BTXN 049 (rev. 03/15)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In Re: Highland Capital Management, L.P. Debtor(s) The Dugaboy Investment Trust et al Appellant(s) vs. Highland Capital Management, L.P. Et al Appellee(s)	§	Case No.: 19−34054−sgj11 Chapter No.: 11 3:25-CV-02072-S

NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL

I am transmitting:

- ☐ The Motion for leave to Appeal 28 U.S.C. § (USDC Civil Action No. DNC Case).
- ☐ The Motion for Stay Pending Appeal (USDC Action No. − DNC Case).
- ☐ The Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- ☐ The Motion to Extend Time To File Designation (USDC Civil Action No DNC Case).
- ☐ On , the Record on Appeal was transmitted. The designation of record or item(s) designated by were not filed when the record was transmitted. The item(s) were filed on awaiting instructions from the assigned district judge.
- ☑ Other APPELLANT SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD VOL. 1
- ☐ Copies of:

TO ALL ATTORNEYS: File all subsequent papers captioned and numbered with the appropriate division of the United States District Clerk's Office. Any questions concerning this proceeding should be directed to the U.S. District Clerk's Office at (214) 753−2200.

DATED: 10/30/26

FOR THE COURT:
Stephen J Manz, Clerk of Court

by: /s/J. Blanco, Deputy Clerk



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, DALLAS DIVISION

In Re: Highland Capital Management, L.P.

§

§ Case No. **19-34054-sgj11**

The Dugaboy Investment Trust et al- Appellant

§

vs. §

Highland Capital Management, L.P.
Et al- Appellee

§ **3:25-cv-02072-S**

§

[4333] Memorandum of Opinion and Order Regarding Stay Requests (Addressing DE #4326 and 4308) entered on 7/21/25

Volume 1

APPELLANT SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD

BTXN 101 (rev. 10/02)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In Re: Highland Capital Management, L.P. Debtor(s) The Dugaboy Investment Trust et al Appellant(s) vs. Highland Capital Management, L.P. Et al− Appellee(s)	§ § § § § § § § § § § § §	Case No.: 19−34054−sgj11 Chapter No.: 11

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DATED: 10/30/26

FOR THE COURT:
Stephen J Manz, Clerk of Court

by: /s/J. Blanco, Deputy Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

In Re:	)	**Case No. 19-34054-sgj-11**
	)	Chapter 11
HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, L.P.,	)	Dallas, Texas
	)	June 25, 2025
	)	9:30 a.m. Docket
Reorganized Debtor.	)	
	)	- MOTION TO EXTEND DURATION OF TRUSTS (4213)
	)	- MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT (4216)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE STACEY G.C. JERNIGAN,
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;
transcript produced by transcription service.

DALLAS, TEXAS - JUNE 25, 2025 - 9:38 A.M.

THE CLERK: All rise. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, is now in session, the Honorable Stacey Jernigan presiding.

THE COURT: Good morning. Please be seated.

MR. LANG: Good morning, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. We have Highland settings this morning, Case No. 19-34054. We have two motions: a motion to extend the duration of the Plan Trust, and then a motion under Rule 9019 to approve a settlement between the estate entities and Hunter Mountain entities.

All right. So, lots to get to. Let's quickly get appearances from the participating parties in interest this morning.

MR. MORRIS: Good morning, Your Honor. John Morris; Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones. I'm joined by my colleagues Jeffery Pomerantz, Gregory Demo, and Hayley Winograd. And we represent the Highland Capital Management Claimant Trust and Highland Capital Management, LP.

THE COURT: Okay. Good morning. Other appearances?

MR. LOIGMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Robert Loigman from Quinn Emanuel. We represent the Highland Litigation Trustee, Marc Kirschner.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: Good morning, Your Honor. This

is Deborah Deitsch-Perez from Stinson representing the Dugaboy Trust on the motion to extend the duration of the Trust.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: Good morning.

MR. LANG: Michael Lang for Dugaboy Investment Trust on the 9019 motion.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. LANG: Good morning.

MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning, Your Honor. Louis M. Phillips and Amelia L. Hurt; Kelly Hart Hallman -- Kelly Hart Pitre, Louisiana trade name, I don't know why -- appearing on behalf of Hunter Mountain Investment Trust and the Hunter Mountain entities in connection with the 9019 motion.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. YORK: Good morning, Your Honor. Drew York along with Joshua Smeltzer and Drake Rayshell from Gray Reed on behalf of Patrick Daugherty with regard to the 9019 motion.

THE COURT: Good morning. Ms. Schmidt?

MS. SCHMIDT: Erin Schmidt on behalf of the U.S. Trustee.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. CURRY: Good morning, Your Honor. David Curry from Okin Adams on behalf of The Dallas Foundation and Crown Global Life Insurance, Ltd.

THE COURT: Good morning.

All right. Well, let me ask. I'll start with Mr. Morris, given these are your motions. Do you have any agreements about how you're going to proceed? I'm wondering, first off, are we going to have joint presentations, joint evidence on both motions, or are we going to take one at the time?

MR. MORRIS: Good morning, Your Honor. Thank you very much for hearing us yesterday. It's kind of a big day in the case. We have a milestone that we hope will greatly advance the prosecution of this case, and, frankly, what remains to be done to complete the wind-up of Highland.

There are two motions before the Court. The first is the motion to extend the Trusts. That was filed at Docket No. 4213. We're going to address that one first, Your Honor, because we have a resolution and a stipulation. There's only one objecting party. That was the Dugaboy Investment Trust. And early this morning we reached an agreement whereby Dugaboy is going to withdraw its objection, with prejudice, subject to a stipulation that we will file with the Court but that contains the following terms.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Number one, Dugaboy agrees to withdraw its objection to the motion, with prejudice.

Number two, the Trusts expect to dissolve by August 11th, 2026, so that no further extension of the duration of the Trusts will be necessary.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And number three, Dugaboy hereby preserves and does not waive its right, if any, to object to any further attempts to extend the date by which the Trusts must be dissolved or to extend the duration of the Trusts.

THE COURT: Wait. I don't understand that third one. Could you repeat it?

MR. MORRIS: It's a reservation of rights.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And so Dugaboy preserves and does not waive its right, if any, to object --

THE COURT: Well, okay. I'm sorry. Maybe I zoned out or heard something different.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: I thought number two of the agreement was August 11th, 2026 would be it; there would be no further extensions.

MR. MORRIS: It's a statement of expectation. It's not a representation. It's not a warranty. We do not believe today, based on the facts and circumstances that we know of, that a further extension will be necessary, but we're not waiving the right to seek it if circumstances change or something unforeseen happens. And all Dugaboy is saying is that, okay, we reserve the right, if any, to object.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: It's that simple.

THE COURT: Okay. It's sort of confusing, right?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Perhaps. If you have any questions, let me try and clarify.

THE COURT: Well, I guess I'll just start with Ms. Deitsch-Perez. Would you come to the podium? We've got I don't know who on the camera, but we want to make sure everyone hears.

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: Okay. I'll take a stab at --

THE COURT: Do you confirm what you heard and do you have any clarification of Points 2 and 3?

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: Maybe I can make it clear. I confirm that is the stipulation that we agreed upon, and I think all that was intended is the Trusts and the Debtor are saying they expect to be done by August 11, 2026, so that they will not need to make this motion again, but they could not and would not promise that they will be done by then. So Dugaboy is withdrawing the objection to this particular extension but is not waiving the right to object to a further request for an extension. And that's the sum of it. Does that make sense to Your Honor?

THE COURT: It does.

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: Okay.

THE COURT: I'm hoping it'll be over by August 11th, 2026, and we'll see where we are at that time.

Well, one of my reasons for a slight bit of confusion is, in reading the 9019 settlement that is before the Court, I saw that there were some future installments payments, if you will, to HMIT, I think up through 2029, maybe.

MR. MORRIS: Sure.

THE COURT: So I was --

MR. MORRIS: So let me clarify.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: The only thing that we said that we expect to happen as of, you know, by August 11th, 2026 is that the Trusts will be dissolved. But that is not the end of their life. It is a process. Once you file for dissolution, then you have to complete the wind-down. And completing the wind-down will require the completion of all litigation. It will -- right?

All we're talking about is dissolving the Highland Claimant Trust and the Highland Litigation Subtrust so that what remains after that is the Indemnity Trust. And the Indemnity Trust will be fully funded and will be prepared to go forward. And if we ever get to a point when there's no further litigation, the corpus of that will be distributed to whatever stakeholders are entitled to it at that time.

But when we talk about being done by next year, it doesn't

mean the case will be over. It simply means that the Claimant Trust and the Highland Litigation Subtrust will be dissolved. But they still have to complete the wind-up.

THE COURT: Okay. Gotcha.

MS. DEITSCH-PEREZ: And Dugaboy is reserving its rights to object to -- if something is happening that seems improper or untoward or they're seeking additional relief, obviously, we're not waiving the unknown now.

THE COURT: Okay. Gotcha. All right. Well, I appreciate the resolution of these issues. I assume no other party in interest is going to weigh in since we only had a Dugaboy objection.

MR. MORRIS: That was the only objection we had. I'm prepared to, if Your Honor thinks it's necessary or appropriate, or both, to make a very short proffer. A proffer.

THE COURT: Okay. I'll accept that proffer at this time.

MR. MORRIS: Okay. So, Your Honor, we filed on the docket at No. 4253 Exhibits 1 through 65, and we supplemented our exhibit list at Docket No. 4271 with two additional documents, which are Exhibits 66 and 67. We don't believe there's any objection to any of those documents, and we would respectfully move for their admission into evidence.

THE COURT: All right. Could you repeat the numbers

once again?

MR. MORRIS: Yes, Your Honor. So, for the motion for an order further extending the duration of the Trusts, we have two docket entries that contain Highland's exhibits. The first is Docket No. 4253, and that has Exhibits 1 through 65.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And then we supplemented at 4271 with Docket -- with Exhibit Numbers 66 and 67.

THE COURT: All right. I presume there's no objection to these exhibits.

All right. They are admitted.

(Claimant Trust's Exhibits 1 through 67 are admitted into evidence.)

JAMES P. SEERY, JR., PROFFER OF TESTIMONY

MR. MORRIS: Okay. So, Your Honor, if called to testify, James P. Seery, Jr., the Claimant Trustee of the Highland Claimant Trust, would testify as follows.

At Exhibits 63 and 64, Highland filed excerpts of the Litigation Trust and the Litigation Subtrust -- the Claimant Trust and the Litigation Subtrust, and each of those excerpts contain Section 9.1, respectively. That's the section of the Trusts that deal with the extensions that may be necessary from to the original three-year term. And Mr. Seery would testify that he's familiar with those provisions and that he understands the requirements of those provisions include,

among other things, the requirement that all objections to claims and equity interests have been resolved and that all assets that the Trustee believes might yield sufficient value to the estate have been sold.

Mr. Seery would also testify that the Highland estate has a number of assets in its possession today, certain of which will be conveyed to Hunter Mountain if the 9019 motion is approved.

Among those assets, Mr. Seery would testify that, in accordance with the proposed settlement agreement, which is at Exhibit 17, in Paragraph 5(b), the Court will see reference to what's known as the Dugaboy Note. The Dugaboy Note is an asset of the estate that will go to Hunter Mountain if the 9019 motion is approved. If it's not approved, then Mr. Seery would testify that he's got to find another way to dispose of it. But it is an asset with a face amount today of about $17 million, so it has substantial value.

There is a note from Hunter Mountain. That also will be disposed of as set forth in Paragraph 4(a) of the proposed settlement agreement. That note is going to be used to reduce the allowed amount of Hunter Mountain's Class 10 claim if the settlement is approved. But that note is also an asset of the estate. It's worth over $60 million. I believe it actually might be in the fifties. But somewhere in the $50 to $60 million range. And that's an asset that needs to be disposed

of.

The estate has a contingent right to receive certain funds under its settlement with Mr. Okada, and it has the Kirschner Litigation. All of these assets will be disposed of. They're very illiquid assets, I'd call them, and it would be very helpful to the estate in moving this case forward if the 9019 motion is approved.

There are other assets that the estate has that will not be monetized by August 11th and which therefore require the extension of the Trusts. Mr. Seery would testify, if called to the stand, that the pursuit of the sale of these assets will yield proceeds that justified the continued pursuit of their monetization. They include interests in Highland CLO Funding, Ltd. Documents pertaining to that can be found at Exhibits 21 and 25.

The Claimant Trust also owns shares in Highland Capital Management Korea, Ltd. Documents relating to that asset can be found at Exhibits 18 through 20. That's an asset that, if Mr. Seery were to testify, he would say that he has been actively engaged in trying to liquidate that asset, but it's not going to be completed by August 11th.

There's also a note that is due from Highland Capital Management Korea, Ltd. That can be found at Exhibit 67. That's another asset that Mr. Seery has concluded and would testify to that he thinks is valuable for the estate but will

not be monetized by the end of this extension period.

And then there's the bad faith award that the estate obtained against HCRE, which remains on appeal. The appeal of that order can be found at Exhibit 15. And there's no further cost, really, to waiting for the Court's decision, but that is an asset of the estate that remains to be monetized.

So there's two buckets of assets, one of which, hopefully, if the 9019 motion is approved, will go to HMIT and that will be helpful. But there's another bucket of assets that are not implicated by the HMIT settlement that will not be monetized before August 11th that Mr. Seery would testify we need a little bit more time and that's why we're going to extend the Trusts.

Mr. Seery would also testify, finally, that there are claims and equity interests that remain unresolved. They include Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim. As Your Honor is probably aware at this point, Highland has objected to that claim. It seeks to disallow, subordinate, that particular claim. Otherwise, have it monetized for purposes of winding up the estate.

Mr. Daugherty has moved to dismiss that complaint. That's his right. But our scheduling order already takes us past August 11th.

And then, finally, we've got Dugaboy's Class 11 interest, which has not yet been allowed. If the 9019 motion is

approved today, we do expect to move quickly to get to that point so that we can finish that up. But we don't foresee that being completed before August 11th, either.

So, in sum, Mr. Seery would testify that, from his perspective, the estate still has assets that are valuable to the estate that will not be monetized by August 11th, and there are still one claim and one equity interest that need to be resolved in order to satisfy the test, you know, to get to the dissolution.

So that would be the sum total of his testimony. That's the completion of the proffer. And unless Your Honor has any objections, we're prepared to move to the next motion.

THE COURT: I have a couple of questions.

MR. MORRIS: Sure.

THE COURT: But first I'm going to go ahead and swear in Mr. Seery --

MR. MORRIS: Great.

THE COURT: -- to affirm this, as well as swear him in for what I'm sure will be future testimony today.

MR. MORRIS: Sure.

MR. SEERY: Would you like me to come --

THE COURT: Well, you can just stand in place. Just make sure we hear you.

(The witness is sworn as to both his proffer and future testimony.)

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

All right. My question is probably for you.

THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: Just confirm my understanding. We have one claim and one --

MR. MORRIS: Equity interest.

THE COURT: -- equity interest to resolve? Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim and the Dugaboy what would be Class 11 interest?

MR. MORRIS: That is correct.

THE COURT: Did I hear that correctly, Mr. Seery?

THE WITNESS: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

And then my other question is, once again, a clarification. I pulled out of your attachments to your motion to extend the Exhibit B, Unresolved Pending Litigation.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: And at the time this was filed, May 8th, 2025, it showed nine pending matters at all court levels. And I think two of them now are finished. I'm sorry. This is a long question. But maybe I'm wrong. The first two matters, the recusal matter that was at the Fifth Circuit, as well as the gatekeeper appeal, which I know a motion to stay the mandate was at the Supreme Court, both of those are finished now? Done?

MR. MORRIS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So the nine pending matters is now down to seven. And if the Court were to approve the 9019 today, I understand that, well, it looks like, at a minimum, two more would go away?

MR. MORRIS: Precisely.

THE COURT: We have an appeal at the District Court, what we call the Claims Trading Appeal, where Highland had sued -- I'm sorry, Hunter Mountain had sued Highland and others regarding the claims trading issue, I'll call it. So that would go away?

MR. MORRIS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And then let me see what else. I've marked all over my chart.

MR. MORRIS: And then I believe Hunter Mountain's motion for leave to file a complaint in the Delaware Chancery Court --

THE COURT: Ah.

MR. MORRIS: -- to remove Mr. Seery will also be dismissed with prejudice --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: -- if the 9019 motion is approved.

THE COURT: Okay. So, that, yes, Hunter Mountain v. Seery, the Court issued a stay on that being able to go forward in Delaware.

MR. MORRIS: Precisely.

THE COURT: So that would go away.

So, of the nine matters listed, we're down to five. But I'll hear, I guess, about this later with Mr. Seery, the big what I would call Kirschner adversary against lots of defendants which has been abated for a long, long time now. Hunter Mountain would basically receive that lawsuit with those claims? The claims against it go away? And I don't know what we'll hear, I don't know what Hunter Mountain will do with that big adversary, but maybe it doesn't know yet. I don't know.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: So, --

MR. MORRIS: Not a question we've concerned ourselves with, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So that, again, I'm kind of recapping everything.

(Counsel confer.)

MR. MORRIS: Go ahead, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So, again, I'm looking at the chart. If anyone wants to know what I'm looking at, it's at Docket No. 4213-2, filed May 8th. We're down to the HCRE --

MR. MORRIS: Appeal.

THE COURT: -- appeal.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh. Which is fully briefed and

we're just waiting for a decision.

THE COURT: Okay. So that bad faith decision may or may not stick, but it's hanging there on appeal.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: We're down to a Dugaboy -- what we called the Imaging Motion. Or no?

MR. MORRIS: Correct. I guess that's been stayed, but that's out there.

THE COURT: We have the valuation motion of Dugaboy, but I don't know, is it going to be moot after today? I don't know what I'm going to hear today as far as the evidence.

MR. MORRIS: So, that has -- great question -- two plaintiffs in that lawsuit, HMIT and Dugaboy.

THE COURT: Oh, that's right. So --

MR. MORRIS: HMIT is going to dismiss it with prejudice. Dugaboy will still have an active complaint.

THE COURT: Appeal.

MR. MORRIS: My hope is that --

THE COURT: It's an appeal of --

MR. MORRIS: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: My hope is that, because we produced so much valuation information to HMIT, which we then had to make available to Dugaboy because that's the way discovery works, that they'll withdraw that complaint.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: I'm going to make that plea right on the record here, because they've now gotten everything they've asked for. But that's their decision to make, and it's out there. But HMIT is withdrawing itself as a party to that lawsuit, but it does remain in Dugaboy's lap.

THE COURT: Okay. So those potentially three things?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: Plus the Daugherty matter?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Seery, did I miss something?

THE WITNESS: One clarification, Your Honor. My apologies. One clarification. In the Class 11 subordinated interests, there's a Dugaboy capital account of $740,000. There's also the Strand capital account -- both of these are controlled by Mr. Dondero -- of $994,000. And then Mr. Okada and his affiliates have a combined capital account of $248,000. So we'll -- I said just Dugaboy, but it's actually Dugaboy, Strand, and then Okada and two family trusts of his.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And if the 9019 motion is granted, --

THE WITNESS: It's in the footnote. It's in the footnote in the motion.

THE COURT: Yes. I actually had that in my notes.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: So I glossed over Class 11 just being Dugaboy. There are Strand and Okada.

All right. So I appreciate that clarification. We're down hopefully to very little litigation. But we have no control over higher courts, when they have time to look at it.

MR. MORRIS: Or future litigation, now that the gatekeeper has been curtailed.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

Anyone wish to say anything about this motion to extend?

All right. Well, based on the pleadings, the argument, the evidence, I do think it is necessary and appropriate and reasonable to extend the duration of the Highland Trusts through August 11th, 2026. The relief is something that is contemplated as a possibility under the trust documents. Moreover, I think the Court has some authority under Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) and Bankruptcy Code Section 105 to grant this relief.

The evidence shows there are unliquidated assets and some unfinished litigation that must be resolved before the Trust is in a position to wind down. So, again, I think it's necessary, prudent, and in the best interest. The motion is granted, and the Court duly acknowledges the comments with regard to the stipulation of Dugaboy and the estate. All right.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you very much. So, may I move to

the 9019 motion?

THE COURT: You may.

MR. MORRIS: Okay. With respect to the 9019 motion, there were originally three Objecting Parties: the Dugaboy Investment Trust, Patrick Daugherty, and The Dallas Foundation and an entity called Crown Global.

I'm pleased to report, and I think Your Honor may already be aware, that a settlement has been reached to dispose of The Dallas Foundation and the Crown Global objection. There is a written agreement to that effect that effectuates that. And I'd like to just turn the podium over to Mr. Phillips. Louis Phillips represents the HMIT Entities. I know Mr. Curry is here on behalf of the objecting parties, The Dallas Foundation, but I think -- I think I'll let Mr. Phillips address, you know, the specific terms of the resolution of that objection.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. And I will say that my staff reached out yesterday to -- I don't know if it was Mr. Curry or someone in your office -- wanting to know have you delivered exhibit notebooks. And it was at that point my staff heard, well, we've resolved.

MR. CURRY: We had just finished.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So I'm happy to hear what the resolution is.

MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning, Your Honor. Louis M.

Phillips on behalf of the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust and the named parties therein.

We had a written stipulation that has been signed by my firm, by Mr. Curry's firm, by the Pachulski firm, and by the Quinn Emanuel firm that is to be submitted to the -- is to be filed on the record. It also contains a reference to a settlement agreement that will be attached. But we will read the stipulation into the record, if Your Honor would allow me to.

THE COURT: All right. You may.

MR. PHILLIPS: And Mr. Curry is here, and he can tell me whether or not I have read correctly, but I think I have it.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

MR. PHILLIPS: (reading) Now, wherefore, it is jointly -- hereby jointly stipulated and agreed as follows. The Foundation Parties -- Mr. Curry's clients -- withdraw The Foundation Objection, which is a defined term in the stipulation, with prejudice, in accordance with the terms of the term sheet annexed hereto as Attachment 1. And Attachment 1 will be attached to the stipulation.

Paragraph 2. The Foundation Parties, the HMIT Entities -- that's Hunter Mountain Entities and the Movants; that is, Mr. Morris' client and Quinn Emanuel on behalf of the Litigation Subtrust -- agree that the following language shall be

contained in the proposed order on the 9019 motion. And that's clearly the proposed order. This is not dependent upon the motion being granted. Notwithstanding anything in the settlement agreement or the 9019 order to the contrary, none of The Dallas Foundation, EDF, Okada Family, or Crown (The Foundation Parties) are or will be included in the definition of HMIT Releasors or Highland Releasors. For the avoidance of doubt, however, any attempt by The Foundation Parties to assert a claim against an HMIT released party by, through, or under, including derivatively a Highland entity, or against a Highland released party by, through, or under, including derivatively an HMIT entity, is barred by this order and the settlement agreement.

That is the sum and substance of the stipulation. The settlement agreement we don't think needs to be read to the Court because it's a signed settlement agreement that will be attached as Attachment 1 to the stipulation. And I believe I read it correctly.

THE COURT: Mr. Curry, did he read it correctly?

MR. CURRY: Mr. Phillips did read it correctly, Your Honor. And thank you.

And we want to thank Trustee's counsel and Mr. Phillips for working with us to address some very real concerns. And through the stipulation, we still have some work to do, but we have the time to do it, and maybe move it to where we can

actually get it resolved.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, there are some things I am concerned -- well, I should say, all I really feel the need to go into is you're releasing your objection, your clients are, and all of the parties here, parties to the proposed settlement and the estates, the Debtors, Hunter Mountain, are agreeing that your clients are not releasors under the 9019 settlement if the Court approves it.

MR. CURRY: Correct, Your Honor. Unless and except our clients were to attempt to assert a released claim against a released party, and that's what the "provided, however" was to clarify.

MR. PHILLIPS: And this doesn't affect the estate at all. It basically affects the HMI -- the Hunter Mountain entities. But the language that we have read in the stipulation has been agreed to and is contained within the order that will be proposed.

THE COURT: Okay. You said it better than I said it. The estate is releasing claims --

MR. PHILLIPS: I can't believe that, Your Honor, but thank you.

THE COURT: Well, the estate is releasing claims that it has --

MR. PHILLIPS: Correct.

THE COURT: -- or in Trusts have -- I shouldn't have

said the estate. It's the Trust entities and what's left of the Reorganized Debtors are releasing any claims they have against Hunter Mountain in the proposed settlement --

MR. PHILIPS: Yes.

THE COURT: -- if it's approved. But any direct claims of your clients are not --

MR. CURRY: Well, direct claims that our client has or derivative claims, for example, against Hunter Mountain that are derivative through Hunter Mountain.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah.

MR. CURRY: Yeah. That was the -- what we were trying to make sure.

THE COURT: Yes. All right. Well, and when I said this is all I care about, what I mean is I don't even know who the heck Crown Insurance is.

MR. PHILLIPS: Correct.

THE COURT: There was a very interesting party in interest objection asserted by the Debtor. And I've learned a lot about a lot of entities during all these years, but that was a new one on me. I understood that it's somewhere in the framework of the --

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: -- Charitable DAF.

MR. PHILLIPS: Let's say it's somewhere in the

universe, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The universe? Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: The universe. Not necessarily the Charitable DAF or Hunter Mountain.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: But in the universe.

THE COURT: Well, but the point is, we've announced anything relevant to --

MR. PHILLIPS: Correct.

THE COURT: -- the Reorganized Debtor, --

MR. PHILLIPS: Correct.

THE COURT: -- Claimant Trust, Subtrust.

MR. PHILLIPS: And the motion -- and the objections of all these entities are withdrawn with prejudice.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. CURRY: And Your Honor, the one thing that I will note, part of our agreement, and it's in the signed term sheet that you'll see, is that we've agreed that if there's a dispute over the settlement to withdraw our objection, this Court will have at least concurrent jurisdiction to resolve that dispute, because it is a settlement to resolve an objection to a core proceeding.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. PHILLIPS: And we have agreed and we do agree that the Court has jurisdiction. It has jurisdiction.

THE COURT: Okay. For what that is worth.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, that's what we can agree to.

THE COURT: All right. I appreciate that.

Anyone wish to say anything about what's been announced?

All right. Well, I accept this resolution and withdrawal of --

MR. PHILLIPS: Okay. We will be filing --

THE COURT: -- the objection.

MR. PHILLIPS: We will be filing, at the close of this hearing, this stipulation, and we will be clicking whatever ECF box request that the Court so ordered on the stipulation.

THE COURT: Okay. We will be on the lookout for that.

All right. Well, Mr. Lang, you stood up on behalf of Dugaboy.

MR. LANG: I just want to make the Court aware of a letter that was sent last night that involves this from the Caymans, from Grant Thornton.

MR. PHILLIPS: We object.

MR. LANG: I just want to make the Court -- they were asking for a 45-day that the Joint Liquidators --

MR. PHILLIPS: We object to this, Your Honor. That's not a part of the record. This is a person from outer space. Not outer space, but the Cayman Islands. And it's a letter

that we --

THE COURT: Coming from someone --

MR. PHILLIPS: It looks like a letter --

THE COURT: -- who is called Yosemite Sam, I understand, outside of court.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah. Yeah. I didn't want to bring that up, but Mr. Morris --

THE COURT: Okay. Well, it's stuck in my brain forever now.

MR. PHILLIPS: -- says it's his favorite cartoon character, so it must be okay.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, okay, I don't want to make light. I think this goes back to what I was saying about there are certain things I care about and certain things I don't care about. And I read from the pleadings, I haven't heard evidence but I've read from the pleadings that there is a lot going on in the Cayman Islands with regard to what I call the Charitable DAF structure or Hunter Mountain.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Parties in that universe. And I don't plan to exercise any control or jurisdiction over that, so I'm hesitant to hear what it is you want to present. I don't know, maybe on cross-examination of Mark Patrick today it may or may not be relevant. But what is it --

MR. LANG: All they ask for is a 45-day basically

abeyance or continuance of the decision on the 9019, to allow them to investigate and weigh in on it.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

MR. LANG: They're Joint Liquidators. That's -- I'm just making the Court aware of the request.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, they're not here to articulate that. So I respect your wanting to be transparent and whatnot, but I'm not going to let it stop me from going forward today. Okay.

MR. LANG: Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, if I may be excused, that's our position with respect to the withdrawal. We appreciate Your Honor's attention. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CURRY: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anyone else wish to weigh in?

All right. Well, I do, as I was saying, accept the withdrawal of The Dallas Foundation and related entities' objection to the 9019 settlement.

So does that leave only the Daugherty objection to the settlement? Well, and the Dugaboy.

MR. MORRIS: And the Dugaboy, yes.

THE COURT: And Dugaboy, of course.

MR. MORRIS: That's right.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: So, --

THE COURT: So how did you want to proceed?

MR. MORRIS: So, the way I propose to proceed, Your Honor, I have an opening statement to make --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: -- with a PowerPoint presentation to present. I would propose that, as the Movant, I go first. Then we can hear from Dugaboy, we can hear from Mr. Daugherty, and then we can put Mr. Seery on the stand.

Assuming that there is no challenge to Mark Patrick's authority to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of all of the HMIT entities, I would not plan on calling either Mr. Dondero or Ms. Deitsch-Perez, who are under subpoena here, because the challenge to authority was really coming from The Dallas Foundation. Their objection has now been withdrawn. So as long as Mr. Daugherty -- well, really, as long as Dugaboy doesn't challenge Mr. Patrick's authority to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities, I think we'll just put on the one witness and be done.

THE COURT: All right. Just so we know what lies ahead, --

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: -- I don't think that Dugaboy objected to Mr. Patrick's authority. I do recall it was just The

Foundation.

MR. LANG: There was no objection on the -- there was no objection.

THE COURT: Okay. And same with Mr. Daugherty? No objection about the authority of Mark Patrick to enter into the settlement?

MR. YORK: There was no objection.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MORRIS: All right. May I proceed?

THE COURT: You may proceed.

MR. MORRIS: Okay. So, may I approach, Your Honor? I've got a --

THE COURT: You may. Is this a PowerPoint? And everyone else has it, correct?

(Pause.)

THE COURT: You may proceed.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Your Honor. John Morris; Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones; for Highland Capital Management, LP and the Highland Claimant Trust.

Before I begin, Your Honor, I'd like to move my exhibits into evidence because I will be referring to them in my opening.

THE COURT: All right. So I think I said on Monday the first thing I was going to ask, and I've already blown that, was did you all have good faith discussions regarding

admission of each other's exhibits? And I did see Mr. Lang filed a day or two ago his list of objections. It looked like you were like you were down to about nine or eleven exhibits you were objecting to.

(Counsel confer.)

THE COURT: Out of 123 designations, which I think probably grew overnight to --

MR. MORRIS: Oh, okay. Well, --

MR. LANG: I just have to make clear for the record.

MR. MORRIS: You go ahead and do that.

MR. LANG: Your Honor, I've been told that Dugaboy does challenge the authority. It is not in our objection.

MR. PHILLIPS: It's not in his --

THE COURT: Well, can I ask why it was not in your objection?

MR. LANG: I do not know. I was not counsel of record when the objection was filed. I do not know what was known or not known at that time.

THE COURT: So, --

MR. LANG: So I guess we just seek leave to --

THE COURT: -- if you did not have him on -- was Mark Patrick on your exhibit list? I don't think he was, right?

MR. LANG: He was not.

THE COURT: Okay. So how would you address that? Again, we've had, I know, some back and forth over who was

going to represent Dugaboy on this matter.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: I remember the substitutions and whatnot. But --

MR. LANG: We found out late last night that The Foundation was resolving their issue, and that kind of left us in a position.

THE COURT: So what are you saying? You all were relying on --

MR. LANG: Well, the issue had --

THE COURT: -- The Foundation to carry the flag on this one?

MR. LANG: They had raised the issue. They were pursuing the issue. We went through discovery and they were pursuing it. It was already in front of the Court.

THE COURT: All right. What would you like to say, Mr. Morris?

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, this is more than disappointing. The fact of the matter is Mr. Dondero is funding both the Cayman Islands litigation as well as The Dallas Foundation's prosecution of the objection. The fact that The Dallas Foundation settled doesn't open the door to Mr. Dondero to assert objections that he's never asserted before.

I will tell you what will happen. If Your Honor allows

this, I will have to call Mr. Dondero and Ms. Deitsch-Perez to the stand to offer evidence under subpoena that they personally acknowledge and understand, because Mr. Dondero's signature is on documents that were signed in the year 2025, that Mr. Patrick is authorized to represent HMIT. I really didn't want to do that. But if they want to pursue it, I'll have to do my job.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. LANG: And I want to clarify one thing.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. LANG: And it goes back to something we already discussed, which is the authority issue is derived from the Cayman Island Joint Liquidators' appointment on May 6th, 2020. And so how that changes the authority, it's -- I think the issue is does he have authority, like Mr. Morris --

THE COURT: All right. Well, before I comment, Mr. Phillips, it's your client representative that we're talking about here. What do you say?

MR. PHILLIPS: Very disappointing, but -- and further revealing the limits of my imagination. There is no objection to authority. There's no evidence of record of objection to authority. There's no evidence even in The Dallas Foundation's papers about authority. Dugaboy did not raise objections to authority. Daugherty did not raise objections to authority. And Mr. Morris was willing to release Ms.

Deitsch-Perez and Mr. Dondero from subpoena in connection with an order that this Court entered that Hunter Mountain objected to. And outside the Court, the evidence will establish, the evidence submitted by Mr. Morris will establish that Hunter Mountain, through authority of Mr. Patrick, objected to Ms. Deitsch-Perez signing on behalf of Hunter Mountain because she did not seek approval and did not have authorization to sign a stipulation before this Court.

Subsequently, after signing the stipulation and entry of the order, we suggested that we would not deal with Ms. Deitsch-Perez, we would only deal with unconflicted counsel, and we dealt with unconflicted counsel to make an agreement with HCLOM and another of Mr. Dondero's entities to avoid filing a motion for reconsideration before this Court based on the fact that, as we have suggested in the motion that we didn't file, Hunter Mountain's approval was not real.

So Mr. Morris has these people under subpoena because we signed an agreement that Mr. Dondero signed to avoid the filing of a motion for reconsideration before this Court, recognizing that Mr. Patrick had authority for Hunter Mountain to sign the agreement. And so that's the purpose of his subpoena.

But our position is there's no suggestion in pleadings by Dugaboy or Daugherty that challenge the authority of Mr. Patrick to execute on behalf of any of the Hunter Mountain

entities. And the one party who, without suggesting an evidentiary basis, but that's fine, they say maybe they did have an evidentiary -- we -- and they withdrew their objection.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me --

MR. MORRIS: Okay. I'm sorry. Just really --

THE COURT: Thirty second.

MR. MORRIS: Really quickly.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. MORRIS: The letter that Mr. Lang just referred to from the Joint Official Liquidators, addressed to us, asking for an extension of time, doesn't even challenge Mr. Patrick's authority to act today on behalf of the HMIT entities to enter into the settlement agreement. The Joint Official Liquidators wrote to us last night, and they don't say what Mr. Lang is now saying.

MR. PHILLIPS: And the only thing I would say is we got a letter by email from somebody who says, I am who I am. It came through email PDF. We don't challenge the authority. But we would respectfully request -- we're not there. We've made no appearance. We don't challenge the authority. But please wait -- ask the Court to wait the 45 minutes -- 45 days for us. We got a letter. PDF. We don't know who sent it.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: It wouldn't be admissible even if

someone tried to introduce it as evidence.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me just say a few things here. This has felt like a very strange sideshow, I'm going to say. When I read The Foundation's objection, I was, again, scratching my head, who in the heck is Crown Insurance? I know who Dallas Foundation is because there have been charts submitted to me in the past, and I know it's part of the I'm going to say Mr. Phillips' client set over the months, the Charitable Foundation structure. But I'm like, how in the heck do these people have standing? Okay? I have to always consider standing. That's every trial judge's first obligation, does this party have standing? Not a creditor. Not an equity holder. But somehow I guess they're going to explain through evidence how they're a person aggrieved by the proposed settlement.

So that's why I kind of -- hopefully, it doesn't sound flippant -- thought this sounded like a sideshow, because this is a stranger, really, to weigh in.

Okay. So now I'm hearing that a party in interest, which Dugaboy is -- I guess some might argue that, but I think they're affected by the settlement, so that makes them a party in interest -- you're making the same argument. And it's because of a rotation of counsel you didn't make it sooner.

Okay. So I'm just trying to be transparent here, tell you what the Court is thinking. I guess what the Court is

thinking is Mark Patrick is the client representative, so I'm told by the Movants on the 9019, and you, Mr. Phillips, he's the party representative for Hunter Mountain.

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I don't, I guess, know what harm there is, except a longer hearing, in, okay, put him on the stand to testify about the bona fides of the settlement. It's more evidence. But if you all want to call Mr. Dondero, I'm going to require that.

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor?

THE COURT: I mean, as a counterbalance, since it's appearing from the pleadings to be --

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, respectfully, Mr. Patrick is not on their witness list. He's not on our witness list.

THE COURT: Wasn't he on somebody's witness list?

MR. MORRIS: He was on The Dallas Foundation's witness list.

THE COURT: Oh.

MR. MORRIS: He's not on their witness list. He's not on our witness list. He should not testify today because they're raising an issue that they didn't raise ever before. This is improper. They should just be shut down here.

THE COURT: I think probably you should be shut down. But I kind of go back and forth, what's the harm in having the representative, the person I'm told is the representative of

Highland?

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

THE COURT: I could limit it to one hour. And the flip side is that Dondero himself, as I guess the representative of Dugaboy, would have to also take the stand, limited to one hour.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'd like to make one note, Your Honor, about the documents that Mr. Morris has introduced. That document list -- and I don't have the numbers in front of me -- but part of the presentation and the reason Mr. Patrick is not on the Movants' motion -- witness and exhibit list, the documents that have been introduced are all of -- include all of the documents evidencing Mr. Patrick's authority as the control person of the entire Hunter Mountain group.

THE COURT: Which they've stipulated.

MR. PHILLIPS: Which they've stipulated to.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. MORRIS: And to be clear, Your Honor, they can be found at Exhibits 70 through 104. We've got 34 documents in evidence that establish that Mr. Patrick is authorized to act on behalf of each of the HMIT entities. All that's going to happen is we're now going to spend time dealing with an issue that you already described as a sideshow, and we're going to do it for a party who didn't put Mr. Patrick on a witness list, who hasn't objected on this basis, and we've got a

mountain of evidence that shows that he's completely authorized to do this. I just --

MR. PHILLIPS: To which there's no objection.

MR. MORRIS: And you can also look, Your Honor, at Exhibit 69. That's the agreement that Mr. Dondero signed with Mr. Patrick after he got outed for authorizing Ms. Deitsch-Perez to sign a document on behalf of HMIT without Mark Patrick's knowledge or approval. He signed that. Six months ago. And we're going to have a trial here over whether Mark Patrick is authorized to act on behalf of HMIT?

A VOICE: That was long ago.

MR. MORRIS: This is not -- this is not --

THE COURT: We're not going to have a trial. And I fully acknowledge that I am possibly abusing discretion by allowing this. We have our rules, and our rules were not complied with, and it does feel a little bit like ambush. Okay?

But on the flip side of it, it doesn't seem entirely unreasonable to have the representative, the purported representative of Hunter Mountain, who is the counterparty, if you will, to this very major settlement, take the stand. And I'll limit it. And, again, I condition it on Mr. Dondero, the ultimate beneficiary of the Dugaboy Trust, as it's been represented to me in prior filings, --

MR. MORRIS: Correct.

THE COURT: -- he'll have to stay an equal amount of time on the stand. Okay?

MR. MORRIS: Okay.

THE COURT: Okay. Hang on. I've got my smarter staff member handing me a note. Okay.

(Pause.)

THE COURT: Okay. Well, so that's how we're going to stand.

Now, I am going to address Mr. Daugherty here. We're not going to let Mr. Daugherty cross-examine Patrick. Clearly, his objection has been around, and he never said anything about --

MR. YORK: Certainly not as to authority. However, we should be able to examine him as it relates to the portion of the objection that goes to whether the settlement is in the best interest, given the claims that are being -- the Kirschner claims that are being transferred by Highland to the HMIT entities.

THE COURT: All right. Well, you all are going to have to share your 30 minutes.

MR. YORK: That's fine.

THE COURT: Okay? We're giving 30 minutes to Debtor entities, Highland entities, and Hunter Mountain entities collectively, and 30 minutes to Dugaboy and Daugherty collectively. Okay? So, I'm going to have my law clerk

timing you like you're on the clock.

MR. MORRIS: Okay.

THE COURT: Okay?

MR. MORRIS: May I proceed?

THE COURT: You may proceed.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Your Honor. So, appearing at Docket 4255 is the Movants' exhibit list, with Exhibits 1 through 123. At Docket 4277 are Exhibits 124 and 125. And at Docket 4280, we've got Exhibit 126.

The Movants respectfully move into evidence all of those documents, with the exception of Exhibits 124 and 125 on Docket No. 4277. Those are the transcripts of The Dallas Foundation representatives, and since we have reached an agreement and The Dallas Foundation has withdrawn their objection, we are not going to offer those two transcripts into evidence as part of the record in this matter.

But Exhibits 1 through 123, and Exhibit 126, we move into evidence.

THE COURT: All right. And as I thought we were going to start talking about a moment ago, Mr. Lang objected to 11 of these 123 designations. Do those still remain? If they do, we're just going to see if they want to be I think offered --

MR. LANG: No, I think we've --

THE COURT: -- the old-fashioned way, but I think

that might be more efficient. I have, in your objection, which is at Docket 4273, you objected to Numbers 10, 12, 13, 57 and 59, and then 64 through 69. Eleven items.

MR. LANG: Mr. Morris clarified that 12 and 13 are one document. But I still, I think that, again, for purposes of the authority issue, Exhibit 13 we don't think is relevant.

MR. MORRIS: Exhibit 13, Your Honor. We'll just take them one at a time.

THE COURT: Yes, go ahead and address it.

MR. MORRIS: Is relevant because it's simply a document that was provided to Highland by Hunter Mountain as part of the negotiations. And we've been asked to produce all of the documents related to the negotiations. This is one of the documents that we received.

THE COURT: Okay. And do I understand 12 and 13 are actually the same thing, or --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah. Well, 12 is the email, 13 is the attachment.

THE COURT: Okay. I overrule the relevance objection. Those will be admitted.

(Claimant Trust's Exhibits 12 and 13 are admitted into evidence.)

MR. LANG: 57.

MR. MORRIS: 57 is also a part of the settlement documents. It's, I think, an email exchange between Mr. Seery

and UBS, which was one of the Class 9 claimants, and we had to obtain their consent and that's part of the process of getting to the settlement agreement.

MR. LANG: I think the objection is it doesn't include the attachment.

MR. MORRIS: It's got all -- it's got numerous attachments on it.

MR. LANG: To 57?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

MR. LANG: Mine did not.

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, we'll withdraw the exhibit.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Okay.

THE COURT: 59. Well, you didn't address #10.

MR. LANG: Oh, sorry.

THE COURT: That was the first one.

MR. LANG: Yeah.

MR. MORRIS: We'll withdraw #10.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MORRIS: Okay.

THE COURT: So, 59?

MR. MORRIS: 59? Your Honor, I'm not surprised they object, because it's at the core of the Court's ability to authorize this settlement.

MR. LANG: We withdrew that.

MR. MORRIS: Oh, you withdrew that?

MR. LANG: Withdrew.

MR. MORRIS: Oh, okay. They withdrew that.

THE COURT: Okay. So, 59 will be admitted.

(Claimant Trust's Exhibit 59 is admitted into evidence.)

MR. MORRIS: And then I think the last is 64 to 69.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. MORRIS: We were actually prepared to withdraw those exhibits because we didn't think there was a challenge to authority. Now that there's a challenge to authority, we're going to offer all of those in because they're highly relevant to the acknowledge of Mr. Patrick's authority.

THE COURT: All right. And your objection was solely to relevance?

MR. LANG: The objection was relevance because they predate the May 6th issue in the Caymans, which is what caused the entire structure to -- the authority from the top down to be questioned.

THE COURT: All right. Well, you can cross-examine if you want on those items.

MR. LANG: Okay.

THE COURT: But I find they're relevant so they will be admitted, 64 through 69.

(Claimant Trust's Exhibits 64 through 69 are admitted into evidence.)

[Court Edit: Claimant Trust's Exhibits 1 through 9, 11 through 56, 58 through 123, and 126 are admitted into evidence.]

THE COURT: All right. And as far as the exhibits of Dugaboy, I think it was just the plan and settlement agreement were all that had been designated. Correct?

MR. LANG: Yes.

MR. MORRIS: No objection.

THE COURT: So, no objection. Those will be admitted.

(Dugaboy Investment Trust's exhibits are admitted into evidence.)

THE COURT: And Daugherty's exhibits?

MR. YORK: Yes, Your Honor. So, Mr. Morris and I conferred yesterday about both sides' exhibits. And my understanding is we've reached an agreement that both sides' exhibits are not objected to. And so therefore we'd move to admit Daugherty's as well.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. YORK: 1 through 42, I believe, it is.

THE COURT: All right. So you confirm?

MR. MORRIS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. The Court will admit all of Daugherty's 1 through 42, and they appear at Docket Entry 4266.

(Patrick Daugherty's Exhibits 1 through 42 are admitted into evidence.)

THE COURT: All right. Opening statements.

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANT TRUST

MR. MORRIS: All right. Good morning, Your Honor. John Morris; Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones; for Highland Capital Management, LP and the Highland Claimant Trust.

If we can go to the first slide, Your Honor. This is a 9019 motion. It's not a terribly high bar. What the Movant has to show here is that the settlement agreement was the product of arm's-length, good-faith negotiations, and effectively that it's in the best interests of its stakeholders.

THE COURT: Did you want this put on the screen, or does everyone have a hard copy?

MR. MORRIS: Counsel have a hard copy.

THE COURT: Oh, okay.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah. The evidence is going to show, and there really is no dispute, that the settlement agreement is the product of arm's-length, good-faith negotiations. Mr. Seery is going to testify that the negotiations began in late March and they concluded on May 19th. Exhibits 2 through 57, with the exception of the one or two I just withdrew, reflect the parties' negotiations. Mr. Seery is going to testify that the negotiations were conducted by Zoom, by phone call, there

was one in-person meeting, there was many, many email exchanges that are reflected in the exhibits.

Mr. Seery is going to testify about the substance of the negotiations at a high level. Originally, we had sought to have one agreement with Hunter Mountain and the DAF entities. Mr. Patrick was not comfortable with that. He wanted to run them separately. And there was a DAF agreement that was ultimately entered into but that nobody believed required court approval.

So, once that got completed and one of the Fifth Circuit appeals got dismissed as a result, we moved to the Hunter Mountain discussions. Those discussions were robust. There were issues about the timing of the effectiveness of certain of the benefits under the proposed agreement. Highland wanted the releases, for example, to be effective upon signing. Mr. Patrick was unwilling to agree to anything without this Court's approval.

So there were changes that were made over time in terms of the timing of the transfer of the consideration. There were discussions and negotiations and bids and asks about the amounts that would be paid, when they would be paid, the circumstances under -- that they would be paid. There was an enormous amount of information that was exchanged pursuant to a confidentiality agreement that now became public because it's relevant to the Debtors' burden or the Claimant Trust's

burden to carry the day here.

That information included claims information, the trust agreement itself, budgets, asset/liability valuation information, forecasted expenses, because HMIT rightly wondered, you know, what's going to happen to the money? Is it going to be gone before it got its agreed-upon share? So, you know, there will be, I think, indisputable evidence at the end of the day that the settlement is the product of arm's-length, good-faith negotiations.

If we move to the next slide, the evidence will also show that the proposed settlement is indisputably in the best interest of the Highland entities and their stakeholders. Upon court approval, all of the pending litigation that Your Honor identified earlier will be dismissed with prejudice, thereby greatly reducing litigation risk and attendant costs.

The stakeholders will also benefit from the allowance of the HMIT claim at a fixed amount of $337 million. And we will explain -- Mr. Seery will explain to the Court how that number was arrived at.

The estates and their stakeholders will also benefit because, under the proposed settlement, as I indicated earlier, Highland will be able to monetize or otherwise dispose of a number of illiquid assets, including the Dugaboy Note and the estate claims in the Kirschner Litigation. And perhaps most importantly to the estate, we are getting very,

very broad what we refer to as litigation protections from all of the Hunter Mountain entities. It includes not only a release but a covenant not to sue as well as, you know, we could go through it, but -- but we believe that even if Mr. Dondero or somebody else obtains control of Hunter Mountain, unless somebody sets aside this agreement, those protections are going to inure to the benefit of the Trusts, the Indemnity Trust and all of its stakeholders until the end of time, and nobody is ever going to be able to set this agreement aside because it was negotiated in good faith, it was the product of arm's-length negotiations, and it's fair and reasonable to both sides.

So those litigation protections are paramount and they provide another indicator of the benefits that the Claimant Trust is going to receive.

The next slide, Your Honor, is a demonstrative exhibit, although, as always, we have citations to the very specific documents that are now in the record. Mr. Seery will describe for you at a high level how the allowed claim of HMIT was calculated, and it's really just based on the limited partners' capital accounts as of the petition date. And I'll just leave it at that for the moment. There's no magic to it. It's objectively reasonable. It's mathematics. There's really no subjectivity that I'm aware of that goes into this. It's just, hey, let's look at the tax returns, let's look at

the financial statements, and let's look at the partnership agreement, and let's see how the capital account was structured as of the petition date. And that's how you get to, really, $396 million less the amount of the Dugaboy Note. I mean, the HMIT note.

The next slide. With the settlement, the transfer of the Kirschner Litigation is in the best interests of the Movants. I think Mr. Daugherty somehow suggests that really the best thing to do would be to prosecute that litigation. We respectfully disagree. In the Debtors' business -- in the Claimant Trust's business judgment, that would be exactly the wrong thing to do when you are settling with HMIT.

And why is that? When we commenced the Kirschner Litigation a number of years ago, the Kirschner Litigation represented a potential source of funding for indemnification expenses, and at that time, for the payment in full to creditors.

By 2023, 2024, with the success of the Highland team's monetization of assets, the need to pursue and monetize the Kirschner claims became less clear, so we put it on ice. And we voluntarily stayed the litigation to conserve resources.

The settlement with HMIT changes everything. The claims are as valid today as they were yesterday, as they were before we signed the agreement, as they were when we commenced the action. But they have very different value to Highland when

you're settling with HMIT. And that's why we're prepared to transfer the claims today.

Why? Because at this point, unlike when we commenced the action, Class 8 has been paid in full except for Mr. Daugherty's fully-reserved claim, right, in an amount that he agreed to for years and that he ratified and reaffirmed three different times in three different stipulations. That's the only thing that remains in Class 8.

THE COURT: And remind me of the dollar amounts on reserve.

MR. MORRIS: It's approximately $2.5 million. I can --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: It's -- the dollar amount is specifically set forth --

(Pause.)

MR. MORRIS: It would be, I believe, in Exhibit 60, --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: -- is the original tolling agreement. And in Paragraph 1 it has the very specific dollar amount. And then in Exhibits 62, 63 -- 61, 62, and 63, those are amendments to the tolling agreement that fully incorporated the original tolling agreement, including the reserve amount. So that amount has been there for years. Nobody has ever said

anything about it. Nobody has ever tried to adjust it. Nobody has ever identified a change in circumstances that would suggest a change was appropriate. But here we are.

So, why is it different and why does the Kirschner Litigation not have so much value to us when we're settling with Class 11? Because Class 8 has been paid in full. Class 9 has been paid 80 percent. If the HMIT settlement is approved, it will receive another 10 percent. So that all that remains is 10 percent of the Class 9s.

And most importantly, Your Honor, with the settlement with HMIT and the Claimant Trust's receipt of the litigation protections, the need for indemnification expenses is going to be greatly reduced. We can give the money where it belongs because all we'll have left is Mr. Dondero and Dugaboy. It really will literally be the only thing. And we need a lot to deal with that, but not as much as we needed when we had to deal with them and HMIT.

And at the end of the day, once you're settling with HMIT, prosecution of the claims would only benefit HMIT, so why should we undertake the expense of doing that?

Is that clear to Your Honor?

THE COURT: It is.

MR. MORRIS: It is? So, it's -- this has nothing to do -- and you're going to hear questions of Mr. Seery, did you value the Kirschner claims? Are you giving them away for

free? No, we didn't value them, because once you're settling with HMIT it doesn't really matter. Once you have the litigation protections, once you know that HMIT is never going to be an adversary of yours, the monetization of the Kirschner claims would insure to their benefit because they will have an allowed claim of $330 million. So even if we sued and even if we got a hundred million dollars, that's going to go to them. Why would we pick up the tab today? A very different scenario than when we prosecuted the case, when the case was commenced.

So, really, really, in the estate's best interest to get value for those claims. The value is reflected in the totality of the agreement. The Court really should look at the body of the consideration that's being received, including the litigation protections.

If we can go to the next slide, Your Honor. As long as we're on the topic of Mr. Patrick's authority, Mr. Seery is going to testify to the work that he did to satisfy himself that Mr. Patrick was duly authorized to act on behalf of each of the HMIT entities in this case.

The next slide here shows an excerpt from the Hunter Mountain Trust Agreement. It's Paragraph 7. And it says, among other things, the Administrator -- who is Mark Patrick -- shall be duly authorized, from time to time, in his sole discretion, to manage the business and affairs of the Trust.

It continues by saying that the Administrator, Mr.

Patrick, shall also have the power to settle, compromise, submit to arbitration, or to submit to any court having jurisdiction in any matter, any matters that are in dispute.

So, you know, this is just one document. It's the Hunter Mountain document. We focus on the Hunter Mountain document because that's the only one of the HMIT entities that has a stake in the Claimant Trust. But, again, Your Honor, if you just -- Mr. Seery will, at a high level, confirm that Exhibits 70 through 104 are documents that definitively establish that Mr. Patrick has the authority to enter into each of these agreements on behalf of the HMIT entities.

Not only that, but he will describe, if asked by you or anybody cross-examining him, why nobody has the ability to interfere with the effectuation of his authority. He doesn't have to get anybody's consent. He doesn't have to -- right? This is all just crystal clear. And whatever entity far up the chain may exist, Your Honor should just think of as a shareholder. And if Coca-Cola came in here and they wanted to do a 9019 motion, a shareholder can't come in and stop Coca-Cola from doing that. If they don't like what Coca-Cola is doing, go file a derivative suit. Go sue Coca-Cola in another court at another time. Not that I'm inviting litigation against Mr. Patrick, but by analogy, this is what we're talking about.

There is no restriction on Mr. Patrick's authority. The

settlement is fair and reasonable. He has authority under the governing documents to do what he has done here, and that is act in the best interests of the HMIT entities. And so this is just one page. Mr. Seery will explain, you know, just the work that he's done to satisfy himself.

The next slide, Your Honor, there's objections about how somehow the settlement agreement violates the plan or the absolute priority rule, all of that. It's not accurate. I'll just leave it at that in terms of how I characterize it.

The next slide is excerpts of -- I think it's the plan of reorganization, Your Honor. And I think we admitted the plan last night. That's Exhibit 126. And they're -- these excerpts are really important because what they show is that Classes 9 and 10 have the indisputable right to accept less favorable treatment. And that's what they've done. Okay? And I think it's Article III, Section H, Subparts 9 and 10. Holders of Class 9 and 10 interests have the right to accept less favorable treatment.

And if we can go to the next slide, I'll just briefly describe the less favorable treatment that these stakeholders have in fact accepted. As permitted by the plan, holders of Class 9 claims consented to the payment in full of Mr. Daugherty's Class 9 claim and the Class 10 distributions, in accordance with the settlement agreement, before their Class 9 claim is paid in full.

And that's Exhibit 59. It may be among the most important documents that have been admitted this morning. Exhibit 59 is the consent of the Class 9 holders other than Mr. Daugherty to accept lesser treatment.

So there's no violation of the plan at all. HMIT is also accepting less favorable treatment than it might otherwise be entitled to if it ever successfully prosecuted its claim. It has less favorable treatment because it's agreeing that it's not a Claimant Trust beneficiary, that its rights are limited to the rights that are given to it under the settlement agreement and nowhere else. It's accepting less favorable treatment because it's agreeing that the Highland entities owe no duty of any kind to any HMIT entity except as provided for in the settlement agreement. It's accepting restrictions on its ability to transfer its Class 10 interests -- more less-favorable treatment -- as a condition to the first and second distributions. They have agreed that they are subject to Mr. Seery's determination that the Highland entities are not at that time under any Threat. "Threat" is a defined term, and it has to do with litigation.

And so if Mr. Seery, in his sole discretion, believes that he needs to conserve resources because he remains years in the future under threat of litigation, he's not going to make the payments to HMIT, and HMIT is okay with that because they understand.

And, of course, in the end, they're accepting less favorable treatment because they're granting to the Claimant Trust the litigation protections.

All stakeholders have been paid in full except for the 10 percent of Class 9 and Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim. That claim is the subject of an objection, and as I just walked Your Honor through, it has been fully reserved in an agreed-upon amount for years.

There was some questioning during Mr. Seery's -- one of Mr. Seery's I think three depositions in the last week -- about why he didn't offer Mr. Daugherty the same treatment that he offered to the other Class 9 holders because Mr. Daugherty had about an $800,000 Class 9 claim. Your Honor will see in Exhibit 58 that that claim was paid in full, and Mr. Seery will explain that he found negotiating with Mr. Patrick to be difficult, number one. And number two, it was an amount of money that the estate could afford. And so the other Class 9 claims are substantially bigger, so rather than going through the process of attempting to negotiate with Mr. Daugherty, he just paid it in full. The Claimant Trust had every right to do that. And Mr. Daugherty should not be heard to complain that he actually got everything that he could have ever been entitled to.

THE COURT: And --

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh?

THE COURT: I don't mean to get you off-track.

MR. MORRIS: That's all right.

THE COURT: But Class 9 claimants, I'm trying to remember who else was in that class. Was it a UBS --

MR. MORRIS: UBS.

THE COURT: -- claim?

MR. MORRIS: Exactly right.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And then affiliates of Stonehill and Farallon.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Because they had purchased --

THE COURT: They had Class 9 --

MR. MORRIS: They had purchased originally I think it was Josh Terry, and the Redeemer Committee may have had a piece. No, no. No, no, no. HarbourVest. HarbourVest had a piece. Right? So, HarbourVest sold their claim, including the Class 9 claim. Josh Terry sold his claim, including his Class 9 claim. Then there's UBS, who still holds a piece of their claim, and Mr. Daugherty. So, UBS, if you look at Exhibit 59, you'll see the signatures of UBS and the affiliates of Stonehill and Farallon, who all agreed to accept lesser treatment.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: So, at the end of the day, Your Honor,

the last slide is a slide that I didn't intend to present, frankly, because I didn't ever believe that there was going to be a challenge to authority by anybody other than The Dallas Foundation. But as long as we have it attached, we might as well see it.

As you can see, Your Honor, in the lower right-hand corner, you can see Hunter Mountain is owned by Beacon Mountain, which is owned by CLO Holdco. Like, there is no -- and Mr. Patrick controls it. And it's really on the other side of the ledger, in the DAF house, so to speak, that any of The Dallas Foundation got interested.

Dugaboy is not even on here, by the way. Like, Dugaboy is nobody. The people in here who are now going to challenge the authority of Mr. Patrick, no, not on here. And they're going to do it, they're going to do it without ever having given us notice.

I know Your Honor made your ruling and we'll deal with it, but I don't know if Your Honor was aware of this: They're not on here.

Your Honor, at the end of the day, this is a really, really easy call to make from our perspective. We have been waiting for this moment for years. Finally, a responsible person understands that the way to preserve value is to put the sword down.

Mr. Patrick, I don't know what happened between him and

Mr. Dondero. I don't care. I have no knowledge of that. But clearly he is exercising independence. And that's why we're here, because we finally have somebody who says, you know what, give me everything I can possibly get and I will stop fighting. I wish other people would say that, because then this case would be over. Then the case would really be over.

But getting to a settlement with the Class 10 interest holder who is going to have an allowed claim of $337 million, such that any value in the future is going to go to HMIT, I hope that that -- you know, this is an easy call to make, Your Honor.

I have nothing further at this time, but I look forward to putting Mr. Seery on the stand and making sure that Your Honor has, you know, an adequate, sufficient, overwhelming basis, frankly, to approve this motion.

THE COURT: Okay. I don't mean to stifle you, but --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- anything more for an opening statement? Mr. Phillips, I'm doing friendlies and then friendlies.

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HUNTER MOUNTAIN ENTITIES

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, just briefly. Louis M. Phillips on behalf of the Hunter Mountain entities.

We fully embrace and concur with everything that Mr. Morris has told the Court. From our perspective, and the

reason that -- and you'll see, the documents include all of the back and forth -- we required the Court approval before the effectiveness of any releases, litigation protections, et cetera, for exactly the reason that we needed the Class 9 to agree. And we obtained -- the Highland entities obtained the approval of the Class 9 creditors to our treatment, and I think that the bona fides of this settlement and the value of the settlement and our -- what we are giving in the settlement is, I think, established beyond even the slightest bit of question by the fact that the Class 9 creditors and the Oversight Board of the Claimant Trust all agreed that it was important enough to the estate to get this settlement with Hunter Mountain Investment Trust that they agreed to allow Hunter Mountain Investment Trust to receive the money set forth in the settlement upon the approval. And we have agreed that, notwithstanding appeal rights of some people who really don't have the right to be here, but that's going to be determined by Your Honor, we're not worried about that. We are giving our releases. And the releases are effective upon approval by this Court. We are not requiring any type of final unappealable order that doesn't -- that waits for years before the releases are effective.

Very importantly, it seems to me, from Your Honor's perspective, and I'm reluctant to suggest that I know about that, but our releases are given upon the approval by this

Court of the settlement. They're not -- if the settlement is reversed on appeal, our releases stay.

So the Class 9s that are above the Class 10 have voted, and they have approved, and Mr. Seery is going to testify about that. And we think that in and of itself is a monumental accomplishment. And we appreciate everything Mr. Morris has said. We agree with everything Mr. Morris has said. We agree with everything Mr. Morris has said about the absence of true objection. We agree with everything Mr. Morris has said about the fallacy of suggesting that Mr. Seery had to value the Hunter Mountain -- the Kirschner Litigation proceeds, of which would come to us.

The idea that we need to worry about how much Mr. Dondero entities can pay in connection with the Kirschner Litigation so that we could value the Kirschner Litigation based on what Mr. Dondero can pay, so that to suffice with an objection by Dugaboy maybe that there was no value given. I mean, that's all backwards. Value was given as described by Mr. Morris and will be established by the evidence submitted by Mr. Seery's testimony and the documents that are already in evidence.

And that is it from our standpoint, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right. I'll hear from the Objectors. Daugherty's counsel, are you going to go first?

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF PATRICK DAUGHERTY

MR. YORK: Thank you, Your Honor. If I may approach.

THE COURT: You may.

MR. YORK: Good morning, Your Honor. Drew York on behalf of Mr. Daugherty.

We're here today regarding the 9019 and Mr. Daugherty's objection. The 9019 motion should be denied. If you turn to the third slide in there, we say that Highland -- Highland, I'm referring to Highland collectively for the Movants -- attempts to put the cart before the horse. So really what's going on here, Your Honor, is we're just asking the Court to follow the rules of the road that it set forth in the plan, the confirmation order, and, frankly, even Highland to follow the terms of the settlement agreement it entered into with Mr. Daugherty.

None of that is happening here as a result of this proposed settlement that's being presented to you today for consideration.

The first problem with the motion and the proposed settlement is that it violates the absolute priority rule, it violates the express terms of the Court's plan, the confirmation order, as well as the Claimant Trust Agreement, because it attempts to fund the contingent Class 10 claims without first resolving, let alone satisfying, Mr. Daugherty's remaining Class 8 claim.

And then, secondly, the settlement agreement does not satisfy the *Jackson Brewing* factors because it prioritizes the HMIT insiders over the estate creditors, including Mr. Daugherty, and it forfeits potential recovery that would go to the benefit of those to creditors to appease litigation pressure.

So, first, I'm going to talk about why the settlement violates the plan, the confirmation order, and the Trust Agreement.

As everyone is aware, the HMIT entities are asserting a Class 10 claim.

If you turn to the next page, as Mr. Morris has acknowledged and admitted here today, Mr. Daugherty has a remaining Class 8 claim. And, importantly, Your Honor, because Mr. Morris and Highland continue to argue that that claim is fully reserved, I would point out that in the settlement agreement between Mr. Daugherty and Highland the parties characterized that claim as a contingent unliquidated claim. A contingent unliquidated claim. And in fact, they went so far, Highland did, in its adversary complaint on the next slide, Your Honor, to again refer to it as an unliquidated and contingent claim that is dependent on the final outcome of the 2008 audit, including the magnitude of any adjustments.

And so Highland cannot come into this courtroom and on the

one hand argue that that claim is fully reserved, and at the same time admit that it is a contingent unliquidated claim that is subject to a myriad of adjustments depending upon the outcome of that audit.

And in reality, when you look at the tolling agreement, there is nothing that the parties said that that was a fully reserved claim at all. That's simply not what they agreed to. They just simply put a number in there, which was put into the reserve account at the time. But it did not constitute a fully reserved claim at all.

Nor has Highland pointed to anything -- in the plan, the confirmation order, or the Claimant Trust Agreement -- that allows Highland to come in and violate those documents by simply saying that we fully reserved for Mr. Daugherty's claim.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, we're going to hear the evidence, but as I understood it, it was an agreed reserved amount. And I asked earlier, was it $2.5 million or -- I feel like it was an agreed amount plus even some interest, acknowledging there might be time. I don't remember every detail from this case, but I'm just telling you that's what my memory is. Am I correct?

MR. YORK: The --

THE COURT: Mr. Daugherty agreed, here's what we'll agree is enough to set aside for our ultimately potentially

allowed claim, *x* amount plus interest? Can you confirm?

MR. YORK: What the tolling agreement provides is that Mr. Daugherty agreed to provide the tolling of the objection deadline. Okay. And Highland then agreed to put $2.56 million into the reserve.

And what the footnote says in the tolling agreement, Exhibit 60, is that the estimated amount of that claim as of -- and let's be clear about this -- as of October 23rd of 2020, was $2.56 million and change. And that's it. And I'm happy to have my colleague, Mr. Smeltzer, who is a tax attorney and deals with these issues all the time, can come up and explain why, at the end of the day, this is still a contingent unliquidated claim and it's subject to a myriad of factors that make it that that amount that Highland has set aside is not necessarily going to be a fully-reserved amount.

That is why the parties have -- had called it both in the settlement agreement and the tolling agreement, and Highland has continued to call it -- characterize it in its adversary complaint as a contingent unliquidated claim. So --

THE COURT: Okay. It's hard to wrap my brain around it. It's a claim that I understood really couldn't be liquidated with certainty until this potential audit of 2008 is final, and there was some discussion of how close to it being final was it. But I guess -- well, I don't know where I'm going here except to say this could be a contingent

unliquidated claim for a -- you know, it's already, what, 17 years?

MR. YORK: Based -- from when the tax return was filed? I think that's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, this is what the adversary is about, right? I guess they're finally saying it should be estimated, liquidated, pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code and we'll be done.

MR. YORK: Correct. In violation of the terms of the settlement agreement between Mr. Daugherty and Highland. Yes, that's --

THE COURT: Wait. Wait. What?

MR. YORK: So, the settlement agreement between Daugherty and Mr. Highland provides --

THE COURT: Mr. Highland?

MR. YORK: I'm sorry. I apologize. Between Mr. Daugherty and Highland --

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. YORK: -- provides that the -- as long as the IRS audit has not had a final -- there's not a final determination, --

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. YORK: -- then any litigation concerning the validity or the amount of Mr. Daugherty's claim is stayed and cannot be brought before the Court. And that's exactly what

their adversary complaint did, which is -- because they admit in their adversary complaint --

THE COURT: Well, okay. I won't pursue this anymore. But what's an estate to do? They're getting criticized for the Trust going on too long. Not by your client, but -- and meanwhile you want, I mean, 2032, are we still going to be waiting on the IRS?

MR. YORK: I don't know because we don't have any insight into what the IRS audit is.

THE COURT: Well, it's been 17 years.

MR. YORK: I understand, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So, --

MR. YORK: But the bottom line is this. The plan -- that Highland entered into the terms of that settlement agreement.

THE COURT: I'm going to say it right now. I'm not keeping this estate open until 2032. I just, I was --

MR. YORK: I presume that --

THE COURT: -- kind of flippantly throwing that out there.

MR. YORK: And --

THE COURT: But this happens in bankruptcy cases a lot, where you've got a contingent unliquidated claim, and there are provisions in the Bankruptcy Code to say what can be done in that scenario. The Court can estimate or liquidate.

MR. YORK: Understood. Your point to me was -- before was that's why Highland brought the adversary complaint, and I was simply pointing out that, pursuant to the express terms of the agreement that Highland reached with Mr. Daugherty, Highland was -- is not allowed to bring the adversary complaint to challenge the validity or amount of Mr. Daugherty's claim so long as the IRS audit has not been -- had a final determination. That's exactly what's going on here with the adversary complaint that they have filed.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. YORK: Okay. So I think Your Honor is familiar with the terms of the plan, the Fifth Amended Plan and the subordination. But specifically we have two issues. One begins with the Claimant Trust Agreement in Section 5.1(c), which provides that the equity holders shall not have any rights under the agreement unless and until the Claimant Trustee files with the Bankruptcy Court a certification that all of general unsecured creditor beneficiaries have been paid indefeasibly, in full, including, to the extent applicable, all accrued and unpaid postpetition interest, consistent with the plan, and all disputed claims have been resolved.

That has not happened here and it cannot happen because, for one, Mr. Daugherty's unresolved Class 8 claim, and also the remaining Class 9 claims, as I think you'll hear from Mr. Seery. And so there are no rights that can be given to the

HMIT entities pursuant to -- as a Class 10 holder, an allowed Class 10 holder, pursuant to the Claimant Trust Agreement. So the proposed settlement violates the Claimant Trust Agreement's express terms.

It also violates the Court's confirmation order that was entered at -- specifically on Page 45 of the order, in Subparagraph (a): The holders of the equity interests -- which would be the Class 10 and Class 11 equity interests -- that are junior to the claims in Class 8 and Class 9 will not receive or retain under the plan, on account of such junior claim interest, any property, unless and until the claims -- the claims, not the allowed claims, but the claims -- in Class 8 and Class 9 are paid in full, plus applicable interest.

That's exactly what the settlement that is proposed here is designed to do.

And if you turn two pages in, you'll see that in addition to the assignment of the Kirschner claims, what we're also having under this proposed settlement are interim cash distributions that would be made to the HMIT entities, interim cash distributions that theoretically could be made before the resolution of Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim, which would be in violation of the plan, the Claimant Trust Agreement, and the confirmation order.

And that is, as best as they put in their agreement, that's approximately $23 million in cash that would be paid

out theoretically in those interim distributions.

One of the things that Mr. Morris said in his opening was that they did not -- Mr. Seery did not negotiate with Mr. Daugherty because he was difficult to deal with. Well, that's surprising, Your Honor, considering, on the other hand, Mr. Morris says to the Court that there were repeated tolling agreements or amendments to the tolling agreement that were entered into by Mr. Daugherty willingly and voluntarily to benefit Highland.

And what really happened when Mr. Morris says that there were good-faith arm's-length negotiations, well, there may have been good-faith, arm's-length negotiations between the HMIT entities and Highland, but what happened here was that Highland actually sought to ice out Mr. Daugherty from all of this completely.

And how did that happen? Well, the evidence is going to show that Highland reached out to the other Class 9 creditors over a month in advance of the motion being filed, sought their consent to the proposed settlement, told them that Mr. Daugherty was not going to be a part of it, told them that Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim was going to have an adversary complaint filed against it, told them that once that adversary complaint was granted and the claim was disallowed, then those funds would waterfall down to Class 9, so the Class 9 creditors would get that -- those funds that theoretically are

part of Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim.

So at no point in time prior to the filing of the adversary proceeding, or even prior to the filing of the motion for approval of this proposed settlement, did Highland ever contact Mr. Daugherty to attempt to discuss any of this, because they simply wanted to ice him out.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to hear evidence. I don't mean to cut you off, but --

MR. YORK: Sure.

THE COURT: -- I was told that Mr. Daugherty was paid $800,000 --

MR. YORK: With respect to his --

THE COURT: -- on his Class 9 claim.

MR. YORK: Correct.

THE COURT: Is that not true?

MR. YORK: So, the day --

THE COURT: Is that true?

MR. YORK: It is true. The day after the motion for entry of the proposed settlement was filed, Mr. Demo sent a letter to my office that was a payoff --

THE COURT: I just wanted to -- I don't need to know every detail.

MR. YORK: Yes. Sure.

THE COURT: Has he been paid?

MR. YORK: His Class 9 claim was paid in full the day

after the proposed settlement was filed.

THE COURT: Okay. So what is the asserted amount of his Class 8 claim?

MR. YORK: We -- again, both sides do not know because they do not have --

THE COURT: What was the asserted amount in the proof of claim that's been reserved for, the Class 8 proof of claim? What was the asserted amount?

MR. YORK: It was listed as contingent unliquidated. And as I understood it, and Your Honor --

MR. MORRIS: No. I think it's approximately $1.7 million, Your Honor.

MR. DAUGHERTY: That's not true.

THE COURT: $1.7 million?

MR. DAUGHERTY: No.

THE COURT: I would look it up, but I don't know if we --

MR. DAUGHERTY: Your Honor, I'll tell you. It was like $1.45 million, and then the interest to October, which was like another $1.3 million. I'm estimating it. But the total is around $2.6 million, $2.7 million at October/November 2020. Up to that point.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, that's kind of a weird process here for an opening statement. But I'm asking because, you know, I always try to stray people into let's be

pragmatic whenever I can. And a pragmatic approach here might have been, if your client didn't think the reserve was big enough, you all could have a discussion about, oh, instead of $2.56 million, it now should, I don't know, $3 million, whatever you say the number is. And there could have been a give and take, instead of all these people showing up in the court and having an all-day hearing.

So I'm just trying to understand that. And you're saying, okay, violation of the absolute priority, when your client took a full payment on his Class 9 claim without Class 8 being quite paid in full. I'm just trying to be pragmatic here. What would it take to make Mr. Daugherty happy? Again, that's just the bankruptcy judge speaking on Chapter 11 world that's trying to get to a pragmatic result.

MR. YORK: We're happy to have that discussion with the other side. We were -- we --

THE COURT: Well, what --

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: You can't tell me right now? You're here ready to go to battle over this settlement, and I'm trying to figure out what might happen here that would make you all withdraw your objection. And that's what we do in Chapter 11. If there's a way we can pragmatically resolve things, we do.

MR. YORK: Sure.

THE COURT: And it just, I'm picking on you because

we're talking about a $2.5 or so million claim in a situation where people are wanting the estate wrapped up and it's holding hundreds of millions of dollars, I guess.

MR. MORRIS: Not that much, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Not that much anymore. Not that much anymore. A lot has been paid out. But a lot more than $2.56 million, shall we say.

MR. YORK: Understood, Your Honor. And I'm happy to have a conversation with Mr. Morris and see if we can reach a number that's agreeable to accept as, you know, the reserve.

THE COURT: How hard could that be? I don't mean to be --

MR. YORK: Happy to do so. Sure.

THE COURT: How hard could that be, when we're talking about he's been paid $800,000 on his Class 9 ahead of his Class 8, which, to understand your argument, would be an absolute priority rule problem. But, you know, --

MR. YORK: Correct. We indicated that --

THE COURT: -- no picking and choosing what is problematic here. And we're talking about $2.56 million is set aside, and we're talking about the prospect of liquidating it and paying whatever is appropriate way before the IRS is finished. Maybe. I don't know. So how hard could it be to figure out --

MR. YORK: I'm sure we can -- we can have a

conversation real quick and try to see if we can --

THE COURT: Okay. Well, it'll have to be during a break, --

MR. YORK: Sure. Happy to.

THE COURT: -- because we're plowing ahead. Okay. Anything else on your opening statement?

MR. YORK: The only other thing I would point out with respect to the best interests of the estate is that the -- as part of the settlement, the Class 9 holders and the Class 10 holders are actually getting more favorable treatment than Mr. Daugherty's Class 8 claim because of the mutual releases that they're getting pursuant to the terms of the proposed settlement, including the fact that the Class 9 written consent holders who are all -- all have served on the board here are getting those releases as well under the proposed settlement.

THE COURT: It's not a release by your client.

MR. YORK: No, I understand that. I understand that. But they're getting mutual releases from each other on litigation that Highland has -- the Claimant Trust, excuse me, has -- Trustee has, you know, consistently said that they had all of those parties, all of those defendants, dead to rights on.

So, that's all I have.

THE COURT: Okay. I really, I'm trying to focus on

people's standing. Your client has standing. He has a proof of claim that's unresolved. But I'm just trying to understand the economic impact, I guess, on your client. And all I'm hearing is, I don't know, that maybe he thinks more than $2.56 million ought to be reserved. I mean, I'm --

MR. YORK: Given the passage of time, and also given the fact that it's still undetermined as to what's going to happen with that audit and what the penalties might be, considering that the amount that was --

THE COURT: But, again, this is bankruptcy-land. We can't wait around 20 years, 30 years. The Bankruptcy Code contemplates we can at some point estimate --

MR. YORK: Sure.

THE COURT: -- a contingent unliquidated claim.

MR. YORK: I understand.

THE COURT: So I -- all right. Thank you.

MR. YORK: Thank you.

THE COURT: And Mr. Lang?

OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DUGABOY INVESTMENT TRUST

MR. LANG: We're down to three issues, one of which is the scope of the release, which I think we can work out with Mr. Morris, just to make sure people are carved out, being Dugaboy.

The second issue is the use of the dollar value from the capital account as the basis for the Class 10 claim versus

using the -- well, they're using it on the petition date versus using it -- the current capital account balance or the percentage interest of 99.5 percent, because that prevents the class, as structured, class level (inaudible). And so we have an issue with why they're using the capital account as the basis for the allowed claim, when the plan is silent on how that equity interest is to be valued.

Does that make sense?

THE COURT: Okay. You have a problem with the valuation methodology used here, which was taking the capital account balances from --

MR. LANG: On the petition date.

THE COURT: -- on the petition date?

MR. LANG: Versus using the ownership percentage of the equity on, as repeatedly stated, 99.5 percent of Highland is owned by HMIT, .5 is owned by the Class 11.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'm not sure what -- I guess you'll cross-examine Mr. Seery on different possible methodologies.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LANG: And so then the third one is the authority issue on Mr. Patrick's authority to enter into the settlement agreement and the transfer of the Dugaboy Note to Mr. Patrick's entity, HMIT.

THE COURT: All right. And, again, I'll just clarify my understanding. Dugaboy -- this came up earlier -- itself has a .1866 percent Class A limited partnership interest?

MR. LANG: I think that's approximately right. Not exact. Is that Mr. Morris' sheet?

THE COURT: It was in several pleadings.

MR. LANG: Okay. Yeah.

THE COURT: Okay. So the question will be, should that be valued at $740,000 or something different?

MR. LANG: More -- there's $65 to $70 million in assets in the estate. There's $20 million in Class 9 debt, is what Mr. Seery -- unpaid Class 9, is what Mr. Seery testified to.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. LANG: So it's $45 to $50 million would be left after payment of the Class 9. And if they use the ownership percentages, Class 11 gets some money. If they use a $333 million capital account, Class 11 gets nothing.

THE COURT: Okay. I presume that's a material difference, and I'm going to hear about that.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. And then I guess my other thoughts on his interest -- I say his; it's Dugaboy. We tend to equate Dugaboy with Mr. Dondero since we've heard he and his family are the hundred percent beneficiaries. There I guess is a

note that is addressed in the settlement.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: I called it the $24.2 million note in my --

MR. LANG: That was --

THE COURT: -- preparation, but it's down to --

MR. LANG: Seventeen-ish.

THE COURT: -- $17 million or whatever. So, right now, Highland is a payee on that note, as well as Get Good Trust, and Hunter Mountain under the proposed settlement gets to substitute in as a co-payee.

So I guess I'm just trying to, in my brain, figure out all the, just like I was doing with Mr. Daugherty, the economic impact of this settlement on your client. And have I just addressed the two things in your view?

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LANG: I believe so.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

All right. Can we start with evidence? At some point, we'll break for lunch, but we'll figure out as we go. I don't want to be inconvenient to people if people have ordered lunch or something.

MR. MORRIS: We are going to be finished with Mr. Seery on direct well before lunch.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Or by lunch, for sure.

THE COURT: It's 11:30.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: So, all right.

MR. MORRIS: I do -- I would be remiss if I didn't point out that Mr. Lang just raised yet another issue, the calculation of the allowed amount of HMIT's Class 10 claim. Nowhere in his pleading. Again, hearing about this for the first time as I'm standing here. He raised three issues, only one of which is in their pleading, only one of which I ever heard about from Dugaboy, and that is the scope of the release.

THE COURT: Okay. I don't know if it makes a material difference or not. I am not a mathematician. But --

MR. MORRIS: So Highland -- the Movants call Mr. Seery.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Seery, if you could approach the witness box. I swore you in earlier for purposes of all testimony today, so you are under oath.

MR. SEERY: Thank you, Your Honor.

JAMES SEERY, CLAIMANT TRUST'S WITNESS, PREVIOUSLY SWORN

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Good morning, Mr. Seery.

A Good morning.
Q Do you have three binders in front of you?
A I have four binders in front of me.
Q Okay. I just want to make sure you have ours.
A I think -- yes, sir.
Q The fourth has the last few exhibits that we filed on the docket.

Should we wait for Mr. Edmond?

THE WITNESS: That would be good.

THE COURT: Yes. I just noticed. Okay. The recording is always going, so never fear.

(Pause.)

THE COURT: All right.

THE WITNESS: Apologies, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Oh, I didn't see what happened. Was there a spill episode?

And please, if people need breaks, let me know. I sometimes go long without appropriate breaks, so let me know, anybody, if we need to break for bathroom.

MR. MORRIS: May I proceed, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may.

MR. MORRIS: All right.

BY MR. MORRIS:
Q Are you comfortable, Mr. Seery?
A Yes.

Q I want to actually start a little unscripted with the argument that was just made on behalf of Mr. Daugherty. Did you listen to that?
A I did, Your Honor. Yes, I did. I'll speak to Your Honor. Yes, I did, Your Honor.
Q Did Mr. Daugherty have a Class 9 claim?
A He did have a Class 9 claim.
Q And what was the value of the Class 9 interest that he held?
A It was approximately $3.7 million.
Q And who are the other Class 9 claim holders?
A There are three -- I'm sorry, there are four other Class 9 holders. There is Muck Holdings, LLC. There is Jessup Holdings, LLC. There is UBS AG. And there's UBS Securities, LLC.
Q Okay. And if you can turn to Exhibit 58, which is in Volume 1.
A VOICE: Mr. Morris, what was the exhibit number?
MR. MORRIS: It's 58.
A VOICE: Thank you.
MR. MORRIS: You're welcome.
BY MR. MORRIS:
Q Do you have that in front of you, sir?
A Yes.
Q What is that?

A That is a distribution notice to Mr. Daugherty from the Highland Claimant Trust with the eighth distribution. And I believe this would be related to his Class 9 claim. It may be some 8 -- some Class 8 as well. But March 25 is -- I'm sorry, May 25, my eyes are not that great for close up, this is just related to the payoff of his Class 9 claim. So he'd had a $3.7 million. This was the last -- final payment, so he's been paid in full on his Class 9 claim.

Q So do I have this right, that before you sent this $800,000-plus to him, he had already received $2.9 million on account of his Class 9 claim?

A That's approximately correct, yes.

Q And how many different distributions were made to Mr. Daugherty on account of his Class 9 claim before this last one?

A Two -- two or three. I believe the way we had phrased and put 8 is our total distributions including 8 and 9. So he had a larger Class 8 claim as well. I think it was approximately $8.25 million. That's been paid in full. His Class 9 claim was getting paid in full by this one.

Q Okay. And did Mr. Daugherty receive these prior distributions -- withdrawn. Did the other holders of Class 9 claims also receive pro rata their Class 9 distributions at the same time as Mr. Daugherty?

A Yes. The distributions were pro rata.

Q Okay. Did Mr. Daugherty ever return any of the Class 9 checks that he received and say, oh my goodness, it violates the plan and the absolute priority rule and everything else because his Class 8 claim hasn't been paid in full?

A No, he did not.

Q Did he -- did he suggest that UBS or Muck or Jessup should return their checks that they received on account of their Class 9 claims because his Class 8 claim had remained unresolved?

A No, he did not.

Q Okay. Let's go to the reason that we're really here today, the agreement itself. Did you negotiate the settlement on behalf of the Highland entities?

A Yes, I did.

Q Can you describe for the Court how that came about?

A In December, we had a hearing on -- this is a little bit convoluted, I apologize -- but in December we had a hearing on the HCLOM claim in court, and we settled that claim as a $10 million Class 10 interest.

We moved into the new year and we heard some -- at some point that HMIT disagreed with that settlement, even though HMIT had signed that settlement as acceptable to it in form and substance. And the reason was because HMIT had been the only Class 10 -- not allowed, but the only Class 10 interest in -- under the plan, and defined that way, and we had agreed

pursuant to the plan to put HCLOM in there.

And although HMIT had signed in form and substance acceptable by its attorney, we learned that Mark Patrick had not been consulted and that attorney had simply -- because we were in the room -- had gone in and gotten permission from Mr. Dondero to approve that settlement in form and substance. We didn't know it at the time.

That went away pretty quickly, and we understood that somehow it got resolved.

Shortly after that, sometime I believe in January or early February, there was contact between HMIT counsel and our counsel about a potential settlement. And we had two issues, really, with Mr. Patrick, who controlled two separate entities. There's the DAF entities he controlled and there's the HMIT entities. And we wanted to make sure -- and we had disputes with both of them. We had a Fifth Circuit appeal coming up in DAF and HMIT. And so we were contacted and said, okay, we're willing to settle this if we can get to a place that makes sense to us. And so that was the commencement of those negotiations.

Q And can you describe -- how long did the negotiations last?

A Well, there was negotiation around the NDA, which took some time, and I think we probably got that finalized at around the middle to end of March. And then we began

negotiations in earnest during April. And we took pretty much the full month to get these negotiations done, maybe a month and a half.

Q Can you describe for the Court just how the negotiations were conducted?

A Well, initially, we ensured that the ground rules would be set. We didn't want to waste our time and expense if we weren't going to reach agreement around particularly litigation protections, because that's essential to us, and having any settlement required that.

Secondly, we then -- from their side, they wanted information. So, pursuant to that NDA, which was rather robust, we provided substantial information.

We then had a -- I believe one or two Zoom calls, and then a face-to-face meeting, and then subsequently a number of Zoom calls with our counsel -- usually, these were always with counsel -- so, our counsel, their counsel, principals, my team, Mr. Patrick and his team, to go through each of the items that we exchanged. And then we worked through a framework to -- back and forth on that to a term sheet, to a negotiated structured settlement along the lines of the one you see.

Q And did the parties exchange information as part of the process?

A Yeah. As I explained, we, under our NDA, we gave a lot of

information. We got information back from Mr. Patrick, Mr. Phillips, their teams, about the structure of their entities, how we could interact with them, who was responsible for each entity. And that caused us to, frankly, move from just HMIT to a couple other entities to make sure we had full protection.

Q Did you provide information concerning assets, budgets, expenses, and the like?

A Yeah. The detailed information we provided, it was pretty extensive. So we gave a high-level view of our budget, assuming that we had a settlement with them. We have an asset list that we keep and where each asset was located. So, dollars amounts, what kind of form it was in, whether it was cash, whether it was U.S. Treasuries, whether it was, you know, equity interests. Some couple other assets, as Mr. Morris explained in the opening, had not yet been disposed of. And the valuations we put on those assets.

Q Can you turn, I guess, to any volume, and let's just look at the exhibit list. Are you generally familiar with the documentation concerning the negotiations?

A Yes.

Q Can you confirm that Exhibits 2 through 57 are the emails and information that were disclosed between the Highland side and the HMIT side during the negotiations?

A Yes. And I -- I could look through 2 through 57 now, but

--

Q Yeah.

A -- I have looked through them before, and this is the information back and forth. We generally exchanged, other than at the face-to-face meeting, we exchanged information on Zoom calls as well, but when we get documents we gave them counsel-to-counsel.

Q Okay. And did you instruct me to produce all of the communications with the HMIT side in connection with the discovery requests that were served in this case?

A Yes. We had discovery requests that we went through in detail and reviewed them, and we produced in accordance with those requests.

Q Are you aware of any document that we didn't produce that reflects the parties' negotiations of this agreement?

A No, not at all.

Q Can you describe for the Court the general deal points that were negotiated? Withdrawn. Who was your counterparty to these negotiations?

A The principal on the HMIT side is Mr. Mark Patrick. He had his team. And I was responsible on our side with my team.

Q And can you just describe for the Court what the primary negotiating points were between the two teams?

A Yeah. Number one for us was dismissal of outstanding litigations. So we needed, with prejudice, dismissal of those

litigations. Otherwise, why are we bothering?

Number two, we wanted to make sure that we had litigation protections. These have been around since -- we came up with them during our mediation. They're really important to us. They set up a structure where we can actually count on the estate and the principals of the estate and the indemnified parties of the estate not being attacked. So that was essential to us.

In exchange, we had to fix their claim and allow it in an amount pursuant to the plan, which requires us to fix an amount. And that's the Class 10 interest that they have, which is senior to the Class 11 interests under the plan and the Claimant Trust Agreement.

And then the way the Trust is set up in the plan, it's a waterfall. They -- we advocated for getting everything for us upfront and putting everything for them at the back. They, understandably, didn't like that as much and wanted distributions upfront. So we negotiated around those terms. And I think those are the biggest terms.

We had some assets that we were -- we were -- difficult to monetize that we also were happy to dispose of in this way, with a credit, you know, towards their claim amount.

Q Did you -- and I may have missed this; I apologize if I did -- but did you also negotiate the amounts and the timing of the distributions that would be made to the HMIT entities?

A Yeah. That's what I alluded to, where we -- we had hoped to get everything for us upfront, give them everything later. I think it's the *Wimpy* 'For a hamburger you give me today, I'll gladly pay you Tuesday' structure. That didn't like that as much, so we did work on timing. And that did bring into consideration the other Class 9 holders and timing with respect to payments to the Class 9.

Q Was the topic of the allowed amount of HMIT's Class 10 interest the subject of negotiation?

A The topic of the allowed --

Q Did you discuss how the amount of its allowed interest would be calculated?

A Oh, yeah, that was a, you know, a critical part of the -- or, you know, essential part of the structure. What's the allowed amount they're going to get? The plan requires an amount fixed for that class. We had already had a $10 million HCLOM amount allowed into that class. So we needed to fix that amount.

Q So let's transition to that particular topic, the calculation of HMIT's Class 10 interest. Are you familiar with the methodology that was used to arrive at the Class 10 amount?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell me the process, before we get to the methodology itself? Like, what work was done to figure that

out?
A Well, the structure of limited partnership is that the equity account is treated as what's called a capital account. Each limited partner in a limited partnership has a capital account that tracks their equity interest. As a default rule, it's the amount that a limited partner can expect to get on a sale of the partnership or a liquidation of the partnership. So we used the capital account that had been maintained continuously by Highland to set their capital account amount.
I think the partnership agreement talks about 99-1/2 percent for HMIT. It doesn't talk about dollars because that's kept in the accounting for the partnership. And that amount was consistently kept by Highland up to the petition date. And even after the petition date in the monthly operating reports.
Q If you take a look back at the exhibit list, I would direct your attention to Page 12 of 15. Actually, it starts at the Page 11. At the bottom, it's got the heading, Capital Account Amounts. Are you familiar with Exhibits 113 through 118? And if you need to look at the exhibits, take your time.
A Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you told me 15.
Q No. One -- I did. I mentioned Page 15. But we're just looking at Exhibits 113 to 118.
THE COURT: 113 to what?
MR. MORRIS: 18.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: Um, --

MR. MORRIS: If you look at the index, Your Honor, at the bottom of Page 15 -- 11, you'll see a heading, Capital Accounts --

THE COURT: Right.

MR. MORRIS: -- Amounts. And then that captures Exhibits 113 to 118.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Are those the documents that you and your team relied upon in order to calculate the amount of the allowed Class 10 interest for HMIT?

A These are some of them. I don't know if you have the tax returns in here and the K-1s. Oh, here they are. 115.

Q Yeah. That's 115?

A Yeah. You've got the K-1s for 2018, which fix an amount. Those are signed by Mr. Dondero, and they give the amounts to each partner. And then you've got the adjustments, because those are done in -- they're 2018 year-end. They were done in September of 2019, about a month before the filing.

Q And is that Exhibit 116?

A It's 115 and 116. I believe that's -- 116 is 2019, I believe, and that would have been signed postpetition by -- I believe that was signed by Waterhouse.

Q Okay.
A So it sets out the K-1. The numbers that we have are slightly different because they're in the -- they're not middle of the year, but they're for the petition date of 10/16/19. And there are -- there's economic activity that happens during the year, that you take the year-end from '18 and you have economic activity that would affect, pursuant to the partnership, the capital account of each partner during that year, fixed it on the petition date, and then it's been forward since.
Q Did you apply any of your own subjective views or beliefs in the calculation of the amount of the Class 10 interest held by HMIT?
A No. This was math.
Q And did you hear Dugaboy's counsel suggest in the opening that there was a different methodology that perhaps you could have used, a pro rata methodology, instead of the methodology you used?
A I heard what he said, but it doesn't make any sense. You can't fix an amount that way.
Q And do you understand that Dugaboy, under the partnership agreement, is subordinated to HMIT?
A Dugaboy is subordinated under the partnership agreement for certain distributions. But importantly for our purposes, they're subordinated under the plan. So the Class 11

interests are explicitly subordinated to the Class 10 interests, in both the plan and the Claimant Trust Agreement.

Q Did the Debtor consider putting Dugaboy and HMIT in the same class? Back when the plan was being formulated?

A I -- I don't recall.

Q Do you recall why they're in separate classes?

A They -- they're in separate classes because HMIT had a senior -- a right to senior distributions under the partnership agreement. We set it up that way. Nobody objected to it. That was part of the confirmed plan and the confirmed order.

Q Thank you very much. Let's talk for just a moment about Mr. Patrick's authority. Before entering into the settlement agreement, did you do anything to satisfy yourself that Mr. Patrick had the authority to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of each of the HMIT entities?

A Yes.

Q What did you do to satisfy yourself?

A Well, as a default rule, I always look at the agreements that I'm going to enter into and the organizational docs. And we did do that. We looked at each of the organizational docs to --

Q Let me stop you there for a second. Are those the documents that are in the exhibit list from 70 through 104?

A I'd have to check the actual numbers, but --

Q If you just look at the exhibit list.
A Oh.
Q It's at the front. You'll see on Page 8 of 15 of the exhibit list there's a heading, --
A Yes.
Q -- E, Patrick Authority, and then I'm asking you if you are aware of what Exhibits 70 through 104 are?
A Yes. So, these, these are -- there's a number of organizational documents that we looked and made sure that Mr. Patrick had authority.

We also knew from our own files that Mr. Patrick, you know, previously had different interests assigned to him, and we know from Mr. Patrick and documents he's given us that John Honis, who was a former controller of some of -- controlled some of these entities and a friend of Dondero's who previously worked at Highland, is on some retail boards, in 2022 transferred those interests to an entity controlled by Mr. Patrick.

Moreover, Mr. Patrick was here in court as the HMIT Administrator, trying to sue the Highland estate. He testified on behalf of HMIT as the Administrator. And the documents are very clear that the Administrator has full control of these entities.

Q We've heard some argument about a Cayman Islands proceeding. Are you generally aware of what's happening in

the Cayman Islands?

A I hesitate to say generally aware. I'm aware that there's a proceeding in the Cayman Islands about involving a blocker corp. And there's disclosure in this Court about what that entity is. It's a blocker corp. in the Caymans that prevents the ultimate charitable entities -- and I put that in quotes -- to -- from receiving UBTI, which is Unrelated Business Income. And in that case, they would have to pay tax on it, and the idea is that they don't want to pay taxes and they don't pay taxes. So that corp. apparently is in some sort of proceeding. That's on the DAF side. That is not on the HMIT side.

Q Okay. So, based on the work that you did and the documents that you reviewed, did you form a view as to whether or not Mr. Patrick is authorized to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of each of the HMIT entities?

A Yes.

Q And what view did you reach?

A He has complete authority over each of these entities. They run up to entities that he controls or he owns. And he's had that, and it's the structure that was set up a long time ago, and any changes to that structure are just consistent with the documents that let him do these things. And the proceeding in Cayman, whatever that is, has no impact on Mr. Patrick's authority over these entities or any of the entities

in this chain.

Q Did you see anything in the diligence that you conducted that required Mr. Patrick to seek anybody's authority, consent, or approval before entering into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities?

A No. And we could go through each document. He has complete authority on each of these entities. And even the objections that were filed that were withdrawn from The Dallas Foundation, they have no -- it's absolutely clear that they have no rights to deal with at all the management of each of these entities. They don't have an ownership interest in it. Crown issued an annuity policy that's a variable policy. They have no rights.

Q All right. Let's turn to the agreement itself. Can you tell the Court why you believe that the settlement agreement is in the Claimant Trust's best interests?

A Number one, this case has been going on for a full five years. We have spent tens of millions of dollars dealing with vexatious and frivolous litigation and attacks. The opportunity to settle with a Class 10 holder and allow their claim under the terms of the settlement is extremely valuable because it moves us much, much closer to a potential resolution of this case, which we would all love to resolve.

Number two, it's fair value for the estate. We are making sure, while we're paying some money out in front, we have

triggers on the backend payments to ensure that the Indemnity Trust has enough assets to protect parties if there are unforeseen litigations. And I can almost bet there'll be at least one or two of those. So it's really, really valuable in that respect.

Three, it cuts down tremendously on what future expenses could be. Because we have gotten these litigation protections, we've basically walled off a potential avenue to be attacked. And I think the structure of this deal is valuable, not only to the fiduciaries and folks who have been responsible for managing this process and who are indemnified by the Claimant Trust or HCMLP, it also enables us to, down the road, pay off the Class 9s and ultimately make distributions to the Class 10s.

Q Is one of the other benefits to this agreement is that it enables the Claimant Trust to dispose of certain illiquid assets?

A Well, that's a -- that is a benefit, because we do have to resolve these claims and dispose of these assets, and we're not in a position to hang around until 2030 or more to do that.

So we've got the Kirschner claims, which would go to HMIT. Again, the way that the waterfall is set up, to the extent that they have value, they are very expensive to pursue. We've spent a ton of money setting them up. We've produced

seven million documents, pages, and received zero in return. We stayed them because we didn't think we needed them for the Class 8 and 9 and it was prudent to do so, and the question was would we need them for indemnification. So disposing of those claims now at this time as part of this settlement, where that value would go to Class 10 anyway, is very valuable.

Q Had you made any efforts prior to entering into this agreement to monetize or otherwise sell the Dugaboy Note?

A Yes.

Q Can you describe for the Court what your efforts were in that regard?

A So, we set out to try to monetize the Dugaboy Note. I contacted -- we put together what we call a teaser, laying out what we knew about Dugaboy, at least up until the time that Dugaboy was no longer part of our computer system. Laid out what we thought the assets were. There's not a lot of public information. Laid out the amortizing of the note. It's a 3.2 percent-ish, 3.26 percent note, I believe, goes to 2047, '46 on the amortization, 2047. And then presented that to I think it's five different investors in distressed funds. Had no interest whatsoever. One investor laughed at me, which I understood that he was aware of the parties and the principals and the collection efforts that would be difficult on that note.

The note is performing, because if it hadn't performed I would have accelerated on the first second and we would have collected the whole thing. But we've seen that show in the other Notes Litigation. And so we didn't -- we didn't get any reception.

We also reached out to Mr. Dondero, in writing, through D.C. Sauder, and made them an offer and tried to get them to respond, and they indicated they had no interest in the note.

Q Turning back to the exhibit list, if you can turn your attention to Page 11 of 15 of the exhibit list, is Section F, Exhibits 105 through 112, the documents that reflect the note and your efforts to dispose of the note?

A Yes.

Q And let's take a look at Exhibit 112 quickly, since that involves Mr. Dondero. Can you just tell the Court what this exhibit is?

A Yes. This is an exchange between D.C. Sauder, Matt McGraner, both of whom work for Dondero, and Dave Klos, our CFO. I'd authorized Dave to make an offer to them to see if we could get cash for the Dugaboy Note. And as you see right below the reply from Mr. Klos, which is -- this is friendly, but Mr. Sauder's indication that they have no interest.

Q Okay. So Highland offered to sell the Dugaboy Note to Mr. Dondero or entities controlled by him, and that offer was rejected without a counteroffer. Do I have that right?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. Let's finish up here. Are you familiar with the objections of Dugaboy and Mr. Daugherty that the settlement somehow violates the plan because it's making distributions to Class 10 before junior classes are paid in full?
A Yes. I'm familiar with those.
Q Do you believe the settlement violates the plan?
A Not at all.
Q And why is that?
A The plan specifically contemplates that -- I don't think it's -- we showed the 9 and 10s, but I think it's any claimant could take less than is being offered by the plan. What we did very specifically is go to the Class 9 claimants and discuss with them this opportunity to settle with HMIT and what it would take, which included some, as I described earlier, payments upfront.

After being fully informed -- they asked a lot of questions, they pushed back quite a bit, as you can expect that they would -- and we reached agreement with those Class 9 claimants in writing to approve the structure of the deal and the settlement and the concurrent payments, as well as the final small payment to Mr. Daugherty on behalf of his Class 9 claim.

Q Could I trouble you to turn to Exhibit 59, please, Mr. Seery?

A I've got it.
Q Are you familiar with that document?
A I am, yes.
Q Can you explain to the Court what that document is?
A This document is the written consent that we entered into with the Class 9 claimants, approving the settlement agreement as well as the payment to Mr. Daugherty.
Q Okay.
A And -- and -- so these -- the payment to Mr. Daugherty would have been non-pro rata, so they agreed to that. And the concurrent payments under the settlement agreement to Class 10 were agreed to by the Class 9 claim holders.
Q So looking at Page 2 at the top, do I have this right, that Mr. Daugherty's original Class 9 subordinated claim was in the amount of $3.75 million, and that with the payment described in this document his claim was paid in full?
A That's correct, yes.
Q And did he complain that he was getting paid in full but the other Class 9 holders were not?
A No. That had never been his complaint.
Q Did he complain that he was getting paid in full on his Class 9 claim but his Class 8 claim remained unresolved?
A No. I think that, as indicated before in my testimony and indicated here, this was the last payment, the 781. Before that, he'd received almost $3 million on account of his Class

9 claim. And pro rata with the other Class 9 claimants.
Q I think you mentioned that your understanding is that, under the plan, creditors can elect to receive less favorable treatment than the plan otherwise provides. Is that right?
A That's correct. And I think that's a pretty standard provision in virtually every plan that I see.
Q Can we just grab that for a second? It's the last exhibit, 126, which is probably in the skinny binder, if you have one.
A Yes. Do you want me to go to the section?
Q Yeah. Just one minute. I want to make sure the judge is with us. Give her a second.
MR. MORRIS: Are you with us, Your Honor?
THE COURT: Yes.
MR. MORRIS: Okay.
BY MR. MORRIS:
Q So if you can turn to Page 23 of Exhibit 126. Does Section 9, under Treatment, Romanette (ii), is that the provision that you were just describing that gives Class 9 holders the ability to receive such other less-favorable treatment as to which such holder and the Claimant Trust may agree upon in writing?
A That's correct.
Q And the same is true with respect to the Class 10 claims, at the top of Page 24?

A That's also correct, yes.
Q All right. And so was the consent that was executed by the Class 9 holders that's Exhibit 59 done in satisfaction of these plan provisions?
A I'd say it's consistent with these. They could elect to receive it or not, but this was, you know, did it under this provision and they were entitled to elect to take lesser treatment, if that's what they agree to.
Q Okay. Can you describe for the Court why you believe that the Class 9 claim holders are receiving less-favorable treatment under -- as a result of this settlement agreement than they would otherwise be entitled to under the plan?
A Well, they would be entitled to receive payments in front of any payments that would be made to Class 10. In addition, they would have been entitled to receive a pro rata distribution of the $800,000 that was paid to Mr. Daugherty, and they agreed to waive those provisions.
Q Okay. Is it your understanding that HMIT is also accepting less favorable treatment than it might otherwise receive if it pursued and succeeded in the prosecution of its claim?
A I suppose, ultimately, if everything was resolved, that they could have gotten a Class 10 interest that wasn't structured along the lines of the settlement agreement. So the settlement agreement takes some of that structure and what

arguably would be value away from them, and this is the amount that they've agreed to have as their allowed claim, as structured by the settlement agreement.

Q And is it your understanding that under the settlement agreement HMIT has disavowed any rights under the Claimant Trust Agreement?

A Under the Claimant Trust Agreement, yes. They have rights under the settlement agreement to receive distributions, and those will ultimately come from the Indemnity Trust as we wind down the Claimant Trust.

Q And did HMIT also agree that it would not be a Claimant Trust beneficiary under the Claimant Trust?

A Yes. And that's very important to us because we have seen lots of litigation, lots of emails, trying to use these types of structures just to create claims, even when there's literally no basis for it. I should -- well, I'll control myself.

Q Yeah. We can stop there.

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, I have no further questions at this time.

THE COURT: All right. We're going to figure out, are we taking a bathroom break or a short lunch break. I'll poll the audience and then I'll decide. Do people want to take maybe a 30 to 45-minute lunch break, or just a bathroom break and keep going?

THE WITNESS: Thirty minutes.

THE COURT: I'll say -- are you going to have any further examination?

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm going to maybe ask one question, just to bring it up. It's already been -- but one question.

THE COURT: Okay. And then what about Dugaboy and Daugherty? Guesstimate how much examination you'll have.

MR. YORK: Fifteen minutes, maybe.

MR. LANG: Twenty minutes or so.

THE COURT: Why don't we take a five-minute bathroom break, --

MR. PHILLIPS: Sure.

THE COURT: -- and then we'll at least finish this witness.

MR. PHILLIPS: Perfect.

THE COURT: All right?

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE CLERK: All rise.

(A recess ensued from 12:07 p.m. until 12:15 p.m.)

THE CLERK: All rise.

THE COURT: Please be seated.

(Pause.)

THE COURT: All right. Can I get some help rounding people up?

(Pause.)

THE COURT: All right. We're missing -- okay. We're going back on the record in Highland Capital. We still have Mr. Seery on the witness stand. Mr. Phillips, you had examination. You said one question.

MR. PHILLIPS: I did, Your Honor. And I meant it.

THE COURT: Okay.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. PHILLIPS:

Q Could you look at Exhibit 118, please?

A You said 118?

Q Yes, sir.

A Certainly.

Q Did the calculation of the Class 10 claim amount of $336,940,230.58, is that the result of applying the full value to the Highland or Highland Claimant Trust of the HMIT note receivable?

A Apologies, because I can't read this because it's too small, but I can answer the question.

THE COURT: Would you like this?

THE WITNESS: I think I can answer the question without it.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: The -- what we used was the petition date capital account.

BY MR. PHILLIPS:

Q Correct.

A And just like every other claim in bankruptcy, fixed at the petition date. And what we subtracted from that petition date was the petition date amount principal and interest of that HMIT note which was owed to Highland Capital.

Q Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. That was one question. All right. Counsel?

MR. YORK: Thank you, Your Honor. Get it organized here.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. YORK:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Seery.

A Good afternoon.

Q Would you take a look at Exhibit 1 in Daugherty's witness and exhibit binder? It's the settlement agreement between Highland and Mr. Daugherty, I believe.

A Yes, I have it.

Q All right. And can you confirm that is the settlement agreement that Highland and Mr. Daugherty entered into in connection with the claims Mr. Daugherty asserted in the bankruptcy?

A It appears to be, yes.

Q Would you turn to Section 9, then, which is on Page #11,

starts on Page #11?
A Yes.
Q And that relates to a reserved claim that Mr. Daugherty had as part of his proof of claim against Highland in the bankruptcy, correct?
A That's correct.
Q And would you agree with me that the second line of Section 9 there of the settlement agreement describes that claim as a contingent unliquidated claim against the Debtor?
A I would not agree with you on that, no.
Q Why not?
A Because it says, Daugherty contends --
Q Ah. Daugherty contends.
A -- he has a contingent unliquidated claim against the Debtor.
Q Okay. Well, why don't you then turn with me to Daugherty Exhibit #2, which is the -- which is the -- Highland's adversary complaint that was filed against Mr. Daugherty on I believe May 2nd of 2025. Correct?
A I don't recall the specific date and it's blurred at the top. So if you say so, I'll accept that.
Q All right. And if you look at Paragraph 1, the third line, there's a sentence there that says, All of Mr. Daugherty's claims were settled except his unliquidated contingent claim that the Debtor has a continuing and

indefinite obligation to make him whole if a tax refund he apparently received for tax year 2008 on account of his partnership interest is ever successfully challenged by the IRS.

Did I read that correctly?

A You did read that correctly, yes.

Q All right. This reserved claim under the settlement agreement is a Class 8 unsecured claim, correct?

A It is the claim that he asserted and that we initially classed under Class 8 in a fixed amount for a tax refund which is on his statement that he got that he claims he's entitled to more, which would be unsecured as of the petition date. I believe the amount on his payment statement from 2009 is $1.475 million.

Q All right.

THE COURT: Could you pull the microphone closer to you?

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Good.

MR. YORK: All right.

BY MR. YORK:

Q And, again, my question is pretty simple. And it's a Class 8 unsecured claim, right?

A It's not a Class 8. It was in Class 8. It's been objected to.

Q Right.
A So it is not in a class now at all. We seek to disallow it in its entirety, or, at worst, subordinate it to all creditor claims.
Q Understood. But it has been asserted as a Class 8 general unsecured claim, right?
A He asserted it as that, yes.
Q Okay. And is it fair to say that in the adversary complaint, if you go to Page -- I'm sorry, Paragraph 4 -- Highland alleges that: However, even if Mr. Daugherty's claim is not disallowed in its entire -- I think that should be entirety. Right?
A It should be, yes.
Q It remains contingent on the outcome of the 2008 audit. Correct? Did I read that correctly?
A You did read that correctly, yes.
Q And the next sentence says, It is unclear when, how, or if the 2008 audit will finally be resolved. Correct?
A Correct.
Q And in fact, if you go to, then, Page #7 of the complaint and you look at Footnote 6, at the very end of that footnote it indicates that Highland has an understanding that the resolution may not be expected until approximately 2029. Is that correct?
A The litig... I can't read it because it's small, but the

litigation may not be resolved. The IRS has already issued a final determination on the audit.

Q How do you know that?

A I was advised that by another partner.

Q Who?

A Kurt Plumer.

Q Have you seen the FPAA that was issued by the IRS?

A No, I have not.

Q Have you asked for it?

A Yes.

Q You did, personally?

A My lawyers did.

Q Your lawyers did?

A Yes.

Q Okay. But you -- but you did not, right? Just to be clear.

A No, I did not. My lawyers, acting at my direction, did.

Q Asked the tax matters partner for Highland for that information?

A Asked Mr. Daugherty.

Q Asked Mr. --

A I think asked you, I'm sorry.

Q Oh, asked me for that information?

A Yes.

Q Well, so tell me, why is Mr. Daugherty -- first off, do

you know if Mr. Daugherty has received the FPAA?
A I don't know.
Q Okay. Do you know if anybody else has received an FPAA?
A I was told there was a final determination. I don't know if they've actually received an FPAA. But I do know that Mr. Daugherty has produced a document where the IRS has requested additional information for him. Since they hadn't done that for 17 years, I suspect that they've reached a final determination of the audit.
Q All right. So you don't know whether an FPAA has actually been issued?
A I --
Q True?
A I don't know. And for the Court's benefit, that's a Final Partnership something Determination.
Q Okay. What -- where --
THE COURT: F-A --
THE WITNESS: F-P-P -- I think it's --
MR. YORK: F-P-A-A.
THE WITNESS: -- F-P-A-A.
THE COURT: Okay. The court reporter will no doubt ask, so good.
BY MR. YORK:
Q Tell me, where in the universe is it that -- is it Mr. Daugherty's obligation to provide Highland with the FPAA?

A I don't -- I don't think there's any such obligation that I've seen.
Q And in fact, the IRS audit is handled by the tax matters partner for Highland Capital, correct?
A The IRS audit for Highland Capital's -- from Highland Capital's position is handled by that. The IRS handles their side.
Q Right. From Highland's side. Okay. And that tax matters partner is doing that on behalf of Highland Capital, right?
A I think at this point it's doing it on behalf of the old Highland Capital, not Reorg Highland Capital. We don't have any liability with respect to it, nor do we have any visibility as to what's going on in the tax audit.
Q So even though, under the partnership agreement, that's the tax matters partner that's referred to, Highland Capital cannot compel that tax matters partner to provide that information to them, if an FPAA actually exists?
A I don't think so. That partnership agreement is the pre-effective date partnership agreement.
Q All right.
A The new Highland Reorg Debtor doesn't have these partners and is not a tax matter partner for those -- those audits.
Q So let's go back, then, to Paragraph 4 of the adversary complaint that was filed. And I want to look at the next sentence that Highland wrote there. It says: Moreover, if

the claim is not disallowed, it will need to be estimated, after taking into account the likely outcome of the 2008 audit, including adjustments that result therefrom.

Did I read that correctly?

A You read that correctly.

Q Have -- has anyone at Highland conducted any analysis as of today to determine what Mr. Daugherty's potential liability would be from that IRS audit if that audit was completed today and all interest and penalties were assessed as of today?

A Yes.

Q How much?

A It would be $1.475 million, the amount of his prepetition claim in his proof of claim. Since it's unsecured, whatever happens with the IRS is not a concern of Highland. His claim is that he didn't get that amount as a refund. Either he got that amount or he got some -- some lower amount. It would be a petition -- prepetition-date amount. And under Texas law, he would be entitled to prejudgment interest from 2009 to the petition date at a rate of five percent.

Q Which would be how much?

A It would be approximately $2.2 million in aggregate.

Q Okay. And there would be -- you're saying there would be no penalties or any other -- any other interests or assessments that would -- Mr. Daugherty would be liable for that Highland would also then be liable for under that claim?

A No. There would not. It would not impact his claim against Highland. His claim against Highland is simply: I did not get this refund.

He got the refund. He's now claiming it might be adjusted. If the IRS otherwise has penalties, interest against him for his tax attributes somewhere between 2009 and 2019, that wouldn't be subject to his proof of claim and it wouldn't be the responsibility of Highland.

Q Even if Highland had promised at the time that that refund was made that it would -- it would make him whole with respect to any IRS audit whatsoever?

A It simply --

MR. MORRIS: Objection to the form of the question.

THE WITNESS: It simply didn't do that.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: Okay. Overruled.

THE WITNESS: We can -- you could litigate the claim, but that's just not what it says.

BY MR. YORK:

Q So you talked earlier about the Class 9 consent that was obtained, and no one from Highland reached out to Mr. Daugherty to try to seek his consent. Right?

A That's correct.

Q Why not?

A Because I didn't want to.

Q Why?
A Because Mr. Daugherty is an extremely difficult person to deal with. The last time I dealt with Mr. Daugherty on the phone with respect to anything, I had extreme difficulty and got sucked into a stalking lawsuit that I had to testify to that is a complete mess that I want nothing to do with. So originally my counsel said, have no communication with him. But with respect to this, we were objecting to his claim. We knew he would try to hold this up. You have tried to do that and demanded $20 million. So that's why we didn't reach out to you. We just paid the 9 and we have a fully-reserved amount on the 8.
Q You thought that the stalking case that you were pulled into was completely fabricated, didn't you?
A I thought that at the time. I'm not as sure anymore.
Q Oh, really?
A Yeah.
Q Okay. And you actually also told Mr. Daugherty that Mr. Ellington, who brought that case, was a complete liar and POS, right?
A I don't know if I used POS, but I do not think Mr. Ellington is an honest person.
MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, at some point I'm going to on relevance grounds. I think we've got a settlement agreement before the Court that we're trying to get approved

today, not to take discovery on any other matters.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to overrule to the extent there was an objection, but I think it's appropriate to worry that we're straying down a road that is not relevant. So, --

MR. YORK: Understood.

THE COURT: -- reign it in.

MR. YORK: All right.

BY MR. YORK:

Q You'd agree that the -- under the terms of the proposed settlement, there will be some interim distributions will be made to the HMIT entities in cash totaling approximately $23 million. Correct?

A Not necessarily, no.

Q Why not?

A Because there's an initial distribution. I believe it's $10 million.

Q Yes.

A And then subsequent distributions are predicated on whether there are threats, either outstanding litigation or threats as defined in the agreement.

Q And so long as those threats don't occur, then those interim -- those additional interim distributions will be made, right?

A Yes. The Indemnity Trust would make those distributions

at those times, and then I have to make -- it's a double trigger, because it has to be no threats and I have to determine that the Indemnity Trust had sufficient assets to meet its obligations for both actual and contingent indemnification obligations.

Q But at a minimum, the HMIT entities will receive at least $10 million?

A Yes.

Q On an interim basis?

A Yes.

Q All right. And you'd agree with me that, under the terms of the plan, the plan provides that the classes get paid in order of priority, correct?

A That's correct.

Q All right. And if you turn to Daugherty Exhibit 4, which is the confirmation order, at Page 45. And Subsection A there in the middle of that has a sentence that says: Accordingly, as the holders of the equity -- excuse me. Strike that. Let me start over. Are you there yet, Mr. --

A Now I am.

Q All right. Accordingly, as the holders of equity interests that are junior to the claims in Class 8 and Class 9 will not receive or retain under the plan on account of such junior claim interest in any property unless and until the claims in Class 8 and Class 9 are paid in full, plus

applicable interest, --

Did I read all that correctly?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And the term "Claim" there is a capitalized term, right?

A Yes.

Q It's not -- it doesn't say allowed claims. It just says claims. Right?

A That's correct.

Q All right. All right. Now, if you'd turn with me to the Claimant Trust Agreement, which is Daugherty Exhibit 5, and go to Section 5(c). Excuse me. 5.1(c). I apologize.

A Yes.

Q And this is -- this is -- relates to the contingent trust interests associated with the Class 10 and Class 11 limited partnership interests in Highland, correct?

A Generally, yes.

Q All right. And you'd agree with me that, in the -- about four lines down, it says: The Claimant Trustee shall allocate to each holder of allowed Class 10-B and C limited partnership interests and each holder of allowed Class 11 Class A limited partnership interests a contingent trust interest equal to the ratio that the amount of each holder's allowed Class 10 or Class 11 interest bears to the total amount of the Class 11 or -- Class 10 or Class 11 interest, excuse me, as applicable

under the plan.

Did I read all of that correctly?

A I believe you did, yes.

Q All right. And under the terms of the proposed settlement, the HMIT entities are getting an allowed Class 10 interest, correct?

A That's correct, yes.

Q All right. And then the next sentence goes on to say: The contingent trust interest shall not vest and the equity holder shall not have any rights under this agreement unless and until the Claimant Trustee files with the Bankruptcy Court a certification that all GUC beneficiaries have been paid indefeasibly in full, including, to the extent applicable, all accrued and unpaid postpetition interest consistent with the plan and all disputed claims have been resolved. The GUC Payment Certification.

Did I read that correctly?

A You did, except you used the article "The" before "contingent trust interest" at the start of the sentence.

Q Fair enough. And the GUC beneficiaries there would be the general unsecured creditor beneficiaries, correct?

A That's correct.

Q And this certification has not been issued yet by the Claimant Trustee in this bankruptcy, correct?

A That's correct.

Q In part because of Mr. Daugherty's remaining unresolved Class 8 claim, correct?
A In part, yes.
Q And also in part because of the remaining Class 9 claimant holders who still have money owed to them on their Class 9 claims?
A In part, yes.
Q Okay. Does the term of the proposed settlement agreement provide those Class 9 consent holders with releases from the HMIT entities?
A No.
Q It does not?
A No.
Q At all?
A No.
Q Even if they were in their capacity serving as board members for Highland Capital?
A Certain of the Class 9 holders are also on the Oversight Board. In their capacity as Oversight Board members, yes, they get -- they get broad releases. UBS, for example, is not. There are no releases in there for the two UBS entities.
Q Would you now -- you can set that binder aside. And if you'd turn with me to Exhibit 60 in the -- Highland's exhibit list.
A Six zero?

Q Yes, sir.
A Yes.
Q This is a copy of the tolling agreement extending objection deadline between -- that's on -- dated July 27th of 2022 between Mr. Daugherty and Highland Capital Management, LP and Highland Claimant Trust. Correct?
A Yes. That's what it appears to be, yes.
Q All right. If you would, go with me to Page 2 at the bottom. There is a Footnote #3. Do you see that?
A Yes.
Q And that footnote relates to, up above, a defined term called a "Reserved Claim," the Reserved Claim being what was discussed earlier in Mr. Daugherty's settlement agreement with Highland, right?
A That's correct, yes.
Q And it states in here that that Reserved Claim means "the contingent and unliquidated claim as referenced in Proof of Claim #205."
Did I read that portion of the footnote correctly?
A Yes.
Q All right. And it goes further to say that the amount listed there of 2.65 million three hundred -- two point six -- let me start ever. $2,650,353 is the amount estimated as of October 23, 2020. Correct?
A That's correct.

Q All right. It doesn't say it's -- anywhere in there that it's a fully -- it fully reserves that unliquidated contingent claim. Correct?

A In what you just read, no.

Q All right. And if you go to Page 1 -- or, I'm sorry, to Page 3, Paragraph 1, the covenant to reserve where Highland agrees to reserve $2,650,353 on account of the reserved claim, does it say anywhere in there that that is -- fully reserves that contingent unliquidated claim anywhere?

A It says exactly what it says. And you read it.

Q That's not my question. Does it say --

A I don't -- well, it says, Further agree to reserve $2.650 [million] on account of the reserved claim in disputed claim reserve.

Q All right. Does it say anywhere in there that that is the fully-reserved amount of that claim?

A Not in that sentence, no.

Q Thank you. All right.

MR. YORK: Your Honor, give me one second. Let me confer.

THE COURT: Okay.

(Pause.)

BY MR. YORK:

Q Mr. Seery, UBS is one of the consent holders, Class 9 consent holders related to the HMIT settlement. Correct?

A There are two UBS entities, UBS AG 66 and UBS Securities, LLC.

Q All right. Did either of those entities sit on the Unsecured Creditors' Committee in this bankruptcy?

A A UBS entity did. I'm not sure which of those did, or whether it was both with one counsel. I don't -- there's a UBS entity on that Creditors' Committee.

Q Is the -- are the members of the Unsecured Creditors' Committee within the definition of the Highland released parties under the proposed HMIT settlement? Do you know?

A I don't know. The members of the Creditors' Committee, I believe, have exculpation anyway, so I don't -- I don't -- I don't know if it captures the old members of the Creditors' Committee. I don't -- for example -- I don't think so. I don't -- I don't know.

MR. YORK: Pass the witness.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Lang?

THE WITNESS: Do you have a separate binder?

MR. LANG: No.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Will you be using Mr. Daugherty's binder?

MR. LANG: No.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. LANG:

Q All right, Mr. Seery. Just to be clear, the Class B and C

-- or the Class A interests and the -- of Highland under the plan, they have 99.5 percent of the -- Highland Capital Management. Correct?

A Could --

Q Sorry. The Class B and C --

A Limited partnership interest.

Q -- shareholder -- limited partnership interests were 99 point -- or, were .5 percent of Highland Capital Management?

A I -- I'm not trying to be difficult.

Q No, it's fine. It's a terrible -- terrible --

A I don't -- I just don't -- I don't understand your question. I apologize.

Q Okay. So, at the time of the petition, --

A Yes.

Q -- Hunter Mountain Investment Trust owned 99.5 percent of Highland Capital Management?

A It owned 99-1/2 percent of the limited partnership interest in Highland Capital Management.

Q And the remainder -- and HMIT has the Class 10 claims. Correct?

A You said something, the remainder? The --

Q Oh, sorry. The remaining interests are owned by the Class 11 claims under the plan.

A The remaining partnership interests are among those entities I testified earlier to, which are Dugaboy, Strand, --

Q And Okada?
A -- Mark Okada individually, and two Mark Okada and Pamela Okada trusts.
Q Okay. And the total assets in the estate right currently you testified are between $65 to $70 million?
A I -- off the top of my head, I don't recall, but it -- rough range, it could be in that general vicinity. That does not include the payments that have to be made to the 9s and expenses. So I believe there's documents in here that we could go through, if you like.
Q And I believe you testified that the remaining unpaid 9s are owed approximately $20 million?
A Approximately $20 million, yes.
Q Okay. And the plan does not say that the equity claims for Class 10 and 11 are to be determined by the capital account values of the limited partnership interests in the Debtor LP?
A That's correct. It says to set an amount. It doesn't tell you how to do the amount.
Q Okay. And under the settlement agreement, Class 10 interests will be allowed in the amount of $336,940,230.58?
A Approximately $336 million, yes.
Q $336 million. Fair. And this is the capital account balance as of -- HMIT's capital account balance as of the petition date, less, I believe, the HMIT note?

A That's correct. So that amount is the net amount.
Q The net? And do you know how the capital account balances were calculated --
A Yes.
Q -- on the petition date?
A Yes.
Q And how were they calculated?
A So, you take the 2018 year-end capital account amount, and then there's activity in the company that gets passed through through the partnership. The partnership agreement -- in this instance, the prepetition Debtor partnership agreement passed through profits and losses on a pro rata basis. There was activity in the first half of the year that affected that capital account. You can see that reflected in the year-end auditeds as well as the K-1 statement that -- for 2018 that was given to HMIT. That would be their 2018 year-end. That then, from an accounting perspective, was used and brought down to the petition date. And between the petition date and year-end 2019, there was additional capital activity, the biggest one of which was the reserve -- full reserve for the $50-plus million for the HMIT note. And so then you'll see the 2009 auditeds that are signed off by Mr. Waterhouse. And in those interim months, then you also see the gross amount of the partner capital each month in the monthly operating reports.

Q And correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe you testified that the capital account balances continued to go down after 2019. So you have the petition date, you have the next year, and did they continue to --

A I don't think I testified to that. What I testified to is that there was economic activity in 2019 that affected the year-end '18 to the petition date. And then from the petition date there was year-end activity -- there was activity from the petition date to year-end '19 that would affect the capital account as reflected in the 2018 auditeds -- they weren't auditeds -- 2018 tax returns signed off by Waterhouse. The biggest part of that activity was the application or the reserve for the Hunter Mountain Note.

Q And was there any activity after the 2019 tax return?

A There was postpetition activity in the partnership, certainly.

Q And did it reduce the capital accounts during those years?

A I assume it would have reduced all of the capital accounts pro rata.

Q Okay. And why'd you use the petition date as the date to determine the value of the capital accounts?

A Because this is bankruptcy and that's the date on which you fix all your claims and interests.

Q If you used -- have you ever used equity ownership percentages to determine the payment to the equity versus

their capital account balances?
A In this case, or elsewhere?
Q Elsewhere.
A I think that's standard. I can't cite you a specific thing, but typically when a partnership liquidates or a partnership is sold, amounts get distributed pursuant to the capital accounts and -- and -- in up to amounts in the capital accounts.
Q You would agree, if you use the percentage of ownership, being 99.5 percent for Class 10 and the .5 percent for Class 11, would potentially leave money for the Class 11 creditors to recover?
A I don't think so. No, I don't agree with that.
Q Why do you say that?
A Because Class 11 is subordinated to Class 10.
Q Okay. So explain how, if $60 million exists and you pay $20 million to the Class 9, --
A Roughly. Yeah.
Q Rough. Just rough math.
A Okay.
Q That leaves $40 million.
A Okay.
Q Correct? And if the ownership interests or the allowed claim for HMIT was 99.5 percent, wouldn't that leave .5 percent of $40 million for the remaining creditors?

A That doesn't make any sense, because 99-1/2 percent of a senior thing means you get everything. So that Class 10 has to be paid in full before the 11.

In addition, there's already an agreed-upon amount on HCLOM for $10 million. So how do I give HCLOM $10 million and 99-1/2 percent to somebody else? There has to be numbers.

Q But to be clear, the plan does not say that the equity claims are determined on capital accounts. Correct?

A That's correct.

Q All right.

MR. LANG: No further questions.

THE COURT: All right. Any redirect?

MR. MORRIS: Just one moment, Your Honor.

(Pause.)

MR. MORRIS: We have no questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Any redirect from --

MR. PHILLIPS: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: -- the one question?

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Seery. You are excused from the witness box.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

(The witness steps down.)

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to again take proposals. I can live with a 30-minute lunch break. I and my staff can. But it's easier for us than all of you. So do you all want to

negotiate for more?

MR. MORRIS: I just wanted to let the Court know that, with that, the Movants rest. We're not -- we're not going to call anybody else.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: We reserve the right to cross-examine. We reserve the right to call rebuttal witnesses, including Ms. Deitsch-Perez and Mr. Dondero, depending on what testimony is elicited. So we reserve the right to call rebuttal witnesses. But we're not calling anybody further on our direct case, and we rest.

THE COURT: Okay. So let me --

MR. MORRIS: I'll let them --

THE COURT: -- follow up on that point.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: There had been a discussion of Mr. Patrick.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: Limited to one total hour. Thirty minutes collectively, Debtor and HMIT. Thirty minutes collectively, Dugaboy and Daugherty.

MR. MORRIS: You know what, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're -- you're not asking --

MR. MORRIS: No, maybe I -- I forgot that you had told us we could do it, too. So let's take the lunch break,

let us figure it out, we'll let you know when we come back.

THE COURT: Well, I'm clarifying because I'm deciding --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- who gets to go first.

MR. MORRIS: Understood.

THE COURT: Each witness.

MR. MORRIS: Understood.

THE COURT: And I presume --

MR. MORRIS: Understood.

THE COURT: -- the Debtor/HMIT would go first.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: And then with regard to Dondero, --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- you all would go first.

MR. MORRIS: So I withdraw what I said. Let us confer during the lunch break and we'll figure out who's going first, whether we do rest or whether we put Mr. Patrick on for a short direct.

THE COURT: Okay. Which leads me to our lunch break. Do people want to negotiate for more than 30 minutes? I don't want to make someone collapse if --

MR. MORRIS: Thirty minutes, or 1:30?

MR. PHILLIPS: 1:30.

MR. MORRIS: 1:30, Your Honor. It's nice and round.

MR. PHILLIPS: One clarification, Your Honor. Because I don't -- I don't -- if one side doesn't take the half hour, does that go over to the other side, or --

THE COURT: No.

MR. PHILLIPS: No?

THE COURT: I don't think -- I'm just giving --

MR. PHILLIPS: Great. Thank you.

THE COURT: And my law clerk said maybe I was confusing about that earlier today.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: One hour total, but 30 minutes each. And if one collective team doesn't use the whole 30 minutes, we're not --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- giving it to the other side. Okay?

MR. PHILLIPS: That was my question.

MR. MORRIS: Understood, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And while I'll let you all discuss whatever you want, what I envisioned is you all would go first with Mr. Patrick, --

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: -- and then Dugaboy and Daugherty would go first on Mr. Dondero. But if you all collectively think it makes sense to do something different, I'll hear.

MR. MORRIS: No. That makes sense, Your Honor.

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. So we'll come back at 1:30 --

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: -- and resume.

MR. YORK: Thank you so much.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

THE CLERK: All rise.

(A luncheon recess ensued from 12:51 p.m. until 1:33 p.m.)

THE CLERK: All rise.

THE COURT: Please be seated. All right. We're back on the record in the Highland Capital matter, the Rule 9019 motion for approval of a settlement. When we broke, we were waiting to talk about Mr. Patrick and Mr. Dondero as witnesses. Are they going -- is Patrick going to be your witness?

MR. MORRIS: No, Your Honor. We're going to reserve our 30 minutes for rebuttal.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

All right. I'll hear from the Objectors now.

(Pause.)

MR. YORK: Sorry, Your Honor. I didn't realize they were going to observe. So, --

THE COURT: Well, yes. If you understood what I was saying before the break, I presumed they might want to go first with Mr. Patrick, but it was -- you're the one who

wanted him, so if they want to go second, they can go second.

MR. YORK: Well, --

THE COURT: Well, I say "you're." I'm sorry.

MR. LANG: No, it's okay.

THE COURT: Mr. Lang wanted to go --

MR. YORK: Yeah. So are we definitely doing Mark Patrick now?

MR. PHILLIPS: No.

MR. YORK: Oh, okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: We just rested.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: They can call whoever they want.

THE COURT: They have rested. If you don't want to go forward with any witnesses, you don't have to.

MR. YORK: Oh, we --

THE COURT: But you had wanted to go forward -- you wanted to question Patrick and I said, if he's going to be a witness, then Dondero should also be a witness. Okay? And at most an hour collectively for each witness. If you don't want to call either one of them, you don't have to call either one of them.

MR. LANG: We're going to. I think that they were just going to call Daugherty first. I didn't know if you had an order that you wanted to do this in.

THE COURT: Well, no. I don't care. I guess I don't

care. Was Daugherty listed? I mean, --

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Did you say Daugherty or Dondero?

MR. LANG: Daugherty.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm sorry. So you want to call Daugherty?

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: And you listed him as a witness?

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: So you may call Daugherty.

MR. YORK: All right.

MR. MORRIS: Yes. I --

MR. YORK: We'll call Patrick Daugherty, then.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: I don't believe Dugaboy did, but --

MR. YORK: Right.

MR. MORRIS: -- if they -- if they want to call him, by all means.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Yep.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Daugherty, if you could approach the witness box, I will swear you in. Please raise your right hand.

PATRICK DAUGHERTY, PATRICK DAUGHERTY'S WITNESS, SWORN

THE COURT: All right. Please be seated.

THE WITNESS: Oh, wow. A lot of water up here.

THE COURT: Plenty of water for everyone.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. YORK:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Daugherty. Could you state your name for the record, please?

A Patrick H. Daugherty.

Q Mr. Daugherty, are you a creditor in the Highland Capital bankruptcy?

A Yes, I am.

Q All right. And would you turn to, in the Daugherty exhibit binder, turn to Exhibit 1, please?

A Yes.

Q And this is a settlement agreement between you and Highland Capital Management relating to claims -- your proof of claim that you made in this bankruptcy, correct?

A Yes.

Q And we looked earlier. You were in the courtroom for Mr. Seery's testimony, correct?

A I was.

Q All right. And we talked in Section 9 about the defined Reserved Claim in there. Do you remember that?

A I did.

Q All right. Can you describe what --

A I consider it the Compensation Claim, but yes.

Q Can you describe what the Reserved Claim is?

A Yeah. Basically, it, background, it dates back to the financial crisis of 2008, 2009. Highland was on the brink of filing for bankruptcy. We had a creditor bank led by Bank of America and Scotia, and we were in default. And so the banks came in, declared default, and basically put a limit or terminated our ability to pay cash bonuses. And that -- right after Lehman Brothers failed, so call it September 2008 and going into 2009.

And the problem with that is we were losing people right and left. We had about 22 senior-level guys. We were down -- and I say guys. I think there were some women, too. But we were down to about 12 people. And they were trying to stem the tide of people running out of the doors in order to save the value of Highland. We started the year at about $40 billion under management, and by that time, we were -- I think we were as low as $19 or $20 billion under management.

Hedge funds were rolling up. CLOs did fine. Private equity did fine. Retail funds were having problems. And separate accounts were okay. But we were definitely a firm in crisis and trying to hold on to people.

So the nature of this compensation claim, you know, every year, everybody except Dondero and Okada would get what's called a compensations and award letter. Because Dondero and

Okada were really the only partners. I think you can kind of see that, given your experience. They were called the founding partners. They were the only ones that got true distributions from the firm annually. Guys like us, you know, the other 12 or so, we got cash bonuses and incentive comp and deferred comp. And, you know, obviously, cash compensation was a big part of our compensation, and they were prohibited from the banks from paying it.

So Dondero, with the help of Rick Swadley and some of the other tax people, I don't know if we used out outside firms or not, they came up with this scheme, if you will, where Highland was going to go and use whatever they came up with with the partnerships and whatnot and then generate a tax refund to the senior-level guys. As or in lieu of the cash bonuses that couldn't be paid, they were going to go make these elections and then we were going to get this money.

And if you look at our awards agreement, it says you're going to get *x* amount of money. And it's in the line that historically is the cash bonus.

Also, when we got like our email or whatever that year from Patrick Boyce, our CFO, he was like, Congratulations, your bonus this year was *x*. And it was whatever that amount was on your compensation and award letter.

Well, several of us had the same accountant, John Garvey, at Bland Garvey. Me, Joe Daugherty, and Davis Deadman. And

we took this concept to our accountant and he's like, man, that's really precedent. And so you guys are going to have to basically protect yourselves from -- sorry, go ahead. Make your objection. I'm sure I'm --

MR. MORRIS: I just, I just don't remember what the question was at this point and he's testifying to --

THE WITNESS: Why I got this thing.

THE COURT: It was --

THE WITNESS: My apologies.

MR. MORRIS: -- to conversations and hearsay.

THE COURT: What is the --

MR. YORK: Let me ask a question and I'm going to try to --

THE COURT: -- proof of claim about, was the essence of the question.

MR. YORK: Yeah. Right.

THE COURT: So I sustain. We're getting a little narrative, shall we say.

THE WITNESS: My apologies.

MR. YORK: So, --

THE WITNESS: I'll tighten it up.

BY MR. YORK:

Q All right. So, Mr. Daugherty, what you were getting under this scheme, as you describe it, was a cash bonus that was masked as a refund, correct?

A Look, Highland paid for it however they're going to pay for it. They're the one who created whatever that they did. But for us, it was a cash bonus.
Q Okay.
A But given that I was -- what I was just alluding to, there were concerns about the tax impacts if the IRS didn't agree with Highland. And so what we did is we negotiated for and got from Dondero -- really, I mean, Jim ultimately made the decisions at Highland. He said, look, if you don't -- if this doesn't work, if it doesn't go through, we'll make you whole. And so we got that provision in the compensation and award letter that says if the actual refund deviates materially from the refund, then you'll get substitute compensation. And that was enough for us, --
Q And --
A -- and that's what led to this claim.
Q And was it your understanding that, in terms of making you whole, that was not just whatever you had to pay back for the refund, but also interest and penalties?
A Yeah.
MR. MORRIS: Objection. Leading.
THE COURT: Sustained.
THE WITNESS: That's fair enough.
BY MR. YORK:
Q What was your understanding as to what that 'make you

whole' constituted?
A It was basically to put me and the others back in the position of getting to that number that was listed in the document. So if there were any interest, penalties, pullbacks from the IRS, then we would be made whole at that -- we'd get back the net of that number. However, if the IRS was fine with it, we wouldn't get anything.
Q So there's a chance, depending on how the IRS audit turns out, if the IRS says what Highland did was fine, then you don't owe the IRS anything, right?
A Yeah. That's been a critical thing, that I may not owe the IRS anything, and certainly I wouldn't expect Highland to give me anything.
Q And at that point, what's been reserved as your reserved claim would effectively at that point, from the IRS perspective, the IRS audit perspective, would be a zero dollar amount, right?
A Yeah. I mean, more so. I mean, Jim Seery offered to buy me out with an amount of the reserved claim. And I said, listen, I'm not looking for a windfall here. What I'm looking for is to be made whole, --
Q Right.
A -- it's my insurance policy on what I earned back in 2008, because the alternative is I will have ended up working for free in 2008, plus have to pay penalties and interest going

forward that could wipe out my net worth.

Q All right.

A So I wanted the insurance policy aspect of it.

Q So you heard Mr. Seery's testimony earlier where he said the total amount you would owe was somewhere in the range of $1.4 to $1.5 million if there was --

A He's wrong about that, if that's what he said.

Q Why?

A At the time -- I think the number he was referencing was in our claim number that I filed back in, I want to say, October 2020. And the $1.45 million, what was in the compensation -- was the number in the compensation and awards letter.

The other number that I spoke about from the gallery out there was one point -- I don't know, whatever the interest -- whatever I guessed the interest might be. And then I didn't have anything for penalties. So, at that particular time, took those numbers and said, okay, if the IRS says no way on all this, this is what I'd have to pay, not including penalties.

Q All right. So you've seen today and you listened to the testimony about the footnote in Highland's adversary complaint against you in which they say that the resolution may not be until 2029 of this IRS audit?

A That's correct. I've heard that.

Q All right.
A I've seen it and heard it.
Q All right. As you've sat here today, have you done any calculation back of the napkin to try to estimate what your potential exposure would be to the IRS in terms of interest and penalties as a result of that audit dispute if it wasn't resolved until 2029?
A Yeah. I listened to the judge. I went and ran '33 because that was a number that was just thrown out. At '33, if it's 2033, it's $7.4 million, and if it's 2029 it's $5.7 million.
Q What sort of financial impact would that have on you?
A The latter would pretty much wipe me out. I'm sorry. The former would -- the $5.7 million would wipe me out. The latter would cause me to file for bankruptcy.
Q Okay. Mr. Seery also discussed his -- that he had heard through the grapevine that the IRS audit had been resolved. Has anyone from Highland ever told you that the IRS audit is resolved?
A No one's told me that from anywhere, anyhow, anyway.
Q Have you had a conver... have you had -- so nobody at all, right?
A No one at all.
Q Have you -- did you have a conversation recently with Kurt Plumer over it?

A I did. I had lunch with him at Hillstone.
Q Did he mention it at all?
A No.
Q All right. Could you turn with me to, in your exhibit binder, Exhibit 8, please?
A Yeah.
Q All right. Can you just identify for us what this document is?
A This is a letter I got from the IRS dated November 20th, 2024, basically telling me that the case is open and I may owe money.
Q And specifically, if we look at the first paragraph, it says, "Why You're Receiving This Letter," in bold, right?
A It does.
Q And then below that it says: We might have to adjust your tax return based on our examination of the Highland Capital Management listed above.
Did I read that part correctly?
A Yes.
Q And so is it your understanding that your -- that this is related to the IRS audit of Highland?
A That is my understanding.
Q And that your tax return, your personal tax return may be adjusted as a result of that?
A Mine and my wife's.

Q Which would mean you're subject to interests and penalties as well?
A As is she.
Q Okay. And is this the only letter you've ever received from the IRS?
A No.
Q Related to the Highland Capital Management audit?
A No.
Q All right. Do you receive these periodically?
A Yes. The initial one came I want to say about five months after we filed the returns in two thousand -- it was for the calendar year 2008, so it was April 15th, 2009, I want to say. Maybe it was -- I think the first one came around October, late October 2009.
Q And --
A Like this. I can't -- I don't remember it verbatim.
Q Is this the last communication you have received from the IRS relating to Highland's IRS audit?
A This was it. Yeah.
Q Okay. Has anyone from the IRS ever told you that an FPAA has been issued --
A No.
Q -- with respect to the Highland's audit?
A No. I don't even know what that -- I didn't even know what that was.

Q And you've never received an FPAA from the IRS, right?
A I have not.
Q And you've never -- nobody else has ever sent you an FPAA related to the Highland audit, right?
A No.
MR. MORRIS: I'm being kind, but this is just --
THE COURT: It's leading.
MR. MORRIS: -- testifying from the podium.
THE COURT: Sustained.
THE WITNESS: Yeah.
BY MR. YORK:
Q All right. Mr. Daugherty, would you turn -- we'll switch topics real quick to the tolling agreement. Would you turn in Volume 1 of the Highland exhibits to Exhibit 60, please?
A Volume 1, and then which one, I'm sorry?
Q Exhibit 60.
A Yeah. Yes, I'm there.
Q Why did you enter into -- well, back up. Strike that. Start over. This is the tolling agreement extending a claim objection deadline between you and Highland Capital and the Highland Claimant Trust as of July 27th, 2022, correct?
A That is correct.
Q And is it your signature on Page 6 or 7 of the document on the left-hand side?
A It appears to be, yes.

Q All right. Why did you enter in this tolling agreement? Why did you enter into --

A I'm sorry, what was your question?

Q Why did you enter into this tolling agreement?

A Jim Seery had reached out to me in 2022 and said that they had a problem with -- the Court had an objection deadline that was running and that was somewhat inconsistent with the settlement agreement that we had just gotten approved in early March of 2022 that said they couldn't object, they being Highland, object to the legitimacy or amount of my compensation claim.

So he said, look, you know, we're in a little bit of a predicament here. We can go to the Court or we can try and work this out. And I'm like, hey, I'm fine to work it out. I don't want the estate to be burdened or any way. So we went back and forth on the document, and ultimately I felt that it was the right thing to do. The spirit of our settlement was, you know, I -- they couldn't -- they couldn't challenge this part of my claim, but the *quid pro quo* was I'm not going to be able to beat them out on a technicality by running in here, saying, ah, the objection deadline, you know, expired.

So his solution seemed to be a reasonable one. And we worked with their counsel, I think Demo and to some degree Morris, to work that out for them.

Q How did the estimate come about in Footnote 3?

A I don't know. Nobody ever asked me about it. There was no -- Mr. Morris is right, there was no negotiation about it. Because, frankly, I didn't see that as my problem. They had something to fulfill pursuant to the plan. And there was no back and forth on that reserve amount with Seery whatsoever. He just said, This is what we're doing and, you know, we're going to put this -- and my perception is I didn't have any right to challenge it other than what was in my settlement agreement. And I looked at that as a one-time right to go and seek an estimate, and I didn't want to do it that early in the process.

Q Would you take a look with me at the last recital that's on Page 3 of the document? All right. It says, --

A Oh. You're going to make me read. All right.

Q It says: Whereas, solely to avoid the expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty associated with litigation, and without any party admitting liability, fault, or wrongdoing, or releasing or waiving any rights or defenses with respect to the reserved claim, the parties desire to enter into this agreement to extend the claim objection deadline solely with respect to the reserved claim to January 11th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time, defined as the Objection Deadline.

Did I read that part correctly?

A You did.

Q What was your understanding of this recital provision

being put in here?
A Well, I think I just kind of summarized it. There was a problem that the parties didn't, you know, fully recognize could occur that would give me a windfall, and so this was to kind of solve that on an interim basis until we got to a final resolution on this tax refund thing.
I mean, the honest truth, God -- Judge. Not God, Judge. But the honest-to-God's truth is Seery and I had a very good relationship, and we were going back and forth, and his view was that this thing could get resolved in 2022.
Q Did you have an understanding as to whether or not you were reserving all rights with respect to your reserved claim under the terms of the tolling agreement?
A Absolutely I did. Both in emails and in the document.
Q All right.
MR. YORK: Pass the witness.
THE COURT: All right. Any cross? I'm assuming Dugaboy did not have questions. And, Mr. Daugherty, I should have --
MR. LANG: No, we do not.
THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Cross?

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:
Q Good afternoon, Mr. Daugherty. Take your time.
A How are you, Mr. Morris?

Q Good. I just have a few questions. You have been paid in full on your Class 9 claim, correct?
A Evidently, yes.
Q And that Class 9 claim was for $3.7 million, correct?
A I believe it was $3.75 million.
Q Thank you for the clarification. Do you recall how many payments you received that resulted in your receipt of $3.75 million?
A I don't.
Q When you received those payments, did you tell Mr. Seery -- did you send it back to Mr. Seery out of any concern that your Class 8 claim has not been resolved?
A No.
Q When you received those payments, did you object to Mr. Seery or to anybody else that it was improper for the other Class 9 holders to receive the payments when your Class 8 claim had not been resolved?
A I had no idea what they were receiving.
Q Did you have any reason to believe that you were receiving a benefit that the other Class 9 claim holders were not receiving?
A Again, I had no idea what they were receiving, so I can't compare the two.
Q Okay. But it is true that you accepted without protest your Class 9 payments, even though your Class 8 claim had not

been resolved, correct?
A I think that's accurate.
Q Okay. I think you mentioned in your proof of claim it had $1.4 million; is that right?
A Again, I'm cuffing it. If you could grab it, I'll -- I want to say it was -- the proof of claim had two components, as I mentioned. There was a, as I mentioned, there was the compensation award amount from my compensation letter of like $1.475 million.
Q Uh-huh.
A Don't quote me on that, but close enough.
Q Approximate.
A And then an interest component that would take me up to that particular time if the IRS reversed it.
Q Okay.
A But no penalties were included.
Q And that approximately $1.45 million, that's money that you received back in 2009?
A I didn't get that full amount in 2009. That was -- I don't want to broaden this up too much, but many times what was promised was not what was delivered. So I got a lesser amount from the IRS.
Q How much less did you receive?
A I want to say, on a net basis, it was just under $1.2 million.

Q Okay. And so it's true that you've had the benefit of the $1.2 million for 15 years now?
A When you say the benefit, what do you mean?
Q It went into your pocket 15 years ago.
A Yeah, but it's a contingent liability I have back to the IRS, so I can't say that it's, you know, not without reservations.
Q But you've had possession of that million and a half dollars now for 15 years, correct?
A Right. And with it comes an obligation --
Q Okay.
A -- contingent back to the IRS.
Q Your claim is a prepetition claim; is that right?
A What do you mean by my claim? Are you talking about the compensation one?
Q Yes.
A Yeah. I mean, that -- that contractual obligation originated in, well, yeah, February 2009.
Q It's not an administrative claim, right?
A I don't believe so, no.
Q It's just -- it's just a claim that existed prior to the petition date. Fair?
A That is fair.
Q Okay. With respect to the reserve, you did agree to that amount of the reserve, fair?

A I did not. I mean, I -- I signed the document, but I did not agree to that amount.
Q Well, --
A I did not negotiate for it or anything like that.
Q Well, but if you turn to Exhibit 60 that you just looked at, --
A sure.
Q -- and you go towards the end of the document, that is your signature on the first Page 7, right?
A Yeah. I've already admitted that.
Q And Paragraph 1 of the agreement that you signed specifically set the reserve at the amount set forth in Paragraph 1, correct?
A That much is true.
Q Okay. And you --
A You just said, did I agree to it, and I'm like, it was in the document.
Q It's in the agreement that you signed, correct?
A For sure.
Q Okay. And you've never asked for that amount to be adjusted, correct?
A I've spoken many times to Mr. Seery and told him that it will need to be adjusted upward as years go by. We've had quite a dialogue along those lines.
Q Okay. But he's never agreed to do that, correct?

A He said when the time comes, we'll figure out -- listen, we had a very collaborative relationship up until like the last year. And so it was like, hey, I'm not going to press you. You don't -- he's fighting off Dondero right and left. You know, and I'm like, I don't want to get in the middle of all this. You go do what you've got to do. We'll both sit tight. In fact, there was dialogue to that very effect.

Q Uh-huh.

A And so this was just all part of sitting tight, thinking that the right thing would be done when we got final analysis to this.

Q Okay. So would you just agree with me that, since signing this agreement, you haven't come to court to seek an adjustment --

A No.

Q -- of the reserve?

A I did not want to be a burden.

Q Okay. And since signing this agreement back in 2022, you and Mr. Seery have not come to an agreement on any adjustment to the reserve, correct?

A We have not.

Q Okay. Do you believe that you have claims against Highland's employees?

MR. YORK: I'm going to object on relevance grounds. Also, outside the scope.

THE COURT: What is the relevance?

MR. MORRIS: We're going to get to the $20 million demand in a moment. I'm laying the foundation. But we have anybody on anybody --

THE COURT: But what's the $20 million demand?

MR. MORRIS: I'll get to it in a moment.

THE WITNESS: There's --

THE COURT: I can't figure out if --

MR. MORRIS: I can make a proffer if you'd like.

THE COURT: -- that's relevant.

MR. MORRIS: I can make a proffer, Your Honor. I'll tell you. I'll tell you right now.

On June 5th, Mr. York called me and said that Mr. Daugherty asserts that he has claims against the Highland employees, and if Highland didn't pay him $20 million he was going to sue them, and he was going to file this objection together with a petition in the Supreme Court opposing Highland's request to stay the issuance of a mandate in the Fifth Circuit.

MR. YORK: First off, if Mr. Morris is going to become a witness, we've got a problem here. Secondly, any sort of communications between us would be 408. And third, it's not relevant to the issue we're here on today.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: My response to that, Your Honor?

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to allow a little latitude, --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- but I'm still unclear --

MR. MORRIS: It's about -- it's about three questions.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: It's about three questions.

THE COURT: You may proceed.

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Do you believe you have claims against Highland's employees?

A Me personally, no.

Q Okay. Do you -- did you authorize your lawyer to call me and to demand $20 million in exchange for a release and your standing down from filing any objection to this motion?

A I'm not aware that that ever happened. Nobody demanded anything of you.

Q Really?

A Yeah.

Q Do you know that your lawyer used the number $20 million to me?

A Oh, I've read the emails back and forth between you.

Q So why don't you explain to Judge Jernigan what your understanding is as to what your lawyer meant when used $20

million to me.

A I can't say for sure what he meant, but I can tell you from my perspective what I understood.

Q What did you understand?

A I have another entity that I picked up in the settlement with Highland called the Highland Employee Retention Asset Fund. And again, pursuant to the settlement agreement, I mean -- I guess supposedly, I guess, when I think about it, I do have claims individually, because it's with me, that agreement.

But it said that Highland had to turn over all the books and records of the HERA fund. And Mr. Morris was on many of those emails. And they had turned over some of the books and records, but they didn't turn over any of the books and records that implicated Thomas Surgent and David Klos in defrauding HERA in allocating Highland's expenses when they were litigating me, against me, back to HERA.

So I do have a settlement agreement with Highland and these employees, but Highland Employee Retention Assets needs their books and records. And we've made it very clear to you on numerous emails where you, you know, kind of muscled up on us and said this is all you're going to get and tough if you don't like it or whatever.

And so the deeper we get into this, we did get discovery from others, we found that Highland's been withholding

material information.

So as it relates to -- I mean, you're doing that little squeaky thing, and I think he's a fantastic lawyer, but the reality is you guys have created some damages to HERA that you may be accountable for. Your clients, not you.

Q Okay. In the four years since we signed the settlement agreement, you've never asserted a breach of contract claim, have you?

A Well, because we thought you were complying with it. So if you want to go into the details there, in 2022, we were -- asked for more information. 2023, we asked for more information. 2024, we asked for more information. And so those are continuing breaches.

Again, I -- I don't want to go to war with Highland. You're too damn good of an attorney, you're scaring me a little bit. But --

Q I don't want to.

A You know, listen. You know I think well of you.

Q I appreciate that.

A But, you know, I mean, I just wanted the information. I'm not looking to go to war with you guys. I got enough battles that I've got to fight. And so, you know, I guess a number was thrown out or whatever. I don't know the full context of it. But it wasn't -- it wasn't for this IRS compensation issue.

Q But what was the -- my last question. What was the $20 million demand for?

A Again, it's just a number. Y'all were having settlement negotiations. So, I mean, you work off of it.

Q All right.

MR. MORRIS: I have no further questions, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

THE COURT: All right. Any redirect?

MR. PHILLIPS: I have no questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Okay.

MR. YORK: Apologies. I wanted to make sure.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. YORK: No redirect, Your Honor.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

THE COURT: Okay. If you've watched Highland hearings, you know the judge sometimes has questions. I am still trying to understand the 1.4, the 1.2, the 1.475. I understand broadly that, in essence, a cash bonus was negotiated back in early 2009, I think you said.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

THE COURT: After 2008. And so that's, in essence, what was contractually negotiated. But I understand there was a hook, if you will, we're calling it a contingency, whatever word you want to use, where if one day there was an IRS audit and I guess Highland had extra liability for 2008, that this

-- I don't know if I understood it or not.

THE WITNESS: Do you want me to try and guess what you're asking, or --

THE COURT: Try to guess what I'm asking. Again, I'm --

THE WITNESS: The liability -- so, Highland chose to use this tax scheme as a currency to pay us a cash bonus. From our perspective, we weren't stupid. We're like, well, okay, that's great, but if the IRS says --

THE COURT: Okay, I just want to know what -- you say you were contractually entitled to $1.4 million.

THE WITNESS: That's what I was supposed to get for that bonus year.

THE COURT: Okay. But there was a tax contingency, if you will, where -- that's where I want you to jump in.

THE WITNESS: So, Highland had a tax problem. They came up with this mechanism to use whatever they were doing with the IRS to create the cash to pay us a bonus. We looked at it and said, well, this looks fishy -- by the way, every year before that and after that, I've just gotten a cash bonus. But for this one year, when the banks are saying, no, no, no, we get this. And so we looked at this and said, look, this sounds fishy, but if you can't pull it off, we need to be made whole. I can't be in a situation where here I am in 2025 and I may have to pay $5, $6 million to the IRS for the

pleasure of working at Highland.

THE COURT: Okay. See, that's where my disconnect is.

THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: Because I thought this all turned on a Highland tax return.

THE WITNESS: Oh, no, no. So, Highland did the planning and the creation of the scheme, and I guess ultimately it was Highland's tax return, but it flowed through to us as pass-throughs. K-1s, what have you.

THE COURT: Right.

THE WITNESS: So I guess it's both.

THE COURT: Okay. You were a partner.

THE WITNESS: Well, that's debatable, too. That's debatable, too, because I had a --

THE COURT: Okay. I thought you weren't, but --

THE WITNESS: Well, I wasn't --

THE COURT: But you got -- okay. Let me just skip to, --

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- I guess, the important part. You did, you got paid? You said $1.2 million?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. I got a refund back from the IRS for around that amount. Slightly under $1.2 million.

THE COURT: So the contingency you are worried about

that you think gives you a contingent claim against Highland is, what, the IRS comes back and says --

THE WITNESS: And they say, Give us that money back plus interest plus penalties or we're taking your house. And it's a very real threat, because this has gone on, as you've noted, forever. And I went from having a one-point-whatever bonus to possibly having to pay six, seven, eight, I don't know how long this lasts, million dollars back to the IRS for an election that was made by them. As a substitute for paying me a cash bonus the regular way, they did it this way. And that's why we put and negotiated for that term in the compensation agreement that said, if for whatever reason the actual refund is different, we get made whole.

THE COURT: Okay. I may be overthinking this, I do do that sometimes, but I'm still, I'm trying to understand why your claim would escalate up to, you know, you said maybe $5.7 million if, in 2029, this all plays out with the IRS.

THE WITNESS: That --

THE COURT: Because you've gotten the benefit of that money and --

THE WITNESS: Well, no, because if the IRS says --

THE COURT: -- return on that.

THE WITNESS: Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt.

THE COURT: You know what I'm saying? So I'm trying to figure out why it would grow in the way that you're

suggesting.

THE WITNESS: Can I respond?

THE COURT: Yes.

THE WITNESS: So I've gotten money that the IRS says is not mine. Right? And the IRS says --

THE COURT: And you've had the use of it.

THE WITNESS: Oh, yes.

THE COURT: You've presumably invested it and --

THE WITNESS: Well, no, I mean, you can't --

THE COURT: Well, you've had the ability to. Uh-huh.

THE WITNESS: But you don't want to take risk with something that's not yours, so you're kind of limited, right? But I have, I have that amount of money. Here's the problem, Your Honor, with that. If the IRS says, Give us back our money, here's the interest, here's the principal. Oh, by the way, if it's $7, $8 million, I can't -- I don't have that. I've got to file for bankruptcy in order to give the IRS back money that I'm having to pay them for the pleasure that I had of working for Highland in 2008 when I helped save the company and create a lot of the assets that paid all these people in the room. MGM Studios, Trussway.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

THE COURT: Yeah. We are going beyond this.

THE WITNESS: Fair enough.

THE COURT: I was just, I'm zeroing in on this because I'm trying to figure out, I mean, it matters to me if that reserve is likely fair enough, the reserve I'm told you agreed to is fair enough. And I'm having trouble figuring out, I mean, if you've had the use of this money for 17 years or whatever that is, why you would get this extra interest add-on that you're -- $5.7 million or whatever it would be. You know, $3 million more.

THE WITNESS: Can I answer that question?

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

THE WITNESS: Because the IRS didn't look at it as my money. They looked at it as their money. And so if you look at the plain language of the compensation award letter, if the actual amount deviates from the amount that was granted, then Highland was going to give me substitute compensation to make me whole. Making me whole includes the penalties and the interest that I would owe the IRS. Because if you look at it any other way, I had to pay money to work at Highland.

THE COURT: Do I have that letter in my evidence?

THE WITNESS: You should. Drew?

THE COURT: Do I? Maybe I'll just cut this off and look at the letter.

MR. YORK: It's at Daugherty 2, and it's at the back of --

THE WITNESS: There's multiple letters, but this is

one of them.

THE COURT: The letter that you say this claim stems from.

THE WITNESS: Sure.

THE COURT: I'll just cut it off and look at that.

THE WITNESS: Yeah, you can tell her where it is.

MR. YORK: So I think it's at the back of the statement on PD-2. It's at the last page, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Which one?

MR. YORK: P -- Daugherty 2.

THE COURT: Oh, 2? I've got emails.

THE WITNESS: P-2? I don't think so.

THE COURT: Okay. We can move on.

MR. YORK: That's fine. We'll work this out.

THE COURT: Before we're done here today, I want to look at the letter to better understand how the claim could grow substantially to --

MR. YORK: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- $5.7 million by 2029. Okay. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're excused.

THE WITNESS: Oh, I found -- I just found it and then I closed it.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, you can --

THE WITNESS: My bad.

THE COURT: -- call my attention to it when you find it.

THE WITNESS: All right.

(The witness steps down.)

THE COURT: All right. Your next witness?

MR. YORK: I believe we're calling Mark Patrick.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Patrick. All right. Please raise your right hand.

MARK PATRICK, DUGABOY INVESTMENT TRUST'S WITNESS, SWORN

THE COURT: All right. Please be seated.

And, Courtney, you're going to start the clock going. I show 2:12. I don't know if my clock's right.

You may proceed.

MR. LANG: And, Your Honor, may I hand the witness -- this is from Mr. Morris' opening. May I use this as Exhibit 3?

THE COURT: Oh, okay. You're talking about the back page of his PowerPoint?

MR. LANG: Yes. Org chart.

THE COURT: Yes. I've got it in front of me. And for the record, I'm going to put this PowerPoint, even though it's not an exhibit *per se*, as a demonstrative aid in the file for this matter. And so it's the last item of the Highland PowerPoint. All right.

MR. LANG: Yes.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Patrick, does this Hunter Mountain Investment Trust org chart that I just handed you accurately reflect the structure of the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust ownership today?

A Just give me a few moments to review.

Q Sure.

MR. LEWIS: Your Honor, I had mentioned early on that we object to this whole line of questioning because it's outside the scope of the objection of Dugaboy. And I don't want to interrupt, but I want to make sure that my objection is continuing, because this has nothing to do with the objection presented by Dugaboy.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. PHILLIPS: So we object to the question.

THE COURT: Okay. So the record will reflect basically a running objection from Hunter Mountain?

MR. PHILLIPS: We would appreciate that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. In light of the failure of Dugaboy to disclose Mark Patrick as a witness, as well as the failure to challenge in a written objection his authority. Okay. So I recognized that this was quite a persuasive objection, but given the magnitude, I would say, of what is going on here,

potentially a settlement that could come very close to ending this long-running plan implementation process, I'm erring, if it's an error, I'm erring on the side of allowing this. All right. But you have a running objection that the record will reflect if one day there is an appeal.

MR. MORRIS: And, Your Honor, the Highland Claimant Trust and the Highland Litigation Subtrust and Highland Capital Management, LP join Mr. Phillips' objection.

THE COURT: Okay. Understood.

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Patrick, have you had time to study this Hunter Mountain Investment Trust org chart?

A Yes, I have.

Q And does this accurately show the ownership structure for Hunter Mountain Investment Trust today?

A I'm not sure, without reviewing the underlying corporate documents on some of these entities that you have listed here.

Q Did you help prepare this chart?

A No.

Q No? Okay. So Hunter Mountain Investment Trust is owned by Beacon Mountain, LLC, correct?

A Yes.

Q And Beacon Mountain, LLC is owned by CLO Holdco, LLC,

correct?
A Correct.
Q And CLO Holdco, LLC is owned by CLO Holdco, Limited?
A That's correct.
Q And CLO Holdco, Limited is owned by Charitable DAF Fund, LP?
A Correct.
Q And Charitable DAF Fund 1, LP is owned by CDMC FAD, LLC?
A The ultimate beneficial owner is DFW Charitable Foundation. To my -- to the best of my recollection, I would say that appears accurate. I'm just not a hundred percent.
Q Okay. And --
A But I am a hundred percent that DFW Charitable Foundation is the ultimate beneficial owner. And I'm a hundred percent that Dugaboy Investment Trust has no interest in it. And I'm also a hundred percent that The Dallas Foundation or any --
MR. LANG: Judge, I haven't asked --
THE WITNESS: -- or any other nonprofit has any --
MR. LANG: -- any of these questions.
THE COURT: Okay. There's an objection, nonresponsive. I sustain.
BY MR. LANG:
Q Mr. Patrick, before December of 2024, Charitable DAF Fund, LP was owned by Charitable DAF Holdco, correct?
A (Pause.) I'm just waiting for a relevancy. I don't

understand how that's relevant to my authority --

THE COURT: Okay. You're not allowed to make a relevancy objection. Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, I think the problem is that, if I could, we have made an objection. And our objection, our running objection is founded on relevancy and founded on improper process. So I would like to just tell the Court, and so my client representative can hear it, that the fact that I'm not standing up every time there's a problematic question, --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: -- because every question is problematic, my objection is being maintained to every question that's being asked.

THE COURT: Okay. You understand that, right?

THE WITNESS: I --

THE COURT: There's a running relevancy objection. You're the witness. You can't make the objection. But it's on the record for whatever use it might have down the road.

MR. PHILLIPS: I have objected to every question that's coming in connection with this line of questioning on the basis of relevance.

THE COURT: I got it. I think we all have it.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm just --

MR. LANG: Understood.

THE COURT: Yes. And you're thinking he's eating into your 30 minutes?

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. We've got it.

THE CLERK: I stopped the time.

MR. LANG: So -- thank you.

THE COURT: Did you stop the time for a minute?

THE CLERK: Yes, I did.

MR. LANG: Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay.

BY MR. LANG:

Q So, to my question, before December of 2024, Charitable DAF Fund, LP was owned by Charitable DAF Holdco, correct? Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited?

A And where is that on the chart?

Q I'm asking, before December of 2024, Charitable DAF Fund, LP was owned by Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited.

A Can you show me a corporate document so I know the precise corporation you're referring to?

Q You're the -- you are the manager of -- or the control person of CDHGP Limited, correct?

A Again, I'd have to refresh my recollection, but I am the control person over CDMC.

Q Okay. And CDMC --

A As well as Charitable DAF Fund. I'll represent that to

you.
Q Okay. Was there a transaction in December of 2024 where Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited sold its interest or transferred its interest in Charitable DAF Fund, LP to CDMC FAD, LLC?
A I know you're trying to help other litigation and --
MR. PHILLIPS: Mark.
THE COURT: Okay. Nonresponsive.
THE WITNESS: Your Honor, he's using your time to fish for other litigation to support that --
THE COURT: Okay. Okay. We have a running objection to relevance. I'm going to say that one more time. Okay. Just answer the question as best you can.
THE WITNESS: I'd have to review the corporate documents to refresh my recollection for that time period.
BY MR. LANG:
Q Up until December of 2024, Charitable DAF Fund, LP was owned 100 percent by Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited, wasn't it?
A I don't know what entity you're referring to without a refreshment of corporate documents of that entity. There could be a lot of entities called that.
Q You're aware that there is a proceeding in the Caymans investigating the December 2024 transaction that sold -- where Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited sold its interest in -- and or

transferred its interest in Charitable DAF Fund, LP to CDMC FAD, LLC?

A There are several parts to that question. So the answer is no.

Q Are you aware of a proceeding pending in the Caymans involving Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited?

A Again, I don't know what entity you're referring to. Show me a -- show me a corporate document.

MR. LANG: Your Honor, this was on the Foundation's exhibit list. We cross-designated any document designated as an exhibit by any other party in this case. And I'd like to hand this to the witness.

MR. MORRIS: Which exhibit is it?

THE COURT: Which is -- yes.

MR. LANG: It was on the -- it was on the DAF -- or, the Foundation's exhibit list.

MR. MORRIS: They haven't been admitted into evidence and they've withdrawn their objection. We object, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, they've not been admitted.

MR. LANG: Okay. Well, can I --

MR. PHILLIPS: We object to that, Your Honor. We object to any witness --

MR. LANG: We cross-designated every --

THE COURT: I already discussed at the beginning what we were admitting and that was not disclosed.

MR. LANG: Okay.

THE COURT: As I recall, I said you've only designated the plan and settlement agreement, and the answer was yes.

MR. LANG: Okay.

BY MR. LANG:

Q And we're aware that the Joint Official -- are you aware that there is a Joint Official Liquidator appointed over a Charitable DAF entity in the Cayman Islands?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection to form.

THE WITNESS: Again, without more specific --

THE COURT: Overruled. Yes.

THE WITNESS: -- specificity, there could be a thousand different actions that you're referring to, in my mind.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Are you aware that the Joint Official Liquidators in the Caymans are investigating transactions involving Charitable DAF Fund, LP and Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited?

A Again, again, I don't specifically know what you're referring to.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, may I -- excuse me. I don't know that my running objection includes an objection to form for each of the questions. This objection is to form of the questions about, quote, --

THE COURT: What's wrong with the form?

MR. PHILLIPS: -- investigation.

THE COURT: What is wrong with the form of that question? I'm not clear.

MR. PHILLIPS: My objection to form is that the question is an open-ended question with an undefined term, investigation.

THE COURT: Overruled. I don't think that's a vague term. So you may answer.

THE WITNESS: If you show me some document, some complaint or something, I'll be very happy to verify whatever questions related to that. But just giving me verbal words of entities and names and actions, I don't know precisely what you are talking about.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Patrick, who set up the entities in the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust org chart that is sitting in front of you?

A I'm sorry. Repeat the question?

Q Who set up the various entities that are in the org chart that is on your -- on the stand?

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection to form. Set up. What does that mean?

THE WITNESS: It -- yeah, it's very --

THE COURT: I think we know what it means. Creating,

perhaps.
BY MR. LANG:
Q Created?
A Who? Are you asking if I created it?
Q Did you participate in creating them?
A Did I participate? In which ones?
Q CDMC FAD, LLC.
A What do you mean by participate?
Q Were you involved in creating -- did you initiate the creation of CDMC FAD, LLC?
A Lawyers were.
Q Did you engage in any capacity on behalf of any entity? Were you involved in engaging the lawyers to set up CDMC FAD, LLC?
A Yes, I engaged lawyers to set up entities.
MR. LANG: Objection. Nonresponsive.
THE COURT: Sustained.
MR. LANG: Did you --
THE COURT: He asked about this one particular entity, I think.
BY MR. LANG:
Q Did you --
A Which entity, again, did you ask?
Q CDMC FAD, LLC.
A Yes, I believe I hired a lawyer.

Q And when did CDMC FAD, LLC become a hundred percent owner of Charitable DAF Fund, LP?

A Around the end of March of 2025. I believe.

Q And were you involved in the transaction between -- in which CDMC FAD, LLC obtained a hundred percent interest in Charitable DAF Fund, LP?

A What do you mean by involved? How?

THE COURT: Okay. I can see what's happening here or I have an impression of what's happening here. I feel like you're slowing down this process where I've given 30 minutes to this lawyer. Okay? And I feel like you're feigning confusion. I don't mean to be insulting, but that's how it comes across. Okay? So I need you to speed up your answers and not be confused about things you shouldn't be confused about. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Okay.

THE COURT: I feel like it's late 1980s *Dondi*. Does anyone know what I mean by that? Okay. We've been there, done that, in the federal courts, and we don't like the looking at -- you're not looking up at the ceiling. That's what they did in *Dondi*. Confusion. Delay. Okay?

So I don't mean to chastise you. I'm just telling you that you're going to make us be here a lot longer, and nobody wants that, because I will give him extra time for this. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Understood.

THE COURT: Thank you.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Okay. So you were involved in the transaction in which CDMC FAD, LLC acquired 100 percent ownership interest in Charitable DAF Fund, LP in or around March of 2025, correct?

A Correct.

Q Who did CDMC FAD, LLC obtain its interests in Charitable DAF Fund, LP from in March of 2025?

A From an -- from an entity called Charitable DAF Holdco, Ltd.

Q Charitable DAF Holdco, Ltd., the entity that I asked about earlier, correct?

A Of the same name.

Q Yes. And Charitable DAF Holdco, Ltd. has had Joint Liquidated -- Liquidators, Joint Official Liquidators appointed over it in the Cayman Islands, correct?

A Yes.

Q And those Joint Official Liquidators were appointed over Charitable DAF Holdco, Limited in or around May 6th, 2025?

A In May is what I recall.

MR. LANG: Your Honor, we'll pass the witness.

THE COURT: All right. Do we have any questions?

MR. YORK: No questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Any cross?

MR. MORRIS: Just briefly, Your Honor.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Mr. Patrick, do you know who initiated the proceedings to get the appointment of the Joint Official Liquidators in the Cayman Islands?

A The director and myself, we initially filed for a voluntary joint liquidation in May.

Q And did there come a time when the Cayman court appointed the Joint Official Liquidators?

A Yes.

Q Do you know who asked the court to appoint the Joint Official Liquidators?

A We did, as well as other -- it was an agreement with the participation holders of that entity.

Q And who are the participation holders of that entity?

A It was the DFW Charitable Foundation as a 51 percent holder as well as the Highland Dallas Foundation, Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, and the Highland Kansas City Foundation.

Q And those three foundations that you just mentioned, do you know who controls them?

A Jim Dondero.

Q Is it your understanding that Mr. Dondero was funding the litigation in the Cayman Islands?

A Yes.
Q The Joint Official Liquidators, are you aware of any statement that they've ever made that you are not authorized to act on behalf of any of the HMIT entities?
A Yeah, they've never made a statement that I'm not authorized to act under any of those entities.
Q Okay. Did you receive a letter last night that was purportedly authored by the Joint Official Liquidators?
A Yes.
Q Did you review that letter?
A Yes.
Q Did that letter refer to today's hearing?
A Yes.
Q Are you aware of the Joint Official Liquidators making any appearance in this proceeding?
A No, I'm not aware they made any appearance in this proceeding.
Q Based on your recollection of the contents of that letter, did the Joint Official Liquidators challenge your authority to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities?
A No, they did not, because there's no ownership interest.
Q Okay. And what do you mean by that?
A The entity in liquidation owns nothing. And the DFW Charitable Foundation is the ultimate beneficial owner.

Q Are you aware that The Dallas Foundation filed an objection to the settlement agreement on behalf of Empower Dallas Foundation, the Okada Family Foundation, and Crown Global?
A Yes.
Q Are you aware that that objection was withdrawn?
A Yes.
Q Was the withdrawal of that objection the product of negotiations that your counsel had with lawyers for The Dallas Foundation and Crown Global?
A Yes, it was.
Q Did The Dallas Foundation or Crown Global require you to surrender your control position of the HMIT entities as a condition to the withdrawal of their objection?
A To give up my control? No.
Q They didn't ask you to do that, did they?
A No. No.
Q You are the control person for each of the HMIT entities that are party to the settlement agreement, correct?
A That is correct.
Q Are you aware of any requirement in any of the governance documents --
MR. CURRY: Your Honor, I'm not questioning, but I'm going to object to the line of questioning here about what was asked and what was not received into negotiations, because,

frankly, you're getting an imperfect picture there. And I don't think it should be misrepresented. The communications didn't happen with Mr. Patrick.

THE COURT: Okay. I don't know if that objection was a confidential settlement communications.

MR. CURRY: It's a combination of foundation and that he's going into confidential settlement discussions.

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor, it's a very simple question. I'll ask it again.

THE COURT: Okay. We'll let --

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q To the best of best of your knowledge, Mr. Patrick, did The Dallas Foundation or any of the entities on whose behalf it filed its objection require you to surrender your position as the control person of the HMIT entities in exchange for the withdrawal of their objection?

A No, they did not.

Q Thank you. Are you aware -- are you familiar with the governance documents for the HMIT entities?

A Yes, I am.

Q Are you aware of any restriction on your ability to act on behalf of those HMIT entities with respect to -- withdrawn. Are you required to obtain the consent of anyone in order to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities?

A No, I am not. I'm the sole authority and control person for that entity.
Q And do you believe that you're entering into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities in good faith?
A Yes, I do.
Q Have you received legal counsel before entering into the agreement?
A Yes, I have.
Q Do you believe that you've negotiated the best terms that you could get on behalf of the HMIT entities?
A Yes, I do.
Q Do you believe that you received the information that you believed you required in order to make an informed decision before you entered into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities?
A Yes, I did.

MR. MORRIS: I have no further questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Phillips, anything from you?

MR. PHILLIPS: No questions.

THE COURT: Okay. Any redirect?

MR. LANG: Briefly.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. LANG: Your Honor, because they mentioned the

letter of last night from Grant Thornton, the Liquidators, I'm going to offer that into evidence as the letter that we talked about this morning. But Mr. Morris directly asked him if he reviewed it and asked him questions about it.

THE COURT: Response?

MR. MORRIS: No objection, Your Honor. Go right ahead.

THE COURT: I'll admit it.

MR. LANG: This is --

THE COURT: Do I have it in my notebook?

MR. LANG: -- Dugaboy --

THE COURT: Okay.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Patrick, I've handed you --

THE COURT: We're going to call this Dugaboy 3?

MR. LANG: Dugaboy 3.

THE COURT: Okay.

(Dugaboy Investment Trust's Exhibit 3 is admitted into evidence.)

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Patrick, I've handed you a letter. It's from Grant Thornton dated June 24th, 2025. Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q And is this a true and correct copy of the letter that you

received or that you reviewed from the Joint Liquidators that you referred to in your answers to Mr. Morris' questions?

A Well, it's a PDF. I mean, I'm assuming it's from the Official Liquidators.

Q But this is the letter you were referring to in your testimony a few minutes ago?

A Yes.

Q And do you see on the second paragraph it says that, on May 6th, 2025, the Grand Court of Cayman Islands Financial Services Division appointed Margot MacInnis and Sandipan Bhowmik, each of Grant Thornton Special Services (Cayman) Limited, as the Joint Official Liquidators of the company. Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q And do you see on the second page, it says: Since our appointment, we have been diligently investigating these transactions, including a corporate transaction that occurred in or around December 2024 where the company transferred a hundred percent of its interest in the Fund to CDMC FAD, LLC, which resulted in the company being the sole member of CDM and subsequent redemptions of the company's interests in CDM.

Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q Is that your understanding of what is happening in the Caymans right now, is investigating these transactions?

A Correct.

MR. LANG: Pass the witness.

MR. MORRIS: May I just have that letter, please?

THE COURT: Any recross?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah, just real brief.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q None of the transactions that you were just asked about has anything to do with any of the HMIT entities, correct?

A That's absolutely correct.

Q Okay. And now that we have the letter in the record, if you could look at the third paragraph. Do you see --

A Yeah.

Q Do you see it refers to the Highland Dallas Foundation, Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, and Highland Kansas City Foundation?

A Yes.

Q Are those the three entities that you referred to earlier that are, to the best of your understanding, controlled by Mr. Dondero?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And this is the letter that you said you reviewed and concluded that the Joint Official Liquidators weren't challenging your authority to enter into the agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities; do I have that right?

A Yes. Yes, you do.

MR. MORRIS: I have no further questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. I have a question or two.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

THE COURT: And again, I apologize if I sounded harsh earlier. I recognize different people present different ways when they testify. It just appeared to me that maybe we were slowing things down unnecessarily. All right?

THE WITNESS: I apologize, too. I'm just a little emotionally upset they're using this proceeding for a benefit someplace else.

THE COURT: Okay. My question, very general question: Do you think this settlement is fair and equitable as far as HMIT is concerned?

THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

THE COURT: And could you tell me why?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. There was no obvious pathway for HMIT to, in my mind, to receive the residual interest of the bankruptcy estate without a settlement with the Debtor. Otherwise, it just seemed to me that it would go on forever. And then I balanced that against the existing litigation and the probability of the outcome weighted against the costs, and determined that it made sense from HMIT's perspective to enter into the settlement agreement.

THE COURT: Okay. And you understand that, as part

of this, you're giving up some litigation claims that have been waged now for a couple of years or more?

THE WITNESS: That is correct, but I'm also receiving the Kirschner Litigation, which I did negotiate to receive.

THE COURT: Okay. And there was a note that the estate -- I've heard it called at some point the $57 million note that HMIT owed Highland, a December 2015 note -- that basically gets credited against the capital account. You understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. And then you understand that if I approve this deal, I'm not sure why there's going to be $500,000 to HMIT and then also another $10 million to HMIT, but subsequent payments could get held up if there are litigation threats to the Highland Claimant Trust. You understand that, correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Okay. I just, I have to ask. I'm confused about what's going on here. I thought that -- well, let me just ask this: Would you consider yourself crossways with Mr. Dondero now?

THE WITNESS: No, but I'll answer the question. Upon advice of counsel, I quit Skyview Group. And upon advice of counsel, I terminated the back office services that Skyview Group was providing to the DAF.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, you said you're getting maybe a little emotional because of other litigation. I'm just trying -- I don't understand what all that other --

THE WITNESS: Unrelated -- well, unrelated to that. They're clearly trying to use this forum to benefit their Cayman actions. They hired U.S. counsel called Reed Smith, and they've been begging for an organization chart to issue a variety of frivolous lawsuits against the operating DAF entities. So I do apologize, but that's a little upsetting to me because I know we're going to -- that I've just fed them a list of targets in another unrelated matter.

THE COURT: Okay. Reed Smith. Here we go again with -- they've made an appearance for Mr. Seery in this litigation.

MR. MORRIS: Exactly. And we have raised that issue.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And I'm surprised to hear that they think they still have the ability to do this. But we will pursue that later.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. I had nothing further. Thank you, Mr. Patrick.

(The witness steps down.)

THE COURT: All right. So where are we now? I said that, again, just trying to balance the playing field, if Dugaboy was given the ability to question Mr. Patrick, then I

would allow I guess you want to call it rebuttal in the form of the Debtor, Reorganized Debtor/Claimant to call Mr. Dondero. Do you choose to call him?

MR. MORRIS: I'm not.

THE COURT: Oh, and I guess I'll allow you, --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- if you want to put on your client representative, Mr. Lang.

MR. LANG: We call Jim Dondero.

THE COURT: All right. Yes, we are timing.

Please raise your right hand, sir, Mr. Dondero.

JAMES "JIM" DONDERO, DUGABOY INVESTMENT TRUST'S WITNESS, SWORN

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. The time is running.

THE WITNESS: Thank you for the time.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Dondero, do you claim that Mr. Patrick lost authority to enter into the 9019 settlement -- or, the settlement agreement that's the subject of the 9019 motion today?

A Yes.

Q And when do you claim Mr. Patrick lost authority to enter into that settlement agreement?

A I think it's best if I give a timeline. He left Sky -- can I give a --

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection, Your Honor. Nonresponsive.

THE COURT: Overruled. He can give a timeline.

THE WITNESS: He left Skyview in October, November, walked out the door, never talked to anybody again, never talked to the charities again except through counsel. Never collected severance, anything else. Just walked out the door.

As part of Skyview's review of what he'd been working on and what was the nature and what might have been happening, they discovered numerous abnormalities. They discovered--

THE COURT: Do we have an objection?

MR. MORRIS: We do. We're not going to use this opportunity to smear Mr. Patrick. If the notion is that the breach of the ability to act with authority occurred in May, he should start his timeline in May.

THE COURT: Well, I assumed he was just giving background to explain.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

THE COURT: So I'll overrule.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I'm going to just give you a little bit of background. Everything that I'm stating is in the public record. I won't do anything to besmirch Mark Patrick. It's all in the public record. It's all in the Cayman pleadings. But there was affidavits regarding embezzlements by vendors where he would request overbilling and the money sent to his house.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, we're talking about documents outside the scope, not identified, not listed. Objection.

THE WITNESS: It's all --

MR. PHILLIPS: This is not a timeline.

THE COURT: This --

THE WITNESS: It's --

THE COURT: Sustained. We don't have anything in the record. This is --

THE WITNESS: Okay. It's all in the public arena. And so is the insider trading.

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: So, --

THE COURT: Okay. I sustain.

THE WITNESS: Okay. All right.

And then, yeah, and then there was monies missing. There were large amounts of monies missing from the estate. There was unexplained $16 million of expenses in '23.

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection, Your Honor. They're --

THE COURT: Okay. Explain the relevance, Mr. Lang.

MR. LANG: I thought he was just giving a background.

THE COURT: It's getting rather --

THE WITNESS: Okay, Your Honor. Well, --

THE COURT: -- colorful, shall we say. All right?

THE WITNESS: Okay. Without giving specifics

regarding the embezzlement or --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

MR. MORRIS: We move to strike, Your Honor.

MR. PHILLIPS: We move to strike all of this.

MR. MORRIS: We move to strike all of this.

THE COURT: Okay. I grant. We don't have any evidence of embezzlement.

THE WITNESS: Okay. All right. Without detailing any of the bad acts that we -- that it looked like happened from the investigation, we took all the bad acts and all the investigations and we gave them to the three underlying charities. Let's remember the DAF is a legacy charity I set up 15 years ago, or actually, Mark Patrick did the documentation back when he was a loyal employee. And it was three -- around $300 million and about $600 million of liability, I mean, legal claims and other things that were meant to be a family legacy, where the donations would help the community. We've given out more than $50 million over the years. And the recognition would help our various companies or our families. That's what it was. Okay?

Went to the three underlying charities who were the beneficiaries of the DAF as it existed: Santa Barbara, Dallas Foundation, Kansas City. These are large charities that have been around for a hundred years. I don't control them by any form or fashion. As a matter of fact, the Hunts are $4

billion out of the $6 billion in Kansas City. I think I'm a hundred million or whatever. The DAF was a hundred million. I think the Hunts would be disturbed to hear that I control it.

Anyway, so all those charities were beneficiaries. And so we went to them with all the investigative results. And at first, they tried to verify, they tried to have an audience with Mark Patrick. They wanted details. They wanted what -- financials. They wanted to know what was happening. And nothing was forthcoming from Mark Patrick. He didn't think he owed them any fiduciary responsibilities.

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Hearsay.

THE WITNESS: No, that's --

THE COURT: What is the out-of-court statement? I'm not sure.

MR. MORRIS: Mark Patrick thinks that he doesn't owe any fiduciary duties.

MR. PHILLIPS: They did an investigation. They tried to do *x*. They tried to do *y*.

THE COURT: Oh, okay. Technically not hearsay, but I think we're getting --

THE WITNESS: Okay.

THE COURT: -- a little far beyond the subject matter. So if we could reign it in, please.

THE WITNESS: Okay. In February, they were noted,

they were notified, or, in particular, Dallas Foundation was notified that their Empower subsidiary, which owned a hundred percent of the HMIT interests that we were talking about, was transferred to an undisclosed company for a million dollars. Without any transparency, without any understanding of who the new owner was, they filed for receivership in Cayman. To the best of the charity's knowledge and based on all the documentation --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, objection.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me try to understand the relevance. Do you think I opened this up by asking if there was a falling out essentially between you and Patrick? Is that why you're going into this? Or --

THE WITNESS: No, no, no. No. The falling-out is much bigger than this. But I'm just saying the day receivership was filed was the day Mark Patrick lost authority. And I think anybody would look at it that way. It was for liquidation in the Cayman --

THE COURT: Okay. That's his view and we'll either see the --

THE WITNESS: Okay.

THE COURT: -- documents that support that or not.

THE WITNESS: All right. So, your -- yes. Because the question was when do I think he lost authority. I -- you could make the argument he lost it a lot sooner, because for

months beforehand the charities had written him letters saying they wanted their assets distributed in kind, they lost faith in --

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

MR. PHILLIPS: Again, Your Honor, objection.

THE COURT: This is hearsay. Okay. I sustain.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Well, they did.

So, eventually, and it takes a lot to get four little old ladies at different charities to get together and agree to file a charity in liquidation, but they did in the Caymans. Okay? And then lo and behold, the response from Mark Patrick was, ha-ha, there are no assets there anymore, I moved them all to my living room --

MR. PHILLIPS: Move to strike, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: -- at DFW.

MR. PHILLIPS: There's no evidence in the record of this. There was no evidence of any statement. Move to strike.

THE COURT: There's not, right?

THE WITNESS: Well, no, there is, because what Mark Patrick --

THE COURT: Sustained. I don't have it.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, there is no evidence of any of this.

THE WITNESS: Well, Mark Patrick's testimony, he said -- he said that our receivership was right after his receivership. He had liquidated and taken all the assets out from Dallas, Santa Barbara, and whatever, and moved it all to his charity. So when we tried -- when the poor charities in Texas in the U.S. tried to file for liquidation, his response was ha-ha. And there were no assets there, you know, because he had already filed --

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection.

THE WITNESS: He -- he --

THE COURT: Okay, I've sustained the objection to the ha-ha. Okay.

THE WITNESS: Okay. But he had, he had filed --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, please, move to strike.

THE COURT: Okay. Let's strike everything after that last question. Ask your next question.

MR. LANG: I don't remember what the first question was.

BY MR. LANG:

Q What happened -- or, what's your understanding of the proceedings in the Caymans?

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, objection. Form. Understanding of the proceedings in the Caymans?

MR. LANG: His understanding is, I mean, his understanding. What's his endgame?

THE COURT: All right. I sustain.

MR. LANG: Okay.

THE WITNESS: The Cayman Islands --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

MR. LANG: Hold --

THE COURT: I sustained, so --

THE WITNESS: Oh, sustained. Sorry. Okay.

BY MR. LANG:

Q What is your endgame with respect to your objection over the authority of Mr. Patrick to enter into the settlement agreement that is subject of the 9019?

A The three charities in the U.S. are affected materially. Dallas Foundation can't make payroll as of October. Dallas Foundation --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, I'll object to this testimony. The Dallas Foundation has withdrawn its objection on behalf of -- Dallas Foundation appearing on behalf of Empower, the Okada Family Foundation, and Crown Global. The Dallas Foundation is no longer a party here and did not even object in its -- an individual capacity. Object.

THE COURT: I sustain the objection. They had an objection. They withdrew it.

Moreover, as I announced early on today, I was really questioning their standing to weigh in.

So in light of all of that, I'm not going to allow

testimony regarding the impact there has been on Dallas Foundation as a result of something Mark Patrick may have done. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Okay. I can answer it differently.

THE COURT: Well, wait for your question. Okay.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Well, what -- what is the --

A What is my goal?

Q Well, yes, what is your goal?

THE COURT: Okay. Yes. Why are you objecting? Why is Dugaboy objecting? How about that?

MR. LANG: Safely.

THE WITNESS: Safely. Without stating where the assets are or might be, they are not with the three charities they were with a year ago. They have zero. And I would like to get those assets back.

(Pause.)

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. I have a couple of questions, but maybe you'll hit on them.

MR. LANG: Oh.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Dondero, are you asking the Court to -- are you objecting to the settlement agreement that is the subject of the 9019, asking the Court to allow the Joint Liquidators in the Caymans to weigh in on the settlement agreement?

A Yes. Or described a little differently, there's no irreparable harm --

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Nonresponsive.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Well, let me ask you this: Are you asking --

THE COURT: Let him answer.

MR. LANG: Yes.

THE COURT: Go ahead and answer.

BY MR. LANG:

Q Go ahead.

A There's no irreparable harm for a bit of delay to get to the bottom of where the assets are and what bad deeds have occurred.

Q Is that the reason why you're objecting, is to delay this for 45 days or so?

A Well, I believe the HMIT million-dollar transaction in February was a steal. I believe it was a stolen asset that he -- Mark Patrick's trying to monetize. And I don't believe it's monetized at nearly its fair value. And so I believe that it needs to be reviewed.

Q Are you asking the Court to -- are you objecting simply to allow the Liquidators in the Caymans time to review this transaction and the settlement agreement?

A Yes. There needs to be more time.

Q Okay.

MR. LANG: I'll pass the witness.

THE COURT: All right. Cross?

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Dondero.

A How's it going?

Q Okay. You referred to the three underlying charities as being The Dallas Foundation, The Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, and The Highland Kansas City Foundation. Do I have that right?

A The three are The Dallas Foundation, Santa Barbara, Kansas City. There's a holding company or there's an entity below it, below each one that I'm on the board of, but it's separate and distinct from the overall charity.

Q Okay. But the ones that are separate and distinct that have the Highland name, --

A Yes.

Q -- those are the ones that you control, correct?

A No. I'm on the board. There's three or four people on the board.

Q Okay. But --

A But we don't control. Otherwise, you know, we would have not recommended the settlement.

Q Does the Hunt family make their contributions to The Dallas Foundation, The Santa Barbara Foundation, and The

Kansas City Foundation, or do they make them to The Highland Dallas Foundation, The Highland Santa Barbara Foundation, and The Highland Kansas City Foundation?

A Most families do it through DAF, so they probably have their own -- they're just involved with Kansas City, as far as I know. I don't know if they're involved in any of these others. But they probably have a Hunt Kansas City.

Q But the ones with the Highland name are the ones who initiated the proceeding in the Cayman Islands to get the Joint Official Liquidators appointed over this entity down there, right?

A Yes, I believe so.

Q And you personally funded that litigation, correct?

A The charities can't make payroll.

Q And the charities, did you tell the charities what's happening here?

A Yes. They're aware.

Q When did you tell the charities what's happening here?

A They've known it for weeks.

Q And they haven't filed any objection in this court, correct?

A They thought it was best for Dallas to file it.

Q And Dallas settled; isn't that right?

A To the surprise of all the other charities.

Q Okay. So today, there's actually no charity who is

objecting to the settlement agreement, correct?
A Because it was -- she got bludgeoned in depositions over the weekend and it happened last night and nobody was aware of it.
Q I didn't bludgeon anybody.
A Well, --
Q I don't bludgeon people.
A She switched course after a Sunday full-day deposition or half-day deposition.
Q Okay. So the charities that you speak of aren't objecting, correct?
A Well, if we had more time. We only had six hours' notice that Dallas fell away. I think they probably would object.
Q And you say -- you began to have concerns about Mark Patrick going all the way back to 2023, right?
A 2023? A little bit, yeah.
Q And then you had real concerns in 2024, right?
A Yeah. I mean, he's an odd duck, but he was really odd towards the end.
Q Did you file a declara... is one of those public documents you mentioned in the Cayman Islands, that's your affidavit, right?
A I believe so.
Q Do you want to grab Binder 3 of 3?
A Sure.

Q And turn to Exhibit 119?
A Yes.
Q Okay. And this is the declara... this is the affidavit that you filed in the Cayman Islands?
A Yes.
Q And if you turn to Page 4, in Paragraph 25 you begin to recite events concerning Mark Patrick that concerned you, correct?
A Yes. I'm glad you're bringing this into evidence.
Q Yes. And in the two years since you started having concerns, has anybody sued Mark Patrick for breach of fiduciary duty?
A No.
Q Have you recommended to any of these charities: Mark Patrick is doing wrong, let's go sue him?
A We were unaware on 90 percent of it until he left.
Q You were aware of everything that's in your declaration. It says in 2023, you have notice of these emails. Right? And you did an investigation in 2024, correct?
A Yes. But it took a while to get the affidavits from third parties.
Q You had the whole investigation done in 2024 and nobody sued Mark Patrick, right?
A We didn't sue him. Correct.
Q You're just mad that you lost control. Isn't that right?

A No.
Q Turn to Paragraph 33, please. You accuse Mr. Patrick of misusing material nonpublic inside information. Is that right?
A Yes.
Q What material nonpublic inside information did he abuse?
A I wasn't involved in the specifics. My understanding is that he had an awareness of a tender or some financial transaction and then was providing inside information to attorneys and then had them do something. But I don't -- I don't know the specifics.
Q Sir, under oath, in this affidavit that you submitted to the Cayman Islands, you accuse Mark Patrick of obtaining and abusing material nonpublic inside information. Can you just tell Judge Jernigan what you had in mind?
A Whatever it says I have in mind. I'm just saying I didn't remember the specifics. I can read it, though, if you'd like me to read it.
Q Well, was it something about a put option?
A Yes.
Q Did he tell The Dallas Foundation that it had a put option? Does that refresh your recollection?
A I don't remember the details.
Q Do you remember who the counterparty was to the put option?

A Counterparty. One of the mutual funds.
Q Does it refresh your recollection that it was the Dugaboy?
A No.
Q Do you remember, sir?
A I don't remember.
Q I'm going to try. I'm going to try and refresh your recollection. Do you remember that Mark Patrick suggested to The Dallas Foundation that it could recover millions of dollars if it simply exercised the put option with Dugaboy?
A My recollection is it was a mutual fund, and it wasn't millions of dollars, but it would disrupt the transaction that was already in place. That's my recollection.
Q Okay.
A And I don't see Dugaboy anywhere in here, by the way.
Q I know. I was wondering if you could just -- I asked you, but it doesn't sound like you know specifically what the material nonpublic --
A Well, --
Q -- inside information is that you accused Mr. Patrick of abusing at that time.
A I know it's been reported. We can get you the details.
Q Okay. You, in fact, acted on behalf of HMIT, didn't you?
A Who is HMIT?
Q Apologies. You personally -- there's no question in your mind that Mark Patrick is the Administrator at HMIT, correct?

A I'm sorry, I'm drawing a blank on HMIT. What is HMIT?
Q I apologize. Hunter Mountain Investment Trust.
A Oh. Okay.
Q I'm calling it HMIT.
A Okay. All right. Sorry.
Q I probably not saying it clearly. I apologize. H-M-I-T. HMIT, that's what I call it. Is there something better that you prefer?
A No, that's fine. Yeah.
Q Okay. So HMIT. Mark Patrick is the Administrator at HMIT, right?
A I believe his status, his dirty hands, I believe he's trying to monetize a stolen asset.
MR. PHILLIPS: Objection, Your Honor. Nonresponsive.
THE COURT: Sustained.
THE WITNESS: No, I -- I saw it. I don't agree --
MR. PHILLIPS: Objection, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Sustained.
MR. PHILLIPS: Move to strike.
THE COURT: Granted.
THE WITNESS: I do not agree.
BY MR. MORRIS:
Q Okay. Has he -- he was at one time the Administrator. You would agree with that, right?
A Yes.

Q And did he stop becoming the Administrator in your mind when the Joint Official Liquidators were appointed?
A Yes. I believe.
Q Okay. So, in your mind, that's when it happened?
Can you describe for the Court the relationship between the entity in the Cayman Islands and HMIT?
A The entity in the Cayman Island, as far as we knew, was the org structure that all the assets were either in or controlled by in the organizational structure before all the HGEQ things that you went over earlier with Mark Patrick.
Q Okay. I'm not asking -- it's my fault. Do you believe the entity in the Cayman Islands controls HMIT?
A HMIT was one of the assets that were owned by the charities until it was moved for a million dollar to who know who.
Q And do you know how many layers there are between the Cayman Islands entity and HMIT?
A I do not.
Q Is it fair to -- in your view, do you believe that the Cayman Islands entity had a direct -- withdrawn. Do you believe that the Cayman Islands entity had an indirect ownership interest in HMIT?
A We believed it was direct.
Q Direct. So it was the owner?
A Well, it was -- it was the direct before it got moved in

February.
Q Hasn't Beacon always been the owner of -- the beneficial owner of HMIT?
A Then it was Beacon that was moved. There was -- charities were notified in February that, for $1 million, the HMIT was sold to an undisclosed, unknown person.
Q Do you believe that the entity in the Cayman Islands ever had the ability to control Hunter Mountain Investment Trust?
A Yeah. It was an asset in the portfolio.
Q And do you believe that that gives it the right to control HMIT?
A Yes. I think the Liquidators will prove that. I think they can go back in time on bad acts and bad behavior and they can regroup assets to their rightful owners.
Q So your concern here is not with corporate authority, it's with the bad acts. Is that fair?
A Well, no. I think you lose your corporate authority when you're fiducially irresponsible or commit corporate crimes.
Q Okay. But you've never -- you've never brought a lawsuit accusing him of that. Fair?
A I think you'll see a litany of stuff come out of the Cayman Islands.
MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Nonresponsive.
MR. MORRIS: I'm sure we might someday.
THE COURT: Sustained.

THE WITNESS: Yeah. But, no. But I have not, no.

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Yeah. But you personally, have you ever been the Administrator of Hunter Mountain Investment Trust?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Have you ever had any role whatsoever with respect to the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust?

A Not that I -- not that I recall.

Q Okay. Do you recall last December we were here on some litigation concerning HCLOM's scheduled claim?

A You have to give me more of a clue.

Q Remember HCLOM had that $10 million scheduled claim and Highland had filed a bad faith motion and we were all here in court and we wound up settling that matter and HCLOM got a Class 10 interest for $10 million?

A Yes, I vaguely remember that.

Q Okay. And you were here and you were representing HCLOM, right?

A Okay. I don't remember specifics, but, yes, go ahead.

Q Okay. And do you recall that Highland required Hunter Mountain Investment Trust's consent as part of the transaction?

A Vaguely.

Q And you personally authorized that consent back in December, didn't you?

A No.
Q Who did?
A Whoever would have spoke for HMIT at the time.
Q Okay. Let's take a look at Exhibit 68, please.
A So, Binder 2?
Q Yes, please.
A Sorry, this says Pat Daugherty. This is 1 of 3. This one. Okay. Did you say 68?
Q Yes.
A It's not in here, either. 68.
Q So you see that's an order of the Court?
A Yes.
Q And this resolves HCLOM's claim? Take your time.
A I'll leave it in case someone else needs it. Okay.
Q And do you see on the last page of the document there's an electronic signature by Deborah Deitsch-Perez at the Stinson firm as counsel for Hunter Mountain Investment Trust and Dugaboy Investment Trust? Do you see that?
A I'm sorry. I went to the very last page with Mark and I. Is there another page? Oh, okay. Yes. Okay.
Q So you see Stinson has signed both on behalf of you personally and HCLOM, and at the bottom, Stinson and Ms. Deitsch-Perez has also signed on behalf of Hunter Mountain Investment Trust and the Dugaboy Investment Trust? Do you see that?

A Yes. But then it's separate on 69, right?
Q Yeah. We're just looking at 68.
A Okay.
Q Do you know who authorized Ms. Deitsch-Perez to sign her name and tell the Court that the Dugaboy Investment Trust had approved this form of order both as to form and substance? Who acted on behalf of Dugaboy?
A I have no idea. I hope she keeps it straight when she's signing stuff.
Q Well, on whose behalf are you here today?
A Dugaboy's.
Q And are you a representative of Dugaboy?
A Representative? I'm primary beneficiary until I pass.
Q And who's the trustee of Dugaboy?
A I believe it's my sister at the moment.
Q Does she know you're here today testifying on behalf of Dugaboy?
A She knows I'm in court. I didn't -- I wasn't specific.
Q Did you talk to her about the Dugaboy -- does she -- does she even know about the Dugaboy objection?
A I don't know.
Q Okay. So how about Hunter Mountain Investment Trust? Do you know who authorized Ms. Deitsch-Perez to sign this document on behalf of Hunter Mountain Investment Trust?
A When was this? In December or January?

Q Yeah.
A I'm assuming -- I'm assuming Mark Patrick.
Q Late December.
A I'm assuming Mark Patrick. But I don't know.
Q Did you hear about a week later that Mr. Phillips called your lawyer and accused her of signing this document without authority from Hunter Mountain Investment Trust's authorized representative, Mr. Patrick?
A In hindsight, he's been in on it for a while, so --
Q What do you mean, he's been in on it for a while?
A I think he knows the plan Mark Patrick's been putting in place for quite a while.
Q But this document was signed without his knowledge or consent; isn't that right?
A I don't know.
Q And you had to sign a new agreement with Mark Patrick as the authorized representative of HMIT. Didn't you do that, sir?
A I don't know.
Q Okay. Let's take a look at guess I guess probably Exhibit 69. So this is an intercreditor and participation agreement. Do you see that?
A Yes.
Q And it's dated January 10th, 2025, correct?
A Yes.

Q And even though you -- even though Skyview had completed this investigation in which it was alleged that Mr. Patrick misused material nonpublic inside information and he had terminated his relationship with Skyview, you still entered into this agreement with him as the authorized representative of HMIT, correct?

A Those were different work streams, you know, so they were -- but yes.

MR. PHILLIPS: Objection. Nonresponsive.

THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q That is -- that is your signature on the last page, correct?

A Yeah. I mean, --

Q It's a simple question. That's your signature, right?

A Yes.

Q And you understood that you were signing an agreement with Mark Patrick, correct?

A Yes.

Q And you signed this agreement in order to avoid Mr. Phillips filing a motion in this court for reconsideration of an order that she signed not knowing that Hunter Mountain had given its consent without authority. Isn't that right?

A No, I had no -- none of that --

Q So what's your memory? Why do you think you entered into

this agreement?
A Because the lawyers put it in front of me as a finished product from what had been going on recently.
Q And you had no understanding of what it was?
A Not with the innuendo and agenda that you were describing. No. I mean, I just -- I knew what it generally involved. That's it.
Q But you would agree with me that you entered into an agreement knowing that Mark Patrick was signing on behalf of Hunter Mountain, correct?
A Yes.
Q I mean, it's right below your name, right?
A Yes.
Q You couldn't have missed it.
A Yes. That part, I'll agree with.
Q Okay. And you signed the agreement with Mark acting as the authorized agent and representative of Hunter Mountain, notwithstanding all of the bad acts that you supposedly were aware of at the time. Correct?
A Object to aware of at the time. They were all coming together in parallel work paths.
THE COURT: Okay.
MR. PHILLIPS: Object. Nonresponsive.
THE COURT: Sustained. Like I told Mr. Patrick, the witness does not get to object.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q And just to close the loop, Mr. Dondero, you fully funded The Dallas Foundation's objection, correct?

A And I made additional donations so that they could pursue bad actors and get their money back.

Q You funded the litigation so that The Dallas Foundation could pursue their objection, correct?

A I made additional donations so that they could get some assets back so that they could be a charity again and make donations.

Q Do you get a tax deduction for that donation?

A Yes.

Q Okay. That's nice.

Let's just finish up with the Joint Official Liquidators. Have you spoken to them?

A I do not believe so.

Q Has anybody acting on your behalf spoken with the Joint Official Liquidators?

A I don't know. I think the Joint Official Liquidators are an accounting firm. I think they're Grant Thornton. I think people have spoken to the attorneys down there, but I don't know -- I haven't spoken to Grant Thornton and I don't know if anybody else has.

Q Okay. Did you see the letter that your counsel marked as

the exhibit, the one that was sent last night?
A I've not heard it -- I've not read it, but I've heard you guys read it today.
Q Yeah. Are you aware of the Joint Official Liquidators saying at any time that they didn't believe Mark Patrick had the authority to enter into the settlement agreement on behalf of the HMIT entities?
A I have not.
Q Okay.
MR. MORRIS: No further questions, Your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Mr. Phillips?
MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah.
THE COURT: Wait. What are we at timewise?
THE CLERK: So their 30 minutes is over. If you intended to give them 30 minutes for Patrick and --
THE COURT: Yes. Yes. They collectively got 30 minutes.
THE CLERK: For both of those --
THE COURT: Yes.
THE CLERK: -- witnesses. Okay. Yes, they're out.
THE COURT: How much did Mr. Morris use?
THE CLERK: Well, I don't know. I just was --
THE COURT: No, no, no, no. 30 minutes for each side for each Patrick and Dondero.
MR. MORRIS: About eight minutes.

THE CLERK: Yes. Mr. Morris -- I think Mr. Phillips may have asked one question, but Mr. Morris mostly -- 30 minutes.

THE COURT: No. On this witness, Phillips hadn't gone.

THE CLERK: No, not this witness.

THE COURT: Okay. That's all I care about, this witness.

THE CLERK: I don't know this witness.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you have a question, Mr. Phillips?

THE CLERK: I was doing 30 minutes for the total.

THE COURT: No, no, no, no, no.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, I can resolve this. I can resolve this. We have no questions.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Where are we? Mr. Lang, any redirect?

MR. LANG: I'm not sure.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: The last one.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, the witness is telling the lawyer what question to ask.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LANG: I believe I've already asked, which is the endgame.

THE COURT: Okay. Just let's move on. Anything else? What was the question?

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. LANG:

Q Mr. Dondero, what are you looking to accomplish through this objection?

MR. PHILLIPS: Asked and answered.

THE COURT: Sustained. Sustained. He did. He was asked and answered.

BY MR. LANG:

Q The endgame in general.

MR. PHILLIPS: Asked and answered.

THE COURT: Answered and answered. Move on.

THE WITNESS: No, no. No, I haven't. No, I --

MR. PHILLIPS: Asked and answered. Move to strike.

THE COURT: You asked him this on your direct earlier.

MR. LANG: I did.

THE WITNESS: But, in general, regarding the --

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

THE WITNESS: Not just this.

THE COURT: Sustained. Ask another question.

MR. LANG: I don't have any more questions.

THE COURT: Okay. I have a question.

EXAMINATION BY THE COURT

THE COURT: Here is something that I want to understand. What I have before me is whether a settlement with Hunter Mountain, a settlement between the Highland entities, the Claimant Trust, the Subtrusts, and the Hunter Mountain entities, seven of them, is fair and equitable, is in the best interest of the estate. If you were the director, the manager, the representative of Hunter Mountain estate, what would your answer be?

THE WITNESS: It's not in the ZIP Code.

THE COURT: It's not in the ZIP Code?

THE WITNESS: Of fair. Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Why do you think it's not in the ZIP Code of fair?

THE WITNESS: Okay. We filed in Delaware on a $100 million judgment. Pachulski was our counsel. They told us --

THE COURT: I know all this.

THE WITNESS: It just --

THE COURT: I'm talking about the settlement in front of me right now.

THE WITNESS: -- we'd be in and out in three months, right? We got liquidated instead. We got liquidated for over $850 million, which not enough people talk about. Okay? It would've been $950 million if Seery had done a good job, but it was $850 million we got liquidated for. Okay? The POCs were pumped up. People who supposedly had no claim, all of a

sudden, $300 million.

There's $700 million missing or misallocated from the estate. Okay? There was -- all the original creditors, all the original creditors sold 99 percent of their interest for $160 million. The Farallon and Stonehill went to the beach. There was enough money on the balance sheet. Seery could have given them the $160 million and tossed us the keys. Instead, he had relations, deep relations, undisclosed business relationships with Farallon and Stonehill, --

THE COURT: Okay. I do want you to know --

THE WITNESS: No, but --

THE COURT: -- I've read all this many times.

THE WITNESS: Okay. But so -- so these --

THE COURT: I promise I read every piece of paper submitted.

THE WITNESS: Okay. So, so he sold the POCs to them, and it's been -- they've tripled their money in two and a half years. The professional fees have been $300-odd million. There's interrelationships between all the professionals -- Farallon, Stonehill, Grosvenor, the Hellman & Friedman guys, the Millennium guys who took whatever. All this stuff has to come out.

We're on the edge of a giant RICO case eventually. We're -- that's -- we're on the edge of a giant RICO case. And they should not be giving up their rights for $10, $20 million.

It's crazy for them to give up their rights at Dallas Foundation for 10 or 20 million bucks.

There's $700 million missing. All the original creditors sold for $160 million. The estate was sold for over $850 million. Where'd all the money go? Where'd all the money go and why? You know.

We get updates quarterly, once in a while, well, this much went out to this law firm, this much went out to this, whatever, but no one looks at the gross amount and where'd all the money go? And why? Why did it have to -- why did it have to go down like that? Why do we have to fire --

THE COURT: Okay. I know you have an objection.

THE WITNESS: -- all the employees?

THE COURT: This is narrative.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah. And --

THE COURT: I understand all --

MR. MORRIS: -- I'm not going to cross-examine him, but this is -- this is not accurate.

THE COURT: I understand all of these arguments. You know, I --

THE WITNESS: But I'm just --

THE COURT: Your lawyers at least know, if you don't know, that we wrote a 100-plus-page opinion on the motion of Hunter Mountain to sue for all of this. Okay? So I promise I've heard this and looked at it. But right now, Hunter

Mountain, through Mark Patrick, you question his authority, but they are ready to lay down their swords and not pursue that motion for leave to sue based on the claims trading, and --

THE WITNESS: Have you seen all the insider trading, Farallon, Stonehill? Have you seen the trading and claims on insider information? Have you seen all that stuff?

THE COURT: I've seen the allegations but I --

THE WITNESS: Well, why would you release all those people right now before the RICO?

THE COURT: So I -- Dugaboy -- you've been asked what is your goal? Dugaboy a .18 limited partnership interest --

THE WITNESS: Correct.

THE COURT: -- that is subordinated to Hunter Mountain. I'm just trying to understand the scenario where it makes sense to keep fighting for years to come.

THE WITNESS: Well, RICO transcends this, right? I mean, RICO brings everybody in. Until we get --

THE COURT: Okay. You think it's -- and my question, why is this not fair and equitable and in the best interest of the estate, you think it's better to litigate several more years and maybe have a chance, you know, --

THE WITNESS: At $600 mill. At $600 million.

THE COURT: -- Hunter Mountain would have a chance to --

THE WITNESS: $600 million. Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE WITNESS: Versus $20 million now. But you have to remember, it's all part of -- you have to pay attention to this Mark Patrick stuff.

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor?

THE COURT: Okay. Yes. I asked my question. I'm trying to understand why Dugaboy, why its position is this is not fair and equitable and in the best interest and in the range of reasonableness. Those are the buzz words that a judge has to focus on.

THE WITNESS: It's not fair to the charities. I still think no one's ever seen --

THE COURT: The charities aren't parties here.

THE WITNESS: Not yet. Give them a little time. They just heard about the settlement yesterday.

THE COURT: Well, isn't that what the Cayman Islands is all about? What I do doesn't necessarily affect what's happening there.

THE WITNESS: Well, no, but you're saying they're not here today. If you delayed this three weeks, they'd be here. It's just a couple --

THE COURT: They were here and they chose to withdraw.

THE WITNESS: One. One. Just one charity. But the

others, if you give them some time, they'll be here.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay. I think you've answered my question, your theory of how this should play out and how you want it to play out. Okay. All right.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE COURT: That's all. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you for the time.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

(The witness steps down.)

THE COURT: All right. I think that concludes our evidence, correct?

MR. YORK: Yes, Your Honor. At least from Daugherty and --

THE COURT: Okay. The Objectors rest. Any rebuttal?

MR. PHILLIPS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. YORK: Your Honor, would it be okay if we took a five-minute comfort break?

THE COURT: Yes. We may as well turn it into a 10-minute break because that's what's going to happen. All right. We'll be back at 3:40.

THE CLERK: All rise.

(A recess ensued from 3:30 p.m. until 3:44 p.m.)

THE CLERK: All rise.

THE COURT: Please be seated. We're back on the

record in Highland Capital. I will hear closing arguments. And I dangled something out there before lunch and I've never heard any follow-up. I guess no agreement with Daugherty could be reached on the reserve?

MR. YORK: Haven't had that conversation, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You didn't have that conversation? Oh, well. Why didn't you have that conversation?

MR. YORK: We were, during the lunch break, working busily to prepare the rebuttal to Mr. Seery's testimony, --

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

MR. YORK: -- Your Honor. And so --

THE COURT: Okay. You told me you'd talk about it.

MR. MORRIS: May I proceed, Your Honor?

THE COURT: I guess I don't matter. Do I not matter when I suggest something like that?

Okay. Go ahead.

CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANT TRUST

MR. MORRIS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. John Morris; Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl & Jones; for Highland Capital Management, LP and the Highland Claimant Trust and on behalf of the Highland Litigation Subtrust.

I know that we've got Bob Loigman in the courtroom, but I know that -- at least I hope he joins me in this closing argument. I suspect he does.

I don't want to be too long here, Your Honor. We don't

have a high burden. This is a 9019 motion, for goodness' sakes. I've never been involved in such a contentious 9019 motion in my life. We had three depositions on Friday. We had two on Sunday. I think we had two on Monday. For a 9019, I've had one witness sit multiple times.

It's been an extraordinary experience. But at the end of the day, nobody's really challenging the settlement agreement. You've got people challenging, you know, the Cayman Islands. You've got people challenging, is it -- you know, can you jam it in under the plan? We're not jamming anything under the plan. We're following the plan provisions.

Nobody's challenging the bona fides of the motion. Nobody is challenging whether it's the product of good-faith, arm's-length negotiations.

You heard Mr. Seery testify at length about the process. You've got 55 different documents in the record proving that this agreement is the product of arm's-length, good-faith negotiations between parties represented by sophisticated counsel that resulted from an exchange of information, an exchange of proposals, back and forth, and here we are.

It's also in the best interests of the estate. Really not challenged by anybody. Nobody is contending that Highland is getting a raw deal here. Nobody. And the proof that Highland is getting fair consideration and that this settlement is in the best interest of the Claimant Trust and its stakeholders,

it's obvious we are terminating costly, wasteful, and I dare say frivolous litigation. We are disposing of several illiquid assets. We are getting litigation protections that will inure to the benefit of the released parties, the Highland release parties and it will, we believe, provide the protection that we deserve.

It's not just releases. It's covenants not to sue. It's all kinds of bells and whistles in there. Substantial benefits to the estate. And so nobody's really objecting to that.

Nobody's really objecting to the fairness of the settlement to the HMIT parties except for Mr. Dondero, and he's just mad that peace is breaking out. He's just mad because he's not going to be able to litigate anymore. It's not relevant to a 9019 motion. But even if it was, it's ridiculous. It's just ridiculous.

The settlement is fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the creditors. It's the product of good-faith, arm's-length negotiations. And on that alone, it should be approved.

We've had a lot of testimony today about Mark Patrick's authority. The only actual evidence that concerns Mark Patrick's authority are the exhibits in the binder and Jim Seery's testimony about the diligence that he did. And the exhibits in the binder all prove that Mark Patrick has the

authority to act and bind the HMIT entities to the settlement agreement. It's Paragraph 7 of the HMIT trust agreement itself.

Did the objecting parties point you to one single document to support their speculative argument, because it's not anything more than that, that somehow Mark Patrick isn't authorized to do this? There is not a scintilla of evidence that Mark Patrick is not authorized to do this.

And if Your Honor had any concerns about Mr. Patrick, I think he answered them at the end. That he understood exactly what the terms of the agreement are. That he had a reasonable opportunity to consult with counsel and to negotiate. That he knows exactly what he's doing on behalf of these entities. That he believes the best path forward from the HMIT entities is to grab the value today instead of letting it waste.

We welcome Mr. Patrick to the table. It makes a lot of sense. We've been trying to get to this point forever.

Mr. Daugherty. You know, I have no gripes with Mr. Daugherty. I don't know quite what's motivating him these days, but he admitted and the evidence is clear that when he was a Class 9 claim holder, I forget if it's two or three or four occasions, he accepted $3.7 million in multiple payments, without any concern at all as to whether or not it violated the plan, even though his Class 8 claim had remained unresolved.

He didn't send the money back. He didn't say, Mr. Seery, you can't do this because it violates the plan. He knowingly and willingly accepted the benefits of being a Class 9 claim holder. And now he comes and objects on the basis that somehow it's not fair to him as a Class 8 holder? This is what we call estoppel. Right?

I wasn't in a position to really make the argument because I didn't quite understand it until today. Like, how does he come in today and say you can't do this, Your Honor? You can't allow Class 9 and 10 to get a nickel until he's done, when he himself has accepted millions of dollars before his claim is resolved? That doesn't sound right to me. And I don't think the Court should accept that argument.

Just quickly, because I don't want to give it any weight, frankly, but this whole business of the Cayman Islands and the JOLs, the only facts Your Honor has to take into account are that they were appointed before this motion was filed. They've never appeared here. They've never objected. And there is no evidence in the record to suggest, let alone to prove, that the JOLs contend that Mark Patrick does not have the authority to enter into the settlement on behalf of the HMIT entities. There's no evidence of any kind.

What you need to know and need to remember, though, is that whole proceeding in the Cayman Islands is being brought on behalf of not The Kansas City Foundation or The Dallas

Foundation, but The Highland Kansas City Foundation, The Highland Dallas. It's Mr. Dondero, and he's funding it, and it says it in Paragraph I think 47 or 48 of his declaration. He's funding all of that. And he funded The Dallas Foundation's objection here.

And that's why he's upset, because they settled last night without telling him because they didn't want any part of this, Your Honor. That's the truth. That's why they're not here. And they, right, they're the people who suggested that maybe something untoward happened and maybe someday -- because this is the way their objection is characterized. Complete speculation.

If you go back and look at the objection, it's someday, somebody might do something and might someday set it aside. That wasn't a proper basis at the time, but we know that Mark Patrick remains in control of the HMIT entities today because nobody has told the Court otherwise. And we know that The Dallas Foundation has withdrawn its objection. As I asked Mr. Patrick, have you been, you know, removed or clipped or terminated or in any way restricted in your capacity as the Administrator and control person of the HMIT entities as a result of the settlement, and the answer was no.

There's nothing to see here, Your Honor, except the opportunity for the Highland Claimant Trust and its affiliated entities in moving this case forward in an enormously positive

and constructive direction.

We have the opportunity today to put to rest a lot of pending litigation. We have the opportunity today to put to rest a lot of future potential litigation that undoubtedly would have come to pass had these entities remained under the indirect control of Mr. Dondero, because we know that that was the case.

If you remember, Your Honor, we sat here two years ago, June 8th, 2023, on the evidentiary hearing on Hunter Mountain's motion for leave to bring the claims trading case. And if Your Honor will remember, Mr. Patrick at that time was forced to admit that the entirety of that case came in from Mr. Dondero, that he had no knowledge of any facts that related to anything.

I would ask Your Honor to go and compare The Dallas Foundation's objection with Mr. Dondero's declaration that he filed in the Cayman Islands. I'm not going to say they're verbatim, but they are largely, largely the same. This is just Jim Dondero being Jim Dondero, and that is not a basis to overrule or deny the motion under Rule 9019.

It's a product of good faith negotiations, it is clearly in the best interests of the estate, and we respectfully request that as soon as possible Your Honor grant motion.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Any closing from the Movant, Co-Movant?

MR. PHILLIPS: Your Honor, thank you very much. Louis M. Phillips on behalf of the --

THE COURT: I don't know if you're the Co-Movant. You're a party to the proposed settlement.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm not a Co-Movant.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm a party to the settlement.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. PHILLIPS: I didn't quite make it to that status to be a Co-Movant.

CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HUNTER MOUNTAIN ENTITIES

MR. PHILLIPS: But anyway, we appreciate the Court's time. We appreciate the Court's attention. This was, as the evidence established, we provided and were provided an immense amount of information.

Much of the information, certainly the information about Mr. Patrick's control of the HMIT entities, was provided by us. It was reviewed by Mr. Seery. And Mr. Seery made a very strong case for the amount of diligence he did on our side of the equation. It's not nearly as relevant to Your Honor's decision about whether to approve the settlement whether we got a good deal or not, but the deal we got, we think, is very fair.

The deal we got was negotiated with counsel, with

businesspeople who are very sophisticated. We have agreed on the methodology and of the calculation of our Class 10 claim. The Debtor and the Debtor estate or the Claimant Trust or whoever held the HMIT note got full value for the HMIT note. Any additional value from the HMIT note would come back to HMIT. The Kirschner Litigation would be for the benefit of HMIT. The Dugaboy Note would be for the benefit of HMIT.

All of that is being put into a package and is being resolved, affiliated, administered in a very effective and efficient manner. We are getting some money. We appreciate. We tried to get more. We couldn't. They tried to pay less. We made a deal.

So, Your Honor, I echo and thank Mr. Morris for all of his comments. I appreciate counsel being involved here today. We think this is a fair and equitable settlement. There is no question under 9019 that this settlement should be approved. And the suggestion that this Court should allow itself to just be a vehicle for continued litigation, when we have analyzed it, perhaps from a different perspective, and made the decision that it is time to make our deal now, it is time to take HMIT out of the litigation picture and into the fold of a party in interest of a fixed claim with fixed treatment that's different from the plan, authorized by the plan. And we appreciate it.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right. Mr. Loigman, we didn't mean to ignore you.

CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF MARC S. KIRSCHNER, LITIGATION TRUSTEE

MR. LOIGMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. Robert Loigman, Quinn Emanuel. You didn't ignore me. Louis was just quicker to jump up than I was.

And I step up solely because you asked whether the Co-Movant had anything to add. And we have nothing further to add to what Mr. Morris said. We agree with it wholly. We think this is a fair and complete settlement, and we would ask that the Court approve the settlement under the 9019 motion.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. LOIGMAN: Thank You, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. The Objectors?

MR. MORRIS: Your Honor?

THE COURT: Oh.

MR. MORRIS: Just to clarify, the motion was made under 9019 and Section 363. I just don't want that to get lost. That's all.

THE COURT: Okay. 363, use of property. Okay.

The Objectors?

CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF PATRICK DAUGHERTY

MR. YORK: Thank you, Your Honor. I'll be very brief.

I certainly appreciate that the Court desires to have this bankruptcy wrapped up, given how long it's gone on now, for six -- approximately six years in this court. The fact of the matter is that the settlement agreement that Highland proposes to enter into with Hunter Mountain Investment Trust entities violates the express terms of the plan, the confirmation order, and the Claimant Trust Agreement.

And they have not pointed to any language in there or to argue otherwise. Their only argument has been that they've set a reserve aside. And there's no provision in any of those documents that provides that that's an excuse for them to violate the express terms of the confirmation order, the plan, or the Claimant Trust Agreement, including specifically the language that Class 10 claims are not to receive or retain anything under the plan on account of their interest unless and until the Class 8 and Class 9 claims are paid in full plus applicable interest. And --

THE COURT: I really want to understand that argument. Mr. Seery correctly testified that, pretty much in every Chapter 11 plan we see, there's a disputed claim reserve. Well, I guess unless we have really unsophisticated creditors who don't insist on that. But we had sophisticated creditors. So why doesn't that mechanism, which I would call tried and true, we see it in most cases, why doesn't that resolve this issue you're raising?

MR. YORK: Well, --

THE COURT: And I focused in more than maybe I needed to about the nature of Mr. Daugherty's remaining claim, his Class 8 claim. What was the scope? What's the maximum amount it could be? When might it be resolved? Because I think we have a tried-and-true mechanism that addresses his concerns. Tell me why it doesn't.

MR. YORK: Well, --

THE COURT: Really, I want to understand what you think I'm missing.

MR. YORK: Well, so I think twofold, Your Honor. The first is that the dispute reserve that exists normally would be for whatever the amount of the disputed claim is. And here we're dealing with, as both sides have acknowledged, a claim that they at best could estimate, but they don't know for certain, given all of the machinations that could come out of the IRS audit.

And secondly, specifically with respect to the confirmation order, if it had said that the net 10 and 11 claims could be paid as long as the allowed 8 and 9 claims were paid, then the dispute reserve would provide that protection. But that's not what the language in the confirmation order says. It says claims, not allowed claims. And therefore it's referring to all claims, including disputed claims. And --

THE COURT: But we have a disputed claim reserve. Okay. We have a disputed claim reserve.

MR. YORK: There is, yes, there is a reserve.

THE COURT: So is it your argument that I can't approve a settlement like this until Mr. Daugherty's claim has been resolved with certainty, which might be in 2033 or whatever? I can't keep a bankruptcy estate open, allowing administrative expenses to continue to accrue, because of one contingent unliquidated claim that may never even develop.

MR. YORK: Your Honor, I appreciate the Court's frustration with that, but that's the way that the documents are written in terms of the confirmation order. And so it's an --

THE COURT: So the disputed claim reserve is meaningless?

MR. YORK: No, it is not -- a disputed claim reserve exists, but it does not, under the terms of the confirmation order, in terms of allowing the payment of Class 10 and Class 11 claims, those can't be done until the Class 8 claims are resolved.

THE COURT: You would have -- just a moment -- you would have me keep this estate open for as long as it takes, 2033, whatever, without allowing Class 10 and Class 11 theoretically to get anything?

MR. YORK: At least under --

THE COURT: Let's just let the -- with all respect to Mr. Seery, he's charging a handsome amount. It was agreed to or approved by the Court. Let's just let him continue accruing until 2033 because of Mr. Daugherty's prospect of the IRS saying you owe $1.4 million plus interest and penalties, when he's gotten the use of that all? Help me. This doesn't make sense to me.

MR. YORK: Sure. One way this could be solved is that the payments to -- the cash payments, for example, that are to be made to the HMIT entities, under the proposed settlement could be held in abeyance until the resolution of the Class 8 claim. The Court could modify the proposed settlement based on that. That's one way to deal with the issue, for example.

THE COURT: Do what? Hold it in abeyance?

MR. YORK: Yes. For -- the payments to be made to the Hunter Mountain Investment Trust under the proposed settlement could be -- could be done in accordance with the terms of the confirmation order. We'll just hold those payments until such time.

THE COURT: We who? Put it in the Court Registry?

MR. YORK: Or --

THE COURT: Where it will earn 0.18 percent?

MR. YORK: No. No. It can remain within the Claimant Trust until the time at which the Class 8 claim is

finally and fully resolved.

THE COURT: Okay. Meanwhile, I've approved the extension of the Trusts for one year, with Dugaboy saying, we don't think this should happen again and again and again. We reserve our rights. That's not a good solution.

MR. YORK: Your Honor, I understand the Court's frustration, but this is the terms of the plan and the confirmation order that were entered. Highland needs to follow it.

THE COURT: Okay. What about the estoppel argument that I heard Mr. Morris make?

MR. YORK: Well, sure. So, the first time they raise it is here today. And the one thing that -- the difference is that allowing this settlement to go forward is an effective liquidation of the estate versus where things are now, in which any payments that were made is not an effective liquidation. It doesn't expose anyone that would have priority to Class 10 with respect to anything that happens in the future from, you know, not having sufficient funds to deal with it. That's all.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. YORK: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right. Mr. Lang?

CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF DUGABOY INVESTMENT TRUST

MR. LANG: I'll be brief. Your Honor, there are

three issues that we've raised. One is the capital account balance being used for the claim for the Class 10 holders. The plan does not specify that the capital account balance is to be used. Allowing the $336 million claim to Class 10 ensures that Class 11 will not ever receive a dime. That's guaranteed.

Alternatively, upon the satisfaction of the Class 9, the $20 million approximately owed to Class 9, the holders of HMIT should receive 99.5 percent of the total residual. We think that would be a more fair outcome to the Class 11 claimants.

THE COURT: Wait, say again?

MR. LANG: That, so, of total assets, $70 million approximately, $20 million is owed to Class 9.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. LANG: Of the remainder from that, HMIT should receive 99.5 percent of those assets, whatever they are, the value, rather than a $336 million claim. That was the objection.

THE COURT: But I didn't get any evidence of a separate way of competing -- of doing that. I heard credible testimony from Mr. Seery about why he used the math he used and I didn't hear any countervailing evidence of, wait, this is a more fair, realistic way of computing it. And what I did hear is the .5 percent limited partnership interest of Dugaboy is subordinated in its payment rights under the limited

partnership agreement of Highland.

MR. LANG: It's subordinated under the plan, but yes, the plan does not say to use --

THE COURT: Under the partnership agreement is the reason the plan did it, is what I've been presented.

MR. LANG: I believe Mr. Seery -- and I could be wrong -- I think I heard him say that he has used the other method, but I could have misheard him in the testimony.

THE COURT: Well, that's not what I heard. I heard him emphasizing the fact that the Class 8 interests, including that of Dugaboy, are subordinated with regard to payment rights under the Highland partnership agreement. And so that's why he didn't think it made sense to just apply percentages.

MR. LANG: That's what he testified to.

THE COURT: So I'm just -- anyway, I'm just trying to figure out what the countervailing evidence is here to suggest his methodology is wrong.

MR. LANG: I believe the partner -- or, the plan says that the Class 10, when the GUC certification is a Class 10, and the Class 11 received pro rata, it doesn't specify the account balance is to be used as the number to determine what they receive.

THE COURT: Okay. You want to point out what you are focused on?

MR. LANG: I believe it's under Treatment.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LANG: Section --

THE COURT: I don't want to hunt. I want you to tell me what the language is that you think is supportive of that.

MR. LANG: And the second -- I guess the secondary issue that we probably should just get to is the release. We think it's broad, and just Dugaboy and Dondero are carved out. And Mr. Morris did send me a proposal last -- yesterday evening that I haven't gotten to. But that is an objection that we have, is just to make sure that the -- that nobody can argue that the release covers any claim Dugaboy might have, if any.

THE COURT: Okay. I think many hours ago I remember this being mentioned. I guess it was a little bit more broad than just -- I think it was Highland employees. I don't know.

What is the agreement, Mr. Morris, if you're awake there, on --

MR. MORRIS: I am awake, Your Honor. Apologies.

THE COURT: Okay. I didn't mean to be flippant.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: I get punchy and --

MR. MORRIS: That's okay. With respect to the release?

THE COURT: Right.

MR. MORRIS: We don't have an agreement. We have an agreement -- well, I sent a proposal last night, but it didn't get responded to. If they want to accept that proposal, that's terrific.

THE COURT: Okay. I don't know what the agreement says. Are you saying you want to accept what they proposed last night?

MR. LANG: No, I have edits to it. I just couldn't -- I was tied up on another filing last night. I have not been able to get to it today.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to make a ruling today. Okay? If it means y'all sit here in the courtroom a while, fine. But just like all of you, I have a mountain of other stuff waiting for me, so I really want to rule today. So, --

MR. LANG: Understood.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. LANG: Maybe we can work on it as soon as I'm done and I can get back to 'em --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LANG: -- and get back to you.

Your Honor, the -- it's on Page 23 of the plan. It talks about the Class 10 and Class 11, where the partnership interests, that their treatment, they shall receive as pro rata share of the contingent Claimant Trust interests. And all we're asking is that be used or applied as a 99.5/.5

distribution.

(Pause.)

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MR. LANG: Oh, sorry. I thought you were looking for it.

And the last issue is authority. The only point of the authority argument, Your Honor, is that the Joint Administrators were appointed down in the Caymans to investigate the transaction that moved basically the entire ownership, because it's owned a hundred percent down to HMIT, out. They're investigating the transactions. They have not stipulated to authority. They're looking at everything. They've requested a 45-day delay on this motion. And that's all that -- not even asking to deny the 9019. They were just asking time to basically bless this transaction so that nobody could come back and make an issue of it. But I understand your desire to rule today.

THE COURT: Okay. Any rebuttal?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah, briefly, Your Honor.

REBUTTAL CLOSING ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANT TRUST

MR. MORRIS: I just want to point the Court to two provisions of the operative documents that I think --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: -- will resolve even further the issues that we've presented today.

The Claimant Trust Agreement -- and I apologize, I don't know if the whole document is in evidence, but I will respectfully suggest to the Court that the Claimant Trust Agreement provides in Article 5, Section 5.1(c), --

THE COURT: Okay. Let me catch up.

MR. MORRIS: Yes.

(Counsel confer.)

THE COURT: It's not Debtor's Exhibit 5.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: Daugherty's Exhibit 5?

MR. MORRIS: It's Daugherty Exhibit 5?

MR. YORK: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. YORK: So we have a full copy at Daugherty --

THE COURT: I've got it. Daugherty's Exhibit 5.

MR. MORRIS: Okay. So if you could just go to Page 27, Your Honor. And this is in response to Mr. Lang's argument about the calculation of the allowed claim. You'll see it deals with contingent trust interests. And the very last sentence says the equity trust --

THE COURT: Wait. What page again?

MR. MORRIS: 27.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: Do you see Section C in the middle is Contingent Trust Interests?

THE COURT: No.

THE CLERK: It's 26 of the Claimant Trust Agreement, 27 of the --

THE COURT: Ah, it's 26. Yes. On the bottom, it's 26; on the top, it's 27 of 38.

MR. MORRIS: Okay.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: And at the end of Section C, it says explicitly: The equity trust interests distributed to allowed holders of Class A limited partnership interests -- that's Dugaboy --

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. MORRIS: -- shall be subordinated to the equity interests distributed to the allowed holders of Class B and C. That's Hunter Mountain. Okay?

So the trust agreement provides for exactly what we're doing here. Dugaboy is in fact subordinated to HMIT. It doesn't get paid until HMIT gets paid in full. And Mr. Seery I think compellingly testified as to the reasonable calculation that he did based on very objective numbers to determine each respective limited partner's capital account.

With respect to Mr. Daugherty, the plan, which is on the docket at 1943, has a definition of Disputed Claim Reserve. And it states, among other things, that the amount of the disputed claim upon which the disputed claim --

THE COURT: Give me the page number.

MR. MORRIS: I apologize, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I've got it right in front of me.

MR. MORRIS: It's Page 7 of the plan.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. I'm there. The Defined Term.

MR. MORRIS: So the Defined Term "Disputed Claim, Claims Reserve Amount" in the middle says: The amount of the disputed claim upon which the disputed claims reserve is calculated shall be -- they've got an A and then a B -- the amount agreed to by the holder of the disputed claim and the Claimant Trustee or Reorganized Debtor, as applicable. And then it says D: Or is otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, including an estimated -- an order estimating the disputed claim.

And that last provision is vital, Your Honor, because that is the hook upon which you can always hang your hat when you decide that we are not going to wait until 2023 [sic] when the IRS audit may be resolved, because you have the ability, as ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, including estimating the amount of the disputed claim. Which is one of the causes of action that we've asserted in the complaint. It's either to subordinate -- actually, it's to disallow, to subordinate, or to estimate. Because this case does have to end, Your Honor. We actually think he should be bound by the definition in B.

It is an agreed-upon amount.

I've heard the testimony from Mr. Daugherty that there was no negotiation, but he didn't deny that he signed a document that is called an agreement that sets forth the disputed claim amount. And that is an agreement, and I think that satisfies that definition. And even if it didn't, at some point this case has to end.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

All right. Well, it's been a long day and even a longer case. I think a lot of people were on the receiving end of a little bit of my grumpiness at times today, and I apologize for that.

I always feel compelled to say to the lawyers and parties when I rule from the bench that I can assure you it's not knee-jerk. I can assure you my law clerk and I have read every piece of paper submitted. And we come in here I think well-prepared and we just want to listen to the evidence to see if it supports -- who it supports. So I am going to rule from the bench.

I first want to make clear that with regard to the motion before the Court, the motion which was filed May 19th at Docket Entry 4216, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and Bankruptcy Code Section 363, the Court is being asked to approve a very broad settlement that is between what are

defined as the HMIT entities, seven entities in all; Hunter Mountain Investment Trust; as well as Beacon Mountain, LLC; Rand Advisors, LLC; Rand PE Fund 1, LP; Rand PE Fund Management, LLC; Atlas IDF, LP; and Atlas IDF GP, PLLC. So this proposed compromise and settlement is between all of those Hunter Mountain entities as well as the Reorganized Debtor, the Highland Claimant Trust, the Highland Litigation Subtrust, and the Highland Indemnity Trust.

I first will note that notice has been fulsome, reasonable under the circumstances, to provide due process to anyone affected by the proposed compromise.

The Court would note that the legal standard is a very well-known and established legal standard here. Among other things, the Court is to look at whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interest of the estate; whether it would appear reasonable business judgment has been exercised; is the compromise and settlement within the range of reasonableness?

And this involves looking at, among other things, the probability of success in the litigation -- that would be all the various litigation involving HMIT, if it were to go forward; the complexity and likely duration of further litigation and attendant expense, inconvenience, and delay; and all other factors bearing on the wisdom of the compromise. We know that's *Cajun Electric*, *Jackson Brewing*, *Foster*

Mortgage, among other cases. I probably left out *AWECO*.

Anyway, applying all of those legal standards here, I do think the evidence was very thorough in showing that the compromise is a product of good faith and arm's-length negotiations. Indeed, it was almost shocking to this Court when I saw the motion, having the history I have with all of the contested issues, adversary proceedings that have transpired over the past few years between Hunter Mountain and the Debtor.

I do think the evidence is that it's fair and equitable and in the best interest of the estate and within the range of reasonableness, given due regard for all of the expense, delay, and likelihood of success.

I'll just briefly recount that, as noted early today, there was an Exhibit B attached to the 9019 motion that listed nine unresolved pending pieces of litigation that the Highland entities are embroiled in. Two of those are now gone. This was filed May 8th, and as of January 25th, they're gone. So seven pieces of litigation, of which two will go entirely away if I approve this settlement. The Kirschner adversary claims against Hunter Mountain will go away.

We have very little, very little, relatively speaking, left in this bankruptcy case to resolve if I approve this settlement. That alone is very, very significant. Again, we have large shall I say issues with Hunter Mountain. Highland

says Hunter Mountain owes the Highland entities something like $57.69 million on a note that Hunter Mountain is payor on dated December 21st, 2015.

The flip side of that is that Hunter Mountain was sued by Kirschner in the Kirschner action on various claims, including this $57 million note. We have had Hunter Mountain file multiple motions for leave to sue Highland, the Claimant Trust, Mr. Seery. And those have been denied, but are in appeal status or remand status or some further litigation status.

And again, we have numerous issues. Hunter Mountain having sought valuation. The Court denied that. It's on appeal.

So, so much goes away, so much further litigation goes away and we make a monumental step in ending this long-running case if I approve this settlement.

Now, on the flip side of this, I know that Dugaboy, through the voice of Mr. Dondero today, expressed that Hunter Mountain is, I forget the words he used, but not -- this isn't close to being fair and equitable as far as he was concerned for Hunter Mountain. That Hunter Mountain, in addition to being through with litigation in this bankruptcy-land, would be paid $500,000 within five days. They would also be paid separately $10 million as an initial distribution, with the hope of two more $6.5 million distributions in '27 and '28.

And it would get a note, which I think has $24 million -- I think it was less than that, $17 or $18 million left on it, perhaps, on which Dugaboy is a maker. The debtor is one of the two payees. The Debtor gives up its rights in that note.

It looks like Hunter Mountain is getting a lot. And again, the way this estate has been liquidated, there is money that can flow to it as a Class 10 equity here, as the evidence has shown.

So I am approving the settlement. I am specifically overruling the remaining objections of both Dugaboy and Mr. Daugherty.

As far as Mr. Daugherty's argument that the settlement violates the absolute priority rule or violates the terms of the plan or the confirmation order or the trust agreement by, putting words in his mouth, skipping over the full payment of whatever his Class 8 claim is going to be and allowing a subordinate class, Class 10, to get paid, I have flipped and studied the wording of the plan and the confirmation order and the defined term for Disputed Reserve. And I referred to a disputed reserve as a tried-and-true provision in Chapter 11 plans. I think it does what needs to happen for precisely this kind of situation, that as long as an appropriate amount is being held in reserve, and the Court can decide what is an appropriate amount, we don't have to hold up a bankruptcy estate for years and years.

So the disputed claim reserve is what allows me to find this is fair and equitable and this isn't some sort of violation of the absolute priority rule. I think this is precisely the reason the disputed claim reserve mechanism is in place, so that we can get on with the business of getting more people paid sooner.

And based on the evidence I've heard, it is an appropriate amount, I think. We're doing a lot of crystal-balling, what may or may not ever happen when, but I think, based on all the persuasive evidence I've heard, the Daugherty objection should be overruled.

As far as Dugaboy, I, as noted, am overruling that objection. 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.

I realize there's a lot swirling around in the Cayman Islands, and that's going to play out however it plays out. But as of today, I don't have any evidence that he doesn't have authority currently to enter into the settlement. And it speaks volumes that The Foundation backed down. It would seem that they have been convinced that the lack-of-authority argument was not one they wanted to press today. So that is overruled.

I feel like we have all seen this movie many times before.

I wanted to understand, perhaps I went deeper than I needed to, I know Mr. Phillips thinks I went deeper than I needed in hearing some of the testimony from Mr. Patrick and Mr. Dondero, but I'm just trying to understand what's happening here. Why people who were so lockstep and friendly for years of this case suddenly, when we're right on the brink of maybe the case being put to bed -- I'm optimistic; it's not quite that close -- all of a sudden they're at loggerheads.

And so how many times have I seen this over the years, whether it's a breakdown in business and personal relationships, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Terry, Grant Scott, now Mark Patrick? I'm probably leaving out someone. I don't know. I feel like I'm watching the same movie. Okay, now these two have parted ways. Now these two have parted ways.

And then, as I recall, when Grant Scott withdrew his objection to the HarbourVest settlement all these years ago, 2020, 2021, which he had been lodging for Charitable DAF, I think it was, --

MR. MORRIS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: -- then what happens? Well, I think Mark Patrick came in to work or replace Grant Scott, and then a bunch of people ended up getting sued in a different court regarding the settlement I approved, the HarbourVest settlement I approved.

So why am I saying this? I just, I'm trying to understand

things I'll never understand. I wanted to maybe hear something that would make me better understand what's happened now between Hunter Mountain, Mark Patrick, and Dondero and Dugaboy, because it sure seems like they were on the same team for many years. But it was very likely irrelevant, as Mr. Phillips kept getting up and down and saying. I just was seeing if it would lead to something relevant that would bear on the wisdom of this compromise, since that's one of my other legal standards. I'm supposed to consider all factors that might bear on the wisdom of the compromise. And so I guess that's where I was going in allowing all of that to come in.

All right. Well, while everyone is not thrilled with this compromise and settlement, I heartily congratulate the human beings that made it happen, and they know who they are. Maybe I do, maybe I don't. But I think it's rather amazing. And I hope that we are not coming to court for hearings in 2032. I don't know who among us will be alive. I'm not going to be alive by then. Certain people might cheer if that's the case. But I congratulate the human beings who made this happen. And you know who you are. Maybe I do, maybe I don't, but I congratulate you.

All right. So I reserve the right to supplement or amend this oral bench ruling in a more fulsome written order. I am asking Mr. Morris and his team to be the scriveners on that order. And obviously, you're going to run it by the other

lawyers here who participated today.

Is there anything else before we wrap it up?

MR. MORRIS: Just one other thing, Your Honor. And I greatly appreciate your comments.

When we draft the order, are we authorized to say that this settlement is approved not only pursuant to 9019 but to 363? Because there are asset sales that are part of this. We moved under that provision, and I didn't hear Your Honor reference that, --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MORRIS: -- but we would like to include that in the order.

THE COURT: You may. And that is precisely why I said I reserve the right to supplement or amend, because many times I get out of here and look at this transcript and, ooh, I forgot to say whatever.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

THE COURT: So I meant to say that and I didn't, so you may add that.

MR. MORRIS: And I assume all Your Honor wants is a fairly simple form of order that incorporates --

THE COURT: I do not want a 40-page order.

MR. MORRIS: Right.

THE COURT: Okay?

MR. MORRIS: Just an order that incorporates your

comments on the record, and to the extent that Your Honor wants to amend that, you'll do so at your leisure?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. MORRIS: Perfect.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you all. We're adjourned.

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE CLERK: All rise.

(Proceedings concluded at 4:38 p.m.)

--oOo--

CERTIFICATE

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

/s/ Kathy Rehling **06/27/2024**

_____ _____

Kathy Rehling, CETD-444 Date

Certified Electronic Court Transcriber

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