Docket #1570 Date Filed: 10/30/2026

COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE LLC
Kaye N. Courington
616 Girod Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Telephone: (504) 524-5510

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	:	**Chapter 11**
HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,	:	**Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)**
Debtor.	:	

SUMMARY OF FINAL FEE APPLICATION OF COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE, LLC AS FORMER SPECIAL ASBESTOS COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTOR

Basic Information	
Name of Applicant:	Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, LLC
Name of Client:	Debtor and Debtor in Possession
Petition Date:	June 30, 2024
Retention Date:	June 30, 2024
Date of Order Approving Employment:	September 11, 2024
Date of Withdrawal:	May 26, 2025
Final Application Period	
Time Period Covered:	June 30, 2024 to May 26, 2025
Total Hours Billed:	231.4
Total Fees Requested:	$44,702.00
Total Expenses Requested:	$7,488.42
Fees Requested Over Budget:	None
Blended Rate:	$193.18/hour
Rate Increases Not Previously Approved/Disclosed:	None
Total Professionals:	8

2432428261030000000000004

Total Professionals Not in Staffing Plan:	None
Total Professionals Billing Less Than 15 Hours:	2
Historical	
Fees Approved to Date by Interim Order:	$44,702.00
Expenses Approved to Date by Interim Order:	$7,488.42
Allowed Fees Paid to Date:	$44,702.00
Allowed Expenses Paid to Date:	$7,488.42

COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE LLC
Kaye N. Courington
616 Girod Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Telephone: (504) 524-5510

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	:	**Chapter 11**
HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,	:	**Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)**
Debtor.	:	

APPLICATION OF COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE, LLC, AS FORMER SPECIAL ASBESTOS COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTOR AND DEBTOR IN POSSESSION, FOR FINAL ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 30, 2024 THROUGH MAY 26, 2025

Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, LLC ("CKSMM"), former special asbestos counsel for the debtor and debtor in possession in the above-captioned case (the "Debtor"), submits this application (the "Application") for final allowance of compensation for professional services rendered by CKSMM to the Debtor for the period June 30, 2024 through May 26, 2025 (the "Final Application Period"), pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure for the United States Bankruptcy Court of the Eastern District of Virginia (the "Local Bankruptcy Rules"), the *Order (I) Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and*

Reimbursement of Expenses for Retained Professionals and (II) Granting Related Relief entered on September 9, 2024 [Docket No. 162] (the "Final Compensation Order"). In support of this Application, CKSMM represents as follows:

I. JURISDICTION, VENUE AND PREDICATES FOR RELIEF

1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334 and the *Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia*, dated August 15, 1984. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157, and the Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

2. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2016, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1.

II. BACKGROUND

3. On June 30, 2024 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in this Court commencing this chapter 11 case.

4. On July 22, 2024, the Office of the United States Trustee (the "U.S. Trustee") for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors [Docket No. 69].

5. On September 9, 2024, the Court entered the Interim Compensation Order, which approved the compensation procedures set forth therein (the "Compensation Procedures").

6. On September 11, 2024, the Court entered the *Order Authorizing the Retention and Employment of Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, LLC as Counsel for the Debtor Effective as of the Petition Date* [Doc. No. 187], authorizing the Debtor to employ and retain CKSMM as its special asbestos counsel effective as of the Petition Date.

7. Pursuant to the Compensation Procedures, professionals retained in this case are authorized to file monthly fee statements and serve such statements on the Notice Parties (as defined in the Compensation Procedures). Provided that no objection to a monthly fee statement is timely filed, the Debtor is authorized to pay such professional an amount equal to eighty percent (80%) of the fees and one-hundred percent (100%) of the expenses requested in such monthly fee statement.

8. Additionally, pursuant to the Compensation Procedures, beginning with the period ending on August 30, 2024, and at three-month intervals thereafter, professionals retained in this case are authorized to file interim fee applications with the Court. The Compensation Procedures provide that the final fee application should cover the period from June 30, 2024 through and including May 26, 2025. Below is a summary of the interim fee applications (collectively, the "Interim Fee Applications") filed by CKSMM in this case:

Date Filed	**Period Covered**	**Date of Order Approving Application**	**Total Requested Fees/Expenses**	**Total Allowed Fees/ Expenses Paid**
10/15/2024	6/30/2024 – 8/31/2024	11/8/2024	Fees: $3,847.50 Expenses: $230.70	Fees: $3,847.50 Expenses: $230.70
1/14/2025	9/1/2024 – 11/30/2024	2/13/2025	Fees: $9,647.00 Expenses: $0.00	Fees: $9,647.00 Expenses: $0.00
4/14/2025	12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025	5/22/2025	Fees: $12,670.00 Expenses: $5,797.77	Fees: $12,670.00 Expenses: $5,797.77
7/15/2025	3/1/2025 – 5/31/2025	8/20/2025	Fees: $18,537.50 Expenses: $1,459.95	Fees: $18,537.50 Expenses: $1,459.95

9. The Compensation Procedures also provide that all Retained Professionals (as defined in the Compensation Procedures), to the extent applicable, shall make reasonable efforts to comply with the U.S. Trustee's requests for information and additional disclosures set forth in the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses*

Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases (the "Appendix B Guidelines") in connection with the interim and final fee applications filed in these cases.

10. On June 5, 2025, CKSMM filed its *Notice of Withdrawal of Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, L.L.C. as Special Asbestos Counsel* [Doc. No. 849], providing notice that, with the consent and approval of the Debtor, CKSMM withdrew as special asbestos counsel for the Debtor effective as of May 26, 2025.

11. On October 31, 2025, this Court entered its proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law [Docket No. 1267] recommending that the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division (the "District Court") issue the proposed order (the "Confirmation Order") confirming the *Amended Plan of Reorganization of Hopeman Brothers, Inc. Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code*, dated May 21, 2025 [Docket No. 766] (as modified by the *Modified Amended Plan of Reorganization of Hopeman Brothers, Inc. Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code*, dated August 21, 2025 [Docket No. 1141] and the *Second Modified Amended Plan of Reorganization of Hopeman Brothers, Inc. Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code*, dated September 5, 2025 [Docket No. 1185], and as may be further amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time, the "Plan").

12. On August 18, 2026, the District Court issued the Confirmation Order [Docket No. 1542]. The Plan became effective on September 15, 2026 [Docket No. 1551], and the Debtor emerged from this case as the Reorganized Debtor (as defined in the Plan).

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

13. CKSMM submits this Application for final allowance of compensation for the actual, reasonable and necessary professional services that it has rendered as special asbestos counsel for the Debtor in this case for the Final Application Period in the amount of $44,702.00,

and for reimbursement of actual, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in representing the Debtor special asbestos during the Final Application Period in the amount of $7,488.42.

14. The Application is supported by the following Exhibits, which are attached hereto and patterned on the Appendix B Guidelines:

(i) Exhibit A contains a summary schedule of the time expended by all CKSMM professionals and paraprofessionals engaged in the representation of the Debtor during the Final Application Period..

(ii) Exhibit B contains a summary schedule of hours and fees covered by this Application, categorized by project code for the Final Application Period.

(iii) Exhibit C contains a summary schedule of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by CKSMM during the Final Application Period.

(iv) Exhibit D contains a disclosure of "customary and comparable compensation" charged by CKSMM's professionals and paraprofessionals. As requested in the Appendix B Guidelines, Exhibit D provides a summary of the blended hourly rates of the timekeepers (segregated by rank) included in this Application compared to the blended hourly rates for similar non-bankruptcy domestic timekeepers at CKSMM.

(v) Exhibit E contains the budget and staffing plans for CKSMM for this chapter 11 case during the Final Application Period.

IV. BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

15. During the Final Application Period, CKSMM provided numerous services to the Debtor, including but not limited to (i) preparing and filing in various jurisdictions across the United States suggestions of bankruptcy and coordinating on a national level with the Debtor's pre-petition counsel regarding open items pertaining to the same; (ii) analyzing pending asbestos claims asserted against the Debtor prior to the Petition Date and discussing the same with the U.S. Trustee; (iii) analyzing and assisting in preparing responses and objections to discovery requests from interested parties in this Chapter 11 case; (iv) preparing for and participating in contested

hearings before this Court; (v) preparing for and attending perpetuation depositions by plaintiffs; and (vi) working with the Debtor's other professionals regarding administrative and strategic issues arising in this Chapter 11 case related to pending asbestos claims and litigation.

16. In performing the services detailed in this Application, CKSMM has endeavored to ensure that its professionals comply with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and any other applicable procedures or orders of the Court.

17. CKSMM has endeavored to represent the Debtor in the most expeditious and economical manner possible. Tasks have been assigned to attorneys at CKSMM so that the work has been performed by those most familiar with the particular matter. Moreover, CKSMM has endeavored to coordinate with the other professionals involved in this case so as to minimize any duplication of effort and to minimize attorneys' fees and expenses to the Debtor. CKSMM believes it has been successful in this regard.

18. No agreement or understanding exists between CKSMM and any other person for the sharing of compensation received or to be received for services rendered in or in connection with this case.

V. STATEMENT PURSUANT TO APPENDIX B GUIDELINES

19. The following is provided in response to the questions set forth in ¶ C.5 of the Appendix B Guidelines:

Question: Did you agree to any variations from, or alternatives to, your standard or customary billing rates, fees or terms for services pertaining to this engagement that were provided during the application period? If so, please explain.

Response: No.

Question: If the fees sought in this fee application as compared to the fees budgeted for the time period covered by this fee application are higher by 10% or more, did you discuss the reasons for the variation with the client?

Response: Not applicable.

Question: Have any of the professionals included in this fee application varied their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the bankruptcy case?

Response: No.

Question: Does this fee application include time or fees related to reviewing the time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices? (This is limited to work involved in preparing and editing billing records that would not be compensable outside of bankruptcy and does not include reasonable fees for preparing a fee application.). If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Response: No.

Question: Does this fee application include time or fees for reviewing time records to redact any privileged or other confidential information? If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Response: No.

Question: If the fee application includes any rate increases since retention: (i) Did your client review and approve those rate increases in advance? (ii) Did your client agree when retaining the law firm to accept all future rate increases? If not, did you inform your client that they need not agree to modified rates or terms in order to have you continue the representation, consistent with ABA Formal Ethics Opinion 11-458?

Response: No rate increases for this Application.

VI. Notice

20. Notice of this Application has been provided in accordance with Bankruptcy Local Rule 1075-1 and the procedures set forth in Article II of the "Procedures for Complex Chapter 11 Cases in the Eastern District of Virginia" and the Interim Compensation Order. CKSMM submits that no other or further notice need be provided.

WHEREFORE, CKSMM respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order, substantially in the form attached hereto (i) approving this Application, (ii) providing that CKSMM be allowed on a final basis the sum of $44,702.00 as compensation for reasonable and necessary professional services rendered to the Debtor and the sum of $7,488.42 for reimbursement of actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred for a total of $52,190.42, during the Final Application Period, (iii) authorizing and directing the Debtor to pay CKSMM the outstanding amount of such sums, and (iv) for such other relief as the Court deems proper and just.

Dated: October 30, 2026

/s/ Kaye N. Courington

Kaye N. Courington
COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE LLC
616 Girod Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Telephone: (504) 524-5510
Email: kcourington@courington-law.com

Electronically filed by:
/s/ Henry P. (Toby) Long, III
Henry P. (Toby) Long, III (VSB No. 75134)
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Telephone: (804) 788-8200
Email: hlong@huntonak.com

Counsel to the Debtor and Debtor in Possession

COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE LLC
Kaye N. Courington
616 Girod Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Telephone: (504) 524-5510

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	:	**Chapter 11**
HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,	:	**Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)**
Debtor.	:	

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION OF COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE, LLC, AS FORMER SPECIAL ASBESTOS COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTOR, FOR FINAL ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 30, 2024 THROUGH MAY 26, 2025

Upon consideration of the Final Fee Application (the "Application")[1] of Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, LLC ("CKSMM"), former special asbestos counsel for the debtor and debtor in possession in the above-captioned case (the "Debtor"), for final allowance of compensation for professional services rendered and actual and necessary expenses incurred by CKSMM during the period June 30, 2024, through May 26, 2025 (the "Final Application Period"); and the Court having reviewed the Application, and finding that the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, and determining that proper and adequate notice has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and after due deliberation thereon,

[1] Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

the Court having concluded that the fees and expenses were necessary, appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances of this case; and good and sufficient cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Application is GRANTED.

2. CKSMM is allowed final compensation in the amount of $44,702.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of $7,488.42 for the Final Application Period as requested in the Application.

3. The Debtor or Reorganized Debtor is authorized and directed to disburse to CKSMM payment in the amount of the difference between the allowed amounts and the actual monthly payments previously received by CKSMM for fees and expenses incurred during the Final Application Period.

4. The Debtor or Reorganized Debtor is authorized and empowered to take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the terms of this Order.

5. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Order.

6. This Order shall be effective immediately upon entry.

Dated: _____, 2026

_____
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

WE ASK FOR THIS:

/s/ Kaye N. Courington
Kaye N. Courington
COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS MARULLO & MATHERNE LLC
616 Girod Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Telephone: (504) 524-5510
Email: kcourington@courington-law.com

CERTIFICATION OF ENDORSEMENT
UNDER LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 9022-1(C)

I hereby certify that the foregoing proposed order has been endorsed by or served upon all necessary parties.

/s/ Henry P. (Toby) Long, III
Henry P. (Toby) Long, III

Exhibit A

PROFESSIONALS RENDERING SERVICES

Final Application Period
(June 30, 2024 – May 26, 2025)

Name of Professional	Position	Department	First Bar Admission Date	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation	Rate Increases Since the Petition Date
Troy N Bell	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	1990	$225.00	64.60	$14,535.00	None
Kaye N Courington	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	1988	$225.00	56.90	$12,802.50	None
Kaye N Courington	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	1988	$112.50	8.00	$900.00	None
Scott B Kiefer	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	1988	$225.00	20.10	$4,522.50	None
James Matherne	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	1999	$225.00	5.40	$1,215.00	None
Jennifer Hart McLaughlin	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	2008	$225.00	2.40	$540.00	None
Catherine Roberts	Paralegal	Asbestos Defense Counsel		$110.00	39.50	$4,345.00	None
Mathilde V Semmes	Partner	Asbestos Defense Counsel	2014	$225.00	17.80	$4005.00	None

Name of Professional	Position	Department	First Bar Admission Date	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation	Rate Increases Since the Petition Date
Charise Williams	Paralegal	Asbestos Defense Counsel		$110.00	16.70	$1,837.00	None
				Total:	**231.40**	**$44,702.00**	
				Blended Rate:	**$193.18**		

Exhibit B

COMPENSATION BY PROJECT CATEGORY

Final Application Period
(June 30, 2024 – May 26, 2025)

Project Code	Project Category	Total Hours	Total Fees
B110	Case Administration	6.10	$1,372.50
B120	Asset Analysis and Recovery	0.10	$22.50
B140	Relief from Stay/Adequate	0.50	$112.50
B150	Meetings of and Communications with Creditors	13.90	$3,127.50
B160	Fee/Employment Applications	0.40	$90.00
B170	Fee/Employment Objections	1.30	$292.50
B190	Other Contested Matter	201.00	$38,762.00
B195	Non-Working Travel	8.00	$900.00
B210	Business Operations	0.10	$22.50
	Total:	**231.40**	**$44,702.00**

Exhibit C

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Final Application Period
(June 30, 2024 – May 26, 2025)

Expense Category	Service Provider (if applicable)	Unit Cost (if applicable)	Total Expenses
E110	Out of Town Travel		$1,756.67
E112	Court Fees		$262.70
E115	Deposition Transcripts		$5,469.05
		Total:	**$7,488.42**

Exhibit D

CUSTOMARY AND COMPARABLE COMPENSATION DISCLOSURES
Final Application Period
(June 30, 2024 – May 26, 2025)

	Blended Hourly Rate[1]	
Category of Timekeeper	**Billed** (Firm for preceding year, excluding the Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights group)	**Billed** (This Application)
All Partners (Equity Partner)	$225.00	$219.86
Counsel	N/A	N/A
Associate (4-6 years since first admission)	$190.00	N/A
Jr. Associate (1-3 years since first admission)	$170.00	N/A
Paralegal	$110.00	$110.00
Aggregated (Blended Rates):	**$174.00**	**$193.18**

[1] Consistent with ¶ C.3 of the Appendix B Guidelines, the blended hourly rates set forth in Exhibit D are calculated by dividing the dollar value of hours billed by the number of hours billed for the relevant timekeepers during the applicable time period. Exhibit D also segregates the timekeepers by rank using the categories set forth in Exhibit A to the Appendix B Guidelines. The data for the "preceding year" is based on information from CKSMM's last completed calendar year ending December 31, 2024.

In addition, as requested by ¶ C.3 of the Appendix B Guidelines, the blended hourly rates identified in Exhibit D for non-bankruptcy domestic timekeepers at CKSMM includes discounted or alternative engagements, other than pro bono engagements and engagements for clients who are employees or charitable organizations that are billed at materially discounted rates.

Exhibit E

BUDGET
COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE, LLC
(June 1, 2025 – May 26, 2025)

Period	Estimated Fees
June 1, 2025 – May 26, 2025	$20,000.00

STAFFING PLAN
COURINGTON, KIEFER, SOMMERS, MARULLO & MATHERNE, LLC
(June 1, 2025 – May 26, 2025)

Category of Timekeeper (as maintained by the firm)	Number of Timekeepers Expected to Work on the Matter During the Budgeted Period	Average Hourly Rate
Partners	2	$225.00
Counsel	0	N/A
Associates	0	N/A
Paralegal	0	N/A