LOWENSTEIN SANDLER LLP KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP 1 JEFFREY D. PROL (Pro Hac Vice) TOBIAS S. KELLER (Cal. Bar No. 151445) 2 jprol@lowenstein.com tkeller@kbkllp.com MICHAEL A. KAPLAN (Pro Hac Vice) JANE KIM (Cal. Bar No. 298192) 3 mkaplan@lowenstein.com jkim@kbkllp.com BRENT WEISENBERG (Pro Hac Vice) GABRIELLE L. ALBERT (Cal. Bar No. 4 bweisenberg@lowenstein.com 190895) COLLEEN M. RESTEL (Pro Hac Vice) galbert@kbkllp.com 5 crestel@lowenstein.com 425 Market St., 26th Floor One Lowenstein Drive San Francisco, California 94105 6 Roseland, New Jersey 07068 Telephone: (415) 496-6723 Telephone: (973) 597-2500 7 Counsel for the Official Committee of 8 **Unsecured Creditors** 9 **BURNS BAIR LLP** TIMOTHY W. BURNS (Pro Hac Vice forthcoming) 10 tburns@burnsbair.com JESSE J. BAIR (Pro Hac Vice forthcoming) 11 jbair@burnsbair.com 10 East Doty Street, Suite 600 12 Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3392 Telephone: (608) 286-2808 13 14 Special Insurance Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors 15 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 16 **OAKLAND DIVISION** 17 Case No. 23-40523 WJL 18 In re: 19 Chapter 11 20 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF **DECLARATION OF MICHAEL A.** OAKLAND, a California corporation sole, KAPLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE 21 OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS' 22 Debtor. **OBJECTION TO LMI'S MOTION FOR** 23 PROTECTIVE ORDER AND MOTION TO QUASH 24 [Related to Docket Nos. 918 & 992] 25 Hon. William J. Lafferty Judge: 26 Date: April 26, 2024 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) Time: 27 United States Bankruptcy Court Place: 1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 220 28

I, Michael A. Kaplan, Esq., hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am a partner of the law firm of Lowenstein Sandler LLP, counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") in connection with the above-referenced chapter 11 case.
- 2. I submit this Declaration in support of the *Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' Objection to LMI's Motion for Protective Order and Motion to Quash* filed simultaneously herewith.
- 3. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the relevant pages of the transcript of hearing held on January 9, 2024 in the above-referenced chapter 11 case.
- 4. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a true and correct copy of the relevant pages of the transcript of hearing held on February 12, 2024 in the above-referenced chapter 11 case.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and I understand that I am subject to punishment if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false. Executed this 11th day of April 2024, in Roseland, New Jersey.

Michael A. Kaplan, Esq.

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Exhibit A

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1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT		
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
3	-000-		
4	In Re:) Case No. 4:23-Bk-40523		
5) Chapter 11 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF)		
6	OAKLAND) Oakland, California) Tuesday, January 9, 2024 Debtor.) 9:00 AM		
7	Debtor.) 9:00 AM)		
8	CLAIMS MOTION TO ALLOW FILING OF LATE PROOFS OF CLAIM F.R.B.P. 9006(B)(1). FILED		
9	BY WBS CLAIMANTS (DOC. 607)		
10	JOINT MOTION FOR ENTRY OF ORDER REFERRING PARTIES TO		
11	MEDIATION, APPOINTING MEDIATORS, AND GRANTING		
12	RELATED RELIEF, FILED BY DEBTOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC		
13	BISHIP OF OAKLAND (DOC. 705)		
14	STATUS CONFERENCE		
15	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. LAFFERTY		
16	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE		
17	APPEARANCES (All present by video or telephone): For the Debtor: MATTHEW D. LEE, ESQ.		
18	Foley & Lardner LLP 150 East Gilman Street		
19	Suite 5000		
20	Madison, WI 53703 (608)258-4203		
21	ANN MARIE UETZ, ESQ.		
22	Foley & Lardner LLP 500 Woodward Avenue		
23	Suite 2700 Detroit, MI 48226		
24	(313)234-7100		
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1	APPEARANCES (cont'd):		
2	For Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors:	BRENT WEISENBERG, ESQ. JEFFREY D. PROL, ESQ.	
3	onsecured creditors.	COLLEEN M. RESTEL, ESQ. Lowenstein Sandler LLP	
4		One Lowenstein Drive Roseland, NJ 07068	
5		(973)597-6310	
6		GABRIELLE L. ALBERT Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP	
7		425 Market Street 26th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105	
9		(415)364-6791	
10	Special insurance counsel for the committee:	TIMOTHY W. BURNS, ESQ. JESSE J. BAIR, ESQ.	
11		Burns Bair LLP 10 E. Doty Street	
12		Suite 600 Madison, WI 53703 (608)286-2808	
13	Ear Continental Coqueltu		
14	For Continental Casualty Company:	MARK D. PLEVIN Crowell & Moring LLP 3 Embarcadero Center	
15		26th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111	
16		(415)986-2800	
17	For INA:	TANCRED SCHIAVONI, ESQ. O'Melveny & Myers LLP	
18		Times Square Tower 7 Times Square	
19		New York, NY 10036 (212)326-2000	
20		JUSTINE DANIELS, ESQ.	
21		O'Melveny & Myers LLP 400 South Hope Street 18th Floor	
23		Los Angeles, CA 90071 (213)430-7657	
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			3
1	APPEARANCES (cont'd):		
2	For Office of the United		
3	States Trustee:	United States Department of Justice 501 I Street	
4		Suite 7-500	
5		Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)930-2076	
6	For London Market Insurers:	CLINTON CAMERON, ESQ. Clyde & Co LLP	
7	IIIsuICIS•	30 S Wacker Drive Suite 2600	
8		Chicago, IL 60606 (312)635-6938	
9	For Westport Insurance	BLAISE S. CURET, ESQ.	
10	Corporation:	Sinnott, Puebla, Campagne & Curet, APLC	
11		2000 Powell Street Suite 830	
12		Emeryville, CA 94608 (415)352-6200	
13	For eighteen claimants:	ERIKA SCOTT, ESQ.	
14		Winer, Burritt & Scott, LLP 1901 Harrison Street	
15		Suite 1100 Oakland, CA 94612	
16		(510)200-0162	
17	For WBS claimants:	EDWARD J. TREDINNICK , ESQ. Fox Rothschild LLP	
18		345 California Street Suite 2200	
19		San Francisco, CA 94104 (415)364-5540	
20	For LMI:	BRADLEY PUKLIN, ESQ.	
21		Clyde & Co LLP 30 S Wacker Drive	
22		Suite 2600 Chicago, IL 60606	
23		(312)635-6935	
24			
25			

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1	Also Present:	Christopher Sontchi Proposed Mediator		
2		Matt Weiss		
3		Westport Insurance		
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17	Court Recorder:	DA'WANA CHAMBERS		
18		United States Bankruptcy Court 1300 Clay Street		
19		Oakland, CA 94612		
20	Transcriber:	RIVER WOLFE		
21		eScribers, LLC 7227 N. 16th Street		
22		Suite #207 Phoenix, AZ 85020		
23		(800) 257-0885		
24	Proceedings recorded by ele transcript provided by tran			
25	crosses provided by crus			

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             THE COURT: All right. Very good. Okay. Well, I'll
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    reserve 9:30 for you, okay, next Wednesday.
 3
             MR. WEISENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.
             THE COURT: You're welcome.
 4
 5
             MR. WEISENBERG: And if it's okay with you, if the
    parties are able to agree, then we'll submit something to the
 6
    Court indicating as such, and if not, we'll --
 7
 8
             THE COURT: Yeah. I mean, I had no other independent
 9
    problems with the order.
10
             MR. WEISENBERG: Okay.
             THE COURT:
11
                         Okay.
12
             MR. WEISENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.
13
             THE COURT: So that's fine. Okay.
             All right. Does that resolve that as far as we go?
14
15
             MS. UETZ: Yeah. Just for clarity, I'll circulate a
16
    proposed order --
17
             THE COURT:
                         Okay.
18
             MS. UETZ: -- with that one change tomorrow.
             THE COURT: Okay. The other call's at 1:30? Okay.
19
             Okay. I wanted to talk a little bit about where we
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    were with respect to the order after a very lengthy hearing
21
22
    with respect to some of the discovery matters on the insurance
23
    side. I think there have been -- there's been an exchange of
24
    orders, and there have been some declarations and other
25
    pleadings filed. I want to give you just a couple of
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observations about that.

In my view, I mean, if someone wants to bring a companion motion to veil on my motion, I guess they can, although I'll have a comment about that too. What we largely resolved in connection with the earlier hearings, in which I granted some requests, denied others, and this went as well to some of the what we can call the internal documents from the insurance companies, I don't think I was asked to resolve and I don't think I did resolve what was attorney-client privilege. That is a sometimes-moving target.

I'll make the observation that I tend to -- I take that relatively seriously, both because if it is waived or breached, it's a big deal, but also because I think there can sometimes be efforts to cloak something in attorney-client privilege that arguably is not necessary to that relationship or is overstated or is not something on which legal advice is truly sought. I mean, I've never had anybody CC their lawyer with their grocery list and later claim it's attorney-client privilege, but someday I will. So I'm not resolving that, but I'm suggesting I take a fairly rigorous view of that question. Okay.

Work product, again, work product to me is something that is produced in connection with litigation. So again, I don't think I resolved it, but I would suggest that my view of that is rigorously questioning. Okay.

With respect to relevance, I think we did resolve 1 2 that. And I think that the long discussion we had, I found very helpful. And if anybody wants to either appeal my order 3 4 or argue that it should be deemed a final order, you can do 5 that. But in my view, we thoroughly exhausted the relevance 6 arguments. So for better or for worse, that's my sense of that. Okay. 7 Mr. Plevin, you want to say something? 8 9 MR. PLEVIN: Briefly, Your Honor. So I did not join the LMI motion. My client did not. So I'm not going to speak 10 11 about that. THE COURT: Yeah, we're going to -- we're going to 12 come to that in a second --13 14 MR. PLEVIN: Right. 15 THE COURT: -- and I think I'm needing some clarification on that myself. All right. Go ahead. 16 MR. PLEVIN: So the dispute that was laid out in the 17 18 two certifications and the declaration was really, it really comes down to one paragraph and one issue. 19

THE COURT: Yep.

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MR. PLEVIN: And that is that when we -- there were some open issues about definitions and phrasing of some of the requests, and we had a meet-and-confer. There were a lot of people on it. There were some respects in which we expressed some concerns about a definition or something, and the

Exhibit B

of 12

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1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT	
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
3	-000-	
4	In Re:) Case No. 4:23-bk-40523) Chapter 13	
5	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF) OAKLAND) Oakland, California	
6 7) Monday, February 12, 2024 Debtor.)10:00 AM	
8	ADV#: 23-04028	
9	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF OAKLAND, ET AL. v. PACIFIC INDEMNITY, ET AL.	
10	SCHEDULING CONFERENCE	
11	STATUS CONFERENCE	
12	STATUS CONFERENCE	
13 14	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. LAFFERTY UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE	
15	APPEARANCES (All present by video or telephone):	
16	For the Debtor-Plaintiff: EILEEN R. RIDLEY, ESQ. ANN MARIE UETZ, ESQ.	
17	Foley & Lardner LLP 555 California Street	
18	Suite 1700 San Francisco, CA 94104	
19	(415)434-4484	
	JOSEPH M. BREALL, ESQ.	
20	Breall & Breall, LLP 3625 California Street	
21	San Francisco, CA 94118 (415)345-0545	
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23		
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25		

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1	For California Insurance Guarantee Association:	MICHAEL D. COMPEAN, ESQ. FREDERICK G. HALL, ESQ.	
2	Guarancee Association:	Black, Compean & Hall, LLP 275 East Hillcrest Drive	
3		Suite 160-1021 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360	
4		818-883-9500	
5	For Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors:	GABRIELLE ALBERT, ESQ. Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP	
6	onsecured creditors.	650 California Street Suite 1900	
7		San Francisco, CA 94108 (415)796-0709	
8		JEFFREY D. PROL, ESQ.	
9		Lowenstein Sandler LLP One Lowenstein Drive	
10		Roseland, NJ 07068 (973)597-2490	
11		TIMOTHY W. BURNS, ESQ.	
12		Burns Bair LLP 10 East Doty Street	
13		Suite 600 Madison, WI 53703	
14		(608) 286-2302	
15	For Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's of London:	CATALINA J. SUGAYAN, ESQ. Clyde & Co US LLP	
16	de Broja s or Bondon	55 West Monroe Street Suite 3000	
17		Chicago, IL 60603 (312)635-6917	
18	For Pacific Indemnity	TANCRED V. SCHIAVONI, ESQ.	
19	Company:	O'Melveny & Myers LLP 7 Times Square	
20		New York, NY 10036 (212)326-2000	
21		JUSTINE M. DANIELS, ESQ.	
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1	Company:	ALEXANDER E. POTENTE, ESQ. Clyde & Co LLP
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4	For Certain Underwriters	MARK D. PLEVIN, ESQ.
5	at Lloyd's of London Subscribing:	Crowell & Moring LLP 3 Embarcadero Center
6		26th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111
7		(415)365-7446
8		NATHAN REINHARDT, ESQ. Duane Morris LLP
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11		BRADLEY PUKLIN, ESQ.
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15	For American Home	AMY P. KLIE, ESQ.
16	Assurance Co.:	Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP
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19	For Travelers Casualty &	JOSHUA K. HAEVERNICK, ESQ.
20	Surety Company:	Dentons 1999 Harrison Street
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1	Corporation: Sinnott, Puebla, Campagne & Cure	et,
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3	Emeryville, CA 94608	
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18	Court Recorder: D CHAMBERS United States Bankruptcy Court	
19	1300 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612	
20		
21	Transcriber: RIVER WOLFE eScribers, LLC	
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write as a comment under my opportunity under our Local Rule 5011, with respect to the motion to withdraw the reference. So I will defer -- why don't I start with Ms. Uetz and see if there's anything she wants to tell me right -- organization or how we proceed?

MS. UETZ: Your Honor, I like the organization that you just suggested. I think that we'll have some comments following Your Honor's statements, but they may inform what I would otherwise say. So if you wouldn't mind proceeding as you've outlined, I think that makes perfect sense.

THE COURT: Yeah, I'm happy to.

MS. UETZ: Thank you.

THE COURT: Well, do we have anybody else from Duane Morris here because they really were the principal --

MR. REINHARDT: That's me, Your Honor. Nate
Reinhardt. I'll be Mr. Rubin's eyes and ears, I guess, for
this, but anything you say, I'll relay to him as well.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay. All right. Well, let me proceed in two fashions. I think what I heard from Mr. Rubin last week was that the extent the motion for clarification was concerned about matters that were truly matters of privilege, whether they be attorney-client or work product, that that was no longer an issue, that the parties had discussed privilege issues. And I don't know if the parties literally agreed that nothing in the 2004 exam request was meant to obliterate any

privilege, but I can tell you right now, it was not my intent to obliterate any privileges. So to the extent that's an issue that's off the table, that's appropriate for all purposes.

Having said that, I probably made a comment or two about what might be the proper scope of privileges or work product, and I'll circle back to that when I get into what my thinking was in giving the ruling that I believe I gave on November 14th. So number one, I'm glad that privilege issues are being dealt with responsibly by the parties. That's terrific.

To the extent that what Mr. Rubin was telling me was he was genuinely uncertain what my ruling was, I find that very difficult to accept, having read the transcript. We had lengthy argument about the categories that were being requested. I will give you this -- and Mr. Plevin, I think in particular was helpful in focusing us on this particular aspect of the motion. It was arguably, from the insurance company's perspective, a moving target in that the initial request was not exactly the same thing as the request as articulated in the reply brief, where I think Mr. Plevin identified six categories, and the committee, I think, identified basically six categories of documents.

But we certainly moved, I thought quite, adeptly into that discussion, and it was a long standing discussion. And everybody except Mr. Schiavoni got to make their thoughts

known. I'll come back to Mr. Schiavoni's characterization of that in a few minutes, with which I thoroughly disagree. And I'll tell you why.

But what I was trying to articulate through my questions and through my ruling was that I thought there was a difference between a 2004 exam, which is meant to get information about the debtor's assets, liabilities, financial condition, and the matters necessary to administer the case and do what you need to do in the course of a bankruptcy case, and litigation issues, which are going to be dealt with differently in the AP.

And if I was not clear about that, I'm not sure how I could have made myself any clearer. That was a theme throughout my comments and my questions. And that was how I approached the decision that I made at the end of the hearing, which I think is articulated at pages 175 and 176 of the transcript, to not require that there be, at least for now, any production or disclosure of matters having to do with the resolution of claims in prior cases. In my view, that was much more of a sort of a litigation-type posture. I didn't think it was necessary or appropriate to get into that.

I did think that there were three categories that, while I think they might in some ways arguably have been litigation-related rather than 2004-related, and those are, as I said, the current claims files, the reserve working papers,

and the underwriting information. I thought those were all fair game for a discovery because in my view, they were in some ways the mirror image of the claim information. The claim information is one side of the ledger. What the insurance companies are doing about it is the other side of the ledger. So that was my thinking in making that ruling, and I thought it was quite clear.

Where I left a little bit of room for you folks to discuss was being more precise than I probably was being about what those categories mean because you know that better than I do. So what I did say is, please get in a room and talk about these categories so that you're talking about the same thing and that you're defining them the same way and that we can get closure on this. And that was the point of my ruling and that was my ruling. So to the extent there's an argument that it wasn't clear, I simply can't accept that.

So to the extent this is a motion for clarification,

I'm going to deny it. I don't think clarification was

necessary. And I think the party filing the motion for

clarification could simply have done what everybody else did,

which was try to get in the same room and talk about these

categories. But rather than do that, they up with a motion for

clarification, which I just don't think really makes any sense.

To the extent there's an argument that the relevancy concerns were not fully articulated and these materials weren't

relevant, again, for the reasons I set forth during my ruling, I believe they were. And I'll go a little bit further and say something that I think was probably implicit in my ruling, but I'll say it more directly. One cannot survey the scattered history of mediations in these types of cases and come up with the idea that anybody has figured out how to do them perfectly. Far from it. I don't think you can pull any rule from those experiences, as far as I can tell, as to what's the perfect way to get a mediation or get people the information they need.

So I think we need to be sensitive to possibly doing things a little bit differently. And it was my theory that having the insurance companies provide this information was going to help that process and was going to get everybody into the mediation with the optimum amount of information. On the debtor to committee side, that's the claim information produced to the insurers. From the insurers, that is a snapshot of where they are with their evaluations. And in my view, those are simply mirror images of each other. I did not think there was anything necessarily categorically confidential or privileged about that information. To the extent something truly is privileged, I was not intending to obliterate that, and the parties can work through that.

So that was my ruling. I stand by it. I continue to think for those reasons that there was relevancy established, at least for the limited purposes of a 2004 exam, which again,

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I'm contrasting with litigation theories. Okay. Litigation is a whole other story, and you're going to get into that in the AP. That is different. So for all those reasons, I'm going to deny the motion for clarification and/or for reconsideration. I will not get into whether it's really a motion for reconsideration. Arguably it isn't, but that's really neither here nor there.

I do want to make one other point. Mr. Schiavoni was perceptive enough, I guess, at the last hearing to attempt to remind me that we had a very long hearing and that at one point he asked to speak and was not permitted to do so. That's true. But when I went back and looked at the transcript, I reminded myself that the reason that that wasn't true was because Mr. Schiavoni had not filed papers with respect to that issue. And I turned to the other side, and I said, do you have any objection to one more person arguing this from the insurers' side? The answer was yes. And I said, okay, I'm sustaining that objection.

So let me just say this and leave it at that. Far from that being a result of everybody being tired or me being arguably discourteous, there was a very good reason why in that instance Mr. Schiavoni didn't add to what Mr. Plevin had already said with great articulation. So that point is -- that's all I want to say about that, and I want to leave it at that.

So I would ask the committee, who I think was the principal responding party with respect to the motion for clarification, to prepare an order that is simply for the reasons stated on the record, the motion is denied. And I would move off to the APs and some thoughts about the withdrawal of the reference.

Anything else?

No? Okay. Would it be -- let me begin this discussion this way. Obviously, a motion to withdraw the reference is not directed to me. I will not decide it. And it would not be appropriate for me to support or oppose it necessarily. I do have this right in our Local Rules to comment on it. And I realized that on the one hand, I don't think we have any opposition papers yet on the motions to withdraw the reference; is that correct?

MS. UETZ: Correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Having said that, there are a couple of -- if it's going to be helpful, there are a couple comments I would make. So if you want to tell me where you are before I say anything, I'm delighted to hear it. If you're ready to hear some thoughts from me, I'm happy to give you them.

MS. UETZ: Your Honor, we'd prefer to hear your thoughts again, just because for the debtor --

THE COURT: Okay.