significant parties in large chapter 11 cases, including several chapter 11 cases before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. Such cases include, *inter alia*, Advanta Corp.; Maxide Acquisition Corp. (DMX Music); NSC Wholesale Liquidators; PNG Ventures; Magna Entertainment Corp.; Proxim Corporation; Katy Industries; RTI Holding co. d/b/a Ruby Tuesday; Chaparral Energy; Frederick's of Hollywood Corp.; Southeastern Grocers, LLC; Overseas Shipholding Group; Meadowcraft, Inc.; and Energy Future Holdings Corp. The Firm's attorneys, inclusive of myself, have represented over fifty (50) creditors' committees, among many other major chapter 11 engagements across the country involving complex matters. Ultimately,

Gibbons' combination of relevant financial restructuring and bankruptcy experience, preparation and analysis, among other considerations, warranted its selection by the Committee.

#### **CONFLICT CHECK PROCESS**

- 4. In order to prepare this Declaration and at my direction, the Firm compared the Debtors' bankruptcy petitions, current and former officers and directors, agents, contract counterparties, court personnel, potentially responsible parties, equity holders, insurers, banks, significant litigation parties, professionals, significant unsecured creditors, significant vendors, and other interested parties (collectively, the "Potentially Interested Parties"), with the information contained in the conflict check systems and adverse party indexes currently maintained by Gibbons (collectively, the "Conflict Check System"). A list of entities searched is attached hereto as Schedule 1.
- 4. The facts stated in this Declaration as to any connections between Gibbons' lawyers on one hand, and the Debtors, the Debtors' creditors, other parties in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the Office of the United States Trustee for Region Three (the "<u>U.S.</u> <u>Trustee</u>"), other persons employed by the U.S. Trustee, and those persons and entities who are defined as not disinterested persons in § 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, on the other hand, are based primarily upon the results of the review of the Conflict Check System.
- 5. In addition, through a firm-wide e-mail, our Firm's Conflicts Department also solicited information directly from Gibbons attorneys to determine whether any of them were aware of any connections in connection with our proposed representation of the Committee in these Chapter 11 Cases. In the event that any additional information is received, Gibbons will promptly supplement the disclosures contained herein to the Court.

6. The Conflict Check System is a computerized database of current and former clients and adverse and related parties that is regularly maintained and updated in the course of the Firm's business. These procedures are designed to include every matter on which the Firm is now or has been engaged, by which entity the Firm is now or has been engaged, and, in each instance, to include and record the identity of related parties and adverse parties and the attorney in the Firm who is knowledgeable about the matter. It is Gibbons' policy that no new matter may be accepted or opened within the Firm without completing and submitting to those charged with maintaining the Conflict Check System the information necessary to check such matter for conflicts, including the identity of the prospective client, the matter and related and adverse parties. Accordingly, the database is regularly updated for every new matter undertaken by Gibbons and reflects entries that are noted in the systems at the time the information becomes known by persons whose regular duties include recording and maintaining this information. The scope of the system is a function of the completeness and accuracy of the information submitted by the attorney opening a new matter. As a director in the Firm, I regularly send information to update the Conflict Check System and use and rely upon the information contained in the system in the performance of my duties at the Firm and in my practice of law.

### GIBBONS' CONNECTIONS WITH PARTIES IN INTEREST IN MATTERS UNRELATED TO THE CHAPTER 11 CASES

7. To the best of my knowledge and information after due inquiry, (i) except as disclosed herein, Gibbons has no connections, within the meaning of Bankruptcy Rule 2014(a), with the Debtors, their creditors, any other party in interest, their respective attorneys or accountants, the U.S. Trustee, or any employee of that office; (ii) Gibbons does not hold or represent an adverse interest in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases; and (iii) Gibbons is a disinterested person within the meaning of section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code.

- 8. In order to make the above statements, the Firm reviewed reports from its client/matter database for representations and other potential connections over the past three (3) years.
- 9. No Gibbons attorney presently represents or has previously represented the Debtors.
- 10. Gibbons previously represented, currently represents, and may represent in the future the entities set forth in the chart below (or their affiliates), who are Potentially Interested Parties, in matters totally unrelated to these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 11. The Firm discloses the following connections as a result of its comprehensive review, using the parties listed on **Schedule 1** hereto:

Name of Entity Searched	Relationship to Bankruptcy Case	Relationship to Gibbons P.C.	
		Current client in non-	
Bank of America	Equity Holder	bankruptcy matters wholly	
		unrelated to these Chapter 11	
		Cases	
Proskaur Rose, LLP	Counsel to DIP Lender	Former Client	
S&P Global, Inc.		Current client in matters wholly unrelated to these Chapter 11 Cases	
	Other Creditor over \$10k as of 02/28/25		
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP		Current client in matters	
	Other Creditor over \$10k as of 02/28/25	wholly unrelated to these	
		Chapter 11 Cases	

12. In addition to the connections disclosed herein, Gibbons and certain of its directors, counsel and associates may have in the past represented, may currently represent, and likely in the future will represent others of the Potentially Interested Parties in connection with matters wholly unrelated to the Debtors or these Chapter 11 Cases. Moreover, Gibbons appears in many cases, proceedings, and transactions involving different attorneys, financial consultants and investment bankers, some of which may now or in the future represent the parties-in-interest in these Chapter

- 11 Cases. Gibbons may also represent in the future certain Committee members and/or their affiliates in their capacities as official committee members in other chapter 11 cases, all of which involve matters wholly unrelated to these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 13. No attorney at Gibbons represents an insider of the Debtors, any subsidiary, or other affiliate.
- 14. No attorney at Gibbons has been paid fees prepetition or holds a security interest, guarantee, or other assurance of compensation for services performed and to be performed in these proceedings except as set forth herein.
- 15. There is no agreement of any nature as to the sharing of any compensation to be paid to Gibbons.
- 16. Except as disclosed in this Declaration, no attorney at Gibbons has any other connection with the Debtors, their creditors, the U.S. Trustee, or any employee of that office, or any parties in interest in these proceedings.
- 17. To the best of my knowledge, no attorney at Gibbons is a relative of, currently has, or previously has had any connection with the bankruptcy judge approving the employment of Gibbons as the Committee's counsel that would render the employment improper.
- 18. To the best of my knowledge, no attorney at Gibbons has any other interest, direct or indirect, that may be affected by the proposed representation.
- 19. Gibbons will not, while employed by the Committee, represent any other person or entity having an adverse interest in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.

#### **GIBBONS' RATES AND BILLING PRACTICES**

20. The Firm's current hourly rates range from \$275.00 for paralegals to \$1,600.00 for the Firm's most senior directors. The current hourly rates applicable to the principal attorneys and paralegals of Gibbons proposed to represent the Committee are as follows:

Timekeeper	Title	<b>Hourly Rates</b>	
Robert K. Malone	Director	\$1,375.00	
Brett S. Theisen	Director	\$850.00	
Katharina Earle	Director	\$825.00	
Christopher P. Anton	Counsel	\$850.00	
Kyle P. McEvilly	Associate	\$525.00	
Neal Mitchell	Paralegal	\$375.00	

- 21. The current hourly rates set forth above are the Firm's usual and customary hourly rates for work of this nature. The Firm's rates are set at a level designed to fairly compensate Gibbons for its work and to cover fixed and routine overhead expenses. It is Gibbons' policy to charge its clients in all areas of practice for certain other expenses incurred in connection with the client's matter. The expenses charged to clients include, among other things, certain facsimile charges, mail and express mail charges, special or hand-delivery charges, document processing, photocopying charges, actual out-of-pocket expenses for travel, lodging, and business meals, computerized research, and transcription costs, as well as non-ordinary overhead expenses such as overtime for secretarial and other staff associated with specific work that may be required. Gibbons will charge the Debtors' estates for these expenses in a manner and at rates consistent with charges made generally to its clients.
- 22. The Firm has agreed not to bill the Committee for non-working travel time between its offices in New York, New Jersey and Delaware. If the Firm's professionals are

required to travel beyond New York, New Jersey and Delaware, the Firm's attorneys will bill this time at 50% of applicable rates for non-working travel time.

- 23. Gibbons did not receive a retainer with respect to this representation. Other than as set forth above, there is no proposed arrangement to compensate Gibbons in connection with its representation of the Committee.
- 23. Gibbons intends to apply for compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases, subject to approval of the Court and in compliance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, and any other applicable procedures and orders of the Court, on an hourly basis, plus reimbursement of actual, necessary expenses and other charges incurred by Gibbons. Gibbons also intends to make reasonable efforts to comply with the U.S. Trustee's requests for information and additional disclosures as set forth in the Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Case Effective as of November 1, 2013, (the "UST Guidelines"), both in connection with this Application and the interim and final fee applications to be filed by Gibbons in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 24. Gibbons has agreed to provide legal services to the Committee and recognizes that any allowance of compensation for services rendered on behalf of the Committee in connection with this proceeding and any reimbursement of disbursements made in connection therewith are subject to the prior approval and authorization by order of this Court. Gibbons realizes that any application for fees must be supported by detailed contemporaneous time records. Gibbons also understands that this Court's approval of its retention application is not approval of

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any proposed terms of compensation and that this Court may allow compensation on terms

different from those proposed.

25. In order to comply with the United States Trustees' Appendix B – Guidelines for

Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C.

§ 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, as required to be answered in all applications for

employment filed under section 327 or 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code, which became effective on

November 1, 2013, I make the following disclosures:

A. Gibbons did not agree to any variation from, or alternative to, its standard or customary

billing arrangements for matters of this nature;

B. None of the professionals included in this engagement have varied their rate based upon

the geographic location of the Chapter 11 Cases;

C. The Committee retained Gibbons on April 13, 2025. The billing rates for the period

prior to this Application are the same as indicated in this Application; and

D. The Committee and Gibbons intend on developing a prospective budget and staffing plan in a reasonable effort to comply with the U.S. Trustee's request for information

and additional disclosures. Consistent with the UST Guidelines, any budget may be amended as necessary to reflect changed circumstances or unanticipated developments.

26. Gibbons will abide by the terms of any administrative order establishing

professional compensation and reimbursement procedures entered in these Chapter 11 Cases.

27. The foregoing constitutes the statement of Gibbons pursuant to sections 504 and

1103 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 2014(a) and 2016(a).

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: May 27, 2025

GIBBONS, P.C.

By: /s/ Robert K. Malone

Robert K. Malone, Esq., Director

Schedule 1 (Case Parties)

#### **Schedule 1**

#### Potentially Interested Parties List

#### **Debtors**

Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC

Aspiration QFZ, LLC

F/K/A/ Aspiration Sustainability Services, LLC

Catona Climate Solutions, LLC

F/K/A/ Aspiration Sustainability Services, LLC

CTN Holdings, Inc.

F/K/A Aspiration Partners, LLC

CTN SPV Holdings, LLC

F/K/A 413 Digital Assets, LLC

Make Earth Green Again, LLC

Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC

#### **Debtor Executives and/or Board Members**

Andrew Durke

Dan Shurey

Danny Duran

Greg Shadwick

Michael Shuckerow

Nate Redmond

Rob Lee

Statton Hammock

Tate Mill

Tracy Bain

#### **Independent Board Members**

Jeffrey Varsalone

R. Larence Roth

#### **Debtor Affiliated Companies**

Carbon Sequestration I, LLC

Carbon Sequestration II, LLC

Carbon Sequestration III, LLC

Catona Climate Foundation

Restoration Inititives I, LLC

Restoration Inititives II, LLC

#### **Secured Lenders**

AGO III, GP LLC, as Collateral Agent

AGO Special Situations II, LP

AGO Special Situations, LP

Inherent Aspiration, LLC

Inherent Group, LP

IPV ASP, LLC

Mark Villanueva

Nano Banc

Oak Tree Capital Management

Zion Consulting and Advisory LLC

#### **Convertible Note Holders**

AGO Special Situations Credit, LP

AGO Special Situations II LP

Harmony Holdings, LLC

Long Live Bruce, LLC

Lonsdale Group Limited

#### **Equity Holders**

1HMR, LLC

205 Burr Oak Investment LLC

Adam Taub

Adel Davidyan

Adrem X LLC

AGO II GP, LLC

AGO II, LP

AGO III, LP

AGO Special Situations Credit LP

AGO Special Situations II LP

Ahya Kurdi

Albert S Liu

Albert Y. Kim Living Trust

Alejandro Francisco Cano Gutierrez

Alex Pomeroy

Alexandra Horigan

Alexis Maybank

Allan Hammock

Allen & Company, LLC

Alon Nelson

Alpha Edison A, L.P.

Alpha Edison Westwood II A LLC

Alpha Edison Westwood II LLC

Alpha Edison, L.P.

Alvaro Boulet Alonso

Andrei Cherny

Andrew L. Sandler Revocable Trust

Angelica Lomeli

Anna Dukor

AOG Institutional Diversified Fund

APOGEE Pacific LLC Ari Martirosyan

Arie Arik Betesh and Yamit Betesh

Arioan ScoopSA - Aspiration

Arjuna Rajasingham Arlene Waclawek

Arthur and Peta Klitofsky

Aspiration Holdings II SPE, LLC Aspiration Holdings SPE, LLC

Bank of America

Bansbach Capital Group, LLC

Barry Donner Ben Jealous Benjamin Rafii

Benjamin S Heldfond Family Trust

Benjamin Sherman

Bingaman Family Irrevocable Trust

BPCCInc., LLC Brandee Busch Brian Weinstein Brittany Johnson

Budoff Billit Living Trust Carmen Gutierrez Smith

Casa Teresa

Casey Weinstein 2018 Family Trust

Cecilia Martinez del Solar

Cecilia Saez

Charles A. Tharnstrom

Charles W McElfresh

Chicago Carbon Holdings LLC

Christina Margot Ross Christopher Calvert Christopher Coleman

Clayton Bourne

Clear Link Technologies, LLC Clover Private Credit Opportunities

Origination (Levered) II LP

Commerce Investment Group LLC

Craig Randall Johnson

Crawford/Gerber Living Trust dtd 10/7/2009

Crestone Capital Partners LLC DAM Birdie LLC (Daniel Murillo)

Damavandi 2021 Ins Trust

Damien Varron
Danette Eilenberg

Daniel Duran

Daniel Nir

Daniel Shurey Daniel Zakowski

Danielle Gopen

Danielle Wolf

Darwin Capital Advisors II LLC Darwin Capital Advisors LLC

David Flusberg
David Goldsmith
David Jacobs
David Keyes
David Wolpe

**DBD Family Trust** 

DCM Labs

DEA 88 Investments, LP

Deep Field Opportunities Fund, L.P.

Deepak Kumar
Deloitte Services, LP
Delph Enterprises, Inc.
Derris & Company LLC
DMC (PED) Limited
DNS-Aspire, LLC

Doha Venture Capital LLC

Don Karr

Double Chase Investments LP Double Chase Management LLC Double Chase Management, LLC

Double Diamond Investment Holdings, LP

Dylan Blaty

E3 Asset Management, LLC

Edwin (Tate) Mill Ellen Wilson Elliot Brandt

Emerald Asset Management, Inc. Equityzen Growth Technology Fund, LLC - Series 1145

Eric Johnson
Eugene Sperling
Evelina Pivavarava

Eyal Bilgrai Eyal Gutentag FABFOUR SCSp

Fabian Andres Vargas Rivera

Fabio Montauti Faisal AlHusseini Forum Entertainment, LLC Jim Meeks Flourish Ventures Fund LLC Joe Carney

John B. Emerson and Kimberly K. Marteau, FootPrint Coalition Ventures Late Stage Fund, LP - A1 Trustees of the Emerson-Marteau

FP Ventures ASP LP Inc.

Trust dated 10/9/2003 Frank A. Cuenca Living Trust Dated May 19, 2005 Johnson Revocable Trust Frank Berrin

Jon Barnwell Frank Yeary Jon Feigelson FWPE Fund 1, LLC Jonathan Alter **GAM Investments LLC** 

Joseph A Jolson 1991 Trust George abou Joudi

Joseph Besecker **GL Family Trust** Joseph Chen Glenn Anton Rivers

Joseph Chen Irrevocable Family Trust Global Media Fund LLC

Joseph Mulkey Gluck/Gladden Family Trust Dtd December 15, 2023 Juan David Borrero Goodbank Irrevocable Trust Junius Holding GmbH

Gordon Crawford Justin Kuok **Gregory Shadwick** 

Justin Meltzer Investment GSV Capital Corp.

Kaia Gerber Hamid and Nahid Rafii Katherine Lay Hammerman Children Irrevocable Trust Kathleen Emmett Hannah Vanguilder Kathleen Schier Helen Mullish KC Partners LLC Ian Wentzell Kenneth Choi Ibrahim AlHusseini Kfir Gavrieli IGSB Internal Venture Fund III, LLC

Koh Boon Hwee Ilya Holdings Limited Lauren Rocheleau Inherent Aspiration, LLC Lawrence Berrin Inspira Financial, FBO Lev Moltyaner

Leah Grace Hunt-Hendrix Trust IRA Club FBO Ruben Gallego Roth IRA 2001404

Leslie Morton Irfan Kamal Long Live Bruce, LLC Jabez Dewey Lorraine D. Berrin Jack Oliver Luke Clauson Jaguar Acquisition Limited

Majid El Solh Jaguarundi Partners, LLC

Mali H. Kinberg Revocable Living Trust James Katz Manzanita Ventures LLC James M. Cannon Marc Stad

James R. Gates Separate Porperty Revocable Trust

Marilyn J Goens Rev Liv Trust U/A DTD 11/16/06 Jason Gupta Mark Corentin Cot-Magnas Jedi Capital

Mark J. Silverman Living Trust U/A 7/27/95 JeeAnn Whitney Petrina

Mark Villanueva Jeffrey Denight Martin Alejandro Bedoya Benavides

Jeffrey Harris Martin Gedalin Jeffrey Susskind Mary Dent Jess Brown Matthew Giles Jessica Berrin Matthew Lee Jessica McMillin

Matthew Russo Philippe von Stauffenberg

Megan Holmes Pilpel Ltd.

Mendonca Family Trust UAD 8/6/07

Metropolitan Levered Partners Fund VII, LP Pohlad Investments, LLC

Metropolitan Partners Fund VI (3C1), LP Polpat LLC

Metropolitan Partners Fund VI, LP

Metropolitan Partners Fund VII, LP

MF Partners, LLC

Michael Christenson

Praesumo Holdings, LLC

PWM Alternatives LLC

Quail Hill Holdings LLC

RA Perdue Family Trust

Michael Christenson

Michael O'Mary

Rachel Sheinbein

Michael Shuckerow

Rachelle Higgins

Michael Smith

Ravi Sarin

Micharn Pollock

Raycrown AG

Michel Bayoud Reisner Millenium Investments LLC (Jeff Reisner)

Milena Davidson Remember Bruce, LLC
Miller Family Legacy, LLC Renren Lianhe Holdings
Miranda Brouwer Living Trust REYL & CIE S.A.

Mission and Market Fund I, LLC RG Family Investments LLC

Mission Financial Partners

Mohammad Khaja

Rick Hess

Moran Davidyan

MUURAMASA LLC

MX of Kuok Family

Nano Financial Holdings, Inc

Ricki Seidman

RJB Partners LLC

RJB Partners LLC

Rob Cherun

Robert Choi

Nascent Line LLC

Nate Redmond

Robert J Abernethy

Nathan and Emily Kane Miller Robert Lee

Nathaniel Malka Robert M. Pomeroy NEV Alternatives LLC Roman Micevic

Nikki Murphy Ron and Liraz Harari Living Trust

Nikolaos Nomikos Ron Ben Yosef No. 4 LP Ronald Paz

Oak Tree Capital Management Rosensweig Family Revocable Trust

Oberndorf Enterprises/
Roslyn K Berrin

OEL Venture Investments LLC RPR Gravitas LTD Kfir

OCM Aspiration Holdings, LLC Russell Acar

Oren Abraham Lazar

OS Peteiros Investments, S.L.

Pacific Sequoia Holdings LLC

Ryan Graves

Sam Yebri

Palmer Murray Living Trust
Paradox Capital
Satya Yenigalla
Paul Eisenstein
Selena C. Bryce Trust
Paul Soros 2010 Family Trust A
Shahak Maimon

Peter Early Shoham Nicolet
Petr Averianov Silas Holdings III LLC
Philip Remmele Silversea Chartering SA

SIPI Ventures PTE LTD

SMR Capital Holdings LP

Social Impact Finance II LLC

Social Impact Finance III LLC

Social Impact Finance IV LLC

Social Impact Finance LLC

Spencer Rascoff

Stephan Klee

Stephan Lobmeyr

Stephen Pomeroy

Steve Bush

Steven Glickman

Strategic Business Management

Co (Vivek Singhal)

SuRo Capital Corp.

Susskind Family Trust

SVB Financial Group

SVV GmbH

Synergy Wealth Management Sa

Tara Watumull

Taylor Media Corp

Taylor Vigil

Technology Stock Holding Master Trust /

Series Sinay 2021 Trust

Technology Stock Holding Master Trust /

Series Brown 2021 Trust

Technology Stock Holding Master Trust /

Series Costigan 2021 Trust

Technology Stock Holding Master Trust /

Series Morison 2021 Trust

Technology Stock Holding Master Trust /

Series Ransom 2021

The Dunner Family Trust

The Emerson Marteau Trust

The Glenn A. Rivers

Revocable Trust UA September 28, 2000

The Gordon and Dona Crawford

Trust UTD 8/23/77

The Hugely Successful Company, LLC

The Husseini Group

The Joseph Todd Lonsdale Trust

dated March 4, 2015

The Kit Stone Trust

The Kristin Rivers Revocable Trust

UA September 28, 2000

The Mark Murrel Revocable Trust

Established 1/16/2009

The Mark Murrel Revocable Trust,

Established January 16, 2009

The R L Gopen Trust

The Thomas and Janet Unterman Living Trust

Three Cats Consulting LLC

**Timothy Broas** 

To Ventures LLC

Todd Baker

Todd Koren

**Todd Tappin** 

Tom Unterman

Tracy Bain

TriGen Investments, LP

True North Group LLC

Victoria Velazquez

Vikas Singhal

Voras Navigation SA

Walid Gardezi

Wayne Klitofsky

Weinstein Family Trust

Wesley Jew

West investments IV, LLC

William E. Oberndorf

Yuval Grill

Zack Exley

Zion Consulting and Advisory LLC

#### **Professionals**

BDO, CPA Firm

CR3 Partners, LLC, CRO

Hilco Corporate Finance

Jeffrey Varsalone, VRS Restructuring Services

Nate Redmond, AlphaEdison

Paul Edwards, Structured Capital Solutions

Philip Kaminski, Proskaur

(secured creditor corporate counsel)

Robert J. Dehney, Sr., Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell

(secured lender BK counsel)

Verita, Claims Agent

Vinny Indelicato, Proskauer

(secured creditor corporate counsel)

Whiteford Taylor & Preston, Debtors' Counsel

#### **Deleware Bankruptcy Judges**

Chief Judge John T. Dorsey

Judge Brendan L. Shannon

Judge Craig T. Goldblatt

Judge J. Kate Stickles Judge Karen B. Owens

Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein

Judge Mary F. Walrath Judge Thomas M. Horan

#### **Deleware US Trustee and Bankruptcy Staff**

Attix, Lauren Barksdale, Nickita Bates, Malcolm M.

Batts, Cacia Bello, Rachel Brady, Claire Bu, Fang Capp, Laurie Casey, Linda Cavello, Robert Cudia, Joseph Dice, Holly

Dortch, Shakima L.
Farrell, Catherine
Fox, Jr. Timothy J.
Gadson, Danielle
Giordano, Diane
Girello, Michael
Green, Christine
Hackman, Benjamin

Haney, Laura
Hrycak, Amanda
Johnson, Lora
Jones, Nyanquoi
Konde, Hawa
Leamy, Jane
Lipshie, Jonathan
Lopez, Marquietta

Lugano, Al McCollum, Hannah M. McMahon, Joseph Nyaku, Jonathan O'Malley, James R. Richenderfer, Linda Schepacarter, Richard Serrano, Edith A. Sierra-Fox, Rosa Subda, Paula

Thomas, Elizabeth

Vara, Andrew R. Walker, Jill Wynn, Dion Yeager, Demitra

#### **Adverse Litigation Parties**

Cabin Editing Company, LLC Clear Link Tehnologies, LLC d/b/a The Penny Hoarder

Clover Private Credit Opportunities Organization (Levered) II, LP Compassionate Carbons, LLC Eden Reforestation Projects

Finders.com, LLC

ICR, LLC

Media Force Communications (2007), Ltd.

OurOffice, Inc.

Outfront Media, LLC vs. Aspiration

Financial, LLC and Aspiration Partners, Inc.

Pearl Media Holdings, LLC

Perform [CB], LLC

Slalom, Inc. Socure, Inc.

Vector Media Holdings, LL WNS North America, Inc.

#### **Others former or Affiliated Executives**

Andrei Cherny

Ibrahim Ameen AlHusseini

Joseph Sandberg

#### Other Creditors over \$10k as of 02/28/25

8020 Consulting LLC

Anew Climate, formerly Bluesource

and Elements Markets

APT 304, LLC

Athletes Unlimited

Backupify, Inc.

Baker & Hostetler LLP

Baker McKenzie

Bartko Zankel Bunzel & Miller

Beneficial State Bank

Boston Red Sox Baseball Club Limited Partnership

Cabin Editing Company LLC

Capitol Outdoor, Inc

Carbon Capital Deployment

Chipman Brown Cicero & Cole, LLP

Chloris Geospatial Inc.

Clarity AI CNM LLP

Creative Artists Agency Crown Castle Fiber LLC Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Dechert LLP

Donnelley Financial Solutions Eden Reforestation Projects

Facebook, Inc. Fact-HR

FactSet Research Systems Inc.

Feedzai Inc Fivetran Inc.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Headlight Labs, Inc

ICONOCLAST Content, Inc

ICR, LLC

**IETA** (International Emissions

Trading Association)
Impact Tech, Inc

Interprivate III Financial Partners Inc.

IQTalent Partners Inc.

JacksonLewis

Keesal, Young & Logan Kijani Forestry Limited

KL2 Aspire LLC Kroll Associates, Inc LA Clippers LLC

Lamar Texas Limited Partnership

Laurel Strategies, Inc

LinkedIn Locus AG

Management of Native, a Public Benefit Corporation McPherson Strategies LLC Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Microsoft Corporation Mitchell Sandler LLC

Nathan Camuti

Native, a Public Benefit Corporation

Nixon Peabody LLP

Noble People

Oil Price Information Service, LLC

Path2Response LLC Pendo.io, Inc. Performeb LLC

Pineapple Sustainable Partnerships Ltd

Pivot Media Ventures LLC

Planet Labs PBC

Power Digital Marketing, Inc. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Prodege, LLC

Q2 Software, Inc. (Formerly ClickSWITCH)

Quantiphi, Inc. Rokt Corp S&P Global Inc.

Sandline Discovery LLC Sidley Austin LLP

Sky-High Murals - Colossal Media, LLC

Slack Technologies, LLC

Slalom, LLC Socure. Inc. Stephen Klee Sunshine Sachs SuperMoney LLC Taylor Media Corp

The Free Ride Inc (Circuit)
The Morning Consult, LLC

The National Society of Leadership

and Success, LLC The Young Turks, Inc.

TikTok Inc

Trees for the Future,

a 501(3)(c) Non Profit Organization

Trove Research Limited U.S. Chamber of Commerce

UBS Asset Management (Americas), Inc

Unit21, Inc Uptech

URP XII XIII LLC

US Qatar Business Council Wallsworth WFBM LLP

WNS Global Services UK International Limited

Woodruff Sawyer

### **EXHIBIT C**

**Spencer Patton Declaration** 

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

In re:			

CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 25-10603 (TMH)

(Jointly Administered)

DECLARATION OF SPENCER PATTON PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1746 IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF GIBBONS P.C. AS ITS COUNSEL NUNC PRO TUNC TO APRIL 13, 2025

**SPENCER PATTON**, solely in his capacity as Chairperson of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") of CTN Holdings, Inc., *et al.*, (the "Debtors"), under penalty of perjury, hereby declares as follows:

- 1. I submit this Declaration in support of the Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Gibbons P.C. as its Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to April 13, 2025 (the "Application"). Unless otherwise stated in this Declaration, I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called as a witness, would testify competently thereto.
- 2. On April 10, 2025, the Committee was appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee for this District. On Friday, April 11, 2025, the Committee convened its initial meeting to discuss the retention of professionals. Given the speed upon which this case was progressing, it was evident that it needed to retain professionals as soon as possible. Based upon the firm's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.

reputation, the Committee was satisfied that Gibbons could properly represent its interest in this case and made the decision to retain Gibbons P.C. ("Gibbons" or the "Firm") to serve as its counsel. This decision was based upon, among other considerations, Gibbons' relevant financial restructuring and bankruptcy related experience, preparation and analysis of issues, and the extensive knowledge and expertise of its attorneys in fields of financial reorganizations and creditors' rights. Since the Committee selected Gibbons on Sunday, April 13, 2025, the Firm has been actively engaged with the Committee, advising the Committee on, among other things, the Debtors' proposed sale process, which has proceeded on an expedited schedule. Accordingly, the Committee finds that Gibbons is qualified to serve as counsel in these Chapter 11 Cases.

- 3. Gibbons has informed the Committee that its current hourly rates are the Firm's usual and customary hourly rates for work of this nature. The Committee recognizes that such rates are comparable to the rates of firms similar to Gibbons and for professionals with similar experience as Gibbons attorneys. Gibbons has informed the Committee that its hourly rates are subject to periodic adjustments, of which the Firm will provide notice to the Committee.
- 4. Gibbons has advised the Committee that the Firm intends to apply for compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases, and to make reasonable efforts to comply with the United States Trustee Guidelines. The Committee will review the Firm's applications for payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses incurred in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 5. As part of this engagement, Gibbons has agreed not to bill the Committee for non-working travel time between its offices in New York, New Jersey and Delaware. If the Firm's professionals are required to travel beyond New York, New Jersey and Delaware, the Committee

Case 25-10603-TMH Doc 240-3 Filed 05/27/25 Page 4 of 4

understands that the Firm's attorneys will bill at 50% of applicable rates for non-working travel

time.

6. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the Committee believes that the employment

and retention of Gibbons is necessary and appropriate and in the best interest of the creditors of

the Debtors' estates.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best

of my knowledge and belief.

Executed on: May 27, 2025

By: /s/ Spencer Patton

Spencer Patton, solely in my capacity as Chairperson of the Official

Committee of Unsecured Creditors of

CTN Holdings, Inc., et al.

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

In re:

CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 25-10603 (TMH)

(Jointly Administered)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 27, 2025, the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") appointed in the chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") of the above-captioned debtors and debtors-in-possession (the "Debtors") filed the Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Gibbons P.C. as its Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to April 14, 2025 (the "Application") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any objections or responses to the relief requested in the Application must be filed on or before June 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) (the "Objection Deadline") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, 824 N. Market Street, 3rd Floor, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 and served upon, so as to be actually received by, the undersigned proposed counsel for the Committee on or before the Objection Deadline.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A HEARING ON THE APPLICATION WILL BE HELD ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED, IF NECESSARY, BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS M. HORAN, IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE, 824 N. MARKET STREET, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT IF NO OBJECTIONS OR RESPONSES TO THE APPLICATION ARE TIMELY FILED, SERVED, AND RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE COURT MAY GRANT THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH MOTION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OR HEARING.

Dated: May 27, 2025 Wilmington, Delaware /s/ Katharina Earle
Katharina Earle (No. 6348)
GIBBONS P.C.
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1015

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.

Wilmington, Delaware 19801-1671 Telephone: (302) 518-6300

E-mail: kearle@gibbonslaw.com

-and-

Robert K. Malone (admitted *pro hac vice*) Brett S. Theisen (admitted *pro hac vice*) Kyle P. McEvilly (admitted *pro hac vice*) **GIBBONS P.C.** 

One Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102-5310 Telephone: (973) 596-4500

E-mail: rmalone@gibbonslaw.com btheisen@gibbonslaw.com kmcevilly@gibbonslaw.com

Proposed Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

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

In re:

CTN HOLDINGS, INC., et al.,1

Debtors.

Chapter 11
Case No. 25-10603 (CTG)
(Jointly Administered)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Katharina Earle, hereby certify that on May 27, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Gibbons P.C. as its Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to April 13, 2025 (the "Application") was caused to be served via CM/ECF on all parties who have registered for electronic service in the above-captioned Chapter 11 proceeding.

I further certify that, in addition, I caused the Application to be served on the parties listed below via electronic mail.

Dated: May 27, 2025 Wilmington, Delaware /s/ Katharina Earle
Katharina Earle (No. 6348)

**GIBBONS P.C.** 

300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1015 Wilmington, Delaware 19801-1671 Telephone: (302) 518-6300

E-mail: kearle@gibbonslaw.com

-and-

Robert K. Malone (pro hac vice forthcoming) Brett S. Theisen (pro hac vice forthcoming) Kyle P. McEvilly (pro hac vice forthcoming) GIBBONS P.C.

One Gateway Center

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers, are CTN Holdings, Inc. (9122), CTN SPV Holdings, LLC (8689), Make Earth Green Again, LLC (4441), Aspiration QFZ, LLC (1532), Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC (4214), Catona Climate Solutions, LLC (3375) and Zero Carbon Holdings, LLC (1679). The mailing address for the Debtors is 548 Market Street, PMB 72015, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401.

Newark, New Jersey 07102-5310 Telephone: (973) 596-4500 E-mail: rmalone@gibbonslaw.com btheisen@gibbonslaw.com kmcevilly@gibbonslaw.com

Proposed Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

#### **Service List**

William F. Taylor, Jr.

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP
600 North King Street
Suite 300
Wilmington, DE 19801
Email: wtaylor@whitefordlaw.com

David W. Gaffey Brandy Rapp Daniel Vorsteg Josh Stiff Alexandra G. DeSimone Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP 3190 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 800

Falls Church, VA 22042 Email: dgaffey@whitefordlaw.com brapp@whitefordlaw.com

> jdvorsteg@whitefordlaw.com adesimone@whitefordlaw.com

#### Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Robert J. Dehney Sr.

Matthew B. Harvey
Brenna A. Dolphin

Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell, LLP
1201 North Market Street
16th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801
Email: rdehney@morrisnichols.com
mharvey@morrisnichols.com
bdolphin@morrisnichols.com

Vincent Indelicato

#### PROSKAUER ROSE LLP

Eleven Times Square New York, NY 10036 Tel: (212) 969-3000

Email: vindelicato@proskauer.com

#### Counsel for the Lender Group

Office of the United States Trustee Delaware Rosa Sierra-Fox

844 King Street, Suite 2207 Lockbox 35 Wilmington, DE 1980 Email: rosa.sierra-fox@usdoj.gov