	Document ray	DOCKET #0297 Date Filed: 6/28/2021
		1
1		S BANKRUPTCY COURT CT OF NORTH CAROLINA
2		TTE DIVISION
2	CHARLOTTE DIVISION	
3	IN RE:	: Case No. 20-30608-JCW (Jointly Administered)
4	ALDRICH PUMP LLC, ET AL.,	: Chapter 11
5	Debtors,	: Charlotte, North Carolina
6		: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:30 a.m.
7		:
8		
9	ALDRICH PUMP LLC and MURRAY BOILER LLC,	: AP 20-03041-JCW
10	Plaintiffs,	:
10	Trainerris,	:
11	v.	:
12	THOSE PARTIES TO ACTIONS LISTED ON APPENDIX A TO	:
13	COMPLAINT and JOHN AND JANE DOES 1-1000,	:
14		
15	Defendants.	:
16		
17	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE J. CRAIG WHITLEY,	
1/		S BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
18		
19	Audio Operator:	COURT PERSONNEL
20	nadio operator.	COOKI TEKSONNEE
21	Transcript prepared by:	JANICE RUSSELL TRANSCRIPTS 1418 Red Fox Circle
22		Severance, CO 80550 (757) 422-9089
23		trussell31@tdsmail.com
24	Proceedings recorded by elect	ronic sound recording; transcript
25	produced by transcription ser	



THE COURT: That got it? 24

(No response)

```
THE COURT: How about for the ACC, then? Ms. Ramsey?
 1
 2
    We can't --
             MR. COX: Good morning, your Honor.
 3
             THE COURT: Mr. Cox.
 4
 5
             MR. COX: I'm sorry. Good morning, your Honor.
                                                              Rob
 6
    Cox appearing on behalf of the ACC. And also on the line is,
 7
    is Ms. Ramsey.
             THE COURT: Okay.
 8
             MS. RAMSEY: Thank you, your Honor.
 9
             THE COURT: Anyone else?
10
11
             MR. LIESEMER: Good morning. Good morning, your
            This is Jeffrey Liesemer of Caplin & Drysdale on behalf
12
    Honor.
    of the ACC.
13
             THE COURT: Anyone else?
14
15
        (No response)
             THE COURT: Okay.
16
17
             How about for the FCR?
             MR. GUY: Good morning, your Honor. Jonathan Guy.
18
                                                                I
    hope you like the new digs. My co-counsel, Cotten Wright, is
19
    on the phone and also my colleague, Debra Felder.
20
             Thank you, your Honor.
21
22
             THE COURT:
                         Thank you.
             All right. How about for the affiliates?
23
             MR. MASCITTI: Good morning, your Honor. Greg
24
    Mascitti, McCarter & English, on behalf of Trane Technologies
25
```

Company LLC and Trane U.S. Inc. And I'm joined by our local 1 counsel, Stacy Cordes. 2 THE COURT: Very good. 3 Okay. Who else? 4 MR. ROTEN: Oh, your Honor. It's Russell Roten for 5 Certain Insurers. Good morning. I don't expect to say 6 7 anything today, but just keep the mike open just in case. THE COURT: Very good. 8 Others? 9 MS. ABEL: Good morning. Shelley Abel, Bankruptcy 10 11 Administrator, is also listening today. MR. TAYLOR: Morning, your Honor. Joshua Taylor on 12 13 behalf of the Travelers Insurance Companies. I also don't intend to speak today. 14 15 THE COURT: Very good. Not you not speaking, but -sorry about that. Didn't mean it that way. 16 17 Any others? 18 (No response) 19 THE COURT: Okay, very good. We have a published agenda. Let me call on Mr. Erens 20 21 first. Were there any updates or anything else that we need to talk about other than what's on the calendar today? 22 MR. ERENS: Your Honor, I don't think so, in 23 particular. I know there's a habit to give a status in these 24

cases at each omnibus hearing. The posture right now, I

- 1 | suppose, is a little bit different than normal. We've been,
- 2 | obviously, awaiting your decision on the preliminary
- 3 | injunction --
- 4 THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
- 5 response).
- 6 MR. ERENS: -- and as a general matter as a result,
- 7 | you know, the case is, is, is sitting waiting for that
- 8 decision.
- 9 We, however, have continued to work cooperatively and
- 10 | productively, as we've indicated in past hearings, with the FCR
- 11 | in terms of negotiations over a settlement of this case.
- 12 | Mr. Guy may want to speak to this as well. We continue to work
- 13 on that process. It's been good. We continue to make progress
- 14 and we're, we're eager to reach the resolution of that, of that
- 15 phase.
- In connection with that, I will mention 'cause it's
- 17 | somewhat related, I suppose, you'll see on the agenda Item No.
- 18 | 1. You may recall in December we filed with the FCR a joint
- 19 | bar date and PIQ motion.
- 20 THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
- 21 response).
- 22 MR. ERENS: That was heard substantively at the
- January omnibus hearing. Also was heard at that time the ACC's
- 24 motion to continue that hearing --
- THE COURT: Right.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

```
MR. ERENS: -- or that motion until the Judge, your
Honor, had ruled on the preliminary injunction. Your Honor
granted that motion to continue after hearing full arguments
other than --
         THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
response).
         MR. ERENS: -- FCR and debtor rebuttal in connection
with the bar date and PIQ. So you continued that to,
basically, after the PI.
         THE COURT:
                    Right.
         MR. ERENS: It was originally scheduled for May 27th
because at that time it was known that the preliminary
injunction hearing would be May 5th, 6th, and 7th. So that was
the first omnibus after the preliminary injunction hearing. We
continued this motion in May to the June hearing and we just
recently with the consent of the FCR and ACC also continued the
motion to the July hearing with the understanding that your
Honor wanted to rule on the PI before this was heard.
                                                       So
that's why this has now been continued to July.
         THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
response).
         MR. ERENS: If your Honor rules prior to that hearing,
we'll, we'll put it on again for the July hearing.
         THE COURT: Okay.
         Everyone content with that arrangement? Is anyone
```

```
1 pushing to do that --
```

- MS. RAMSEY: Yes, your Honor. Natalie Ramsey for the
- 3 ACC. Can you hear me, your Honor?
- 4 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.
- 5 MS. RAMSEY: Okay. Thank you. I was having some
- 6 | issues with my mike earlier.
- 7 Your Honor, the only thing that I had wanted to add to
- 8 that was Mr. Erens indicated that full argument was held other
- 9 | than the debtors' and FCR's rebuttal and it is our recollection
- 10 | that the Court also allowed for additional argument as might be
- 11 | informed by both the PI hearing and subsequent events. And so
- 12 | that's the only addition that I wanted to make to Mr. Erens'
- 13 report with respect to the bar date and PIQ motion.
- 14 THE COURT: Okay.
- Any other thoughts there with regard to No. 1?
- 16 THE COURT: Well --
- MR. GUY: Your Honor --
- 18 MR. ERENS: No, your Honor. I would just say that's,
- 19 | that's consistent with the transcript, which we obviously could
- 20 all read. Your Honor made it clear that if there were changed
- 21 | circumstances and people wanted to make additional arguments
- 22 | when we continue the substantive motion, that they would have
- 23 | the ability to do that.
- 24 So that, I think those two aspects would be left for
- 25 | the hearing, the rebuttal arguments and maybe surrebuttal on

behalf of the ACC and then any arguments anybody wanted to make based on changed circumstances or, as Ms. Ramsey indicated, the preliminary injunction ruling itself.

THE COURT: Okay.

Well, let me just say that I am wrestling the two elephants, the DBMP and this preliminary injunction and assundried motions have been doing. It is taking longer than I would like, frankly because they're mammoth in scope and given the multiplicity of arguments, but also because I've been averaging about 3-1/2 or 4 days in court each week.

So it, it's been one of those things that's taken longer than I would have liked to. I wish I were in a position just to adopt someone's findings and conclusion en masse, but rarely do you see that in a, in a case, particularly one of this complexity. But the bottom line is that it's going to be close as to whether I have this other opinion out before the end of July.

I'm not sure I really want to wait a lot longer, even though my first inkling was that we should wait. Maybe what we ought to do is talk about scheduling in July if I, and then if there are going to be other arguments to be made in view of all this, we consider that we're going to do them in August, that we'll hear the motions, whatever cleanup there is on the merits, in August and try to get the case moving and if for any reason we have difficulties getting opinions issued.

```
Obviously, with DBMP having been heard first, I've put the
 1
    priority on, on getting to that one instead of this one and
 2
    taking them in the order that they came up, even though there's
 3
    considerable overlap and the bottom line is that we're going to
 4
    be close on getting this out by the end of July, I'm afraid.
 5
    Hope not, but, but that's very likely, particularly if the rest
 6
 7
    of my docket stays this enthused as it has been lately.
             So bottom line is whether you folks want to go ahead
 8
    and talk at the next hearing about what else might need to be
 9
    done on those two motions. I know there have been developments
10
11
    both in Judge Beyer's court and apparently, in DBMP or --
    excuse me -- in Bestwall, at least with the district court in
12
13
    Delaware.
             So I'm not sure if that affects what we're doing here
14
15
    or not, the trust motions.
             MR. ERENS: Yeah, your Honor. As a reminder in this
16
17
    case -- I know it's hard to keep the cases straight -- the only
18
    related motion to Bestwall and DBMP is the motion for our PIQ,
    personal injury questionnaire.
19
             THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
20
21
    response).
                         There's really one motion, motion for bar
22
             MR. ERENS:
    date, joint motion for bar date and PIQ again --
23
             THE COURT: Okay.
                                There's not --
24
```

MR. ERENS: -- filed jointly by the debtor.

THE COURT: -- a trust motion? All right. 1 I'm thinking --2 There's not a trust motion. So the 3 MR. ERENS: Delaware District Court proceedings are not relevant. There 4 have been recent developments in Bestwall -- Ms. Ramsey is 5 aware of this -- with respect to the PIO and some litigation in 6 7 the Southern District of Illinois and last night in Bestwall the debtors filed a motion for enforcement of the stay and 8 motion, order to show cause why certain law firms of the ACC 9 there should not be held in contempt. But I don't really think 10 11 we want to go into that today. It was just filed yesterday. THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative 12 13 response). MR. ERENS: But I suppose that could be relevant to 14 15 the PIQ issues in this case. We hope not. But that has been 16 developing and Judge Beyer, presumably, is now aware of that as 17 well. 18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, perhaps we have at least at the next hearing a 19 discussion as to the PIQ motions as to what, if, if anything 20 else, needs to be done before they are submitted, so. 21 Okay. Your Honor, we'll, we'll stay in 22 MR. ERENS: contact both with the ACC and the FCR and the Court. 23 suggest one thing subject to your Honor's approval, which is 24 the second half of August is always a difficult period for 25

```
There seems to be a lot of people on vacation.
 1
    people.
 2
             THE COURT:
                         Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
 3
    response).
             MR. ERENS: If it turns out your Honor rules in July
 4
    and there's an ability to do the August omnibus during the
 5
    first half of August rather than the currently scheduled August
 6
 7
    26th date, that would certainly be fine with the debtors and
 8
    that would get a -
             THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
 9
10
    response).
11
             MR. ERENS: -- the PIQ and bar date motion out of the
    way and may be better for people's end-of-the summer schedule
12
13
    as well.
             But we'll do whatever the parties want or, or the
14
15
    Court wants. Currently, based on what your Honor indicated --
             THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
16
17
    response).
18
             MR. ERENS: -- the bar date and PIQ motion wouldn't be
    heard until August 26th and there may be an opportunity, I
19
    suppose, to hear it earlier if, if the schedules meet up to
20
    that effect.
21
             THE COURT: Other thoughts?
22
23
         (No response)
             THE COURT: I'm just looking at those dates, what's
24
```

available in August -- and it wouldn't help you a lot -- but I

could do the omnibus date on the 16th, 17th, or 18th instead of 1 2 the 26th. That gets you a little closer up, but it, it really is -- maybe that's one that y'all need to talk about your 3 schedules and get back to us. 4 MR. ERENS: 5 Okay. 6 THE COURT: All right? 7 MR. ERENS: Yeah. Your Honor, from, from my perspective -- it's just my personal schedule -- I'm actually 8 9 moving on the 16th. 10 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MR. ERENS: So -- and I don't know the last time you moved houses, but it's a big chore with little children and the 12 like. So from my perspective it's close enough to the 26th, 13 I'd rather just do the 26th at that point. 14 15 THE COURT: Well, what I'm looking at otherwise is we have DBMP and Kaiser on that second week in August. 16 17 week in August, there's some, some flexibility there, 18 particularly on Friday, the 6th, but it's a matter of whose school starts when and whose vacations are. Down here, people 19 20 tend to get those vacations in in the first two weeks of August in anticipation of school starting. So it's just a question of 21 who's available. 22 But I'm happy to consider something else. 23 The 5th or 6th would be fine with me. So talk amongst yourselves and see 24

25

if you want to make a change there.

```
1
             MR. ERENS:
                         Okay.
 2
             THE COURT:
                         All right?
                         All right. We will do so, your Honor.
             MR. ERENS:
 3
             THE COURT: But for now, we're going to continue the,
 4
    No. 1 on the docket for the clerk's -- excuse me -- the -- No.
 5
    1 on the docket to July 26th. That's by agreement.
 6
 7
             MR. ERENS:
                         That's correct, your Honor.
             THE COURT:
                         All right.
 8
                         There haven't been any orders entered
 9
             MR. ERENS:
    continuing this motion. If your Honor wants an order on the
10
11
    docket so it's clear, we're happy to prepare one.
             THE COURT: Our practice is, is pretty flexible there.
12
    Sometimes we do, sometimes we don't, and it depends whether the
13
    parties feel a need to, to formalize it. If y'all are content
14
15
    with just continuing it on the record, that's fine with me.
             MR. ERENS:
                         That's fine with the debtors, your Honor.
16
17
             THE COURT: Okay, very good.
18
             Want to move along, then? I guess --
19
             MR. ERENS:
                         Okay.
20
             THE COURT: -- No. 2 is the uncontested matter, the
    motion of the debtors extending exclusivity on filing a plan.
21
22
    I understand that the parties are not contesting that and that
    is going forward, everybody?
23
             MR. ERENS: That's, that's correct, your Honor. Our
24
25
    practice has been before we file an exclusivity extension
```

1 motion --THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative 2 3 response). MR. ERENS: -- we propose a certain amount of time to 4 both the ACC and FCR and if the amount of time they've 5 indicated they're willing to agree to is, is acceptable to the 6 debtors, we just file the motion with that amount of time. 7 that's what's happened three times in a row. This is the third 8 extension of exclusivity. The ACC agreed to three months and 9 as a result, we're taking it in, in bites in that fashion. 10 11 And so the motion seeks a further three-month extension of exclusivity, which would expire in mid-August. 12 13 THE COURT: Okay. Happy to argue the motion, but again, it 14 MR. ERENS: 15 is uncontested and we haven't heard any responses from noncommittees as well, meaning nobody else in addition to the FCR 16 17 or the ACC. 18 THE COURT: Does anyone want to be heard with regard to that motion? 19 20 (No response) Okay. It is granted. 21 THE COURT: Thank you, your Honor. 22 MR. ERENS: THE COURT: All right. 23 Moving along, then we get into the adversary and I 24

understand there -- that, according to the printed docket, that

- 1 there are uncontested -- all of these matters are uncontested,
- 2 but we can discuss that. Should we call them one at a time or
- 3 | should we call all of them together?
- 4 MR. ERENS: Your Honor, Mr. Hirst, again, will be
- 5 | handling, at least from the debtors' perspective, these
- 6 | motions. So I would defer to him and any other parties who
- 7 | filed such motions.
- 8 MR. HIRST: And good morning, your Honor. Morgan
- 9 Hirst for the debtors. It's good to see you again. And don't
- 10 | ever estimate the, my ability to lose an uncontested motion,
- 11 | Judge, but I will, I'll try my best here.
- I think we can handle them. I know they are motions
- 13 | filed both by the debtors, by the non-debtor affiliates, and by
- 14 | the Committee, but I think with Mr. Cox and Mr. Mascitti's
- 15 permission we probably, it's easier to handle them in a group
- 16 and if you have any directed questions to any of the individual
- 17 | movants, I'm sure they're happy to answer them.
- 18 There are seven of these seal motions on the docket,
- 19 Judge. Actually, we're down to six of them --
- 20 THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
- 21 response).
- 22 MR. HIRST: -- based on discussions that Mr. Cox and I
- 23 | had yesterday. Agenda Item No. 7 on the docket, which was the
- 24 | Committee's motion to seal relating to their, I believe it's
- 25 | their reply brief on the --

```
THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
 1
 2
    response).
             MR. HIRST: -- preliminary injunction -- I'm sorry --
 3
    their reply brief on the motion to compel that we had before
 4
 5
    your Honor before the PI. This is Docket 205.
             THE COURT:
 6
                         Right.
 7
             MR. HIRST:
                         We've talked amongst ourselves. I believe
    all of the items that were originally sealed, originally sought
 8
    sealing protection no longer need them based on dedesignation
 9
    and as a result, the Committee, I believe last night, filed
10
11
    that motion completely unsealed --
12
             THE COURT: Okay.
             MR. HIRST: -- with the permission of everybody
13
    involved, so.
14
15
             THE COURT: Anyone else want to weigh in on No. 7
    before we talk about the others?
16
17
             MR. COX: Yeah, your Honor. Rob Cox on behalf of the
    ACC.
18
             And what Mr. Hirst said is correct. We actually, just
19
    to clean, clean the matter up for the Court and for the clerk,
20
    we, we filed a withdrawal of, of the motion that's referencing.
21
             So I think that one is, is fully resolved and as
22
    Mr. Hirst indicated, we went ahead and filed that pleading
23
    unredacted, unsealed online last night.
24
```

THE COURT: All right.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

```
I was really asking whether anyone had an opposition
to, to taking these en masse. Anyone got a feeling about,
that, that would prefer to take them individually?
        MR. COX: Your Honor, Rob Cox on behalf of the ACC.
         I believe based on our discussions with, with the
debtor and the non-debtor affiliates that we're in, in
agreement as to what can and cannot be unsealed in the two
documents that remain that the ACC has sought to have, have
sealed with the, the motions. They're Items No. 3 and 4 on the
agenda.
        THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
response).
        MR. COX:
                  So I, I have no issue with, with taking
these altogether.
                  I think that makes sense.
        MR. MASCITTI: I agree, your Honor.
        THE COURT:
                    Okay.
        All right.
                    We are talking for the clerk's benefit on,
on all of the adversary uncontested matters, 3 on down to the
end except No. 7, which has been withdrawn.
         I don't know that there is, since some are filed by
each party, I don't know that it matters who, who speaks first.
        But, Mr. Hirst, you were, were addressing these. So
why don't you go ahead and continue and tell me what you think
I need to know.
        MR. HIRST: Sure, your Honor. And, and I'm obviously
```

```
-- I will keep this short. I'm obviously happy to deal with
 1
 2
    any specific questions you have.
             This actually is a mix. These, these six remaining
 3
    motions, I quess, are --
 4
 5
             THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
 6
    response).
 7
             MR. HIRST: -- a mix of designations both by the
    debtors, by the non-debtor affiliates, and actually, in a
 8
    couple of cases, by the Committee, confidentiality designations
 9
    that run across all the motions. I believe in, in all cases
10
11
    they've been properly supported in the moving papers and the
    supporting affidavits behind them as to the basis for the
12
13
    confidentiality.
             THE COURT: Uh-huh (indicating an affirmative
14
15
    response).
             MR. HIRST: I think the parties have worked hard
16
17
    together to narrow those significantly since, you know, some of
18
    these were filed back, some of these motions, your Honor, were
    filed back in April, and we've been working with Mr. Cox --
19
20
             THE COURT: Right.
             MR. HIRST: -- and Mr. Mascitti to, to narrow the, the
21
    scope of them down and I think we've, we've done a good job and
22
    they're, they are pretty limited in their scope in terms of
23
    designations.
24
```

And so, you know, beyond going through any of the, any

individual questions your Honor might had or any individual 1 designations or to the extent your Honor wants me to for the 2 record point to any of the docket numbers or anything like that 3 beyond what's in the agenda, I would leave it at that and turn 4 over to, any questions, to Mr. Cox and Mr. Mascitti. 5 THE COURT: How about the others? Mr. Mascitti? 6 7 MR. MASCITTI: I have nothing to add to that, your Honor. 8 THE COURT: Mr. Cox? 9 MR. COX: Your Honor, I also don't have anything --10 11 well, the only thing I will say, your Honor, is the plan from the Committee's perspective is to file the two remaining 12 documents with the unsealed, unredacted versions that have been 13 approved by both the debtor and the non-debtor committee. 14 15 So we'll be filing those two documents under a separate notice, but that's the only thing I will add to 16 17 Mr. Hirst's presentation. 18 THE COURT: Okay, very good. I had one question and it's simply because I didn't 19 have time to go back and look at what we had, had received from 20 21 you. About No. 8, it's the ACC's motion to file the 22 proposed findings and, its version of the proposed findings and 23 conclusions under seal, some portions of that, and I know that 24

we had both an unredacted and a filed redacted copy of it.

1 | Just to speed us up so we're not having to pick through, can

- 2 | somebody tell me, is the debtors' version, did we get it both
- 3 | ways as well? Did the debtor file -- I think the one that was
- 4 | filed on our docket was unredacted or it didn't show any
- 5 blackouts.
- 6 So did the debtor have redaction needs on its proposed
- 7 findings?
- 8 MR. HIRST: I do not believe, your Honor. Again,
- 9 Morgan Hirst for the debtors. I don't believe we had any
- 10 redactions necessary. I don't believe we cited to any
- 11 | confidential information under the protective order.
- And so that is why, I believe, what was filed on the
- 13 docket was an unredacted version.
- 14 THE COURT: Well, just by methodology and in the
- 15 | interest of time as well as the need for you folks to defend on
- 16 appeal the findings that are made down here, I have been trying
- 17 as much as possible to work off of the proposed findings the
- 18 | two sides have submitted in these cases and I've had a lot more
- 19 | time in DBMP than in this one for those findings, but I wanted
- 20 | to make sure that I didn't have to then go through the entirety
- 21 of the record trying to make sure I didn't inadvertently put
- 22 something in the clear in a finding that I wasn't aware of. I
- 23 know where the ACC had in their version, where there's some
- 24 | slippery slope that we need to be careful of.
- But in any event, that, that was the question, all

1 right? Anything else? 2 (No response) 3 THE COURT: Very good. Well, then, those motions are 4 5 approved without opposition, so. All right. What else do we need --6 7 MR. COX: Thank you, Judge. THE COURT: What else do we need to discuss this 8 morning? 9 That's it, your Honor. We look forward to 10 MR. ERENS: 11 going into July and coming in person for the first time in this entire case. 12 THE COURT: Well, we, we do as well. I hope there, 13 that you'll find it to your liking. Getting in this building 14 15 now is a little more of a challenge. You have to go through the side of the old building, which is under demolition and, 16 17 and renovation, and come in through the long way. But we've 18 got more space for you once you get here in the courtroom than we did before. 19 And for those of you who don't get to occupy the 20 primary counsel tables, we even have a, a podium for you to 21 speak from so that you don't have to try to buddy up to those 22 who are sitting at the counsel table. 23 So it'll be a change for you, I'm sure, so. 24 All right. 25

Yes, your Honor. 1 MR. ROTEN: It's Russell Roten. I just wanted to confirm that the Court is now 2 physically open starting in July, next month. 3 I, I've been owing Mr. Maclay an evening at Pinky's for about 18 months now 4 and I wanted to make sure I follow through on that this year. 5 THE COURT: As of July the 6th, the only Charlotte 6 7 Division court that we're doing that is not in person are chapter 13 cases and if we get into something that comes up on 8 an emergency basis in these cases, we may do some 9 videoconference hearings, but I'm hoping that we will be able 10 11 to put as much of it in person going forward as possible. So that's the norm and exceptions will be dealt with 12 13 on an ad hoc basis, so. So yes, we're in person. 14 15 MR. ERENS: Your Honor, I did have one question that's sort of related that, that I've gotten from some others, which 16 17 is, you know, before the pandemic the people who were appearing 18 at the hearing came in person and some people dialed in 'cause they just wanted to monitor the hearing. 19 The question I've gotten is, you know, is the Court 20 going to go back to that system so that if people are not going 21 to attend, it's phone only and there'll be no more video or is 22 there a thought that there might be video for people who are 23 not actually attending and are just monitoring? 24

25

THE COURT:

No.

We're trying not to do virtual and in

person at the same time. The, the events that I've done that 1 have attempted both -- and I've had several over the last 2 couple, few months -- you're always held hostage to whoever has 3 the worst bandwidth and we, what we were going to try to do is 4 go back to our pre-pandemic practice that if you're announcing 5 an appearance and want to appear telephonically, don't have a 6 major role, primarily want to listen in, that's fine. 7 let you appear telephonically, but you take the risk that if 8 you get knocked off the line, etc., that that, that's on you 9 Those who are going to take a major role, primarily the 10 11 speakers, or if there's evidence to be presented, we want you here in person. 12 13 The question becomes -- and I know there's some public interest in all this about can you just listen in if you're not 14 15 announcing and that one, we're a little bit uncertain as yet. The Judicial Conference policy has been temporarily waived so 16 17 that, that, by and large, live broadcasting has not been 18 allowed and during the pandemic it was to a certain extent.

But what I think we're going to do, instead, is simply say if you're not announcing, you can get the playback the next day, or a day or so afterwards based on CM-ECF. So it's available to you, but we're, we're trying to get ourselves back to our, our pre-pandemic way of conducting business.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. ERENS: Okay. Thank you. That's very, that's very helpful.

```
1
             THE COURT: Okay, very good. And --
 2
             MR. ERENS:
                         All right.
             THE COURT: And we do have a third counsel table -- I
 3
 4
    don't know if I've announced that in this case -- in these new
    courtroom. So we have a little more space for you than before.
 5
    So the, you're not necessarily jammed up with parties that
 6
 7
    you're only partially allied to, so. But in any event.
             All right? If there's nothing --
 8
             MR. ERENS: Let the (indiscernible).
 9
             THE COURT: -- further, we will recess. Have a good
10
11
    weekend.
                         Thank you, your Honor.
12
             MR. ERENS:
13
             MR. MILLER:
                          Thank you.
14
             MR. LIESEMER: Thank you, your Honor.
15
        (Proceedings concluded at 9:57 a.m.)
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1	<u>CERTIFICATE</u>	
2	I, court approved transcriber, certify that the	
3	foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic	
4	sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled	
5	matter.	
6	/s/ Janice Russell June 28, 2021	
7	Janice Russell, Transcriber Date	
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		