

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COLE COUNTY  
STATE OF MISSOURI**

CHLORA LINDLEY-MYERS, DIRECTOR	)	
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	)	
AND INSURANCE,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	Case No.: 15AC-CC00224
	)	
LUMBERMEN’S UNDERWRITING ALLIANCE,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THIRD  
INTERIM DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE ASSETS**

COMES NOW plaintiff Chlora Lindley-Myers, Director, Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance, in her capacity as Liquidator (“Liquidator”) of Lumbermen’s Underwriting Alliance (“LUA” or the “Estate”), and respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order approving a Third Interim Distribution of Estate Assets pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 375.1222.

In support of her motion, the Liquidator states the following:

1. On May 23, 2016, this Court entered a Judgment, Decree and Order of Liquidation with Finding of Insolvency (the “Liquidation Order”) against LUA and placed LUA into liquidation.

2. Pursuant to the Liquidation Order and the Insurers Supervision, Rehabilitation and Liquidation Act, Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 375.1150 *et seq.* (the “Liquidation Act”), the Liquidator acts for and on behalf of LUA and is vested by operation of law with title to all of the property, contracts, rights of action, books and records of LUA, and is administering them under the general supervision of the Court. The Liquidation Order and the Liquidation Act also direct the Liquidator

to (a) identify, marshal and liquidate the assets of the Estate; (b) process and evaluate claims to determine the liabilities of the Estate; and (c) distribute assets to claimants of the Estate in accordance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 375.1218.

3. Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 375.1222, “[u]nder the direction of the court, the liquidator shall pay distributions in a manner that will assure the proper recognition of the priorities and a reasonable balance between the expeditious completion of the liquidation and the protection of unliquidated and undetermined claims, including third party claims.”

4. On June 1, 2021, this Court approved a First Interim Distribution at 40% of certain allowed Class 2 claims. The Liquidator paid a total of \$6,856,747 in the First Interim Distribution. That First Interim Distribution did not include a distribution to state Guaranty Associations (“GAs”) because, at that time, the GAs had received a total of \$40,952,231 through early access payments pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 375.1205 (\$17,438,332), and payments pursuant to the Joint Collection Agreement (“JCA”) (\$23,513,898). Payments under the First Interim Distribution went to Non-GA Class 2 claimants (policyholders) that had the effect of leveling all Class 2 claimants – GA and Non-GA claimants alike – to approximately 40% of their allowed claims.

5. On December 21, 2021, this Court entered its Order approving an amendment to the JCA (the “Amended JCA”) and suspension of payments under the Early Access Plan.

6. Pursuant to the Amended JCA, the Liquidator and the GAs who were signatories to the JCA agreed to divide post-liquidation Large Deductible Reimbursements evenly, with 50% considered a general asset of the Estate and 50% distributed as direct reimbursements to the signatory GAs that paid the underlying claims rather than as general assets of the Estate.

7. Because the GAs had previously received 80% of the Large Deductible Reimbursements, and some GAs received early access distributions, many GAs were “overpaid”

in that some GAs received amounts greater than the 40% level targeted in the First Interim Distribution. Accordingly, as set forth in the Amended JCA, the Liquidator has been off-setting the 50% direct reimbursements due the GAs against the overpayments.

8. On June 7, 2022, this Court approved a Second Interim Distribution at 50% of certain allowed Class 2 claims. The Second Interim Distribution included Non-GA Class 2 allowed claims and the GAs' Class 2 claims, after off-set.

9. This proposed Third Interim Distribution also will include Non-GA Class 2 allowed claims and the GAs' Class 2 claims, after off-set.

10. The Liquidator files semi-annual reports with this Court, which provide detailed information regarding, among other things, the financial condition of LUA and the claims process. The Liquidator filed her most recent semi-annual report as of December 31, 2022, on May 25, 2023.

11. Subject to caveats regarding financial information in the semi-annual reports and in the Notes to the financial statements, total unrestricted estimated assets for LUA as of December 31, 2022 were \$137,361,592. Total estimated liabilities were \$336,980,015, leaving an estimated net deficit of \$126,595,618. As of December 31, 2022, the estimated reserve for Class 1 claims was \$15,705,661. Investment maturities in the end of May 2023, will generate available cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$13 million, which will provide sufficient cash for continued payment in full of all Class 1 claims and for this proposed Third Interim Distribution on Class 2 claims.

12. The deadline for filing Proofs of Claim ("POCs") was set at May 24, 2016. As of April 1, 2023, the Liquidator has received 1,393 POCs.

13. The Liquidator has preliminarily classified 1,271 POCs as Class 2 claims. As of April 1, 2023, LUA had issued Class 2 Notice of Determinations (“NOD”) for 1,164 of the 1,271 Class 2 claims.

14. Of the 1,164 NODs issued, the Liquidator has allowed 122 POCs – in full or in part and/or as contingent – as Class 2 claims.<sup>1</sup> Of the 122 allowed POCs, 118 are currently eligible for distribution. A listing of all the allowed Class 2 POCs eligible for distribution, including the amount allowed Class 2 POCs eligible for distribution, including the amount allowed, amount paid in the First Interim Distribution, amount paid in the Second Interim Distribution, and amount paid to GAs, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

#### **Asset Distribution Calculation**

15. LUA’s staff and consultants have completed an asset distribution analysis that projects inflow and outflow in future years for the purpose of estimating ultimate distribution levels to determine the appropriate amount for the Third Interim Distribution. Cash coming into the Estate consists largely of deductible recoveries, reinsurance collections, second injury fund recoveries and investment income. The cash going out of the Estate is and will be attributable to operating expenses and interim asset distributions to Non-GA and GA claimants.

16. The Liquidator identified three categories of Class 2 approved claims. (1) contingent claims of GAs, some of which have received JCA payments, early access distributions, and/or seized or have access to state deposits; (2) contingent claims of insureds who are administering and paying claims under their workers’ compensation policy directly because the

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<sup>1</sup> The GAs each submitted a POC. Although the Liquidator has classified 48 GA POCs for claim payments and ALAE as contingent Class 2 claims, and included the GA POCs in the total numbers, the Liquidator has not issued NOD letters to the GAs.

claims were rejected for statutory reasons by the GAs; and (3) claimants who have received NODs allowing their POC in full or in part.

17. The Liquidator's analysis employs a conservative scenario in order to adequately protect Class 2 claimants, including those who have and those who have not received an NOD, from the risk of disproportionate payouts. Disproportionate payouts can occur due to interim distribution overpayments, which generally cannot be recovered from individual claimants, seizure or availability of state deposits, and overpayments to GAs through the JCA and/or early access payments. The analysis also utilizes the best estimate of ultimate losses of known and unknown losses and ALAE exposures, based on claims data reported to the Liquidator through December 31, 2022.

18. Although the conservative scenario produced by the analysis is considered reasonable, the actual financial results for the Estate could deviate from specific projections due to the uncertainty inherent in numerous assumptions for various factors, including:

- a. Variability of the ultimate dollar amount of claims incurred and related reinsurance recoverables on those claims;
- b. Collectability of ceded reinsurance;
- c. Timing of claim payments by GAs, claim determinations by LUA and timing of associated reinsurance collections;
- d. Extent, timing and cost (discount) of reinsurance commutations;
- e. Future operating expenses of LUA;
- f. Future investment income on invested assets; and
- g. Priority of classification of certain types of disputed NODs.

19. In order to assess the impact of various assumptions on the ultimate distribution percentage, the analysis considered the possibility of:

- a. Higher dollar amounts of incurred claims;
- b. Lower recovery of deductibles;
- c. Lower dollar amounts of claims recoverable under reinsurance;
- d. Lower investment income;
- e. Higher operating expenses;
- f. Slower and/or lower levels of reinsurance collections; and
- g. Commutation costs (discounts).

**Proposal for Third Interim Distribution**

20. Based on the scenarios produced by the asset distribution analysis and considering the factors described above, and prior distributions, the Liquidator is proposing a third distribution that brings all Non-GA and GA claimants to a paid percentage of 52.5% of the NOD allowed amounts as follows:

- a. Non-GA Class 2 POCs allowed in full or in part for a fixed amount: Will receive an amount to arrive at a total of 52.5% of the allowed amount.
- b. Non-GA Contingent Class 2 POCs allowed in full or in part: Will receive an amount to arrive at a total of 52.5% of amount allowed that the claimant actually paid through December 31, 2022.
- c. GA Contingent Class 2 claims: Will receive an amount to arrive at a total of 52.5% of amount actually paid as of December 31, 2022. If, however, a GA has received early access payments, JCA payments, and/or has seized or has access to a state deposit, it will not receive a distribution if it already

has received at least 52.5% of amounts actually paid through overpayment under the JCA or early access payments, or if it has seized or has access to a state deposit of at least 52.5% of amounts actually paid.

21. Based on this distribution calculation, a 52.5% distribution would result in a third interim distribution totaling approximately \$3.3 million.

22. The Liquidator believes that the amount of the proposed Third Interim Distribution fulfills her duty to “pay distributions in a manner that will assure the proper recognition of the priorities and a reasonable balance between the expeditious completion of the liquidation and the protection of unliquidated and undetermined claims . . .” as required by Mo. Rev. Stat. § 375.1222.

#### **Notice of Motion**

23. The Liquidator shall provide written notice of this Motion to all Distribution Claimants listed in Exhibit A at the address listed in each Distribution Claimant’s POC.

24. The Liquidator shall post a copy of this Motion on LUA’s website: [www.lumbermensunderwriting.com](http://www.lumbermensunderwriting.com) under the Pleadings/Notices tab.

25. The Liquidator shall provide a copy of this Motion to the National Conference of Insurance Guaranty Funds for distribution to all GAs.

WHEREFORE, the Liquidator requests that the Court grant this Motion and issue an Order as follows:

a) Approving a Third Interim Distribution Percentage for a total of 52.5% of NOD allowed amounts for Class 2 claimants as follows: (1) Non-GA Class 2 POCs allowed in full or in part for a fixed amount: a total of 52.5% of the allowed amount; (2) Non-GA Contingent Class 2 POCs allowed in full or in part: a total of 52.5% of the allowed amount that the claimant has actually paid as of December 31, 2022; and (3) GA Contingent Class 2 claims: a total of 52.5% of

amounts actually paid as of December 31, 2022. If, however, a GA has received early access payments, JCA payments, and/or has seized or has access to a state deposit, it will not receive a distribution if it already has received at least 52.5% of amounts actually paid;

b) Directing the Liquidator to issue checks based on the Third Interim Distribution to the Distribution Claimants and GAs as set forth in Exhibit A;

c) Directing that, for this Third Interim Distribution and all future distributions except the final distribution, the Liquidator need not issue a check for less than \$10.00 per claimant. The Liquidator shall issue a check if a claimant's distribution amount is increased beyond the threshold *de minimus* amount in the future. This *de minimus* distribution threshold will not apply to the final distribution of LUA assets and all claimants will receive the ultimate distribution percentage in the final distribution, even if the amount is less than \$10.00.

d) Affirming and approving in all respects the conduct of the Liquidator, her employees, agents and counsel in connection with the Third Interim Distribution requested by this Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT US LLP

/s/ Jodi M. Adolf

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**Attorneys for Plaintiff**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to Missouri Rule of Civil Procedure 55.03(a), I hereby certify that I personally caused the signature to the original of the foregoing which was filed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, using the Court's electronic filing system, which sends notification of filings to counsel of record.

/s/ Jodi Adolf \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorneys for Plaintiff





