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Following Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 8013(3)(A), Appellant The Dugaboy Investment Trust (“Dugaboy” or “Appellant”) respectfully asks the Court to deny the Motion to Dismiss Appeal as Moot filed by Appellees Highland Capital Management, L.P., the Highland Claimant Trust, and Marc S. Kirschner as Litigation Trustee of the Highland Litigation Sub-Trust (“Highland” or “Appellees”), which was filed on August 12, 2025 as Docket No. 21. This Court should deny Highland’s Motion because Dugaboy’s Appeal¹ from the Bankruptcy Court’s approval of a putative settlement² under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 is not barred by statutory mootness. Alternatively, the Court should carry the issue of statutory mootness and consider it after the benefit of full briefing on the merits of this Appeal.

I. INTRODUCTION

Highland’s Motion to Dismiss Dugaboy’s Appeal based on “statutory mootness” must be either denied or carried for consideration after full briefing on the merits.

As an initial matter, Section 363 does not apply to the Settlement and its

¹ Unless otherwise specified, “Appeal” here refers to this Court’s appellate review in Case No. 3:25-cv-01876-K of the Bankruptcy Court’s June 30, 2025 “*Order Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and 11 U.S.C. § 363 Approving Settlement Between the Highland Entities and the HMIT Entities and Authorizing Actions Consistent Therewith*,” Dkt. 4297 in N.D. Tex. Bankruptcy Case No. 19-34054-sgj11.

² The settlement purports to resolve legal claims between (1) the Highland entities (Appellants in this case), and (2) several entities associated with the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust (collectively “HMIT”). See Bankr. Dkt. 4217.

related transactions at all. The outer perimeter of litigation settlements that might qualify as Section 363 sales is the estate *releasing a claim against a third party*, in exchange for *cash paid to the estate*. *In re Moore*, 608 F.3d 253, 265 (5th Cir. 2010); *see also In re Mickey Thompson Enter. Grp., Inc.*, 292 B.R. 415 (9th Cir. B.A.P. 2003). In such limited circumstances, the estate could either sell the claim to another party to pursue or take payment from the potential defendant of an estate action.

None of that happened here. Instead, it was the estate that got released, in exchange for a cash payment *to another party*, HMIT, and the assignment to HMIT of estate claims against third parties. This is the type of “compromise,” back-and-forth exchanging of value-for-value litigation settlement courts have held not to qualify as Section 363 sales. *See Mickey Thompson*, 292 B.R. at 422 n.7; *In re Rich Glob., LLC*, 652 Fed. Appx. 625, 630 (10th Cir. 2016). In any event, the Bankruptcy Court followed none of the procedures that would traditionally accompany a sale under Section 363, such as opening the process to third-party bidders. This Settlement is a compromise rather than a sale, and does not implicate Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code.

The issues that must be decided in order to rule on Highland’s Motion—whether the challenged transactions were proper “sales” under Bankruptcy Rule § 363, whether the participants acted in good faith, and whether Mark Patrick had

authority to act on behalf of HMIT—overlap considerably with the merits of Dugaboy’s Appeal. It makes no sense to resolve these issues prematurely and without full briefing on the merits.

Even assuming the Settlement transactions are proper under Bankruptcy Code § 363, statutory mootness insulates them from appellate scrutiny only if the parties can show good faith and the absence of fraud or collusion. Well-established law makes clear that the proponent of the settlement has the burden to provide evidence of the participants’ good faith, and mere absence of evidence of bad faith is not enough to meet that burden.

Here, HMIT cannot establish good faith because its purported representative Mark Patrick lacked legitimate authority to act on HMIT’s behalf given the fraudulent and lawless manner by which Patrick obtained control of the HMIT entities at the expense of their rightful owners, and the order of the Cayman Islands court stripping him of that authority. Patrick’s lack of authority means that the Settlement and related transactions are void because HMIT could not lawfully agree to them. Highland also cannot establish good faith because (at minimum) it was aware of Patrick’s fraudulent scheme and lack of authority but chose to deal with him anyway.

Because the lack of good faith is lethal to Highland’s argument for statutory mootness, it makes no difference whether Dugaboy obtained a stay pending appeal.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Mark Patrick's fraudulent scheme.

The background to this Appeal is a massive fraud perpetrated by Mark Patrick against the HMIT entities, a group of organizations created and funded by Dugaboy's beneficiary and Patrick's former employer Jim Dondero to support several charitable foundations. Since at least 2021, when Patrick was appointed sole director of the holding company and charitable trust that controlled the charitable entities, he has employed a variety of schemes to enrich himself at their expense. These schemes include (among many other transgressions) raising his pay more than tenfold over what his predecessor had been paid; diluting the charities' shares in the entities to deprive them of majority control; shopping different accounting firms to find one that would support an absurdly low 99% reduction in valuation for the charities' shares; and secretly forming a new charitable entity—headquartered at his own home address—to which he surreptitiously transferred ownership of equity he fraudulently obtained through his control of the charitable trust.

B. The Cayman Islands proceeding.

The full extent of Mark Patrick's misconduct has only recently been exposed in ongoing proceedings in the Cayman Islands, where several of the related holding companies are domiciled and the charitable foundations have filed suit seeking liquidation of the entities affected by Patrick's scheme. On May 6, 2025, the Cayman court determined Patrick's control of the entities was unlawful, stripped

Patrick of authority and control over them, ordered a voluntary liquidation, and appointed Joint Official Liquidators (JOLs) to reassert control over the entities and investigate the extent of Patrick's misconduct. Patrick tried to cover his tracks by compromising various legal disputes between the HMIT entities and the reorganized debtor Highland. But because of the Cayman court's May 6 order, by the time Patrick agreed to the proposed settlement on May 19, 2025, he no longer had any lawful authority to negotiate or settle anything on behalf of the HMIT entities.

On July 15, 2025, the Cayman court issued a Writ of Summons (attached as Exhibit 1)³ which detailed significant new and damning evidence, including communications showing that Highland was aware of and either colluded or acquiesced in Patrick's schemes to "extinguish" the charities' interests in the entities. *See id.*; Ex. 2 (

C. Highland's bankruptcy.

Highland's underlying bankruptcy commenced in October 2019. *See Bankr. Case No. 19-34054-sgj-11.* The Bankruptcy Court approved Highland's reorganization plan in February 2021. Bankr. Dkt. 1943. On May 19, 2025, Highland sought the Bankruptcy Court's approval under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and Bankruptcy Code § 363 for a proposed settlement of legal disputes between

³ The Writ of Summons is attached here as Exhibit 1. It was previously attached as Exhibit A to Dugaboy's July 17, 2025 Motion to Stay (Bankr. Dkt. 4326) and is part of the record for this Appeal. Patrick's various frauds and breaches of fiduciary duty are detailed throughout.

Highland and the HMIT entities. Bankr. Dkt. 4216. On June 9, 2025, Dugaboy filed its Preliminary Objection to the proposed settlement. Bankr. Dkt. 4230.

D. The Highland/HMIT Settlement.

The Bankruptcy Court held a hearing on the proposed settlement on June 25, 2025. On June 30, 2025, the Court entered an Order approving the settlement and finding, among other things, that it was the product of good-faith arm's length negotiations without any collusion or fraud. Bankr. Dkt. 4297 at 8. On July 14, 2025, Dugaboy filed its Notice of Appeal challenging the Court's approval of the Rule 9019 settlement. Bankr. Dkt. 4311. On August 12, 2025, Dugaboy filed its Amended Statement of Issues and Designation of Contents for the record on appeal. Bankr. Dkt. 4368. Dugaboy's appeal from the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the settlement is before this Court as Case No. 3:25-cv-01876-K.⁴ On August 12, 2025, Highland filed its Motion to Dismiss this Appeal on the ground of statutory mootness. Dkt. 21.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

To approve a settlement or compromise of claims in bankruptcy, the

⁴ Meanwhile in the Bankruptcy Court, on July 17, 2025, Dugaboy moved for a 90-day stay of the order approving the Settlement so that (1) Dugaboy could investigate new evidence from the Cayman Islands proceeding regarding Mark Patrick's lack of authority, and (2) the Texas Attorney General's office could pursue its investigation of Patrick's alleged financial misdeeds. Bankr. Dkt. 4308, 4326. The Bankruptcy Court denied Dugaboy's requested stay, Bankr. Dkt. 4333, and Dugaboy appealed. Bankr. Dkt. 4353. That appeal is currently before Judge Scholer as Case No. 3:25-cv-02072-S.

Bankruptcy Court must determine that the proposed settlement is “fair and equitable” and in the best interest of the estate. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019; *see In re Jackson Brewing Co.*, 624 F.2d 599, 602 (5th Cir. 1980). Among other factors, the Court must determine that the proposed settlement “is truly the product of arms-length bargaining, and not of fraud or collusion.” *DeepRock Venture Partners, L.P. v. Beach*, 731 F. App’x 322, 325 (5th Cir. 2018).

To approve a proposed sale of estate assets under Bankruptcy Code § 363, the Court must find the sale is “supported by an articulated business justification, good business judgment, or sound business reasons.” *In re Moore*, 608 F.3d 253, 263 (5th Cir. 2010). The Court must consider whether any estate property being disposed of in the settlement “might draw a higher price through a competitive [sale] process.” *Id.* (quoting *Mickey Thompson*, 292 B.R. at 421). Measures such as open auctions and competitive bidding are safeguards against insider deals made at the expense of the debtor and its creditors. *Moore*, 608 F.3d at 264–65.

The key provision governing the Court’s analysis (and providing the pretext for Highland to seek dismissal) is 11 U.S.C. § 363(m), which provides:

“The reversal or modification on appeal of an authorization under subsection (b) or (c) of this section of a sale or lease of property does not affect the validity of a sale or lease under such authorization to an entity that purchased or leased such property in good faith, whether or not such entity knew of the pendency of the appeal, unless such authorization and such sale or lease were stayed pending appeal.”

Only if **both** of § 363(m)'s prerequisites are met—good faith, and no stay pending appeal—then statutory mootness may preclude review of the challenged transaction. *In re TMT Procurement Corp.*, 764 F.3d 512, 519 (5th Cir. 2014). The proponent of the transaction has the burden to prove the good faith of its participants, and more is required to make that determination than a mere absence of evidence of bad faith. *Id.* at 520; *In re M Capital Corp.*, 290 B.R. 743, 747 (9th Cir. BAP 2003).

IV. ARGUMENT

To the extent a compromise of legal claims between insiders is a “sale” under Bankruptcy Code § 363(m) at all, good faith is a requirement for obtaining Court approval both for such sales and for the overall compromise and settlement under Rule 9019. *Moore*, 608 F.3d at 266. Good faith is also a prerequisite to any dismissal of Dugaboy's Appeal based on statutory mootness. Because Highland cannot meet its burden to prove good faith, its entire argument for statutory mootness collapses and its Motion to Dismiss must be denied.

A. The Settlement transactions fail to meet requirements for asset sales under § 363.

Section 363 has no application to the Settlement and its related transactions, for the following reasons.

First, Section 363 simply does not apply to Rule 9019 compromises. Only in rare circumstances can a proposed compromise qualify as a sale of assets, such as

where *the estate* has claims against a third party who is buying its way out of those claims for cash paid to the estate. *Moore*, 608 F.3d at 256. Theoretically, other strangers to the transaction could bid more cash to the estate for those claims and prosecute them. *Id.* Even here, the Fifth Circuit has demanded robust assurances and pre-closing procedures to ensure no other third party might have bid more, overturning the already-consummated transaction when a bankruptcy court erroneously disregarded a higher third-party offer. *See id.* at 265.

The Fifth Circuit distinguished such sales from settlements that involve the estate and a third party entering into a true “compromise” exchanging value for value in both directions. Here, there is no sale of tangible or nontangible assets for cash to the estate and thus Section 363 does not apply. *See Rich Glob.*, 652 F. App’x at 630 (“In most compromises, the procedures of [Fed. R. Bankr. P.] 6004 [implementing § 363] and the substance of Code section 363 *will not* be implicated.”) (quoting 10 *Collier on Bankruptcy* ¶ 6004.01[6]) (emphasis in original).

HMIT is not purchasing the estate’s claims against it for cash but instead giving the estate an inchoate release. And it is receiving cash *from the estate*, unlike *Moore* where the Fifth Circuit allowed a settlement with cash flowing the other way to be a Section 363 sale. *See* 608 F.3d at 256. Moreover, there are value-for-value exchanges throughout the Settlement, with releases going to the estate and assets

outbound to the releasing party. This is a settlement under Rule 9019, not a sale under Section 363. Highland cannot pound the square peg of a litigation settlement into the round hole of an asset sale.

Second, no steps were taken to ensure the estate received the highest price for any assets sold, such as public auction or an opportunity for other parties to bid. *Moore*, 608 F.3d at 263. The Bankruptcy Court’s order included no explanation for dispensing with these traditional protections. The Fifth Circuit has overturned settlement agreements—even those denominated as asset sales releasing third parties in exchange for cash to the estate—for failing to make a strong showing that no other party would have bid more for the right to pursue the claim against the released party. *See Moore*, 608 F.3d at 266 & n.26.

Third, the Settlement and its related transactions are the result of a ***private deal between insiders***—not the strangers to the bankruptcy process bidding on estate assets that Section 363 was meant to protect. The purpose of § 363(m)’s protection for good-faith purchasers is to encourage outside buyers who would otherwise be reluctant to invest in a bankrupt company or purchase its assets still subject to litigation. *TMT*, 764 F.3d at 521 (holding purpose of § 363(m) is “particularly to give finality to those orders and judgments ***upon which third parties rely***”) (emphasis added); *see also In re Energytec, Inc.*, 739 F.3d 215, 220–21 (5th Cir. 2013) (holding § 363(m) is intended to protect “good faith purchasers” and “innocent

third parties”); *id.* at 218–19 (stating § 363(m) “codifies Congress’s strong preference for finality and efficiency in the bankruptcy context, *particularly where third parties are involved.*”) (emphasis added).

B. The Settlement transactions are void because Mark Patrick lacked authority to agree on behalf of HMIT.

As discussed in Sections II(A)–(B) above, Mark Patrick’s actions in fraudulently obtaining control over the HMIT entities—together with the orders of the Cayman Islands court that divested him of that control—raise serious and likely fatal questions about Patrick’s authority to act on behalf of HMIT. Before the Settlement Agreement was even presented to the Bankruptcy Court, Patrick had already breached its Representations and Warranties clause by falsely representing he had authority to act on behalf of HMIT. *See* Bankr. Dkt. 4217-1, Proposed Settlement Agreement at ¶ 13(d):

“Each individual signatory hereto individually warrants and represents to all Parties hereto that such individual has full power and authority to act on behalf of and bind the Party for which he or she has executed this Agreement.”

If Mark Patrick lacked authority to enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of HMIT, then the Settlement itself is void as procured by fraud.⁵ That means

⁵ *See, e.g., Carter v. Fenner*, 136 F.3d 1000, 1005–07 (5th Cir. 1998) (voiding judgment approving wrongful-death settlement due to lack of authority to consent); *Cap Exp., LLC v. Zinus, Inc.*, 996 F.3d 1332, 1342 (Fed. Cir. May 5, 2021) (upholding vacatur of a settlement obtained by a witness’s false testimony).

all the asset transfers that followed the Settlement must also be unwound.

Because the burden of proving “good faith” falls on the proponent of the challenged sale, the Bankruptcy Court’s findings must be premised on affirmative evidence in the record. *TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520. It is error to find good faith based on nothing more than an absence of evidence for bad faith. *See M Capital*, 290 B.R. at 749 (cited approvingly by *TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520). But that was exactly the Bankruptcy Court’s error here, presuming from a purported lack of countervailing evidence that Patrick had authority to act for the HMIT entities and therefore must have acted in good faith. *See* June 25, 2025 Hrg. Tr. 259:13–20:

“[The Court]: *I didn't have any persuasive evidence, solid evidence to show me that Mark Patrick doesn't have appropriate corporate governance authority to enter into this settlement agreement. . . . [A]s of today, I don't have any evidence that he doesn't have authority currently to enter into the settlement.*”

Here, the issue of “good faith” cannot be disentangled from the doubt surrounding Mark Patrick’s purported authority to negotiate and settle on behalf of HMIT. All of Patrick’s bad acts—which go well beyond bad faith—are what caused the Cayman court to conclude in its May 6, 2025 Order that Patrick should be stripped of authority, which is precisely why he could not legitimately enter into the proposed Settlement he signed less than two weeks later. *See* Ex. 1.

Because Patrick lacked any authority to act on behalf of HMIT, the Settlement and its ensuing transactions are all void. *See, e.g., Carter*, 136 F.3d at 1005–07;

Zinus, 996 F.3d at 1342.

C. Highland cannot establish statutory mootness because neither party was an arm's length purchaser acting in good faith.

Here, neither HMIT nor Highland are good-faith purchasers. HMIT fails that test because—Mark Patrick could not lawfully deal on behalf of HMIT given the Cayman court order that had already stripped him of authority. Good faith is also lacking on the other side of the table, where Highland knew of Patrick's wrongful scheme and yet chose to deal with him anyway.⁶ These are not the “good faith purchasers” Congress intended § 363(m) to protect. *See Energytec*, 739 F.3d at 219.

Even if § 363(m) did apply here, such sales must still satisfy Rule 9019's mandate of overall fairness. *See Moore*, 608 F.2d at 263.⁷ Statutory mootness does not relieve the Bankruptcy Court (or reviewing courts) of its responsibility to independently evaluate the fairness of proposed transactions. In determining whether a proposed compromise of the estate's claims is “fair and equitable,” the

⁶ *See, e.g.*, Ex. 2 (Bankr. Dkt. 4255, Ex. 45) (email from Highland counsel acknowledging Patrick's plan for the “extinguishment” of participating shares held by the charitable foundations). This email is marked as a “privileged and confidential settlement communication” under Federal Rule of Evidence 408, but Highland filed it publicly with its exhibits for the June 25, 2025 hearing, and it can be freely downloaded from the public docket. *See* Bankr. Dkt. 4255, Exhibit 45.

⁷ Highland relies on inapposite cases to support its expansive view of statutory mootness, none of which actually say what Highland wants them to say. *See* Dkt. 21 at ¶¶ 8–11. Neither *Moore* nor *Mickey Thompson* discusses mootness at all. *In re Sneed Shipbuilding, Inc.* involved a true outside bidder who injected millions in new value, unlike the negotiated compromise between insiders that added no new value here. 916 F.3d 405, 410–11 (5th Cir. 2019).

Bankruptcy Court must consider (among other factors) the “extent to which settlement is truly the product of arm’s-length bargaining and not fraud or collusion.” *Id.* at 263; *see* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019.

Highland cannot use a § 363 dismissal motion to short-circuit judicial review of the propriety of its transactions with HMIT under the Settlement. *Cf. In re Braniff Airways, Inc.*, 700 F.2d 935, 940 (5th Cir. 1983) (holding parties cannot use § 363 to dictate reorganization terms without respecting plan confirmation requirements)..

D. The Bankruptcy Court erred in finding good faith without evidentiary support.

The defense of statutory mootness is available only to purchasers who obtained estate property “in good faith.” 11 U.S.C. § 363(m). The burden of proving good faith lies with the proponent of the sale. *TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520–21; *M Capital*, 290 B.R. at 747. Good faith requires more than the absence of objections; it demands proof the transaction was free of fraud, collusion, or unfair advantage. *Id.* at 521; *see In re Camp Arrowhead, Ltd.*, 429 B.R. 546, 550 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2010) (“The sale of property *to a good faith purchaser* that occurred without a stay pending appeal cannot be reversed or modified.”) (emphasis added).

Here, Highland cannot show that the Settlement and related transactions were free of “any suggestion of fraud, collusion, or an attempt to take grossly unfair advantage.” *TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 521. Mark Patrick’s apparent

“authority” to negotiate and settle on behalf of HMIT was the illegitimate product of his fraudulent seizure of the HMIT entities and was stripped away by order of the Cayman Islands court before Patrick ever signed the settlement. *See* Sections II(A)–(B) above. To the extent Highland was aware of Patrick’s lack of authority and chose to deal with him anyway, Highland is at minimum guilty of collusion with Patrick’s fraudulent scheme.⁸

The Bankruptcy Court’s most serious error was its wrong assumption it could premise the necessary finding of good faith only on the apparent absence of bad faith. The Bankruptcy Court stated at the June 25 hearing that “the evidence was very thorough in showing that the compromise is a product of good faith and arm’s-length negotiations.” Hrg. Tr. 256:2–5. And in its June 30, 2025 Order approving the settlement, the Court found that “[t]he Settlement Agreement was negotiated and entered into by the Highland Entities and the HMIT Entities without collusion or fraud, in good faith, and was the product of arm’s-length negotiations.” Bankr. Dkt. 4297 ¶ 4. The Court specifically found that “[t]he HMIT Entities, as good faith purchasers of Estate assets in the Settlement, are entitled to the protections contained in section 363(m) of the Bankruptcy Code.” *Id.* ¶ 13. But these conclusory findings

⁸ Not all of this information was available to the Bankruptcy Court at the June 25, 2025 hearing (though it would have become available had the Court granted Dugaboy’s request for a 90-day stay to further investigate Mark Patrick’s misconduct). But even in the absence of such evidence it was error for the Court to assume good faith from a silent record. *See TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520; *M Capital*, 290 B.R. at 752.

have minimal, if any, evidentiary support in the record. The only “evidence” on good faith presented at the hearing was Mark Patrick’s self-serving testimony that he had it. *See* June 25 Hrg. Tr. 188:3–6:

“Q. And do you believe that you’re entering into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities in good faith?”

A. [Mark Patrick]: Yes, I do.”

Based on that testimony and the apparent absence of contrary evidence, the Bankruptcy Court concluded the settling parties adequately established the required element of good faith. This was clear error under the controlling Fifth Circuit precedent set forth in *TMT Procurement* that the proponent of “good faith” bears the burden of proving it. 764 F.3d at 520. When a purchaser’s good faith has been challenged, a party seeking to dismiss an appeal must present facts establishing the purchaser’s good faith, not just “boilerplate ‘good faith’ findings in orders.”⁹

Highland’s Motion makes no attempt to present any such evidence, which dooms its bid for dismissal.¹⁰ Highland merely recites the boilerplate “good faith” findings in the Bankruptcy Court’s order (Dkt. 21 ¶ 12; *see* Bankr. Dkt. 4297 at ¶¶ 4, 13), which are insufficient for the reasons discussed above.

⁹ *See M Capital*, 290 B.R. at 752 (“Boilerplate good faith findings in orders will not suffice, and courts should avoid the temptation to sign such orders without an evidentiary foundation.”).

¹⁰ Highland notes that “Appellants have not challenged the HMIT Entities’ status as ‘good faith purchasers’ under Bankruptcy Code § 363(m).” Dkt. 21 at ¶ 3 & n.4. This is “evidence” only that Highland misunderstands the burden of proof. *See TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520.

E. Without the required showing of good faith, a party's failure to obtain a stay pending appeal does not give rise to statutory mootness.

Highland makes much of the fact that Dugaboy did not obtain a stay pending appeal.¹¹ *See* Dkt. 21 at 3–4, 7 & Seery Dec. ¶ 6 & n.2. But that does nothing to advance its statutory mootness argument, for two reasons.

First, Dugaboy *did* ask the Bankruptcy Court for a stay—just not under Rule 8007. Instead, Dugaboy asked for a time-limited 90-day stay for the purpose of investigating the new evidence from the Cayman proceeding and developing a potential Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b) motion to set aside the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Settlement.¹² That does not implicate Rule 8007 because it does not involve an appellate proceeding, but it is well within the Bankruptcy Court's statutory powers under 11 U.S.C. § 105. Dugaboy is aware of no authority holding that Rule 8007 is the sole or exclusive vehicle for obtaining a stay in a bankruptcy proceeding.

More importantly, the lack of a Rule 8007 stay is irrelevant given Highland's failure to meet its burden of proof on good faith. *See TMT Procurement*, 764 F.3d at 520–21. **Both** good faith **and** the absence of a stay are required for a purchaser to

¹¹ In an abundance of caution, Dugaboy intends to move this Court for a stay pending appeal. Dugaboy does not concede such a stay is necessary to its appeal or that the presence or absence of a stay makes any difference given Highland's failure to establish good faith.

¹² The Bankruptcy Court's denial of Dugaboy's Motion for a 90-day stay (Bankr. Dkt. 4326 and 4333) is the subject of a separate appeal in the District Court currently before Judge Scholer. *See* N.D. Tex. Case No. 3:25-cv-02072-S. Given the substantial overlap in facts and applicable law, Dugaboy intends to file a motion to consolidate both appeals.

establish statutory mootness and obtain the protection of § 363(m). *Id.*; see *In re BNP Petroleum Corp.*, 642 F. App'x 429, 434 (5th Cir. 2016) (“[T]he absence of a stay will not moot the appeal of a sale authorization to the extent that the appeal challenges the ‘good faith’ of the purchaser.”). Highland seeks to use statutory mootness as a threshold issue to short-circuit Dugaboy’s appeal, but the good-faith issue is itself a prerequisite to determining whether statutory mootness applies at all. Without good faith, the issue of statutory mootness is—for lack of a better word—moot.

F. The post-Settlement transactions do not establish mootness.

Highland contends this Appeal is moot because the transactions contemplated under the Settlement have already been carried out. *See* Dkt. 21 at 7 & Ex. 1, Seery Declaration ¶¶ 7–16. Highland is wrong. Because Mark Patrick lacked authority to agree to the Settlement on behalf of HMIT, every representation and agreement HMIT purportedly made through him is void. *See Carter*, 136 F.3d at 1005–07. Far from being an innocent victim of Patrick’s deception, Highland was well aware of his lawless takeover of HMIT and chose to deal with him anyway.¹³ Highland cannot reasonably complain when those improper transactions are undone.

Furthermore, undoing the post-Settlement transactions will not pose great

¹³ *See, e.g.*, Ex. 2 (email from Highland counsel noting Patrick’s plans to “extinguish” the ownership shares of the charitable entities).

difficulty. Aside from a single \$500,000 cash payment, most of the transferred “assets” comprise settlements of various legal claims between Highland and HMIT. No innocent third party has purchased any of these claims or otherwise acted in reliance on the validity of the Settlement. Voiding the Settlement would simply put Highland and HMIT back in the positions they occupied before reaching the agreement in May 2025.

G. A finding of good faith under § 363(m) does not foreclose Dugaboy’s issues on appeal.

Finally, even though the Bankruptcy Court found (incorrectly) that HMIT was a good-faith purchaser entitled to the protections of § 363(m) (*see* Bankr. Dkt. 4297 ¶¶ 4, 13), that does not foreclose any of the issues Dugaboy is appealing.¹⁴ Highland’s dismissal arguments are either irrelevant to Dugaboy’s issues, or themselves cannot be answered without giving Dugaboy’s issues full consideration on the merits.

Questions of mootness do not bar appellate review of the substantive fairness of the Settlement as a whole. *See TMT Trailer Ferry, Inc.*, 390 U.S. 414, 424–25 (1968). An appellant who fails to secure a stay can still challenge the Settlement based on the 9019 factors. *See Moore*, 608 F.3d at 263. Under that standard, this Settlement fails because it is neither fair nor equitable nor in the best interests of the

¹⁴ *See* Bankr. Dkt. 4368, Dugaboy’s Aug. 12, 2025 Statement of Issues on Appeal.

estate. *See id.*; Dugaboy Issues 1–3. Furthermore, the lack of a stay does not prevent Dugaboy from challenging Mark Patrick’s authority to settle claims on behalf of HMIT, or the Bankruptcy Court’s decision to rely on Patrick’s testimony. *See* Dugaboy Issues 4–5. Patrick’s good faith and authority (or lack thereof) is a threshold issue that must be resolved before reaching statutory mootness.

To decide whether Dugaboy’s Appeal is statutorily moot under § 363(m), this Court must first determine whether Mark Patrick had authority to bind HMIT, and whether Highland and HMIT acted in good faith in entering the Settlement. The Court can better explore these questions with the benefit of a complete record and full briefing on the merits. Highland is attempting to short-circuit this Appeal and prevent this Court’s consideration of the merits, so the Court will appreciate the irony that Highland’s premature dismissal arguments cannot be resolved without first addressing the merits of Dugaboy’s Appeal.

V. CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

For the reasons above, Dugaboy respectfully asks the Court to deny Highland’s Motion to Dismiss Appeal. Alternatively, the Court should carry the Motion to Dismiss and consider statutory mootness alongside Dugaboy’s appellate issues with the benefit of full briefing on the merits of this Appeal.

Dated: September 2, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

By: /s/ Geoffrey S. Harper

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***Counsel for Appellant The Dugaboy
Investment Trust***

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on September 2, 2025, a true and correct copy of this document was served electronically via the Court's CM/ECF system to the parties registered or otherwise entitled to receive electronic notices in this case.

/s/ Geoffrey S. Harper
Geoffrey S. Harper

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

1. This document complies with the word limit of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8013(f)(3)(A) because, excluding the portions excluded by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8015(g), this document contains 5,140 words.
2. This document complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8015(a)(5) and the type-style requirements of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8015(a)(6) because this document has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word, typeface Times New Roman, 14-point type (12-point type of footnotes).

/s/ Geoffrey S. Harper
Geoffrey S. Harper

EXHIBIT 1



**IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION**

CAUSE NO: FSD 201 OF 2025 ()

BETWEEN:

CHARITABLE DAF HOLDCO, LTD (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION)

Plaintiff

AND

- (1) MARK ERIC PATRICK**
- (2) PAUL MURPHY**
- (3) CDMCFAD, LLC**
- (4) DFW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**
- (5) CDH GP, LTD. AS GENERAL PARTNER FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
CHARITABLE DAF FUND, LP, AND IN ITS CAPACITY AS GENERAL
PARTNER**
- (6) CLO HOLDCO, LTD.**

Defendants

WRIT OF SUMMONS

TO: (1) MARK ERIC PATRICK of 6716 Glenhurst Drive, Dallas, Texas, 72554, United States
of America

THIS WRIT was issued by Maples and Calder (Cayman) LLP, attorneys for the Plaintiff, whose
address for service is PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands. (Ref:
CJM/JRN/TQR/858403.000001/83527361)

- (2) **PAUL MURPHY** of Windsor Village #24, South Church Street, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
- (3) **CDMCFAD, LLC** of c/o The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, City of Wilmington, County of New Castle, Delaware, 1980, United States of America
- (4) **DFW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** of c/o The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, City of Wilmington, County of New Castle, Delaware, 1980, United States of America
- (5) **CDH GP, LTD. AS GENERAL PARTNER FOR AND ON BEHALF OF CHARITABLE DAF FUND, LP, AND IN ITS CAPACITY AS GENERAL PARTNER** of c/o Campbells Corporate Services Limited, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman KY1-9010, Cayman Islands
- (6) **CLO HOLDCO, LTD.** of c/o Campbells Corporate Services Limited, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman KY1-9010, Cayman Islands

THIS WRIT OF SUMMONS has been issued against you by the above-named Plaintiff in respect of the claim set out on the next page.

Within 14 days after the service of this Writ on you, counting the day of service, or, if you are served out of the jurisdiction, within such other period of time as the Court may order, you must either satisfy the claim or return to the Registrar of the Financial Services Division, Court Office, PO Box 495, George Town, Grand Cayman, KY1-1106, Cayman Islands, the accompanying Acknowledgment of Service stating therein whether you intend to contest these proceedings.

If you fail to satisfy the claim or to return the Acknowledgment within the time stated, or if you return the Acknowledgment without stating therein an intention to contest the proceedings, the Plaintiff may proceed with the action and judgment may be entered against you forthwith without further notice.

Issued this 15th day of July 2025

NOTE - This Writ may not be served later than 4 calendar months (or, if leave is required to effect service out of the jurisdiction, 6 months) beginning with the date of issue unless renewed by order of the Court.

IMPORTANT

Directions for Acknowledgment of Service are given with the accompanying form

IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

CAUSE NO: FSD 201 OF 2025 ()

BETWEEN:

CHARITABLE DAF HOLDCO, LTD (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION)

Plaintiff

AND

- (1) MARK ERIC PATRICK
- (2) PAUL MURPHY
- (3) CDMCFAD, LLC
- (4) DFW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- (5) CDH GP, LTD. AS GENERAL PARTNER FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
CHARITABLE DAF FUND, LP, AND IN ITS CAPACITY AS GENERAL
PARTNER
- (6) CLO HOLDCO, LTD.

Defendants

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

INTRODUCTION

1 The Plaintiff, Charitable DAF HoldCo, Ltd (in Official Liquidation) (the "**Company**"), is a Cayman Islands exempted company, incorporated on 27 October 2011, having its registered office at HSM Corporate Services Ltd, 68 Fort Street, George Town, PO Box 31726, Grand

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Cayman KY1-1207. The authorised and issued share capital of the Company is divided into Participating Shares and Management Shares.

- 2 The Company was placed into court supervised liquidation and Margot MacInnis and Sandipan Bhowmik of Grant Thornton Specialist Services (Cayman) Limited were appointed as joint official liquidators (the "**JOLs**") pursuant to an order of this Honourable Court dated 6 May 2025.
- 3 The Company was, between November 2011 and 18 December 2024, the sole limited partner of Charitable DAF Fund, LP (the "**Fund**"). At all relevant times, the net asset value of the Fund's assets was c. US\$270million.
- 4 The Fund is a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership formed to invest and manage assets for the benefit or ultimate benefit of certain registered charitable organisations in the U.S. namely The Dallas Foundation; the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; the Santa Barbara Foundation and The Community Foundation of North Texas (the "**Charities**"). These charities are the owners or the ultimate beneficial owners of Participating Shares in the Company.
- 5 In March 2021, Mark Patrick (the "**First Defendant**") was appointed the sole director and registered as the sole Management Shareholder of the Company. In April 2021, Paul Murphy (the "**Second Defendant**") was appointed by the First Defendant as a second director of Holdco.
- 6 By virtue of a series of transactions or purported transactions between March 2024 and March 2025, unbeknownst to the holders of the Participating Shares (the "**Participating Shareholders**") of the Company, Mr Patrick caused:

- 6.1 the Company, with the agreement and concurrence of Mr Murphy, to assign its interest in the Fund to the Third Defendant, a Delaware limited liability company, formed in

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December 2024 and controlled by Mr Patrick, in exchange for a membership interest in that entity;

- 6.2 the Company, with the agreement and concurrence of Mr Murphy, to issue and allot further Participating Shares (representing a majority of the issued participating share capital) to the Fourth Defendant, a Delaware company, incorporated in December 2024 and controlled by Mr Patrick;
- 6.3 the Third Defendant to redeem the Company's membership interest in the Third Defendant for a consideration of c. US\$1.6 million, representing approximately 0.59% of the total net asset value of the assets held by the Fund; and
- 6.4 the Company, with the agreement and concurrence of Mr Murphy, to be placed into voluntary liquidation after having made a final distribution to all Original Participating Shareholders (defined below) in the Company of the proceeds of redemption,

collectively the "**Impugned Transactions**".

- 7 The First and Second Defendants effected the Impugned Transactions in breach of their fiduciary and other duties to the Company in order to bring ownership of the Fund and its assets, with a net value of c. US\$270 million (as assessed at 30 September 2024), under Mr Patrick's effective control to the exclusion of the interests of the Charities. The Charities, as the original, and rightful, ultimate beneficiaries of the Fund, have been left with nothing.
- 8 Further, during the period March 2021 to June 2024, the First and Second Defendants, in breach of fiduciary duty, caused the Company to pay excessive fees and expenses to Mr Patrick.

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THE PARTIES

The Company

- 9 The Company is a Cayman Islands exempted company, incorporated on 27 October 2011, having its registered office at HSM Corporate Services Limited, Ltd, 68 Fort Street, George Town, PO Box 31726, Grand Cayman, KY1-1207, Cayman Islands.
- 10 The directors of the Company are Mr Patrick (appointed on 25 March 2021) and Mr Murphy (appointed by Mr Patrick on 22 April 2021).
- 11 The Company has been governed by the following memorandum and articles of association from time to time:
- 11.1 The memorandum and articles of association dated 27 October 2011; and
- 11.2 The amended and restated memoranda and articles of association dated 19 January 2015; 24 January 2024; and 20 February 2025 respectively.
- The Company remains governed by the memorandum and articles of association as amended and restated on 20 February 2025 (the "**Articles**") save that the Company reserves the right to challenge the validity of the Articles.
- 12 Save as set out above, the Company will rely on the Articles and all previous iterations for their applicable full terms and effect.
- 13 Pursuant to the Articles and at all relevant times, the authorised share capital of the Company was US\$50,000 divided into 100 Management Shares of US\$0.01 par value each and 4,999,900 Participating Shares of US\$0.01 par value each.

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- 14 The Articles (with reference to the defined term of 'Restricted Person') require that the Participating Shareholders must at all times qualify as a tax-exempt organisation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("**IRC**").
- 15 The Participating Shares do not have voting rights but confer the right to participate in the profits or assets of the Company including by way of the receipt of dividends (Article 12).
- 16 The Management Shares have voting rights but confer no other right to participate in the profits or assets of the Company (Article 11).
- 17 The Participating Shareholders therefore have the entirety of the economic interest in the Company, whereas the Management Shareholders have the control rights.
- 18 On 7 November 2011, the Company issued:
- 18.1 300 Participating Shares to The Highland Capital Management Partners Charitable Trust #2 ("**Trust #2**"); and
- 18.2 100 Management Shares to Grant Scott.
- 19 On 30 November 2011, Trust #2 transferred its 300 Participating Shares equally amongst:
- 19.1 Highland Kansas City Foundation, Inc.;
- 19.2 Highland Dallas Foundation, Inc.¹; and
- 19.3 Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, Inc.,
- collectively, the "**Supporting Organisations**".

¹Since June 2024, Highland Dallas Foundation, Inc. has also done business as 'NexPoint Philanthropies Dallas, Inc.', per an Assumed Name Certificate filed with the Secretary of State of Texas.

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- 20 On 12 August 2015, the Company issued 5 Participating Shares to the Community Foundation of North Texas, ("**CFNT**", and together with the Supporting Organisations the "**Original Participating Shareholders**") for Highland Capital Management, L.P. Charitable Fund at CFNT.
- 21 On 25 March 2021, the Management Shares were transferred to Mr Patrick and he continues to hold these shares.
- 22 The Participating Shares held by the Original Participating Shareholders represented the entire issued Participating Share capital of the Company until 7 February 2025. On that date, Mr Patrick, with the agreement and concurrence of Mr Murphy, caused the Company to issue 318 Participating Shares to the Fourth Defendant, DFW Charitable Foundation ("**DFW**"), significantly diluting the shareholdings of the Original Participating Shareholders and the indirect economic interest of the Charities.
- 23 Until 18 December 2024, the sole asset of the Company was its limited partnership interest in the Fund (the "**Partnership Interest**").
- 24 As a result of the Impugned Transactions, the Company now has no material assets.

DFW

- 25 DFW (the Fourth Defendant) is a non-profit non-stock corporation incorporated in Delaware on 9 December 2024, which is organised under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware exclusively for charitable purposes.
- 26 DFW is the majority Participating Shareholder of the Company by virtue of the purported share issuance on 7 February 2025, and Mr Patrick is its registered director, president and sole member.

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The Fund

- 27 The Fund is a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership formed on 28 October 2011 (registration no. 53083), having its registered office at Campbells Corporate Services Ltd, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman, KY1-9010, Cayman Islands.
- 28 The Fund is governed by the Second Amended and Restated Exempted Limited Partnership Agreement dated 11 March 2024 (the "**LPA**"). The initial exempted limited partnership agreement of the Fund was dated 25 October 2011, was amended and restated on 7 November 2011 and further amended on 26 July 2022 (with effect from 24 March 2021). The Company will rely on the LPA for its applicable full terms and effect.
- 29 Mr Patrick was instrumental in the establishment of the Company, the Fund and the Fund structure.
- 30 Until 18 December 2024, the Company was the sole limited partner of the Fund.
- 31 On 18 December 2024, Mr Patrick, with the agreement and concurrence of Mr Murphy, caused the Company to transfer its limited partnership interest to CDMCFAD, LLC ("**CDM**") (the Third Defendant) in exchange for a membership interest in CDM.
- 32 The original general partner of the Fund was Charitable DAF GP, LLC (the "**Original GP**"), a Delaware limited liability company registered as a foreign company in the Cayman Islands. The Original GP was the general partner from the Fund's formation until 7 March 2024.
- 33 On 7 March 2024, the Original GP was replaced by CDH GP, Ltd. (the "**New GP**") (the Fifth Defendant).
- 34 The sole asset of the Fund is its 100% shareholding in CLO HoldCo, Ltd. ("**CLO HoldCo**") (the Sixth Defendant), a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated with limited liability,

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having its registered office address located at Campbells Corporate Services Limited, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman KY1-9010, Cayman Islands.

35 The assets of the Fund were valued at c. \$270 million in September 2024.

The New GP

36 The New GP (the Fifth Defendant) is a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated on 27 February 2024, having its registered office located at Campbells Corporate Services Limited, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman KY1-9010, Cayman Islands.

37 Mr Patrick is the New GP's sole director and sole shareholder.

38 The New GP is a defendant to these proceedings in two capacities: (i) in its capacity as General Partner; and (ii) for and on behalf of the Fund in order to join the Fund as a defendant to these proceedings.

CDM

39 CDM (the Third Defendant) is a limited liability company incorporated in Delaware on 12 December 2024, having its registered address c/o The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, City of Wilmington, County of New Castle, Delaware, 19801.

40 CDM is governed by the terms of a Limited Liability Company Agreement dated 18 December 2024.

41 Since 18 December 2024, the primary asset of CDM has been the limited partnership interest in the Fund.

42 The sole manager of CDM is Mark Patrick.

43 From 18 December 2024 to 27 March 2025, the sole member of CDM was the Company.

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44 On 27 March 2025, Mr Patrick caused CDM to redeem the Company and admit DFW as the sole participating member.

CLO HoldCo

45 CLO HoldCo (the Sixth Defendant) is a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated on 13 December 2010, having its registered office address located at Campbells Corporate Services Limited, Floor 4, Willow House, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman KY1-9010, Cayman Islands, and which is the Fund's main subsidiary.

46 The directors of CLO Holdco are Messrs Patrick and Murphy.

47 The sole shareholder of CLO Holdco is the Fund.

The Directors

Mark Patrick

48 Mr Patrick (the First Defendant) is a U.S. resident who is:

- 48.1 a director, holds the offices of (i) President, (ii) General Counsel, and (iii) Chief Investment Officer and is the current Management Shareholder of the Company;
- 48.2 the Manager of CDM (the Third Defendant);
- 48.3 the sole director and the sole member of DFW (the Fourth Defendant);
- 48.4 the sole director and sole shareholder of the New GP (the Fifth Defendant); and
- 48.5 a director of CLO HoldCo (the Sixth Defendant).

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49 Mr Patrick was employed as tax counsel by Highland Capital Management, L.P. ("**Highland**") from 2008 to 2021 and as tax counsel by Highgate Consulting Group, Inc. d/b/a Skyview Group from March 2021 to October 2024.

Paul Murphy

50 Mr Murphy (the Second Defendant) is a Cayman Islands resident who is:

50.1 a director of the Company;

50.2 a director of CLO HoldCo (the Fifth Defendant); and

50.3 a director of various other entities in the Charitable DAF structure.²

51 Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy are referred to herein as the "**Directors**".

THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE OF THE FUND

52 The Fund was formed on 28 October 2011 at the instigation of Mr James Dondero, a U.S. resident and the founder of Highland to enable certain assets, held through the shares in CLO Holdco, to be donated to a charitable foundation.

53 Upon the formation of the Fund, the Company was admitted as a limited partner and, by way of capital contribution, contributed all of the outstanding equity interests in CLO HoldCo to the Fund.

54 The purpose of the Fund was to make investments for the ultimate benefit of the Original Participating Shareholders and the Charities:

²Mr Murphy was appointed to the board of directors of the following entities on 22 April 2021; Liberty CLO Holdco, Ltd., Liberty Sub, Ltd., HCT Holdco 2, Ltd. and MGM Studios Holdco, Ltd. at the same time as Charitable DAF HoldCo, Ltd and CLO HoldCo, Ltd.

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- 54.1 The recitals to the LPA of the Fund provide that the purpose of the Fund was to “*make certain investments directly or indirectly on behalf of certain entities exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code ... for the economic benefit of the Limited Partner and its Indirect Charitable Owners...*”.
- 54.2 Clause 1.3 of the LPA provides that “*... the Partnership may make investments in other types of securities, investment vehicles and instruments in the sole discretion of the General Partner for the purpose of benefitting, directly or indirectly, the Indirect Charitable Owners*”.
- 54.3 Clause 1.6(a) of the LPA provides that “*the Partnership's assets and investments shall be for the benefit of the Limited Partners and not for the economic benefit of the General Partner*”.
- 54.4 “Indirect Charitable Owners” is defined in the LPA as “*the indirect equity owners of the Limited Partners which shall at all times be entities or organizations exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or entities or organizations whose sole beneficiaries are entities or organizations exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.*” i.e., the Company's Participating Shareholders or the Charities.
- 54.5 Clause 4.2(a) of the LPA provides that “*Distributions shall be made to the Limited Partner at the times, in a manner (including in kind) and in the aggregate amounts determined by the General Partner, after taking into consideration available cash and the needs of the Indirect Charitable Owners of the Limited Partner for funds to cover their administrative and operating expenses...*”.
- 54.6 The LPA does not modify the statutory duty of the General Partner to act in good faith and in the interests of the Fund.

55 The Charities are the following four US charitable or non-profit foundations:

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55.1 *The Dallas Foundation*: a charitable entity established in Texas in 1929 which has awarded over \$1 billion in grants and manages over \$500 million in assets.

55.2 *Greater Kansas City Community Foundation*: a charitable entity established in Missouri in 1978 which has awarded over \$7 billion in grants and manages over \$6 billion held in charitable funds.

55.3 *Santa Barbara Foundation*: a charity established in 1928 which is the largest community foundation on California's Central Coast and manages assets of over \$800 million.

55.4 *North Texas Community Foundation*: which manages assets totalling \$513 million and donated \$38.9 million to local non-profits in 2023.

56 The Dallas Foundation, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Santa Barbara Foundation (the "**Supported Organisations**") hold their interests in the Company through their respective Supporting Organisation namely Highland Dallas Foundation, Inc. as the Supporting Organisation for The Dallas Foundation; Highland Kansas City Foundation, Inc. as the Supporting Organisation for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, Inc as the Supporting Organisation for the Santa Barbara Foundation.

57 CFNT holds its Participating Shares in the Company directly.

THE TAX STRUCTURE

58 As a matter of U.S. tax law, in order for the Supported Organisations to benefit from distributions from the Fund in a tax efficient manner, it was necessary for them to hold their interests through an offshore corporate blocker entity, namely the Company:

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58.1 S501(c)(3) of the IRC provides that charitable organisations which meet certain criteria are exempt from state and federal taxes except to the extent that it receives income classified as unrelated business taxable income ("**UBTI**"); and

58.2 the Supported Organisations and their Supporting Organisations meet the criteria of s501(c)(3). They are therefore generally exempt from U.S. state and federal taxes, with a few exceptions, including to the extent that they receive UBTI.

59 As a matter of U.S. tax law, at least a portion of income received directly from the Fund by the Supported Organisations would likely be considered UBTI.

60 In order to insulate the Supported Organisations from UBTI, instead of holding their interest in the Fund directly, they held through an offshore corporate blocker structure, namely the Company.

THE SUPPORTED ORGANISATIONS CONTROL THE SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

61 The Supporting Organisations were incorporated in Delaware by Mr Dondero on or about 22 November 2011 for the purpose of making charitable donations to their respective charity from the proceeds of dividends received by the Supporting Organisations from the Company.

62 Supporting organisations under the IRC are tax exempt charitable organisations that provide financial or operational support to one or more public charitable organisations (called "supported organisations"). Because of the link with the supported public charities, supporting organisations are classified as public charities themselves, as opposed to private foundations, despite the fact that a supporting organisation's sources of funding may be limited to a single individual, which would otherwise cause the entity to be classified as a private foundation.

63 Contributions to supporting organisations, as public charities, qualify for the highest tax deductibility thresholds under the IRC (up to 50% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, or

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60%, in the case of cash gifts) instead of the substantially lower threshold for contributions to private foundations (30% of adjusted gross income, regardless of the character of the contribution).

64 The Supporting Organisations are "Type I" tax exempt organisations under the IRC which means they must be organised and operated exclusively to support and benefit their relevant charity and controlled by that charity:

64.1 S509(a)(3) of the IRC contains the qualifications for a "supporting organisation". Under that section, a supporting organisation is a tax-exempt entity that must be organised and then operate exclusively for either (i) the benefit of, (ii) to perform the functions of, or (iii) to carry out the purposes of one or more supported organisations. The supported organisations must also be s501(c)(3) entities;

64.2 There are three types of supporting organisations, known as "Type I", "Type II" and "Type III". S509(a)(3)(B)(i), (ii) and (iii) sets out the requirements for each "Type", respectively;

64.3 S509(a)(3)(B)(i) provides that a Type I supporting organisation must be operated, supervised or controlled by the supported organisation; and

64.4 S509(a)(3)(C) provides that the supporting organisation may not be controlled by a disqualified person, other than the foundation managers and the supported organisation.

65 The Supporting Organisations are so controlled by the respective Supported Organisations.

66 The Supporting Organisations are governed by the terms of their respective Certificate of Incorporation and by-laws (the "**Bylaws**").

67 The Certificates of Incorporation provide (amongst other things) that:

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67.1 the Supporting Organisation:

- (a) is organised and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes;
- (b) is organised and operated exclusively to support and benefit the particular charity that controls it; and
- (c) is a non-profit non-stock corporation and cannot issue any capital stock;

67.2 no part of the net earnings of the Supporting Organisation shall be distributable to the directors and officers of the Supporting Organisation or other private persons save that the Supporting Organisation can pay reasonable compensation for services rendered; and

67.3 net earnings can be used to make grants, loans and similar payments for charitable, educational and scientific purposes to benefit the relevant Supported Organisation.

68 The Bylaws provide that (amongst other things):

68.1 There are two classes of members of the Supporting Organisations with one member in each such class:

- (a) the institutional member (the "**Institutional Member**") which shall be the Supported Organisation; and
- (b) the individual member (the "**Individual Member**") which shall be Mr Dondero or an individual designated as the Individual Member in the Bylaws.

68.2 In terms of voting on a matter submitted to a vote of the members (except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws):

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(a) the Institutional Member is entitled to two votes; and

(b) the Individual Member is entitled to one vote.

68.3 Institutional membership is not transferable or assignable.

68.4 Individual membership is transferable or assignable only upon approval of the Institutional Member.

68.5 Both the Institutional Member and the Individual Member must be present in person or by represented proxy to constitute a quorum at all meetings of members.

68.6 There shall be three directors of the board of the Supporting Organisation. Two directors shall be elected annually by the Institutional Member and one director shall be elected annually by the Individual Member.

69 The relationship between the Supporting Organisations and their respective Supported Organisation are governed by separate operating/legal relationship agreements (collectively "**Operating Agreements**"). These agreements provide, among other things, that:

69.1 the Supported Organisation will provide certain services to the Supporting Organisation;

69.2 the Supported Organisation will appoint two of the three directors of the Supporting Organisation as required by Bylaws; and

69.3 in consideration for the services provided by the Supported Organisation to the Supporting Organisation, the Supporting Organisation shall pay a fee to the Supported Organisation.

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70 Mr Dondero sits on the board of each of the Supporting Organisations with two other directors from each of the Supported Organisations respectively.

71 The relationships, rights and obligations created by and between the Supported Organisations and the Supporting Organisations pursuant to the agreements entered into between them were at all material times in summary that:

71.1 the Supported Organisations control the Supporting Organisations through their majority voting interest and their ability to elect a majority of the directors of the Supporting Organisations;

71.2 the Supporting Organisations support the Supported Organisations by way of making grants to them from time to time from their assets, including any dividends received from the Company;

71.3 the Supporting Organisations have no ability to pay dividends to any private person or make payments to their directors (save reasonable reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses) and can only make grants to the relevant Charity in furtherance of their charitable purposes; and

71.4 while Mr Dondero sits on the board of the Supporting Organisations, he does not control them, as a supermajority of the votes are always held by the respective Charity.

72 The Company will rely on the Certificates of Incorporation, Bylaws, Operating Agreements and terms of the IRC for their applicable full terms and effect.

THE CONTROL POSITION OF MR PATRICK OVER THE COMPANY AND THE FUND

73 The terms of the LPA grant sole control over the management and distribution of the Fund's assets to the General Partner. The terms of the Articles grant sole control over the management and distribution of the Company's assets to the Management Shareholder.

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The LPA

73.1 Clause 1.12

- (i) The term “**General Partner**” shall refer to Charitable DAF GP, LLC, and each other person subsequently admitted as a general partner pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The General Partner shall give each Limited Partner notice of any change in control of the General Partner. The General Partner shall give each Limited Partner notice of the admission of any additional general partner to the Partnership.

73.2 Clause 1.6

- (i) *Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the General Partner shall have full, exclusive and complete discretion in the management and control of the business and affairs of the Partnership, shall make all decisions regarding the business of the Partnership, and shall have all of the rights, powers and obligations of a general partner of a limited partnership under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the General Partner is hereby granted the right, power and authority to do on behalf of the Partnership all things which, in the General Partner’s sole discretion, are necessary or appropriate to manage the Partnership’s affairs and fulfill the purposes of the Partnership; provided, however the Partnership’s assets and investments shall be for the benefit of the Limited Partners and not for the economic benefit of the General Partner.*
- (ii) *Except as otherwise provided herein, the Limited Partners, in their capacity as Limited Partners, shall not participate in the management of or have any control over the Partnership’s business nor shall the Limited Partners have the power to represent, act for, sign for or bind the General Partner or the Partnership. The Limited Partners*

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hereby consent to the exercise by the General Partner of the Powers conferred on it by this Agreement.

The Articles

73.3 Article 11

The Management Shares shall be issued at par value and shall carry the right to receive notice of and to attend, to speak at and to vote at any general meeting of the Company. In the event of a winding up or dissolution of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary or for the purposes of a reorganization or otherwise or upon any distribution of capital, the entitlement of the holders of Management Shares shall be determined in accordance with these Articles. Management Shares confer no other right to participate in the profits or assets of the Company.

73.4 Article 12

Participating Shares shall confer upon a Shareholder no right to receive notice of, to attend, to speak at nor to vote at general meetings of the Company but shall confer upon the Shareholders rights in a winding-up or repayment of capital and the right to participate in the profits or assets of the Company in accordance with these Articles.

73.5 Article 13

...the rights attached to any such Class may... only be materially adversely varied or abrogated with the consent in writing of the holders of not less than two-thirds of the issued Participating Shares of the relevant Class or with the sanction of a resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the Participating Shares of such Class by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast at such a meeting.

73.6 Article 84 (d)

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The office of Director shall be vacated if the Director...is removed from office by Ordinary Resolution.

The definition of Ordinary Resolution is a vote of the Management Shares.

73.7 Article 99

Subject to any rights and restrictions for the time being attached to any Shares, or as otherwise provided for in the Act and these Articles, the Directors may from time to time declare dividends (including interim dividends) and other distributions on Shares in issue and authorise payment of the same out of the funds of the Company lawfully available therefor.

73.8 Article 104

Subject to any rights and restrictions for the time being attached to any Participating Shares, all dividends shall be declared and paid in such amounts as may be declared by the Director's in their sole and absolute discretion without a requirement to pay such dividends on a pro-rata basis as to the paid-up or par value of the Shares.

74 The Management Shares in the Company and the General Partner in the Fund have at all material times been held and/or controlled by a single individual who, as a result, has sole control of the Fund structure (the "**Control Position**");

74.1 In or around November 2011:

- (a) Grant Scott was appointed as the sole director and allotted the 100 Management Shares of the Company; and
- (b) Grant Scott became the holder of the membership interest in the Original GP and was appointed the Manager thereof,

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thereby assuming the Control Position from that date.

74.2 In or around 24 March 2021, Mr Scott:

- (a) assigned 100% of the membership interest in the Original GP to Mr Patrick pursuant to an Assignment and Assumption of Membership Interests Agreement, which membership interest gave Mr Patrick the sole right to manage the Original GP;
- (b) transferred to Mr Patrick the 100 Management Shares in the Company; and
- (c) resigned as a director of the Company and resolved to appoint Mr Patrick as the sole director in his place.

74.3 On 25 March 2021, Mr Patrick was entered into the Company's Register of Members as the holder of the Management Shares.

74.4 Mr Patrick therefore assumed the Control Position from that date.

74.5 On 22 April 2021, Mr Patrick resolved to appoint Mr Murphy as a second director of the Company.

74.6 On 7 March 2024, by way of a Deed of Assignment and Assumption, Mr Patrick, as managing member of the Original GP, caused the Original GP to transfer its general partnership interest in the Fund to the New GP.

74.7 Mr Patrick is the sole shareholder and director of the New GP.

74.8 Mr Patrick therefore remains in the Control Position and was in such position at all relevant times since 25 March 2021.

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- 75 Further, the sole asset of the Fund is its shares in CLO Holdco (the Sixth Defendant). Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy are the directors of CLO Holdco and were appointed on 2 April 2021 and 22 April 2021 respectively.
- 76 The Control Position was not and is not a term of art but was nevertheless a legal and factual position:
- 76.1 where a single individual was the sole Management, and therefore voting, Shareholder of the Company;
- 76.2 where the same individual was a director of the Company;
- 76.3 where the same individual was the sole shareholder or controller of the General Partner;
- 76.4 where the same individual was a director of the General Partner;
- 76.5 where the same individual was in complete and effective control of at least the Company, of the General Partner, of the Fund and of CLO Holdco;
- 76.6 where the same individual was in effective sole control of all assets of the Fund;
- 76.7 where the same individual had no economic, residual, beneficial or winding up interest in assets of the Company;
- 76.8 where the same individual had no economic, residual, beneficial or winding up interest in assets of the General Partner;
- 76.9 where the same individual had no economic, residual, beneficial or winding up interest in assets of the Fund;

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76.10 where the same individual was, irrespective of his or her formal positions, functions or duties, including as a director, acting as a trustee, fiduciary or in a trustee-like or fiduciary-like position with respect to the assets held by the Fund;

76.11 where the same individual was at all times acting solely for the benefit or the ultimate benefit of the Original Participating Shareholders and/or through them the Supported Organisations and/or through them the Charities; and

76.12 in the alternative to the plea directly above, where the duties otherwise owed by the same individual as a matter of law, including as a director, were affected and/or altered by the existence of the structure as pleaded above, including the facts and matters relating to the Control Position and including the fact that the structure as pleaded above was designed and intended to be solely for the benefit or the ultimate benefit of the Original Participating Shareholders, and/or through them the Charities.

EVENTS RESULTING IN THE COMPANY HAVING NO MATERIAL ASSETS AND THE DILUTION OF THE SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS' INTERESTS

Plan to defeat the interests of the Original Participating Shareholders

77 On 9 November 2023, Shields Legal Group ("**Shields Legal**") (the U.S. attorneys for the Company) sent to Campbells LLP ("**Campbells**") (then Cayman Islands attorneys for the Company) a work plan (the "**Work Plan**") relevant to the Company, the Fund and CLO HoldCo.

78 It can be inferred, and is averred, that the purpose of the Work Plan and the subsequent advice and steps taken as detailed below was to seek to entrench Mr Patrick's Control Position and defeat the interests of the Original Participating Shareholders.

79 The Work Plan stated that (amongst other things):

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79.1 the advice required related to "...*potential disputes and corporate reviews and best practices for each, including proactive corporate actions, solidifying defenses, etc...*"; and

79.2 "...*we may need to rely on opinions and memoranda in potential future disputes...*"

80 The Work Plan set out the issues on which the Directors sought advice, including among other things the following questions:

80.1 'Can the controlling person dilute shares, e.g., the Participation Shares?'

80.2 'Can the controlling person redeem shares, e.g., the Participation Shares?'

80.3 'Is there any Cayman law requirement that the Company distribute money upwards to the next level of entities (Highland Dallas Foundation, Inc. and others)?'

80.4 'Could the Company liquidate, distribute all its assets elsewhere, or otherwise make the Participation Shares worthless?'

80.5 'What can be done at this point to make [the share transfers in the Company from Mr Scott to Mr Patrick] bullet proof?'

81 The Directors were advised that any steps taken in relation to the proposed issuance of new Participating Shares and withholding dividends must be in compliance with their fiduciary duties and taken in the best interest of the Company:

81.1 On 8 January 2024, Walkers (Cayman) LLP ("**Walkers**") (also then Cayman Islands counsel for the Company) provided advice on issues set out in the Work Plan to the effect that (amongst other things):

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- (a) the Directors have power under the Articles to issue new Participating Shares that dilute the current Participating Shareholders, but must consider their fiduciary duties (including the duty to act in the best interests of the Company) when issuing such shares;
- (b) the Participating Shares are non-redeemable;
- (c) while payment of a dividend or other distribution is at the discretion of the Directors, if the Company were to have distributable reserves available, there may be a question of whether the Directors would be acting in its best interests to not pay some dividend or distribution; and
- (d) the Directors have fiduciary duties to the Company which are paramount when considering (i) making a distribution and (ii) the distributable reserves available from which to make payments; they must have regard to what is in the Company's best interests, its future cash requirements, and its present and future solvency.

82 In February 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, Mr Patrick sought to form a new entity to replace the Original GP. On 5 February 2024, Walkers emailed Mr Patrick to ask whether that entity should be a Cayman LLC or an exempted company, to which he responded later that day: *"Doesn't matter to me. Whatever from a strategic point of view - hard to find or track, or trace. Or find owners etc. Generic name. Strong litigation protection."*

83 On 27 February 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the New GP (the Fifth Defendant) was incorporated in the Cayman Islands.

84 On 7 March 2024, Mr Patrick, in his capacity as Managing Member of the Original GP, and without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, executed a written consent for the

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transfer of the GP Interest to the New GP, thereby replacing the Fund's General Partner. The Supporting Organisations subsequently discovered this change only by chance in February 2025.

85 In or around August 2024, the Supporting Organisations were provided with a financial analysis (prepared by NexPoint Advisors LP) of the Fund's annual expenses which showed or appeared to show increases in expenditure, particularly as follows (and without prejudice to any further relevant facts and matters relating to Directors' fees or expenses):

85.1 directors' fees increased from around US\$40,000 in 2022 to almost US\$600,000 in 2023 – and increased further to around US\$2.25 million in the first half of 2024; and

85.2 expenses overall for the first half of 2024 were around US\$18.3 million – almost the same amount spent over the entire course of 2023 (i.e. US\$18.6 million).

86 On 13 September 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Directors resolved (amongst other things) with respect to Mr Patrick's compensation:

86.1 to increase Mr Patrick's salary to US\$850,000 per annum;

86.2 include a long-term incentive ("LTI") tied to the Fund's returns, being 7.5% of annualised net fund returns in excess of 10% (capped at 25% annualised return); and

86.3 the Company should assess legal expenses attributable to investment which impacted the LTI compensation and then determine whether the LTI compensation should be increased.

87 On 1 October 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities:

87.1 the Directors resolved (amongst other things) that Mr Patrick would receive:

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- (a) an LTI payment of US\$975,000; and
- (b) an 'annual discretionary bonus' for 2023 at an amount of 2.5 times his base salary.

87.2 Previously, in or around October 2021, Mr Patrick had signed an 'employment agreement' for his position at the Company, for the period commencing 24 March 2021, which provides that Mr Patrick:

- (a) shall receive a base salary of US\$850,000;
- (b) shall receive an LTI payment for the period 24 March 2021 to 24 March 2024 in the amount of US\$4,759,000; and
- (c) is eligible for both annual and discretionary bonuses as determined at the 'sole and absolute discretion of the Directors'.

88 Comparatively, Mr Scott's salary during his tenure in the Control Position was approximately US\$60,000 per annum. Notwithstanding the above, the Supporting Organisations were not informed of these increases to the Directors' fees, remuneration and/or benefits.

89 In late October 2024, as a result of concerns arising from this additional expenditure, the Supporting Organisations requested that Mr Patrick provide relevant financial information for the Company and the Fund. Mr Patrick did not do so.

90 On 11 November 2024, Holland and Knight ("**H&K**"), U.S. attorneys for the Supporting Organisations, issued a letter to Mr Murphy advising that the Supporting Organisations no longer had confidence in the governance of the Company and/or the Fund and considered that a reorganisation of the governance structures was required to protect the charitable efforts of the Supporting Organisations (the "**No Confidence Letter**").

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91 On 26 November 2024, Mr Patrick sought advice from Walkers as to whether the Company could issue further Participating Shares to a new non-profit organisation to dilute the Supporting Organisations so as to weaken any winding-up petition brought by the Supporting Organisations on just and equitable grounds. Mr Murphy wrote that:

“Issuance of new participation shares, where the existing foundations represent a smaller % of the issued and outstanding shares, would weaken any petition based on just and equitable grounds but we must be careful they don’t point to this as ground to wind up i.e. the existing foundations say we’re artificially trying to weaken their position by diluting them therefore the company should be wound up or an order made for change of management /revocation of the share issuances. It’s a very difficult situation to get right without gifting them a potential ground...”

92 On 27 November 2024, Walkers responded to the Directors confirming that, if other shareholders were to oppose an equitable winding up, such opposition will be taken into consideration and would likely help.

93 On 9 December 2024, DFW was incorporated as a non-profit non-stock company in Delaware, by or with the assistance of Mr Douglas Mancino, partner of U.S. firm, Seyfarth Shaw LLP ("**Seyfarth**"), who, worked alongside Mr Patrick in the establishment of the Company and the Fund structure. The sole member of DFW was and is Mr Patrick.

94 On 7 February 2025, 318 Participating Shares were issued to DFW.

95 On 20 February 2025, Mr Patrick as the Management Shareholder of the Company resolved to adopt the Amended and Restated Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 20 February 2025 which, among other things:

95.1 Amended the Memorandum at paragraph 3 to give the Company charitable objects;

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95.2 Amended article 70 to introduce the concept of a Management Director (being a director holding the Management Share) and to weight the voting such that on all matters the Management Director had 10 votes and any other directors had 1 vote;

95.3 Deleted the previous articles 70 and 71 giving the right to appoint alternate directors and proxies. By email dated 27 February 2025, Walkers confirmed that the purpose of this deletion was to "*avoid the risk of 'outsiders' being brought into the fold*".

96 The Company reserves its position in respect of the validity of these amendments.

The purported restructuring: Mr Patrick causes the assignment of the Partnership Interest to CDM

97 On 12 December 2024, CDM was incorporated as a limited liability company in Delaware.

98 On 18 December 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Directors of the Company resolved (the "**Transfer Resolutions**") to approve the transfer of the entirety of the Company's limited partnership interest in the Fund to CDM, in consideration for the contribution by the sole member of CDM of 100% of the membership interest in CDM. The Transfer Resolutions provide (amongst other things) that, based apparently on U.S. tax advice, the transfer of the limited partnership interest to CDM:

98.1 "*...would help insulate the DAF from exposure to [Dondero] and his entities who may be at risk of causing the [IRS] to revoke the tax-exempt status of one or more of the Participating Shareholders/supporting organizations which could imperil the assets of the Company*";

98.2 "*The IRS would look favorably upon any and all attempts for DAF to maintain its influence from what seems to be persistent attempts by Dondero and the entities controlled by him to use DAF for his private benefit and private inurement*";

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98.3 As a Delaware limited liability company (CDM): “...as permitted under the LLC Act, the terms of the LLC Agreement eliminate the fiduciary duties of the manager of the Transferee”.

99 On 18 December 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Company, CDM and the New GP entered into a Deed of Assignment and Assumption (the “**Deed**”) which was executed by Mr Patrick on behalf of each of (i) the Company in his capacity as Director; (ii) CDM in his capacity as Manager; and (iii) the New GP in his capacity as Director. Pursuant to the terms of the Deed:

99.1 The Company assigned its entire limited partnership interest in the Fund to CDM (the “**CDM Assignment**”).

99.2 The New GP provided its written consent to the CDM Assignment and the admission of CDM as the new limited partner, in accordance with clause 1.11(a) of the LPA.

99.3 CDM agreed to exercise its reasonable best endeavours to ensure that 100% of the membership interest in CDM held by Mr Patrick would be transferred to the Company (the “**CDM Membership Interest**”).

100 On 18 December 2024, the Company (as member) and Mr Patrick (as manager) entered into a Delaware law governed Limited Liability Company Agreement in respect of CDM (the “**LLC Agreement**”).

101 The LLC Agreement, materially provides (amongst other things) that:

“Fair Market Value shall have the meaning set forth in Section 6.9(b).

...

The initial Manager shall be Mark Patrick.

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...

6.5 No Duties to the Company. To the fullest extent permitted by law, including Section 18-1101(c) of the Act, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or in any agreement contemplated herein or applicable provisions of law or equity or otherwise, the parties hereto hereby agree that the Manager shall owe no fiduciary duty to any Member or the Company; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not eliminate the duty to comply with the implied contractual covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

...

6.9 Valuation of Company Assets.

(a) General. The Manager shall make a good faith determination of the value of the Company's assets in connection with any distribution pursuant to Section 8.1(b), as required under Section 4.3(c), upon the dissolution of the Company, and whenever otherwise required by this Agreement or determined by the Manager.

(b) Binding Effect. The value of any Company asset or Interest determined pursuant to this Section 6.9 shall be binding upon the Company and the Members and shall establish the "Fair Market Value" of such asset or Interest for all purposes under this Agreement.

...

7.3 Redemption. The Manager, in its sole discretion, may cause any Member's Interest to be redeemed by the Company for any reason. Any Interest of a Member to be redeemed by the Company shall be redeemed for the Fair Market Value of such Interest, as determined by the Manager in its sole discretion. Such payment to the

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Member shall either be made in cash or pursuant to a promissory note. Such promissory note shall: (i) provide for interest at the lowest rate necessary to avoid the imputation of additional interest under the Code; and (ii) have a stated principal amount of the Fair Market Value of such Member's Interest being redeemed, as determined by the Manager in its sole discretion."

102 The Company will rely on the terms of the LLC Agreement for their applicable full terms and effect.

103 The effect of these transactions was that:

103.1 CDM was inserted into the corporate structure below and as a subsidiary of the Company and would hold the entirety of the limited partnership interest in the Fund previously held by the Company; and

103.2 The Company would hold the entire membership interest in CDM, with the result that the Company's sole asset, having previously been its limited partnership interest in the Fund, was exchanged for the CDM Membership Interest

(the "**Restructuring**")

104 The Restructuring was at an undervalue and not in the interests of the Company (in that the CDM Membership Interest was less valuable than the limited partnership interest that the Company assigned to CDM) because (amongst other things):

104.1 The General Partner owed fiduciary duties to the Company in the Fund, but the Manager (Mr Patrick) did not owe any fiduciary duties to CDM; and

104.2 The CDM Membership Interests were susceptible to being redeemed by Mr Patrick (as Manager) in his sole discretion and for any reason, for "fair market value" as defined by Article 6.9, i.e. a "good faith determination of the value".

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105 On 3 April 2025, the Company obtained retrospective advice from Leading Counsel on the steps taken by the Company in December 2024 to effect the Restructuring and whether the transfer is “*open to challenge by the Participating Shareholders*”, which advice:

105.1 refers to the justifications for the decisions taken as set out in the Restructuring Resolutions, and considers that, if called upon to justify the purpose of those decisions, the Directors would need to explain:

- (a) how the penalisation or loss of tax-exempt status any of the current Participating Shareholders could have “*imperilled*” the “*assets*” of the Company;
- (b) the detrimental issues the Company was facing that the Directors believed would be mitigated by the interposition of CDM into the Fund structure; and
- (c) how and/or why the Restructuring would (i) benefit the Company and (ii) reduce the influence of Mr Dondero; and

105.2 considers that a shareholder reviewing the reasons listed in the Restructuring Resolutions “*might suggest that the contents of the resolution are self-serving and do not tell the full story, but rather seek to obscure the true motivations of the board*”.

Persistent and continual lack of information for the Supporting Organisations

106 On 23 January 2025, having received no response from Mr Murphy to the No-Confidence Letter, Julie Diaz, the CEO of The Dallas Foundation, sent Mr Patrick an email advising that the Supporting Organisations needed to better understand the Company’s/Fund’s asset position, and requesting certain information be provided by 10 February 2025.

107 Having received no response, on 28 January 2025, Ms Diaz sent a further email to the Directors expressing serious concern (i) that the Supporting Organisations’ requests for information

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continued to be disregarded, and (ii) about the ongoing lack of transparency on the part of the Directors.

108 On 30 January 2025, Mr Murphy replied to Ms Diaz stating that the Directors:

108.1 had not received the 23 January email – but understood the next step was for the Directors to “*present directly*” to the Supporting Organisations to address the No-Confidence Letter; and

108.2 are cooperating with the Supporting Organisations to provide additional information – but “*have no legal obligation to do so*” and such cooperation “*should not be construed as an implicit acknowledgement of any duty to continue providing information to you*”.

109 On 31 January 2025, Mr Michael Stockham of H&K responded to Mr Murphy noting that he and Mr Patrick were fiduciaries, managing US\$270 million in assets for the benefit of charities that support the most vulnerable (i.e. the Charities) and: “*[w]hatever your side’s obvious antagonism to Mr Dondero, the fact remains that the underlying assets are ultimately for these charitable missions.*”

110 On 4 February 2025, Mr Murphy responded that while open to resolving the concerns, they (i.e. the Directors) were struggling to understand the Supporting Organisations’ change in position.

111 On 7 February 2025, H&K responded that the Directors were fiduciaries in control of US\$270 million for the benefit of charities: “*these monies are for improving the quality of life of children, building pathways for everyone to have a fair opportunity to succeed and ... fostering a love for education. They are not meant to pay you and Mr. Patrick millions in director fees*”.

112 On 14 February 2025, H&K received a letter from Mr Mancino which rejected the accuracy of the reported increases in expenditure. On 27 February 2025, H&K responded that his clients

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were frustrated by the lack of transparency and refusal to answer simple queries about the financial position. In response, Seyfarth sought available dates for Mr Murphy to make the promised presentation to the Supporting Organisations. H&K responded the next day with three potential dates/times for the proposed call between 26 March and 3 April 2025. Mr Mancino did not respond.

113 On 20 March 2025, Mr Mancino sent a letter purportedly on behalf of the Company to the IRS about alleged undue influence and control exercised over the Supporting Organisations by Mr Dondero. The letter makes serious and unsubstantiated allegations about the Supporting Organisations, absent evidential support, including that they each (i.e. all of them): *“operates for Mr Dondero’s private benefit when he uses his influence or control over them to cause them to use or attempt to use their influence as Participating Shareholders of DAF Holdco to wrest control of DAF Holdco and its assets...”*.

114 On 3 April 2025, Mr Mancino sent an email to H&K stating that he had just learned there was a call scheduled for the following day and seeking to reschedule. H&K responded that no such call had been arranged and queried the apparent source of confusion.

115 Mr Mancino, and Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy (each in part through Mr Mancino as an instructed attorney) acted in bad faith by maintaining a pretence of actual or potential cooperation with the Supporting Organisations when this was not the case, and by sending or causing to be sent the email of 20 March 2025 in secret:

115.1 four (4) months after the Directors and/or the Company transferred away the Company’s interest in the Fund without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities;

115.2 two (2) months after the Directors and/or the Company diluted the existing Participating Shareholders without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities (see below);

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115.3 one (1) week after the Directors and/or the Company redeemed the Company's interest in CDM without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities (see below);

115.4 one (1) day after the Directors placed the Company in voluntary liquidation, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities.

Purported Share Issuance and allotment to DFW

116 In November 2024, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Directors began seeking advice from Walkers on whether the Company could issue new Participating Shares that would have the effect of diluting the existing Participating Shareholders - "*in light of a possible just and equitable winding up petition*" being filed by one of the Supporting Organisations.

117 On 7 February 2025, Walkers advised that, while there must be a corporate benefit to the exercise of the power, the Articles grant the Directors power to issue new shares that dilute the Participating Shareholders, and recommended the shares be issued sooner than later, and before any winding up petition was presented, since any alteration to the Company's membership made after the presentation of the petition would be void.

118 On 7 February 2025, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Directors resolved to issue 318 Participating Shares to DFW (the "**Share Issue Resolutions**"), resulting in DFW owning 51.04% of the Participating Shareholding and the dilution of the Supporting Organisations from an aggregate shareholding of 100% to 48.96% (the "**Share Issuance**"). The Share Issue Resolutions provided that:

118.1 Participating Shareholders had requested information and made false and misleading claims about the Company and its finances which the Directors believe were directed by Mr Dondero.

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118.2 Based apparently on U.S. tax advice:

- (a) There was a heightened risk the IRS could revoke the tax-exempt status of the Participating Shareholders which could imperil the status and assets of the Company.
- (b) Increasing the number of Participating Shareholders would mitigate the undue influence and private inurement of Mr Dondero.
- (c) The IRS would look favourably upon attempts by the Fund to maintain its independence from his (i.e. Mr Dondero's) attempts to use the Fund for his private benefit.

118.3 The Directors believed the Share Issuance to DFW would protect the Company and the Participating Shareholders and resolved that the Share Issuance to DFW be approved.

119 On 5 March 2025, Leading Counsel (Mr Tony Beswetherick KC) issued draft retrospective (but final) advice to the Company on the Share Issuance in which he opined (amongst other things) as follows:

119.1 where Articles confer a power on directors to issues shares, that power is a fiduciary one and must only be exercised for proper purposes; an issue of shares "*...deliberately aimed at altering the balance of power between*" is problematic; the power should not be exercised with a view to altering an existing balance of power, irrespective of whether the directors consider that doing so is in the interests of the company;

119.2 the effect of the Share Issuance was that, if there were to be a company meeting or proposal to approve a modification that affects the Participating Shareholders' rights,

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the ability of the prior Participating Shareholders to vote down such a change was negatively affected (DFW now having over 50% of the total Participating Shares);

119.3 it is not immediately clear from the Share Issue Resolutions whether the justifications stated were actually relevant to the Directors' decision. If they were relevant, it is not explained why the issue of shares to DFW would prevent false claims being made by Mr Dondero; it may be that those matters are part of the context, rather than part of the reason for the decision; and

119.4 the Participating Shareholders might suggest the Share Issue Resolutions are self-serving and do not tell the full story, but rather seek to obscure the true motivations of the board.

Plan to redeem the Original Participating Shareholders

120 In January and February 2025, the Directors, in connection with a plan to try to redeem the Participating Shareholders and/or the CDM Membership Interest held by the Company, and without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, sought to obtain an analysis of the fair market value of the Participation Shares, and the discount that should be applied to such valuation, given the limited rights conferred upon Participating Share under the Articles.

Historic ValueScope Valuations

121 At the request of the Company, ValueScope, Inc. ("**ValueScope**") conducted a series of valuation analyses of 100 Participation Shares on a net asset value ("**NAV**") basis between December 2020 and September 2024 to determine their fair market value ("**FMV**"). These valuations were apparently prepared for internal reporting purposes and apparently applied consistent methodologies throughout the period. The results of these valuations are summarised below:

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Valuation date	NAV	NAV Per Share	Combined Discounts	FMV Per Share	FMV (100 shares)
31 December 2020	\$176.96M	\$580,193	17.0%	\$481,468	\$48,146,754
31 December 2021	\$243.19M	\$797,343	11.6%	\$705,210	\$70,521,019
31 December 2022	\$276.24M	\$905,711	15.4%	\$766,549	\$76,654,941
31 December 2023	\$277.57M	\$910,076	14.0%	\$782,847	\$78,284,712
30 September 2024	\$269.05M	\$882,140	13.9%	\$759,614	\$75,961,370

122 The final NAV-based valuation prepared by ValueScope prior to the Restructuring was dated 7 January 2025, and gave a valuation of 100 Participating Shares as at 30 September 2024 (the "**September 2024 Valuation**").

PwC and FTI

123 On 14 January 2025, Walkers inquired with PwC about a valuation of "*the shares of Charitable DAF Holdco*". In that email, Walkers, presumably on instructions from the Directors, listed the Supporting Organisations as "*potential adverse parties*".

124 On 7 February 2025, Walkers informed PwC that CDM had been inserted into the structure and requested that a second valuation be prepared of all the CDM Membership Interest, which valuation Walkers said was also to rely on the NAV as previously advised (rather than leaving

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PwC to determine their own valuation methodology). PwC responded that their initial view is “*there is no meaningful difference*” between the two valuations requested - “*i.e. the economic interest in the underlying NAV still fully accrues to the participating shareholders*” - but that voting power/control remains with Mr Patrick (or with entities he controls). PwC asked for further information about what Mr Patrick was trying to achieve by the Restructuring to help them understand the valuation implications.

- 125 On 10 February 2025, PwC suggested a call with Walkers to discuss the second valuation, which call took place on 11 February 2025, and was also attended by Mr Patrick’s ‘*onshore and Delaware counsel*’. Following that call, PwC declined to take on the instructions:

“... our view is that the new Delaware entity (CDMCFAD) effectively has full economic interest and control over the Fund, so we don't really see a basis for applying any discounts to the underlying Fund NAV for that entity. As it relates to the participating shareholders' interest in Charitable DAF Holdco, Ltd., we don't think we can reliably estimate the value/discount given the current fact pattern. While we could make hypothetical assumptions about how the articles may be interpreted, and/or how future cash flows may or may not be distributed, the impact on value is so substantial that we don't think it would be a meaningful exercise (i.e. we'd end up with the discount being 100% in one scenario, but 0% in another). On that basis, I don't think there is a fee / scope that can work for us currently.”

The FTI Memo

- 126 On 13 February 2025, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Company engaged FTI Consulting in London (“**FTI**”) to advise on (i) the discount applicable (if any) to a valuation considering how the rights attached to Participation Shares differed from those typically associated with ordinary shares, and (ii) the impact of the existence of an additional share class (being the Management Shares held by Mr Patrick). FTI’s engagement

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letter also stated that “*The Memo will also include a valuation of the ordinary shares of CDMCFAD, LLC, the immediate subsidiary of Charitable DAF HoldCo*”.

- 127 On 2 March 2025, FTI provided a draft memorandum to Walkers/the Company.
- 128 On 27 March 2025, FTI issued its final memorandum (the “**FTI Memo**”), which stated (amongst other things) that the rights of Participating Shares were extremely limited, and the potential distribution of cash was highly dependent on a member’s alignment with the Fund’s mission. The FTI Memo concluded that a “limited discount” for lack of control and marketability should be applied where a member is aligned with the Fund’s mission (said to be close to the range concluded by ValueScope in its 7 January ValueScope Report, i.e. a discount of 13.9%), and a “high discount” of 95% where a member is not.

Legal advice sought

- 129 On 25 February 2025, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Directors sought advice from Walkers and Shields Legal on any powers under the Articles to enable the removal of the Supporting Organisations, including by (i) redemption of the Participating Shares (Art 14 and 28), (ii) a forced transfer of Participating Shares held by a Restricted Person (Art 21) (iii) or an alternative course whereby DFW repurchased the shares, which could then be cancelled, and new shares issued which are redeemable by the Company. Walkers advised that both redemption and forced transfers were not permitted but agreed with the alternative course involving DFW.
- 130 On 5 March 2025, as stated above, Leading Counsel provided retrospective advice to the Company regarding the Share Issuance, which also considered whether the Directors had power under the Articles to redeem the Participating Shares. Leading Counsel opined that they did not, on the basis that the Participating Shares were not issued as redeemable shares, and could not be redeemed unless there were a prior variation of the rights ascribed to them. That said, any proposal to vary the rights attached to the shares to make them redeemable would

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support an argument “*that the [DFW Share Issue] was itself procured with a view, ultimately, to disenfranchising the pre-existing Participating Shareholders*”.

131 On 17 March 2025, Mr Patrick wrote to Walkers in the following terms:

“Agree we need to finalise the [FTI valuation] reports ...We should request any limits on use removed.

We are seeking U.S. tax counsel to send emails to Paul and I that the non profits are Restricted Persons and/or best interests of the Company to have non dondero holders of its interests. After that, an alternative approach is to give them what they want – liquidate Holdco Ltd after its only investment is redeemed by the US. LLC pursuant to U.S. counsel advice above, that it's in the best interests of the Company to redeem all non-profits affiliated with Dondero. US LLC has same valuation conducted on its shares as the participation shares. so we would redeem the LLC interest, then distribute the proceeds out of Holdco Ltd., and file articles of Dissolution for Charitable daf Holdco Ltd before a wind up petition is filled. That would put us on the "high ground" to fight (rather the way this is currently heading in a defensive posture). they would have to scrap their wond up petition and fight for reinstatement, gripe about the valuations, and file fiduciary breach actions ...

We will stage this in light of the Doug letter, new advice of two separate U.S Tax counsel, and seeing how successful (or not) our outreach to the Texas attorney general office is.

Note US LLC would make DFW its sole owner.”

132 The email of 19 March 2025 makes plain that the Directors, or at least Mr Patrick, intended to liquidate the Company without notice to the Supporting Organisations and to otherwise obstruct

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the Supporting Organisations' ability to exercise any right to petition to wind up the Company on just and equitable grounds.

- 133 On 20 March 2025, Walkers provided comments on the FTI draft valuation, and FTI responded. These comments include, amongst other things:

"Walkers: It is stated at [3.2(2)] that "there is no overriding duty of DAF's Directors to act in the shareholders' interest. The Directors will act according to the best interest of the company, that is, to achieve the charitable causes that are aligned with DAF's mission". However, as a matter of Cayman law, directors owe duties to the company, and must act in its best interests [which are] generally regarded as the interests of the members as a whole, and in certain circumstances the objects of the company may be taken into account when determining what is in its best interests.

FTI: Can you explain how it was in the interests of the company to materially dilute the existing shareholders?

...

Walkers: It is stated at [3.10] that "the Participating Shareholders do not have any rights to cause a liquidation/winding up of the company". However, the Participating Shareholders do have the right to seek a winding up of the company, as conferred upon them by the Companies Act (rather than the Articles).

FTI: Why won't they just do this immediately and seek distributions? Isn't the ability to trigger a liquidation contradictory with point 1 which states "Shareholders do not have any right to exert influence on whether/how the funds of DAF are used or distributed".

...

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Walkers: *As per our comments, please could you delete references to our advice so as to avoid any potential arguments about waiver of privilege.*

FTI: *Your advice is important in us arriving at our conclusions. I understand from our legal team that we either (i) keep the reference to your advice or (ii) address the memo to you. Are you expecting there to be litigation in relation to the proposed transaction?*

...

Walkers: *Our client now seeks a valuation report which may, in connection with a proposed redemption of the membership interests in CDM, be disclosed to third parties and relied on to establish fair market value of both the membership interests in CDM, and in turn HoldCo.*

FTI: *This is a material change in the purpose and access rights of the report. Please provide more detail of the transaction. Is it the case that Mark will make CDM redeem the shares owned in by DAF? And who would you like to share the report with? And on what basis (e.g. non-reliance)? We also note our memo is not a valuation – it is a quantification of discounts given the rights of the participating shares. To do a valuation, we would need to do a more detailed exercise, including valuing the underlying assets.”*

134 On 21 to 24 March 2025, FTI and Walkers had an exchange (amongst other things) as follows:

"FTI: If the firm was wound down, would it result in distributions to the existing participating shareholders? Or would Mark still be able to shareholder structure to ensure the existing participating shareholders got nothing? Given they haven't received dividends since 2019, why haven't the participating shareholders triggered a wind down? If they can trigger a wind down and then in short order receive \$300m of distributions, it does change things re discount.

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Walkers: *if HoldCo was wound up, the Participating Shareholders would receive distributions which would be made pari passu, and Mark (if he was the liquidator) would not be able to ensure the existing Participating Shareholders get nothing. Whilst the Participating Shareholders have the right to seek to wind up under the Companies Act, they need a proper basis to do so... We can only assume [they] have not commenced proceedings seeking to wind the company up because they do not have a proper basis on which to do so ...*

...

FTI: *Would an absence of distributions be sufficient grounds to make an application to wind the company up? If the participating shareholders did make the application, would Mark be able to issue a vast number of shares to another party before the distributions were made thereby ensuring the existing shareholders received very little?*

Walkers: *A Participating Shareholder may consider an absence of distributions sufficient grounds for a winding up order on the just and equitable basis... But it is difficult for us to say whether that petition would be successful. If (a) a Participating Shareholder presented a petition; (b) new shares were purportedly issued; and (c) the Court then made a winding up order, the issue of the new shares would be void and not impact the amounts the Participating Shareholders would receive."*

135 On 26 and 27 March 2025, FTI and Walkers had an exchange (amongst other things) as follows:

"Walkers: We have discussed with our client and onshore counsel and set out some amendments in the attached. In addition, we note (1) we have not received any material addressing reliance on the memo by CDM; and (2) the "Limitations and restrictions" section still provides that the memo "should not be used to support a transaction". For

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the memo to be useful in the circumstances, CDM [and HoldCo] need to be able to rely on it or a separate memo would need to be addressed to CDM on which it may rely. Further, both entities need to be able to rely on the memo(s) to support the proposed transaction.

FTI: What is the intention of adding that directors should act in the interests of future members? I am struggling to understand how a director could act in a manner which is beneficial for future shareholders which is not also helpful for existing shareholders.

The limitations in our note will remain. To do a valuation to support a transaction, we will need to do significantly more detailed work. This is an unusual/complicated situation. We are open to doing a fairness opinion on the transaction. But this will require approval from our risk committee and more information on the transaction and situation. We are happy for CDM to have our memo on a non-reliance basis. But this memo should not be used to support a transaction."

March 2025 ValueScope Valuation

136 Following the Restructuring, ValueScope was requested by Shields Legal, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, to prepare two valuation analyses:

136.1 100% Membership Interest in CDM; and

136.2 Certain Participating Shares of the Company as at 25 March 2025 (the "**March 2025 Valuation**").

137 The March 2025 Valuation had the same instructions, definition of value and scope of work as the September 2024 Valuation. Like the September 2024 Valuation, the March 2025 Valuation also referenced a 30 September 2024 balance sheet (and did not refer to any later analysis of

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assets and liabilities). As shown below, the September 2024 Valuation and March 2025 Valuation produced very different results.

138 A comparative summary of the September 2024 and March 2025 Valuations is set out below:

Valuation Date	DLOC*	DLOM**	Valuation Basis	FMV (100 Shares)
30 September 2024	8.1%	6.3%	NAV	\$75,961,370
25 March 2025	99.2%	20.00%	DCF***	\$536,784
Difference	+91.1%	+13.7%		-\$75,424,586

*DLOC – Discounted for Lack of Control

**DLOM – Discounted for Lack of Marketability

***DCF – Discounted Cash Flow

139 The March 2025 Valuation stated: *“for the valuation of non-controlling assets in holding companies such as DAF, the asset-based approach is most commonly used [as Valuescope had always done previously]. When applied to such companies, the approach consists of measuring the underlying net asset value of an entity (the fair market value of the entity’s assets less the fair market value of its liabilities). The NAV is then discounted as appropriate to determine the fair market value of the fractional interest in the entity. However, in the case of the participation shares under consideration, the asset-based approach is not applicable. These shares do not confer control and only have a claim in respect of the underlying assets in a winding up.”*

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140 ValueScope does not appear to have considered whether winding up was a possibility, and therefore, whether value could have been realised that way and by reference to NAV.

141 For reasons which are unclear to the Company, the March 2025 Valuation expressly rejected the asset-based (NAV) approach on the basis that the economic benefits of the Participating Shares in the Company were contingent on discretionary distributions by its manager. The report states.

'Unlike equity interests that derive value from an allocable portion of the entity's net assets, the economic benefits of these shares are contingent upon discretionary distributions by the director. As such, their value is not directly tied to the entity's NAV, and an alternative valuation approach is required to appropriately reflect their characteristics and economic reality'.

142 Accordingly, the methodology applied in the March 2025 Valuation was markedly different from the methodology applied in the September 2024 Valuation. Instead of relying on discounted net assets, the March 2025 Valuation:

142.1 applied a discounted cash flow ("**DCF**") methodology to estimate the present value of expected future distributions, rather than an asset-based approach, as had been applied in at least the past five annual valuations by ValueScope;

142.2 determined the FMV of 100 Participating Shares to be US\$536,784;

142.3 applied a discount of 99.2% for DLOC; and

142.4 applied a discount of 20.00% for DLOM.

143 The DCF model is based on the present value of future distributions to the Company. ValueScope's report shows that these were estimated based on historic distributions themselves controlled by Mr Patrick.

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- 144 Based on the valuations above, between 30 September 2024 and 25 March 2025, the FMV of 100 Participating Shares in the Company apparently declined from US\$75,961,370 to US\$536,784, representing a reduction in value of 99.29% in less than a six month period, in which the Restructuring occurred, attributable to a change in valuation basis (amongst other things) from NAV to DCF.
- 145 Furthermore, ValueScope does not appear to have sense-tested their valuation. Although they identified "total equity" of c. US\$270 million and concluded that all of the Participation Shares had a value of only c. US\$1.6 million, they did not address themselves to who benefitted from the residual value of c. US\$268 million.

Admission and Redemption

- 146 On 27 March 2025, Mr Patrick, as manager of CDM, executed a written consent (the "**Manager Consent**") to (a) cause CDM to admit DFW as an additional member of CDM pursuant to the terms of an Admission and Amendment No.1 Agreement (the "**Admission Agreement**") and (b) redeem the CDM Membership Interest held by the Company pursuant to the terms of a Redemption and Amendment No. 2 Agreement (the "**Redemption Agreement**" and together with the Admission Agreement, the "**Restructure Agreements**"):

- 146.1 The recitals to the Manager Consent stated that the redemption of the Company's membership interest was justified by reason of alleged attempts by the Supporting Organisations to exert control, and the potential loss of their (i.e. the Supporting Organisations') non-profit and tax-exempt status:

"... the Manager has formed the view that the Current Member, by virtue of being a member of the Company and having as Participating Shareholders the Highland Foundations, poses a material risk to the Company, its assets, and the Mission Statement of DAF due to, among other things, (i) officers and directors of the Highland Foundations seeking to assert dominion and control

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over the assets of DAF (through the Current Member), despite no legal ability to do so under the Current Member's organizational documents and despite the potential illegality (as demonstrated by tax counsel to DAF—see Exhibits C and D) of doing so, (ii) the potential loss of the non-profit status of the Highland Foundations due to their actions, among others, described in clause (i), and (iii) the potential loss of the tax-exempt status which the Highland Foundations currently enjoy and which is central to the mission of DAF, as a result of the factors including those described in clauses (i) and (ii)”

146.2 The Manager Consent further stated:

“WHEREAS, in connection with the Restructure Agreements and the transactions contemplated thereby, the Manager (on behalf of the Company) obtained a valuation report of the membership interests of the Company from ValueScope and FTI Consulting, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit E, which valuation reports have informed the Manager the fair market value of the membership interests”

146.3 Exhibits C and D to the Manager Consent are documents purportedly containing information regarding various alleged U.S. tax issues relating to the Company.

146.4 Exhibit C is the letter from Mr Mancino to the IRS dated 20 March 2025, in which Mr Mancino (amongst other things) stated:

- (a) there has been “deterioration” of the Company's relationship with Highland Dallas Foundation, Inc. (“HDF”) due to the undue influence and control exercised over HDF by Mr Dondero.

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- (b) the information in the letter will demonstrate clearly that Mr Dondero's influence and control is an inappropriate donor relationship with representatives of the HDF who serve on the Board of Directors of and as officers of HDF.
- (c) such undue influence and control potentially jeopardises the tax-exempt status of HDF as an organisation described in s.501(c)(3) and, at a minimum, causes it to fail to remain a supporting organisation described in s. 509(a)(3).

146.5 Exhibit D is an advice produced by Carrington Coleman (U.S. law firm) dated 25 March 2025 (the "**Carrington Advice**") which amongst other things:

- (a) asserts that Mr Dondero has been attempting "*through his control of the Highland SOs, to exert dominion and control over the cash and property he previously donated to DAF and for which he claimed charitable deductions, all for his personal benefit.*"
- (b) suggests that Mr Dondero was using the Company as his personal "*piggy bank*", and that it may be perceived by the IRS that the Fund has been or is his financial alter ego.
- (c) concludes that "*the IRS will look favourably upon any and all attempts for DAF to maintain its independence from what seems to be persistent attempts by Dondero, and the entities controlled by him to use DAF for his private benefit and inurement.*"

146.6 Exhibit E contained two valuation reports:

- (a) The first was a ValueScope valuation.

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(b) The second is the FTI Memo referred to above, in which FTI expressly stated that the analysis in the FTI Memo should not be used in support of a transaction, but which Mr Patrick, in any event:

- (i) expressly relied upon in the Manager Consent to determine the fair market value of the CDM Membership Interest and the basis for the redemption of the Company's interests; and
- (ii) permitted Carrington Coleman to refer to and rely on in the FTI Memo (indeed, having provided the 27 March 2025 copy which was a draft copy only).

146.7 On 27 March 2025, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, Mr Patrick executed the:

- (a) Admission Agreement between CDM and DFW under which DFW was admitted as a member of CDM, in consideration for a capital contribution of US\$1,637,192; and
- (b) Redemption Agreement under which CDM redeemed the Company's membership interest in CDM for the same sum of US\$1,637,192 (the "**Redemption Sum**").

147 On 27 March 2025, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, the Company entered into a letter agreement with CDM (the "**Letter Agreement**"), pursuant to which the Company assigned to CDM various contracts and agreements to which the Company was a party, listed in Schedule A to the Letter Agreement and CDM agreed to assume the liabilities and obligations in respect of those contracts.

148 On 2 April 2025, the Directors of the Company, by way of written resolution:

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148.1 Noted the redemption of the Company's membership interest in CDM for the Redemption Sum (the "**Redemption**").

148.2 Resolved to pay a dividend to the Original Participating Shareholders of US\$1,612,192.01 in the amount of (i) US\$528,587.54 with respect to each of HDF, Highland Kansas City Foundation, Inc. and Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, Inc.; and (ii) US\$26,429.39 with respect to CFNT.

149 The substantive financial effect of the Redemption, under which DFW did or was committed to make a capital contribution equivalent to the Redemption Sum to CDM, and the CDM Membership Interest held by the Company were redeemed for the Redemption Sum, was that the Company's membership interest in CDM was purchased by or otherwise transferred to DFW for the Redemption Sum.

150 The substantive effect of the overall transaction or series of transactions pleaded above, including the Impugned Transactions already pleaded, was that:

150.1 The Company realised its interest in the Fund, which had a NAV of c. US\$270 million, for c. US\$1.6 million.

150.2 The Company made a distribution to the Original Participating Shareholders (c. US\$1.6 million).

150.3 The Supporting Organisations and the Charities were actually or effectively divested of their indirect interest in the Fund, and the assets underlying the Fund; and

150.4 The Original Participating Shareholders were diluted from 100% of the economic interests in the Company to less than 50%.

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Voluntary Liquidation and Supervision Order

- 151 On 2 April 2025, the Directors resolved, without telling the Supporting Organisations or the Charities, to place the Company into voluntary liquidation and appoint Mitchell Mansfield and William Clarke (the JVLs) of Kroll (Cayman) Ltd as voluntary liquidators.
- 152 However, unaware of the voluntary liquidation, on 10 April 2025, the Supporting Organisations presented a petition seeking the winding up of the Company on a just and equitable basis, under section 92(e) of the Companies Act (2025 Revision) (the "**J&E Petition**").
- 153 On 25 April 2025, Walkers and Shields Legal held a call to discuss the J&E Petition. Following that call, Mr Patrick wrote in an email that the "*message ideas*" "*for Monday*" were to "*poison the well*", by which he meant to create a negative impression of Mr Dondero in the eyes of the Court.
- 154 On 6 May 2025, Justice Jalil Asif KC made a supervision order, under which voluntary liquidation of the Company was to be continued under the supervision of the Court pursuant to s.131 of the Companies Act (As Revised), and the JOLs were appointed.

OBLIGATIONS OWED BY THE DIRECTORS

- 155 At all material times, the Directors, as directors, owed the following duties individually to the Company:
- 155.1 A fiduciary duty to act *bona fide* in what he considers to be the best interests of the Company (the "**Best Interests Duty**").
- 155.2 A fiduciary duty to exercise his powers for a proper purpose, and for the purposes for which they were conferred (the "**Proper Purpose Rule**").

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155.3 A fiduciary duty not to place himself in a position where his personal interest actually or potentially conflicted with his duty of loyalty to the Company (the "**First No-Conflicts Duty**").

155.4 A fiduciary duty not to place himself in a position where his duty to another actually or potentially conflicted with his duty of loyalty to the Company (the "**Second No-Conflicts Duty**").

155.5 A fiduciary duty to not make an unauthorised profit from or by reason of his fiduciary position (the "**No Profit Duty**").

155.6 A fiduciary duty not to accrue or take a benefit or commercial opportunity from the Company without the full and informed consent of the Company (the "**No Self-Dealing Rule**").

155.7 A duty to exercise reasonable skill, care, and diligence in the performance of his role and function as director (the "**Reasonable Care Duty**").

156 With respect at least to Mr Patrick, his duties above and the standard to which he was obliged to comply with such duties are affected by being in the Control Position and the trustee or trustee-like position he occupied. Paragraph 76 above is also relied upon.

157 The Company reserves its position as to whether Mr Patrick, by reason of being in the Control Position and the trustee or trustee-like position he occupied, was an express or other trustee of the assets of the Fund for the Original Participating Shareholders and, through or in addition to them, the Charities.

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ATTRIBUTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND INTENTION

158 As a matter of Cayman Islands law, Mr Patrick's intention and knowledge of facts and matters for all such purposes relevant to this claim is to be attributed to each of DFW, CDM, and the New GP on the basis of at least the following facts:

158.1 As regards DFW, Mr Patrick is listed under DFW's certificate of incorporation, dated 9 December 2024, as "the member of the corporation", and the Admission Agreement showed he served as its "President". Mr Patrick is also the registered director of DFW. Mr Patrick the agent of DFW, in which capacity Mr Patrick executed the Admission Agreement.

158.2 As regards CDM, Mr Patrick is described under the LLC Agreement as the "Manager" of CDM, in which role Mr Patrick was CDM's agent, and in which capacity he (i) executed the Deed of Assignment and Assumption on behalf of CDM, and (ii) executed a written 'Manager Consent' (the "**Manager Consent**") approving the Redemption and Admission Agreements; and executed the Redemption and Admission Agreements.

158.3 As regards the New GP, Mr Patrick was and remains its director, and therefore its agent (in which capacity, Mr Patrick executed the Deed of Assignment and Assumption on the New GP's behalf). Further, Mr Patrick is the sole shareholder of the New GP.

159 Further, if applicable, as a matter of the laws of the State of Delaware, Mr Patrick's knowledge and intention is to be attributed to DFW, CDM, and the New GP on a like basis.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS

Breaches of fiduciary and other duty

160 The First and Second Defendants, and each of them, in their capacity as a Director of the Company, acted in breach of their fiduciary and other duties to the Company as follows.

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Restructuring, including the CDM Assignment

161 The Directors (and each of them), in procuring, directing or effecting the Restructuring as set out above, acted in breach of their duties to the Company, including the Best Interests Duty, the Proper Purpose Rule and the Reasonable Care Duty. Additionally, Mr Patrick, in procuring, directing or effecting the Restructuring as set out above, acted in breach of his duties to the Company, including the No Self-Dealing Rule, No Profit Duty, and No-Conflicts Duty (First and Second No-Conflicts Duties).

PARTICULARS

161.1 The Plaintiff relies on paragraphs 77 to 105 above.

161.2 With the assistance of Mr Mancino, Mr Patrick took steps to form CDM and appoint himself as Manager of CDM.

161.3 Mr Patrick designed and/or negotiated and/or directed and/or effected the Restructuring in his capacity as Director of the Company, Director of the New GP, and Manager of CDM, being each of the parties to the Deed, and signed the Deed on behalf of each party.

161.4 The Directors (and each of them) approved the transfer of the Company's entire limited partnership interest in the Fund (having net assets worth c. US\$270 million) to CDM, a Delaware entity whose LLC Agreement excluded any fiduciary obligations owed by its Manager (i.e. Mr Patrick) to CDM itself or to its members; in exchange for membership interest in CDM, which interest was capable of being extinguished, by redemption, and for a "fair value", determined at the discretion of the Manager (i.e. Mr Patrick).

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161.5 The Restructuring was of no benefit to the Company and not in its best interests, and Mr Patrick was subject to conflicts of interest (First and Second No-Conflicts Duties) and committed acts of self-dealing.

161.6 The Directors (and each of them) acted when each of them:

- (a) knew or ought to have known that the Company was proposing to exchange the Partnership Interest for a membership interest in CDM that was subject to redemption entirely at Mr Patrick's discretion, and for a "*fair value*" determined, in good faith, in his discretion.
- (b) knew or ought to have known that the Company was therefore proposing to trade its Partnership Interest, which was not in practical terms defeasible, for an interest that could be extinguished: (i) at a time over which it had no control, (ii) for a price over which it had very limited control and (iii) for a potential valuation basis which excluded a net asset valuation of the assets held in the Fund.
- (c) knew or ought to have known that the CDM Membership Interest was to be in a Delaware-incorporated company whose LLC Agreement excluded any fiduciary obligations owed by its Manager either to CDM itself or to its members and was therefore less valuable than the Partnership Interest.
- (d) knew or ought to have known that the CDM Assignment was therefore a transaction at an undervalue.

161.7 It can be inferred, and is averred, that Mr Patrick was drawing fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits from CDM without the full authorisation or full and informed consent of the Company.

161.8 Further, and in any event, the Directors (and each of them) acted when each of them:

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- (a) knew or ought to have known that the CDM Assignment was the first step in a series of connected future transactions, including those pursuant to the CDM Assignment, the Share Issuance, the Admission Agreement, the Redemption Agreement and the Redemption, under which the Directors were able to and ultimately did procure the redemption of the Company's CDM Membership Interest, thus extinguishing the Company's interest in the Fund, for an undervalue.
- (b) knew or ought to have known that:
 - (i) the full terms and effect of the CDM Assignment was not a proper or proportionate response to any genuinely perceived risk about U.S. tax concerns.
 - (ii) the full terms and effect the CDM Assignment was not a proper or proportionate response to any genuinely perceived risk to the Company, which was not itself a Donor Advised Fund and/or did not enjoy or require tax-exempt status under s.501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
 - (iii) other approaches to address concerns with respect to the tax-exempt status of the HDF short of undertaking the Restructuring (and entering into the CDM Assignment) included notifying the HDF of the conflict and/or concerns and requesting it to remedy it or them.
 - (iv) even if the facts and matters alleged in relation to the HDF were correct, there was more than a possibility, after an extended passage of time and at least two levels of appeal, that a U.S. tax audit would result in an adverse determination with respect to the tax-exempt status of the HDF.

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(v) the tax-exempt status of the HDF was of no concern or no reasonable concern to the Company.

(c) knew or ought to have known that they were keeping the Restructuring, the CDM Assignment, CDM itself and all the surrounding circumstances secret from the Participating Shareholders.

162 By reason of the foregoing breaches of duty or any of them:

162.1 The CDM Assignment is void, alternatively voidable and hereby avoided.

162.2 CDM holds the Partnership Interest on trust or constructive trust for the Company.

162.3 CDM is required to re-transfer the Partnership Interest to the Company and account for any profits on the basis of such trust or constructive trust and/or on a restitutionary and/or on a proprietary basis.

Share Issuance

163 The Directors (and each of them), in procuring, directing or effecting the Share Issuance as set out above, acted in breach of their duties to the Company, including the Best Interests Duty, the Proper Purpose Rule and the Reasonable Care Duty. Additionally, Mr Patrick, in procuring, directing or effecting the Share Issuance as set out above, acted in breach of his duties to the Company, including the No Self-Dealing Rule, No Profit Duty, and No-Conflicts Duty (First and Second No-Conflicts Duties).

PARTICULARS

163.1 The Plaintiff relies on paragraphs 77 to 84, 91 to 96 and 106 to 119 above.

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163.2 The Directors (and each of them) designed and/or engineered the Share Issuance, having sought legal advice in relation to the powers conferred on them as Directors of the Company, for the improper purpose of:

- (a) diluting without any proper reason or corporate purpose the existing Participating Shareholders and/or depriving the ability of the Supporting Organisations to continue to comprise a majority of the Participating Shareholders.
- (b) inserting DFW as a new Participating Shareholder, an entity under the sole control of Mr Patrick, to obstruct and/or prejudice and/or adversely affect the exercise of a Participating Shareholders' right to petition for the just and equitable winding-up of the Company.

163.3 The Directors (and each of them) acted when each of them:

- (a) knew or ought to have known the issue and allotment of shares at par to DFW was of no benefit to the Company.
- (b) knew or ought to have known that the exercise of the power to issue shares and allot them to DFW was for the improper purpose of diluting the interest of the Original Participating Shareholders.
- (c) knew or ought to have known that the Share Issue Resolution and/or the Share Issuance or otherwise the issue and/or allotment of shares to DFW was a response to the prospect that the Supporting Organisations might present a petition for the winding-up of the Company on a just and equitable basis, as indeed they did on 10 April 2025 in ignorance of the Share Issue Resolution and/or the Share Issuance or otherwise the issue and/or allotment of shares to DFW.

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(d) knew or ought to have known that the sole or primary purpose of the Share Issue Resolution and/or the Share Issuance or otherwise the issue and/or allotment of shares to DFW was to insert a new majority Participating Shareholder (under their or at least Mr Patrick's control) into the Company's share capital structure to (if they or at least Mr Patrick deemed fit) to oppose the actions of the Supporting Organisations and/or the Original Participating Shareholders, both in relation to any potential contributories' winding-up petition and otherwise, and/or to obstruct and/or prejudice and/or adversely affect the exercise at any time of any rights of the Supporting Organisations as Participating Shareholders.

163.4 Mr Patrick designed and/or directed and/or effected the Share Issuance in his capacity as Director of the Company, even though he was 'President' of DFW and the sole member and the sole director of DFW.

163.5 It can be inferred, and is averred, that Mr Patrick was drawing fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits from DFW (if not also from CDM) without the full authorisation or full and informed consent of the Company.

164 By reason of the foregoing breaches of duty or any of them:

164.1 the Share Issue Resolution and/or the Share Issuance or otherwise the issue and/or allotment of shares to DFW is void, alternatively voidable and hereby avoided.

164.2 DFW holds its shares on trust or constructive trust for the Company.

164.3 DFW is required to concur in the rescission of the allotment and to re-transfer its shares to the Company on the basis of such trust or constructive trust and/or on a restitutionary and/or on a proprietary basis.

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164.4 The Company's register of shareholders shall be rectified accordingly.

Admission and Redemption

165 The Directors (and each of them), in procuring or entering into the Admission Agreement and the Redemption Agreement, and/or in procuring, directing or effecting the Redemption acted in breach of their duties to the Company, including the Best Interests Duty, the Proper Purpose Rule and the Reasonable Care Duty. Additionally, Mr Patrick, in procuring or entering into the Admission Agreement and the Redemption Agreement, or in procuring, directing or effecting the Redemption as set out above, acted in breach of his duties to the Company, including the No Self-Dealing Rule, No Profit Duty, and No-Conflicts Duty (First and Second No-Conflicts Duties).

PARTICULARS

165.1 The Plaintiff relies on paragraphs 120 to 150 above.

165.2 The Directors (and each of them) acted when each of them:

- (a) knew or ought to have known that:
 - (i) proceeding on the basis of the Seyfarth/Mancino letter to the IRS dated 20 March 2025 was flawed or unreasonable.
 - (ii) proceeding was not a proper or proportionate response to any genuinely perceived risk about U.S. tax concerns.
 - (iii) the tax-exempt status of the HDF was of no concern or no reasonable concern to the Company.
 - (iv) proceeding on the basis of the March 2025 Valuation and the FTI Report was flawed in that: (i) the 99.2% discount in value proposed by the

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ValueScope Report was a manifestly excessive discount, and resulted in the Company parting with its indirect ownership of 99% of the economic interest in the Fund (which had net assets worth c. US\$270 million) for a mere US\$1,637,192; and (ii) as pleaded above, the FTI Report expressly stated that *“this memo should not be used to support a transaction.”*

- (v) the Admission Agreement and the Redemption Agreement were steps in a series of connected transactions, including those pursuant to the CDM Assignment, the Share Issuance, under which the Directors were able to and ultimately did procure the extinguishment of the Company’s interest in the Fund, through the redemption of the Company’s membership interest in CDM, for an undervalue.
- (b) knew or ought to have known that the sole or primary purpose of the Admission Agreement, the Redemption Agreement and the Redemption was to ensure that the Company was fully and finally deprived of an asset (its interest in the Fund) at an undervalue; and to enable a third party, DFW, controlled by Mr Patrick, to procure ownership of an interest in the Fund in complete replacement of the Company.

165.3 Mr Patrick designed and/or negotiated and/or directed and/or effected the Admission Agreement, the Redemption Agreement and the Redemption as Director of the Company, even though he was Manager of CDM and ‘President’ of DFW, sole member of CDM and sole member and sole director of DFW.

166 By reason of the foregoing breaches of duty or any of them:

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166.1 DFW holds the CDM Membership Interest on trust or constructive trust for the Company.

166.2 DFW is required to concur in the transfer of the CDM Membership Interest to the Company or as the Company directs on the basis of such trust or constructive trust and/or on a restitutionary and/or on a proprietary basis.

Further claims against Mr Murphy

167 In respect of any breach of duty as set out above for which Mr Patrick alone is liable:

167.1 At all material times, Mr Murphy worked in close concert with Mr Patrick, including at his direction.

167.2 Mr Murphy knew or ought to have known all the facts and matters pleaded above as known or ought to have been known by Mr Patrick.

167.3 Mr Murphy knew or ought to have known of all the facts and matters pertaining to such breach or breaches by Mr Patrick.

167.4 Mr Murphy took no steps to stop Mr Patrick or to prevent or report the breach or breaches of duty by Mr Patrick.

167.5 Mr Murphy accepted and acquiesced in all steps and actions suggested, promoted or effected by Mr Patrick.

167.6 Mr Murphy accepted and acquiesced in the breach or breaches of duty by Mr Patrick.

167.7 As a consequence, Mr Murphy has acted in breach of his duties to the Company, including the Best Interests Duty and the Reasonable Care Duty.

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Directors' Fees, Remuneration and Expenses

- 168 The Company is still unclear as to what precise fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits were afforded to the Directors and from what source, and as to the proper expenses of the Company, in the period after March 2021 and thus reserves its position.
- 169 As is pleaded above in paragraphs 85 to 89, the Directors approved large increases for Mr Patrick's remuneration, benefits or emoluments: by around 1 October 2024, Mr Patrick's remuneration comprised a base salary of US\$850,000, a bonus of 2.5 times that base salary, an LTI incentive payment of US\$975,000; for the period March 2021 to March 2024, Mr Patrick was entitled to an aggregate LTI payment of US\$4,759,000; and eligibility for discretionary and annual bonuses in addition, to be determined at the sole and absolute discretion of the Directors. By contrast, Mr Scott's annual salary and entire benefits during his tenure in the Control Position was US\$60,000.
- 170 Insofar as the Directors (or each of them) approved of or procured any payment or benefit to or for Mr Patrick or Mr Murphy more than the sum of US\$60,000 per annum each in respect of fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits, such sum was excessive and conferred in breach of duty to the Company, including the Best Interests Duty, the Proper Purpose Rule, the first No-Conflicts Duty, the No Self-Dealing Rule and the Reasonable Care Duty.
- 171 Further, as is pleaded above, the Directors (or each of them) approved or caused the payment of considerable sums by way of expenses, amounting for example to US\$18.3 million for the first half of 2024, and US\$18.6 million spent over 2023. Such expenses may include the expenses incurred in effecting the transactions which are the subject matter of these proceedings. The reasonableness or *bona fides* of these expenses is not accepted by the Company.
- 172 The Company claims:

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172.1 Full information, documents and discovery as to the fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits or expenses paid or claimed by Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy and each of them since March 2021.

172.2 Full information, documents and discovery as to expenses incurred by the Company or the Fund or any of the Fund's subsidiaries or investments since March 2021.

172.3 Repayment to the Company of all fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits paid or claimed by Mr Patrick or Mr Murphy and each of them in excess of US\$60,000 per annum; together with all improperly paid expenses caused or procured by Mr Patrick or Mr Murphy (or damages or equitable compensation in relation thereto).

Unlawful Means Conspiracy

173 The facts and matters pleaded above amount to an unlawful means conspiracy as follows:

173.1 It is unclear when the conspiracy began but it appears to have started by around the start of 2024.

173.2 The original conspirators were Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy. The Company is unaware of the circumstances in which Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy agreed or combined and is unable to plead further pending further information or discovery.

173.3 As they were incorporated and participated in the facts and matters pleaded above, the New GP, CDM and DFW joined the conspiracy but remain liable in damages for all losses, including prior to joining the conspiracy.

173.4 The conspiracy was a conspiracy to injure the Company.

173.5 The overt acts of the conspiracy were all the facts and matters pleaded above, including as breaches by Mr Patrick or Mr Murphy.

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173.6 The unlawful means of the conspiracy were all the facts and matters pleaded above as breaches of duty by Mr Patrick or Mr Murphy.

173.7 Each of the conspirators intended to injure the Company. This averment is an inference from all the facts and matters pleaded above.

173.8 As a consequence, the Company has suffered loss and damage, as a result of the Restructuring, the CDM Assignment, and the Admission and Redemption, and the combined effect thereof, as set out above.

Proprietary claim and/or unconscionable receipt

174 The facts and matters pleaded above give rise to claims by the Company for unconscionable receipt as follows:

174.1 CDM received the Company's Partnership Interest in the Fund under the CDM Assignment.

174.2 The knowledge of CDM was and is that of Mr Patrick.

174.3 The breaches of duty in relation to the CDM Assignment above are relied upon.

174.4 CDM knew that the CDM Assignment was at an undervalue and that causing or procuring the Company to enter into the CDM Assignment was a breach of fiduciary duty by Mr Patrick and/or Mr Murphy.

174.5 By reason of the foregoing, it is unconscionable for CDM to retain the Partnership Interest in the Fund and CDM is liable to account to the Company in equity, by restoring Partnership Interest in the Fund to the Company and/or accounting for any profits or otherwise accounting to the Company in equity.

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Unjust Enrichment

175 In receiving the Company's Partnership Interest in the Fund, CDM was unjustly enriched at the Company's expense and is liable to the Company in restitution:

175.1 The Partnership Interest was transferred on the basis that there was a valid assignment agreement effecting that transfer.

175.2 That basis has totally failed, the CDM Assignment being either void, or avoided hereby.

Alter Ego and Lifting the Corporate Veil

176 In order to obtain the return to it of the Partnership Interest in the Fund, together with an Account of Profits, the Company does not need as a matter of law to make any allegation of "alter ego" or to lift the corporate veil in relation to CDM or DFW.

177 If, contrary to the paragraph above, the Company does so need, it makes the following allegations for the purposes of all relevant claims or causes of action set out above.

177.1 CDM is the "alter ego" of Mr Patrick.

177.2 DFW is the "alter ego" of Mr Patrick.

177.3 In relation to the receipt of any property by CDM directly or indirectly from the Company or the accrual of any profits or benefits by reason of such receipt, the corporate veil should be lifted, with the consequence that such receipt and such profits or benefits should be treated as those of Mr Patrick personally.

177.4 In relation to the receipt of any property by DFW directly or indirectly from the Company or the accrual of any profits or benefits by reason of such receipt, the corporate veil should be lifted, with the consequence that such receipt and such profits or benefits should be treated as those of Mr Patrick personally.

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PARTICULARS

- (a) In relation to CDM:
 - (i) Mr Patrick was and is the Manager. There are no other officers or managers.
 - (ii) Mr Patrick was and is the managing member.
 - (iii) CDM was incorporated at Mr Patrick's instigation in order to enter into the CDM Assignment or a transaction of like nature.
 - (iv) CDM's sole or primary purpose was to play a part in a scheme whereby Mr Patrick would obtain control of the Company's Partnership Interest in the Fund free of the Company, the Company's obligations towards the Supporting Organisations and (if the scheme succeeded) free of Mr Patrick's duties to the Company.
 - (v) CDM exists and operates in order to conceal the identity of the true or real actor, namely Mr Patrick.
- (b) In relation to DFW:
 - (i) Mr Patrick was and is the 'President'. There are no other officers or managers.
 - (ii) Mr Patrick was and is the sole member.
 - (iii) Mr Patrick was and is the sole registered director.

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- (iv) DFW was incorporated at Mr Patrick's instigation in order to enter into a transaction whereby it would in effect take over the Company's interest in CDM pursuant to the CDM Assignment.
- (v) DFW's sole or primary purpose was (i) to play a part in a scheme whereby Mr Patrick would obtain control of the Company's Partnership Interest in the Fund free of the Company, the Company's obligations towards the Supporting Organisations and (if the scheme succeeded) free of Mr Patrick's duties to the Company, (ii) to be the ultimate vehicle by which Mr Patrick would so control of the Company's Partnership Interest in the Fund and (iii) to be a newly-inserted majority Participating Shareholder (under at least Mr Patrick's control) in the Company's share capital structure to oppose the actions of the Supporting Organisations, both in relation to any potential contributories' winding-up petition and otherwise, and/or to obstruct and/or prejudice and/or adversely affect the exercise at any time of any rights of the Supporting Organisations as Participating Shareholders.
- (vi) DFW exists and operates in order to conceal the identity of the true or real actor, namely Mr Patrick.

Loss and Damage

178 As a consequence of the above, the Company has suffered loss and damage, including but not limited to:

178.1 Its Partnership Interest in the Fund.

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178.2 The costs and expenses incurred in relation to the CDM Assignment, the Share Issuance, the Letter Agreement and the Redemption (including all legal or other advice taken in relation thereto).

178.3 Excessive Directors' fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits.

178.4 Improper expenses (if any).

178.5 The lost opportunity cost of the Fund and its subsidiaries deploying such funds (as set out in (1), (2) and (3) above) elsewhere, and the consequent fall in value of the Company's interest in the Fund.

178.6 The legal and liquidation costs of investigating the conspiracy, and the costs of these proceedings.

RESERVATION OF POSITION

179 The Company and the JOLs (who direct the Company in bringing these proceedings) fully reserve their position to apply to amend this claim in any way or to bring fresh or further proceedings against any of the Defendants (whether in the Cayman Islands or elsewhere) in the name of the Company or in the name of the JOLs.

OTHER

180 CLO Holdco is joined as a party to these proceedings in order that, as the main subsidiary of the Fund, it may abide by any Order that the Court may make.

INTEREST

181 The Company claims interest pursuant to section 34 of the *Judicature Act (2021 Revision)* and the *Judgment Debts (Rates of Interest) Rules (2021 Revision)*, alternatively pursuant to the

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Court's equitable jurisdiction, compounded in equity at quarterly rests, alternately at common law, for such period and at such rate as the Court thinks just.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

In the premises, the Company claims:

- (1) Damages or equitable compensation.
- (2) Orders for restitution or disgorgement.
- (3) Orders for the restoration of property to the Company.
- (4) Interlocutory or final injunctions as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (5) Orders for the appointment of a Receiver or Receivers, as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (6) Orders for the provision of documents or information at an early interlocutory stage.
- (7) Orders for the cancellation of the Share Issuance, as appropriate.
- (8) Rectification of the register of the Company, as appropriate.
- (9) Orders pursuant to s.99 of the Companies Act (as revised), as appropriate.
- (10) An Account of the fees or remuneration or emoluments or benefits or expenses paid or claimed by Mr Patrick and Mr Murphy and each of them since March 2021.
- (11) An Account of all expenses incurred by the Company or the Fund or any of the Fund's subsidiaries or investments since March 2021.

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- (12) All other Accounts, including an Account of Profits, or Inquiries as may be necessary or appropriate; and further Orders to give effect to the outcome of such Accounts or Inquiries, including Orders for payment of sums to the Company.
- (13) All such declarations as may be necessary or appropriate, including to give effect to the continuing interest of the Company in the Fund on the basis of a proprietary interest, trust, constructive trust or otherwise.
- (14) All such other relief relating to the Impugned Transactions as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (15) Interest as above.
- (16) Further or other relief.
- (17) Costs.

DATED this 15th day of July 2025

Maples and Calder (Cayman) LLP

Maples and Calder (Cayman) LLP

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**DIRECTIONS FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE
OF WRIT OF SUMMONS**

- 182 The accompanying form of Acknowledgment of Service should be completed by an Attorney acting on behalf of the Defendant or by the Defendant if acting in person.

After completion it must be delivered or sent by post to the Law Courts, PO Box 495G, George Town, Grand Cayman, KY1-1106, Cayman Islands.

- 183 A Defendant who states in the Defendant's Acknowledgment of Service that the Defendant intends to contest the proceedings must also serve a Defence on the Attorney for the Plaintiff (or on the Plaintiff if acting in person).

If a Statement of Claim is indorsed on the Writ (i.e. the words "Statement of Claim" appear on the top of page 2), the Defence must be served within 14 days after the time for acknowledging service of the Writ, unless in the meantime a summons for judgment is served on the Defendant.

If the Statement of Claim is not indorsed on the Writ, the Defence need not be served until 14 days after a Statement of Claim has been served on the Defendant.

If the Defendant fails to serve his Defence within the appropriate time, the Plaintiffs may enter judgment against the Defendant without further notice.

- 184 A Stay of Execution against the Defendant's goods may be applied for where the Defendant is unable to pay the money for which any judgment is entered. If a Defendant to an action for a debt or liquidated demand (i.e. a fixed sum) who does not intend to contest the proceedings

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states, in answer to Question 3 in the Acknowledgment of Service, that the Defendant intends to apply for a stay, execution will be stayed for 14 days after that Defendant's Acknowledgment, but the Defendant must, within that time, issue a Summons for a stay of execution, supported by an affidavit of the Defendant's means. The affidavit should state any offer which the Defendant desires to make for payment of the money by instalments or otherwise.

See overleaf for Notes for Guidance

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Notes for Guidance

- 1 Each Defendant (if there are more than one) is required to complete an Acknowledgment of Service and return it to the Courts Office.
- 2 For the purpose of calculating the period of 14 days for acknowledging service, a writ served on the Defendant personally is treated as having been served on the day it was delivered to the Defendant.
- 3 Where the Defendant is sued in a name different from the Defendant's own, the form must be completed by the Defendant with the addition in paragraph 1 of the words "sued as (the name stated on the Writ of Summons)".
- 4 Where the Defendant is a FIRM and an attorney is not instructed, the form must be completed by a PARTNER by name, with the addition in paragraph 1 of the description "Partner in the firm of (.....)" after that Partner's name.
- 5 Where the Defendant is sued as an individual TRADING IN A NAME OTHER THAN THAT PERSON'S OWN, the form must be completed by the Defendant with the addition in paragraph 1 of the description "trading as (.....)" after that Defendant's name.
- 6 Where the Defendant is a LIMITED COMPANY the form must be completed by an Attorney or by someone authorised to act on behalf of the Company, but the Company can take no further step in the proceedings without an Attorney acting on its behalf.
- 7 Where the Defendant is a MINOR or a MENTAL PATIENT, the form must be completed by an Attorney acting for a guardian *ad litem*.
- 8 A Defendant acting in person may obtain help in completing the form at the Courts Office.

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IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

CAUSE NO: FSD OF 2025 ()

BETWEEN:

CHARITABLE DAF HOLDCO, LTD (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION)

Plaintiff

AND

- (1) MARK ERIC PATRICK
- (2) PAUL MURPHY
- (3) CDMCFAD, LLC
- (4) DFW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- (5) CDH GP, LTD. AS GENERAL PARTNER FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
CHARITABLE DAF FUND, LP, AND IN ITS CAPACITY AS GENERAL
PARTNER
- (6) CLO HOLDCO, LTD.

Defendants

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE
OF WRIT OF SUMMONS

If you intend to instruct an Attorney to act for you, give that Attorney this form IMMEDIATELY.

Important. Read the accompanying
directions and notes for guidance
carefully before completing this form. If
any information required is omitted or
given wrongly, THIS FORM MAY HAVE
TO BE RETURNED.

Delay may result in judgment being entered
against a Defendant whereby he may have
to pay the costs of applying to set it aside.

-
1. State the full name of the Defendant by whom or on whose behalf the service of the
Writ is being acknowledged.
-
2. State whether the Defendant intends to contest the proceedings (tick appropriate box)

☐ yes ☐ no

3. If the claim against the Defendant is for a debt or liquidated demand, AND the Defendant does not intend to contest the proceedings, state if the Defendant intends to apply for a stay of execution against any judgment entered by the Plaintiff (tick box)

☐yes ☐ no

Service of the Writ is acknowledged accordingly

(Signed).....

Attorney for

Notes on address for service

Attorney: where the Defendant is represented by an attorney, state the attorney's place of business in the Cayman Islands. A Defendant may not act by a foreign attorney.

Defendant in person: where the Defendant is acting in person, the Defendant must give the Defendant's post office box number and the physical address of the Defendant's residence or, if the Defendant does not reside in the Cayman Islands, the Defendant must give an address in Grand Cayman where communications for the Defendant should be sent. In the case of a limited company, "residence" means its registered or principal office.

Indorsement by plaintiff's Attorney (or by plaintiff if suing in person) of that Plaintiff's name, address and reference, if any, in the box below.

Maples and Calder (Cayman) LLP
PO Box 309 Ugland House
Grand Cayman KY1-1104
Cayman Islands: CJM/JRN/LRA/TQR/858403-01

Indorsement by defendant's Attorney (or by defendant if suing in person) of that defendant's name, address and reference, if any, in the box below.

EXHIBIT 2

From: "John A. Morris" <jmorris@pszjlaw.com>

To: "Louis Phillips" <Louis.Phillips@kellyhart.com>

Cc: "Jeff Pomerantz" <jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>, "amelia.hurt@kellyhart.com" <Amelia.Hurt@kellyhart.com>

Subject: Highland: Privileged and confidential settlement communication and materials

Date: Tue, 8 Apr 2025 20:22:22 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Privileged_and_confidential_-_DRAFT_4.8.25_discussion_materials.pdf;
PRIVILEGED_AND_CONFIDENTIAL_DRAFT_SETTLEMENT_STRUCTURE_4.8.25.p
df; HFP_-_Entity_Chart_-_2011.pdf

Inline-Images: image001.jpg

E-MAIL AND ATTACHMENTS DELIVERED PURSUANT TO FED. R. EVID. 408
AND APPLICABLE CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Louis,

Thank you and your team for your time today.

As a follow up, attached are the following:

1. Discussion materials from today (draft numbers)
2. Discussion materials from today (draft structure)
3. HFP entity chart from 2011

On your end, please send us the following at your earliest convenience:

1. Copy of settlement agreement circa 2022 between HMIT and Dugaboy/Okada entities
2. Copy of operative document relating to the [redemption] of the Dolomiti/Hakusan entities limited partnership interest in Rand PE Fund I
3. Copy of operative document providing for the [extinguishment] of participating shares of the supporting organizations of Charitable DAF Holdco, Ltd.

Let's confer as soon as you've had a chance to consider these matters with your team.

Please let us know if you have any questions in the interim.

Regards,

John

John A. Morris

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

Direct Dial: 212.561.7760

Tel: 212.561.7700 | Fax: 212.561.7777

jmorris@pszjlaw.com

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Los Angeles | New York | Wilmington, DE | Houston | San Francisco

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Current Snapshot - remaining assets [1]
in USD millions, except percentages

Asset description	Ref	Claimant Trust [2]	Indemnity Trust [3]	Combined
Cash/treasuries	[4]	\$ 20.3	\$ 67.9	\$ 88.1
Disputed Claims Reserve	[5]	2.7	-	2.7
Dugaboy Note receivable	[6]	-	17.6	17.6
HCM Korea (note and equity)	[7]	3.0	-	3.0
HCLOF shares	[8]	2.5	-	2.5
HCRE bad faith sanction	[9]	0.9	-	0.9
Kirschner Litigation (main adversary)	[10]	See footnote	-	-
HMIT note	[11]	See footnote	-	-
Total assets		\$ 29.4	\$ 85.5	\$ 114.8

[1] As of April 3, 2025. This disclosure is NOT a balance sheet prepared in accordance with US GAAP. In some instances, values are estimated and actual amounts realized may ultimately differ materially. No liabilities are included herein, including existing liabilities, contingent liabilities, indemnification obligations, or considerations for future expenses, including costs of liquidation that have not yet been, but will be incurred.

[2] Claimant Trust, including consolidation of the various "Plan" entities other than the Indemnity Trust (HCMLP GP, LLC, Highland Capital Management, LP, Litigation Sub-Trust), each on a standalone basis, with intercompany balances eliminated.

[3] Stand-alone assets retained by the Indemnity Trust. Other than less than <\$1M retained in cash, remainder of cash is invested in US treasuries with maturities less than 1 year. Excludes <\$1M of cash/treasuries on account of the Okada settlement. Pursuant to the Okada settlement, these funds are segregated and are to be repaid to Okada as first-out funds to the extent that any excess exists in the Indemnity Trust. Accordingly, in a settlement scenario, these funds would not be available to Class 10 interest holders.

[4] Cash and treasuries includes full face amount of treasuries maturing within 6 months and has also been adjusted up to assume the near-term receipt of approximately \$5 million from Highland CLO Funding, Ltd.

[5] Segregated funds invested in US treasuries with near-term maturities. Funds are reserved for the Daugherty tax proof of claim, which remains pending. If Highland successfully objects to the proof of claim, funds would be released from the Disputed Claims Reserve. If the claim is ultimately allowed in full or in part, funds would be paid to Daugherty on account of the allowed claim and any excess remaining would be released from the Disputed Claims Reserve.

[6] Note receivable from The Dugaboy Investment Trust ("Dugaboy"). ~\$17.4M principal and ~\$0.2M interest currently outstanding, accruing at approximately \$1,553/day. Fair value is less than face value as the note is long-dated, accruing interest at 3.26% and makes annual principal and interest payments through 2046, with the last of such payments due December 31, 2046. Dugaboy is current on its payments, including with the most recent payment completed for year-end 2024. Principal payments due are \$790,215 yearly, plus accrued interest, which declines each year as principal declines. The next interest payment due December 31, 2025 is \$566,677. No assurance that Dugaboy will continue making the annual principal and interest payments when due, although the holder of the note could accelerate and pursue collection in that event.

[7] 100% equity interest in Highland Capital Management Korea Limited ("HCM Korea"), plus \$2.5 million note from HCM Korea. Ultimate value dependent on the monetization of the Caris Life Sciences investment through an expected 2025 IPO, which is expected to be in the range of \$2 million to \$5 million, but could also exceed or fall short of this range.

[8] Shares of Highland CLO Funding, Ltd. ("HCLOF"), a Guernsey company. Value has been adjusted down to assume a near-term cash dividend of approximately \$5 million. Remaining value is primarily tied up in the "Acis 6" asset, for which a NexPoint entity has recently initiated an appeal in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. Ultimate value dependent on the Acis 6 litigation and costs of winding down HCLOF and expected to be in the range of \$2 million to \$4 million, but could also exceed or fall short of this range.

[9] Bad faith sanction against HCRE of \$825,940.55, currently on appeal in the District Court. Fully briefed since November 2024. Award was posted in the court registry and is accruing post-judgment interest at a rate of \$118.80/day. Approximately \$870k is outstanding, including post-judgment interest currently. No assurance that the appeal will resolve favorably and as a result, there is no assurance that any amounts will ultimately be collected.

[10] Litigation brought by Marc Kirschner as Litigation Trustee to the Litigation Sub-Trust. Adversary proceeding is currently stayed. The value of the claims, their collectibility, and the costs of their continued pursuit is ultimately unknown. For purposes of aggregating the current value of assets for this illustrative presentation, no value has been ascribed.

[11] Within the litigation brought by Marc Kirschner as Litigation Trustee to the Litigation Sub-Trust were claims against HMIT relating to the "HMIT note" receivable, which had originally been a portion of the consideration HMIT paid for acquiring limited partnership interests in Highland in 2015. These claims are also stayed as part of the overall stay in the case. The value of the note, its collectibility, and the costs of their continued pursuit is ultimately unknown. For purposes of aggregating the current value of assets for this illustrative presentation, no value has been ascribed.

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Uses: how much could be left after satisfying Class 9 claims?
in USD millions

Total combined assets	\$	114.8	see "current snapshot"
Less:			
Oustanding Class 9, including interest		(21.0)	
Existing Incentive Compensation triggered through full payment of Class 9		(2.5)	
Long-dated assets - Dugaboy Note receivable		(17.6)	[1]
Wind down expenses and accrued liabilities		(20.0)	[2]
Pending Class 8 claims (Daugherty tax)		See footnote	[3]
Indemnification obligations		See footnote	[4]
Net expected cash prior to any indemnification considerations and necessary reserves	\$	53.7	[5]
Plus: Non-cash assets - Dugaboy Note receivable	\$	17.6	

[1] Note receivable from The Dugaboy Investment Trust ("Dugaboy"). ~\$17.4M principal and ~\$0.2M interest currently outstanding, accruing at approximately \$1,553/day. Fair value is less than face value as the note is long-dated, accruing interest at 3.26% and makes annual principal and interest payments through 2046, with the last of such payments due December 31, 2046. Dugaboy is current on its payments, including with the most recent payment completed for year-end 2024. Principal payments due are \$790,215 yearly, plus accrued interest, which declines each year as principal declines. The next interest payment due December 31, 2025 is \$566,677. No assurance that Dugaboy will continue making the annual principal and interest payments when due, although the holder of the note could accelerate and pursue collection in that event.

[2] Amount is ultimately TBD and will ultimately depend on litigation, timing of monetization of remaining assets, and operational needs. For example, if additional litigation is brought forth, outside counsel will incur additional time and expense and certain employees may need to be retained for a longer period of time. If actual expenses exceed \$20 million, less cash would be potentially available after Class 9; if actual expenses fall short of \$20 million, more cash would be potentially available after Class 9.

[3] For illustrative purposes of this presentation, \$0 is assumed. However, if the claim is ultimately allowed in full or in part, funds would be paid to Daugherty on account of the allowed claim, which would reduce cash potentially available after Class 9. No assurances can be provided that the claim will be completely disallowed.

[4] For illustrative purposes of this presentation, \$0 is assumed. Thus, all funds utilized for purposes of satisfying indemnification obligations will reduce the funds available dollar for dollar. Under current conditions, it is believed that at least \$100 million may be needed for indemnification obligations and as a result, there is not sufficient liquidity at this time to even make any further payments to Class 9 interest holders. Assuming a final/non-appealable order, providing for among other things, a complete cessation of litigation and comprehensive releases from the HMIT/DAF parties, the need for indemnification reserves could be greatly reduced.

[5] Assumes HCM Korea, HCLOF, and HCRE bad faith sanctions are monetized for the amounts described on the "current snapshot" (\$6.4 million in aggregate). Monetization in excess of these amounts would result in more cash remaining; monetization below those amounts would result in less cash remaining.

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Information request made April 7, 2025

(i) Accrued liabilities

	Entity	Amount	
End of case/severance bonuses - remaining employees	HCMLP	\$ 1,230,000	
Accounts payable book balance (as of March 31, 2025)	HCMLP	576,207	
Estimate of other incurred, but not invoiced for work performed	HCMLP	500,000	<i>general estimate</i>
Sub-total (i)		\$ 2,306,207	A

Other liabilities not included in section totals above

	Entity	Amount	
Distribution payable	HCT	\$ 2,656,732	<i>previously authorized distributions related to pending Daugherty claim (has offsetting cash reserve; see current snapshot); to be released following resolution of the pending claim</i>
Okada settlement payable	Indemnity Trust	\$ 870,000	<i>first-out dollars in treasuries (amount is face of such treasuries) - for purposes of settlement discussions, the cash reserved related to the Okada settlement and the potential first-out dollars are excluded as irrelevant</i>

(ii) Anticipated success or severance (or completion) payments or bonuses

	Entity	Amount	
Incentive Compensation Plan	HCMLP/HCT	\$ 2,480,088	<i>assuming full payment of the Class 9's; calc'd as 14.71516% on remaining distributions to Class 9 with a time discount applied to the gross dollars distributed</i>
Retention Date payments - employees	HCMLP	925,000	<i>Retention Date is 9/30/2025</i>
Nate Burns (employee) incentive comp	HCMLP	-	<i>Nate receives a portion of the performance fees earned related to HCM Korea; assuming zero for presentation purposes as amounts would be a percentage of incremental value received from HCM Korea</i>
Sub-total (ii)		\$ 3,405,088	B

(iii) Continuing admin budget for the Claimant Trust, Indemnification sub trust and/or litigation sub trust

See subsequent page; Sub-total (iii)	\$ 16,768,874	C - additional detail contained on separate page
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Sum of A, B, and C	\$ 22,480,169
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(iv) Identity and amount and basis for any holdback(s)

Identity:	Amount	Basis for amount
Sum of A, B, and C from above	\$ 22,480,169	<i>from above; See notes and assumptions related to items A, B, and C</i>
Incremental operational reserve	5,000,000	<i>Excess cash to retain to cover potential cost overages - largest risk is incremental litigation and resulting time and expense of PSZJ plus longer retention of employees/CEO to assist with litigation, if applicable</i>
Indemnification reserves	35,000,000	<i>Assumes comprehensive releases and settlement amongst the HMIT/DAF Parties; at least \$100 million if no settlement</i>
Sum of items above	\$ 62,480,169	<i>to below</i>

Calc of estimated cash available for a prelim distribution to Class 10, assuming settlement	\$ millions
Current cash/treasuries (see previous page)	\$ 88.1 <i>Cash and treasuries (including all Plan entities)</i>
Assets expected to monetize in next 12 months	6.4 <i>HCM Korea, remainder of HCLOF, bad faith sanction (but excluding near-term Dugaboy Note P&I amortization due December 2025)</i>
Sub-total	\$ 94.5

less: outstanding Class 9, including interest	(21.0) <i>current outstanding Class 9 with interest</i>
less: holdbacks (from above)	(62.5) <i>from above</i>

Remaining cash available for initial distribution to Class 10	\$ 11.1 <i>[1]</i>
Round to nearest million	\$ 11.0

[1] Possibility of incremental amount of up to \$2.7 million in the event of a successful opposition to the pending Daugherty tax POC, along with incremental interim cash received from Dugaboy Note P&I amortization. Amount also does not include non-cash assets (litigation, oustanding Dugaboy Note, etc).

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Projected Budget Build-Up

Remaining expected budget assuming a comprehensive settlement with HMIT/DAF Parties (excluding accrued liabilities and contingencies separately discussed)

Description	Total for budget	Notes and assumptions
Pachulski Stang and other litigation or BK-related	\$ 5,000,000	Primary issues: expected new litigation to defend (actual causes of action unknown) from Dondero parties, incorporation of HMIT/DAF settlement and approval/appeals of same, appeals of "valuation complaint" and "HCRE bad faith", extension of the Trust for 1 yr. and dissolution issues. Ultimate amount required could vary materially higher or lower.
HCMLP employees salary and benefits (other than CEO)	4,084,354	Assumes declining headcount from 6 to 3, ending August 2026 (monthly trending from approx. \$300k/month currently to approx. \$200k/month at end)
Claimant Trustee/CEO salary	2,700,000	Assumes 18 months at \$150k/month
Litigation Trustee	360,000	Assumes 18 months at \$20k/month
Independent Member	225,000	Assumes 18 months at \$12.5k/month
Litigation trust (other than Trustee)	250,000	Assuming minimal time and expense other than in conjunction with transfer of main case
Incentive Compensation on distributions to Cl. 10	TBD	Provide for alignment in regards to quantum and timing of distributions and management of costs
<u>Overhead related</u>		
Facilities/offsite storage and related	1,079,121	Office space through end of 2026 and offsite document retention through 2028
External tax	1,000,000	Declining each year with final year for tax year 2027
IT costs	701,760	Cloud storage, network infrastructure through 2027, email storage through 2030
Accounting systems and information	331,045	General retention and maintenance through 2028 (primarily Oracle maintenance)
Other professionals	200,000	Misc reserve for other professionals
Other misc overhead	200,000	Misc reserve for other overhead, T&E, entity wind-up costs, etc
Indemnification expenses	200,000	Assuming misc. expenses from misc. matters
US Trustee	437,594	Assuming 0.8% of budget + accruals + distributions (assuming \$30M total)
Grand total	\$ 16,768,874	to previous page