1	Alison V. Lippa (SBN: 160807)	
2	alippa@nicolaidesllp.com	
2	NICOLAIDES FINK THORPE	
3	MICHAELIDES SULLIVAN LLP 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2300	
	San Francisco, CA 94104	
4	Telephone: (415) 745-3770	
5	Facsimile: (415) 745-3771	
6	Amy P. Klie (Pro Hac Vice Pending)	
7	aklie@nicolaidesllp.com NICOLAIDES FINK THORPE	
8	MICHAELIDES SULLIVAN LLP 10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100	
9	Chicago, Illinois 60606	
10	Telephone: (312) 585-1400	
11	Attorneys for AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE CO.	
12		
13	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT	
14	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
15	OAKLAND DIVISION	
16	In re:	Bankruptcy Case No.: 23-40523 WJL
17	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF	Hon. William J. Lafferty
18	OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,	Chapter 11
19	Debtor.	AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY'S OPPOSITION TO THE
20		OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS' MOTION
21		TO ENFORCE THE RULE 2004 ORDER
22		AND COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENAS
23		Date: April 26, 2024
24		Time: 10:00 a.m.
25		Place: United States Bankruptcy Court 1300 Clay Street
26		Courtroom 220 Oakland, CA 94612
27		<u>-</u>

COMES NOW, American Home Assurance Company ("American Home"), by and through its undersigned counsel of record, hereby provides the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities in response ("Opposition") to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' ("Committee") Motion to Enforce the Rule 2004 Order and Compel Compliance with Subpoenas ("motion") (ECF 996).

I. INTRODUCTION

The Committee's motion seeking to compel American Home's production of documents in response to the Rule 2004 subpoena ("Subpoena") contains substantial misrepresentations regarding American Home's response to the Subpoena, is procedurally flawed and fails to comply with the applicable local rules or the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The primary reason the motion must be denied is that American Home has pending a motion to quash the Subpoena ("Motion to Quash") which is scheduled for hearing before this Court at the same time as the present motion. Pursuant to authority in this jurisdiction, the Motion to Quash constitutes American Home's objections to the Subpoena and American Home is not obligated to respond to the Subpoena until the Motion to Quash is decided. Therefore, the Committee's motion is premature as the Court has not yet decided the Motion to Quash.

The motion is also improper and should be denied where the Committee failed to abide by this Court's local rules and requirements. The Committee failed to meet and confer with American Home prior to filing this motion, even refusing to directly speak with American Home after the Committee was notified about the Motion to Quash. The Committee also violated Civil Local Rule 37-2 which requires that a motion to compel set forth each request in full, followed immediately by the objections and/or responses.

Finally, the Committee misrepresents American Home's response to the Subpoena, failing to mention American Home's March 4, 2024 correspondence in which it detailed its good faith search for documents relating to certain undisputed categories of document requests.

For these reasons, the motion should be denied in its entirety as improper and premature until the American Home's Motion to Quash is decided, and unless and until the Committee

abides by the requirements of this Court's Local Rules which contain a strict requirement that the parties meet and confer prior to filing any discovery motions.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Procedural Status

On May 8, 2023, the Debtor the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland ("RCBO" or "Debtor") filed a voluntary chapter 11 petition for relief under Title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code ("Bankruptcy Case"). The primary purpose of the Bankruptcy Case is to address hundreds of claims alleging sexual abuse lawsuits brought pursuant to AB 218 of the California Child Victims Act ("Underlying Lawsuits").

In June 2023, the Debtor commenced the adversary proceeding *The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland v. Pacific Indem. et al.*, Case No. 23-04028 ("Coverage Action No. 23-04028") against multiple insurers identified as having issued primary, umbrella, or excess liability insurance between the 1960s and 1980s, under which RCBO asserts a right to defense and indemnity for the Underlying Lawsuits ("Coverage Action No. 23-04028"). In August 2023, the Debtor filed a separate adversary proceeding—Case No. 23-04037—against American Home ("American Home Coverage Action"), asserting claims for declaratory relief and breach of contract with respect to coverage for the Underlying Lawsuits under excess liability policy no. CE 35-60094, issued by American Home for the policy period October 26, 1971 to October 26, 1974 ("AHAC Excess Policy"). The Committee moved to intervene in Coverage Action No. 23-04028, but has not sought to intervene in the American Home Coverage Action, and only the Debtor has standing to pursue its claims for insurance.

B. The Committee Sought a Rule 2004 Examination of Insurers

On October 5, 2023, the Committee filed an Ex Parte Application for Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004 Examination of Insurers ("Application") [Dkt. No. 502], seeking to obtain various documents from the insurers in Coverage Case No. 23-04028 and American Home (collectively, the "Insurers"). In support, the Committee asserted: "[I]f and when the Debtor elects to include the Insurers in such discussions when that process ultimately commences, they

must be willing to share information about their assets, obligations, and ability to pay out on account of the Insurance Policies issued to the Debtor and/or its affiliates." (*Id.*) At the time the Application was filed, the Committee's proposed subpoenas to the Insurers included a total of 36 document demands on various topics relating to both the Underlying Lawsuits as well as any other sexual abuse claims against the Diocese. [Dtk. No. 502-2].

On November 1, 2023, the Insurers, including American Home, objected to the Application, arguing that the discovery sought exceeded the limits of what is permissible under Rule 2004. [Dkt. No. 571]

At a November 14, 2023 hearing, the Bankruptcy Court orally granted the Application with respect to a limited subset of the Committee's prior requests as related to the Underlying Lawsuits, specifically: current claims files, reserve working papers, reserves information, and underwriting. In particular, the Bankruptcy Court advised: "I'm inclined to entertain the request with respect to the current claims files, the reserve working papers, and the underwriting information, if any, with respect to these cases." The Bankruptcy Court further ordered parties to meet and confer on the precise wording of each of those three categories. On December 7, 2023, counsel for the parties met and conferred to address the form and order of the subpoena.

On January 18, 2024, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Application with respect to a revised version of the subpoena ("Subpoena"), which the Committee subsequently served on American Home. [Dkt. No. 796]. In granting the Application, the Bankruptcy Court preserved the Insurer's right to object to the Subpoena, including, without limitation: (a) any and all applicable evidentiary privileges and (b) proper scope of discovery. *Id*.

C. The Committee Failed to Meet and Confer With American Home and Ignored Its March 4, 2024 Letter Regarding the Subpoena

On March 4, 2024, American Home filed its Motion to Quash the Subpoenas as to certain categories of documents, including the Committee's demands for reserves information and the "entire" contents of the Claim File which have little, if any, relevance to the Committee's stated purpose for its Rule 2004 Examination. [Dkt. No. 920]. American Home also moved to quash the Subpoena as to documents that are already in the Committee's possession. Prior to filing the AMERICAN HOME'S OPPOSITION TO THE CREDITORS' COMMITTEE'S MOTION TO ENFORCE THE

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Motion to Quash, American Home contacted the Committee by telephone per Civil Local Rule 37-1 to meet and confer about the grounds for the motion, however, the Committee's representative was unavailable and refused to speak directly by phone and instead insisted that the parties meet and confer by email. (Declaration of Amy P. Klie ("Klie Decl.") ¶ 2, Ex. 1). The parties exchanged emails, but were unable to resolve their differences over email, necessitating American Home's Motion to Quash. (Klie Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 2).

On March 4, 2024, American Home also sent the Committee a letter to advise the Committee that "AHAC's good faith search for documents responsive to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6, is ongoing, and reserving American Home's right to supplement its responses to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6 accordingly." (Klie Decl. ¶ 4, Ex. 3). The Committee has not responded to or acknowledged American Home's March 4, 2024 letter. (Klie Decl. ¶ 5). Further, in advance of filing the present motion, the Committee failed to reach out to American Home to discuss the bases for moving to compel production of documents in response to the Subpoena. (Klie Decl. ¶ 6).

LEGAL STANDARD

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(1) governs the scope and limits of discovery. Rule 26(b)(1) states that "[p]arties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter" if the information is both "relevant to any party's claim or defense" and "proportional to the needs of the case." Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(1). Discovery is not limited to admissible information. *Id.* When determining whether discovery is "proportional to the needs of the case," the court examines the information requested in light of six factors: "[1] the importance of the issues at stake in action, [2] the amount in controversy, [3] the parties' relative access to relevant information, [4] the parties' resources, [5] the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and [6] whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." Id.; In re Application Pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1782 of Japan Display Inc. v. Tianma Am., Inc., No. 221MC00374CASMAAX, 2021 WL 5990191, at *14 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 1, 2021) ("Tianma Am.").

While broad, the scope of discovery under Rule 26 is not unlimited. Rule 26(b)(2)(c) states that the court "must" limit discovery if it determines that "(i) the discovery sought is unreasonably

cumulative or duplicative, or can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive; (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity to obtain the information by discovery in the action; or (iii) the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." *Tianma Am.*, 2021 WL 5990191, at *14.

Pursuant to Northern District Local Rule 37–2, a party moving to compel discovery must "detail the basis for the party's contention that it is entitled to the requested discovery and show how the proportionality and other requirements of Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(2) are satisfied." *See also* Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(2) (requiring that when determining the appropriateness of discovery requests courts consider whether the discovery is duplicative or overly burdensome and whether the burden and expense of discovery outweighs the benefit). While the party seeking to compel discovery has the burden of establishing that its request satisfies relevancy requirements, the party opposing discovery bears the burden of showing that discovery should not be allowed, and of clarifying, explaining, and supporting its objections with competent evidence. *La. Pac. Corp. v. Money Mkt. 1 Inst'l Inv. Dealer*, 285 F.R.D. 481, 485 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (citations omitted); *see also Oakes v. Halvorsen Mar. Ltd.*, 179 F.R.D. 281, 283 (C.D. Cal. 1998) (citation omitted); *Lofton v. Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 276, 280–81 (N.D. Cal. 2015).

The court has broad discretion in controlling discovery, *Little v. City of Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir.1988), and ultimately, in determining whether evidence is relevant for discovery purposes. *See Surfvivor Media, Inc. v. Survivor Prods.*, 406 F.3d 625, 635 (9th Cir. 2005); *Lofton v. Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 276, 280 (N.D. Cal. 2015). The court may fashion any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from undue burden, oppression, or expense. *United States v. Columbia Board. Sys., Inc.*, 666 F.2d 364, 369 (9th Cir.1982) cert. denied, 457 U.S. 1118 (1982).

IV. ARGUMENT

A. The Committee Ignores Ninth Circuit Case Law that Suspends Compliance with the Subpoena When a Motion to Quash is Pending

The Committee ignores Ninth Circuit case law which holds that the filing of a motion to quash suspends a party's obligation to respond to a subpoena until after the hearing on the motion AMERICAN HOME'S OPPOSITION TO THE CREDITORS' COMMITTEE'S MOTION TO ENFORCE THE

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to quash. See Pennwalt Corp. v. Durand-Wayland, Inc., 708 F.2d 492, 494 (9th Cir. 1983) (motion to quash "should be construed as the written objection;" moving party "was not obligated to produce the subpoenaed documents, or even to search for them" until subpoenaing party obtained order directing compliance). In Pennwalt, the responding party did not serve a separate "written objection" to the subpoena. It did, however, file a motion to quash on the grounds of relevance and confidentiality. That court construed that motion as the "written objection" called for by Rule 45. Having objected, the responding party was not obligated to produce the subpoenaed documents, or even to search for them, until the requesting party obtained an order directing compliance. Further, because the requesting party failed to obtain an order directing compliance with its subpoena duces tecum, the responding party's noncooperation could not be deemed contempt under Rule 45. Id.

The motion incorrectly represents that American Home failed to respond to the Subpoena. (Motion at paragraph 35). American Home filed its Motion to Quash on March 4, 2024, constituting a response to the Subpoena. [Dkt. No. 920]. The Committee also ignores the fact that on March 4, 2024, the same day as it filed the Motion to Quash, American Home wrote a letter advising the Committee of the status of American Home's search for various documents and advising that "AHAC's good faith search for documents responsive to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6, is ongoing. AHAC reserves the right to supplement its responses to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6 accordingly." (See Ex. 3 to Klie Decl.).

The hearing on the Motion to Quash is set for April 26, 2024. [Dkt. No. 1026]. American Home is not obligated to respond to the Subpoena while its Motion to Quash is pending and before the Committee has obtained an order directing compliance with the Subpoena. *Pennwalt*, 708 F.2d at 494 (motion to quash construed as written objection, and responding party not obligated to respond to subpoena without an order directing compliance). The Court's January 18, 2024 Order granting the Application with respect to a revised version of the Subpoena granted the Committee leave to serve the Subpoena on the insurers, but this Court has yet to consider a motion to compel or order the insurers to comply with the Subpoena. The Committee's motion is therefore premature.

Further, the Committee's request for sanctions against American Home in the form of fees and costs is improper under Rule 45(d)(1) which does not permit the imposition of sanctions for failure to comply with a subpoena unless the court has previously ordered compliance.

B. The Motion Must Be Denied Because the Committee Failed to Meet and Confer with American Home in Violation of Civil Local Rule 37-1

Bankruptcy Local Rule 2004-1 governing applications for examination of an entity pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004(a) ("Rule 2004") provides that any dispute or relief requested with respect to a Rule 2004 order of examination of an entity "shall be treated as a discovery dispute in accordance with B.L.R. 1001-2(a) which incorporates Civ.L.R. 37-1." Local Rule 37-1 contains a strict meet and confer requirement before the court will entertain a discovery motion:

37-1. Procedures for Resolving Disputes

(a) Conference Between Counsel Required. The Court will not entertain a request or a motion to resolve a disclosure or discovery dispute unless, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, counsel have previously conferred for the purpose of attempting to resolve all disputed issues. If counsel for the moving party seeks to arrange such a conference and opposing counsel refuses or fails to confer, the Judge may impose an appropriate sanction, which may include an order requiring payment of all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the refusal or failure to confer.

In violation of Civil Local Rule 37-1(a), the Committee failed to meet and confer with American Home prior to filing its Motion. The Committee alleges that it "met and conferred, or attempted to meet and confer on multiple occasions" with each of the insurers in advance of the motion. See Certification Pursuant To Federal Rule Of Civil Procedure 37. The motion includes a description of only two meet and confer sessions with other insurers in connection with those other insurers' Preliminary Objection to the Committee's Rule 2004 Motion. (Motion at paragraphs 14 and 23). However, the Motion entirely fails to allege that the Committee made any effort to meet and confer with American Home at any point prior to March 20, 2024 when it filed the Motion.

The reality is that the Committee never reached out in advance to American Home to discuss any aspect of its Motion. (Klie Decl. at ¶ 6). In fact, on March 1, 2024, American Home called the Committee's counsel to discuss its concerns with the Subpoena and American Home's

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proposed motion to quash. (Klie Decl. at ¶ 2). Rather than meet and confer by telephone or in person as required by the Rules, the Committee's counsel emailed a response indicating that because she was traveling, she preferred to communicate via email. (Klie Decl. at ¶ 2, Ex. 1). American Home then emailed a list of concerns to the Committee's counsel and again offered to discuss the matter by phone. (Klie Decl. at ¶ 2, Ex. 1). However, on March 2, 2024, in violation of Rule 37-1, the Committee responded to American Home's meet and confer email, denying the arguments raised by American Home and ignoring American Home's requests to speak by phone. (Klie Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 2). Prior to filing the present motion, the Committee failed to contact American Home and made no effort to meet and confer with American Home concerning the bases for the motion. (Klie Decl. ¶ 6).

Courts in this district will not grant a motion to compel compliance with discovery requests where there has been little to no effort to meet and confer. In *Clark v. Anna's Linens Co.*, No. C 05-2670 MMC (JL), 2006 WL 8442882, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 1, 2006), the court denied a motion to compel where a party sent a solitary e-mail message requesting the production of documents before filing a motion to compel. The facts of this case are marginally different that those of *Clark*. American Home filed its Motion to Quash, but attempted in good faith to meet and confer, and sent a letter indicating its good faith effort to comply with the discovery request. The Committee failed to comply with any reasonable interpretation of Local Rule 37's meet and confer requirements. The motion should be denied.

Sanctions will not be imposed where it appears that the moving party did not make an adequate attempt to meet and confer within the meaning of the local rules before filing this motion to compel production of documents. *See Soto v. City of Concord*, 162 F.R.D. 603, 623 (N.D. Cal. 1995) (sending a letter to the opposing party demanding compliance with a discovery request "is not what this Court regards as an earnest attempt to 'meet and confer' on the issues. Rather, a live exchange of ideas and opinions is required.") The motion should be denied because the Committee has ignored its obligation to meet and confer prior to filing the motion.

C. The Committee's Motion Violates Civil Local Rule 37-2

Additionally, Local Rule 37-2 requires that a motion to compel must comply with Civil Local Rule 7, and "must set forth each request in full, followed immediately by the objections and/or responses thereto." The motion must also "detail the basis for the party's contention that it is entitled to the requested discovery and must show how the proportionality and other requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2) are satisfied."

Here, the motion should be denied as it also fails to comply with Rule 37-2 because the Committee has not set forth each disputed request in full followed immediately by any of the objections made in American Home's Motion to Quash. (See generally, the motion).

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, American Home respectfully requests that this Court deny the Committee's motion to compel and for sanctions. American Home further requests that the Court order the Committee to fully comply with the requirements of the applicable local rules, including but not limited to the requirement that the Committee properly meet and confer with American Home prior to pursuing a discovery motion.

Dated April 12, 2024

NICOLAIDES FINK THORPE MICHAELIDES SULLIVAN LLP

By: /s/ Alison V. Lippa
Amy P. Klie

Alison V. Lippa
Attorneys for AMERICAN HOME
ASSURANCE CO.

1	Alison V. Lippa (SBN: 160807)	
2	alippa@nicolaidesllp.com NICOLAIDES FINK THORPE	
3	MICHAELIDES SULLIVAN LLP 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2300	
4	San Francisco, CA 94104	
5	Telephone: (415) 745-3770 Facsimile: (415) 745-3771	
6	Amy P. Klie (Pro Hac Vice Pending)	
7	aklie@nicolaidesllp.com NICOLAIDES FINK THORPE	
8	MICHAELIDES SULLIVAN LLP 10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100	
9	Chicago, Illinois 60606 Telephone: (312) 585-1400	
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11	Attorneys for AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE CO.	
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13	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT	
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16	In re:	Bankruptcy Case No.: 23-40523 WJL
17	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF	Hon. William J. Lafferty
18	OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,	Chapter 11
19	Debtor.	DECLARATION OF AMY P. KLIE IN
20		SUPPORT OF AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY'S
21		OPPOSITION TO THE OFFICIAL
22		COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS' MOTION TO ENFORCE
23		THE RULE 2004 ORDER AND COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENAS
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DECLARATION OF AMY KLIE IN SUPPORT AMERICAN HOME'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CASE: 23-NFORCE THE RULE 2004 OR DER AND COMPLIANCE WITH SUPPOENAS Page 1

I, Amy P. Klie, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a partner at Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP, counsel of record for Nonparty American Home Assurance Company ("American Home") in the above-captioned matter. I make this declaration in support of American Home's Opposition to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' ("Committee") Motion to Enforce the Rule 2004 Order and Compel Compliance with Subpoenas ("motion") in this case. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and if called as a witness would so testify.
- 2. On March 4, 2024, American Home moved to quash ("Motion to Quash") the Committee's subpoena served pursuant to this Court's January 18, 2024 Order granting the Committee's Ex Parte Application for Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004 Examination of Insurers ("Subpoena"). On March 1, 2024, prior to filing the Motion to Quash and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 37-1(a), I telephoned Colleen Restel, counsel for the Committee, to meet and confer about the grounds for American Home's Motion to Quash. Ms. Restel sent me an email in response to my voicemail message, stating "I received your voicemail. I am traveling today, so it would be easier to discuss by email." On March 1, 2024, I emailed Ms. Restel setting forth the key issues to discuss concerning the Subpoena and requesting that the Committee agree to limit the scope of documents requested from American Home in order to alleviate confidentiality, privilege, and undue burden concerns with the documents requested ("meet and confer email"). Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of my March 1, 2024 email exchange with Ms. Restel.
- 3. On March 2, 2024, Ms. Restel responded to my meet and confer email. Ms. Restel's response acknowledged that "any documents withheld on [privilege grounds] can be logged in a line-by-line privilege log explaining the basis for the privilege." However, Ms. Restel's email indicated that the Committee would not entertain any objections based on confidentiality, disagreed with American Home's view that grounds exist for viewing the scope of the subpoena differently based on American Home's status as a higher-layer excess carrier, and did not sufficiently address American Home's concerns regarding confidentiality and undue burden. Ms. Restel's email ignored my requests to speak by phone. Attached as **Exhibit 2** is a

true and correct copy of Ms. Restel's March 2, 2024 email in response to the meet and confer email.

- 4. On March 4, 2024, I responded by letter to Ms. Restel's March 2, 2024 email, offering to further discuss our concerns by telephone, but noting that American Home and the Committee appeared unable resolve the dispute over the scope of the Subpoena as to American Home, thereby necessitating the filing of a Motion to Quash the Subpoena. Attached as **Exhibit** 3 is a true and correct copy of my March 4, 2023 letter to Ms. Restel.
- 5. To date, I have not received any acknowledgement or response from Ms. Restel or the Committee of my March 4, 2024 letter.
- 6. On March 20, 2024, the Committee filed the present motion, seeking to compel production of documents in response to the Subpoena. No one on behalf of the Committee contacted me or made any effort to meet and confer with me on behalf of American Home prior to filing the motion.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration is executed in Chicago, Illinois on April 12, 2024.

Amy P. Klie
Amy P. Klie

Exhibit 1

From: Amy P. Klie

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 6:47 PM

To: Restel, Colleen M.

Cc: Alison V. Lippa; RCBO; tburns; jbair

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to

American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

Thanks for your email - I'm sorry to have missed you. We understand that you are traveling today and prefer to communicate via email. As such, pursuant to bankruptcy court and district court local rules, this email serves as American Home's meet and confer in advance of our proposed motion to quash the Committee's Subpoena for Rule 2004 Examination ("Subpoena"). In reaching out today, I was hoping we could speak in an effort to resolve some potential issues we identified with respect to the Subpoena. If it's possible to have a call Monday, we still think it would be a useful step toward possibly resolving issues and avoiding the need for a motion to quash.

As you know, I previously reached out to you with the request that the Committee agree to additional time for American Home's response to the Subpoena. While Committee denied that request, we'd like the opportunity to discuss how American Home may be in a different position than some of the other subpoenaed insurers from Adversary Case No. 23-04028 due to its status as a higher layer excess carrier, among other things. In response to your request, we summarize below the key issues we'd like to discuss concerning the Subpoena.

- (1) Regarding the request for claim files, is it the Committee's position that claim files must be produced in their entirety, or will it agree that privileged material may be withheld and logged on a privilege log? In particular, American Home intends to withhold documents that are subject to the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work-product doctrine, settlement and mediation privilege, joint defense, common interest, or any other judicially recognized protection or privilege, and must withhold any information to the extent production may violate any constitutional, statutory or common law privacy interest of American Home or any third party. American Home may also move to guash based on the burden / proportionality of the claim file request.
- (2) American Home intends to move to quash the Subpoena on grounds that the two requests for reserves are burdensome / not proportional as to American Home, and potentially seek production of records that are privileged or contain confidential business information or trade secrets. We'd like to discuss whether the Committee may reconsider these requests with respect to American Home.
- (3) The request for underwriting, as drafted, potentially encompasses privileged, confidential, and proprietary information. American Home is not currently aware of any documents responsive to this request. To the extent any responsive documents are located, will the Committee agree that an assessment may be made at that time regarding privilege, etc.?

Please let me know if you are available to speak further about these issues.

Regards,

Amy

Amy P. Klie

aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

D: 312.585.1422

From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:48 PM

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-2 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 2

To: Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa <alippa@nicolaidesllp.com>; RCBO <RCBO@lowenstein.com>; tburns <tburns@burnsbair.com>; jbair <jbair@burnsbair.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Amy,

I received your voicemail. I am traveling today, so it would be easier to discuss by email. If you have particular questions, please let us know and we will discuss and respond.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161





From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 8:18 PM **To:** Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa <alippa@nicolaidesllp.com>; RCBO <RCBO@lowenstein.com>; tburns <tburns@burnsbair.com>; jbair <jbair@burnsbair.com>

Span @burnsban.com/

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Amy,

The Committee will not agree to an extension of the March 4 deadline.

Colleen

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-2 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 3

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161





From: Amy P. Klie ksent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:11 PM
To: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa ; RCBO RCBO@lowenstein.com; tburns@burnsbair.com; jbair

<jbair@burnsbair.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

Thank you – we'll consider the Lexington subpoena withdrawn subject to your reservation of rights. Would the Committee consider extending American Home's time to respond until March 21?

Regards,

Amy

Amy P. Klie

aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

10 South Wacker Drive | 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60606

D: 312.585.1422 | F: 312.585.1401

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From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:19 AM **To:** Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa ; RCBO ; tburns tburns@burnsbair.com; jbair@burnsbair.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-2 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 4

ot 7

Good morning, Amy,

The Committee will withdraw the Subpoena issued to Lexington at this time. However, the Committee reserves the right to seek the documents requested in the Subpoena at a later date based on the Court's order, or to seek production of any other documents.

With respect to American Home Assurance Company, please see the attached Affidavit of Service, showing service of the Subpoena on January 31 on a legal representative of the company.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161





From: Amy P. Klie aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:23 PM

To: Restel, Colleen M. < <u>crestel@lowenstein.com</u>> **Cc:** Alison V. Lippa alippa@nicolaidesllp.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance

Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

I am still waiting to confirm whether we have approval to accept service of the subpoena, and we have not received word of formal service from our client. In the interim, would you please let us know whether, in light of the Diocese's dismissal of Lexington, which issued an excess policy for the 2007-08 policy period, the Committee would consider withdrawing its subpoena of Lexington?

Regards,

Amy

Amy P. Klie

aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

10 South Wacker Drive | 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60606

D: 312.585.1422 | F: 312.585.1401

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From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:31 AM

To: Alison V. Lippa <a lippa@nicolaidesllp.com>; Amy P. Klie <a klie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Cc: RCBO < RCBO@lowenstein.com >; tburns < tburns@burnsbair.com >; jbair < jbair@burnsbair.com >; Gabrielle Albert < galbert@kbkllp.com >; Uetz, Ann Marie < AUetz@foley.com >; Ridley, Eileen R. < ERidley@foley.com >; Lee, Matt < MDLee@foley.com >

Subject: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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Counsel,

Pursuant to the Order Granting the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' Ex Parte Application for Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004 Examination of Insurers [Dkt. 796], entered on January 18, 2024, please find the attached subpoenas.

Please advise whether you will accept service of the subpoenas on behalf of American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company. Absent your consent, we will proceed with formal service of the subpoenas on Monday of next week.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel she, her, hers

Counsel
Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161







Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-2 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 6

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Exhibit 2

From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 8:08 AM

To: Amy P. Klie

Cc: Alison V. Lippa; RCBO; tburns; jbair

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to

American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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Amy,

We disagree that American Home, as an excess carrier, is differently situated from the other insurers. We acknowledge that American Home is an excess insurer, but note that the excess is over approximately \$5 million in key coverage years. Given the magnitude of claims in this case, American Home is therefore fully exposed and should be obligated to respond to discovery in the same way as the other insurers.

We understand your remaining concerns are two-fold: (i) confidentiality and (ii) privilege.

With respect to confidentiality, the Court has entered a confidentiality order which was fully litigated – including by the insurers. Any arguments relating to privacy, business secrets, or any other alleged confidentiality concerns are addressed through the confidentiality order, and are not a basis for withholding the production of documents.

With respect to any allegation of privilege, as was previously discussed with the Court, any documents withheld on that basis can be logged in a line-by-line privilege log explaining the basis for the privilege. The Committee and/or Debtor will then have the opportunity to challenge the asserted privilege if they see fit.

For any Request which American Home asserts no responsive documents exist, the Committee requests a certification explaining the search that was conducted and that no responsive documents were located.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161





From: Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:47 PM

To: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa <alippa@nicolaidesllp.com>; RCBO <RCBO@lowenstein.com>; tburns <tburns@burnsbair.com>; jbair <jbair@burnsbair.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

Thanks for your email - I'm sorry to have missed you. We understand that you are traveling today and prefer to communicate via email. As such, pursuant to bankruptcy court and district court local rules, this email serves as American Home's meet and confer in advance of our proposed motion to quash the Committee's Subpoena for Rule 2004 Examination ("Subpoena"). In reaching out today, I was hoping we could speak in an effort to resolve some potential issues we identified with respect to the Subpoena. If it's possible to have a call Monday, we still think it would be a useful step toward possibly resolving issues and avoiding the need for a motion to quash.

As you know, I previously reached out to you with the request that the Committee agree to additional time for American Home's response to the Subpoena. While Committee denied that request, we'd like the opportunity to discuss how American Home may be in a different position than some of the other subpoenaed insurers from Adversary Case No. 23-04028 due to its status as a higher layer excess carrier, among other things. In response to your request, we summarize below the key issues we'd like to discuss concerning the Subpoena.

- (1) Regarding the request for claim files, is it the Committee's position that claim files must be produced in their entirety, or will it agree that privileged material may be withheld and logged on a privilege log? In particular, American Home intends to withhold documents that are subject to the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work-product doctrine, settlement and mediation privilege, joint defense, common interest, or any other judicially recognized protection or privilege, and must withhold any information to the extent production may violate any constitutional, statutory or common law privacy interest of American Home or any third party. American Home may also move to guash based on the burden / proportionality of the claim file request.
- (2) American Home intends to move to quash the Subpoena on grounds that the two requests for reserves are burdensome / not proportional as to American Home, and potentially seek production of records that are privileged or contain confidential business information or trade secrets. We'd like to discuss whether the Committee may reconsider these requests with respect to American Home.
- (3) The request for underwriting, as drafted, potentially encompasses privileged, confidential, and proprietary information. American Home is not currently aware of any documents responsive to this request. To the extent any responsive documents are located, will the Committee agree that an assessment may be made at that time regarding privilege, etc.?

Please let me know if you are available to speak further about these issues.

Regards,

Amy

Amy P. Klie
aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

10 South Wacker Drive | 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60606

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-3 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 3

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From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:48 PM **To:** Amy P. Klie aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

Cc: Alison V. Lippa ", RCBO ", tburns ", jbair", jbair",

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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Amy,

I received your voicemail. I am traveling today, so it would be easier to discuss by email. If you have particular questions, please let us know and we will discuss and respond.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161







From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 8:18 PM **To:** Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Amy,

The Committee will not agree to an extension of the March 4 deadline.

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-3 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 4

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161





From: Amy P. Klie ksent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:11 PM
To: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Cc: Alison V. Lippa " RCBO " tburns tburns@burnsbair.com; jbair jbair@burnsbair.com; jbair jbair@burnsbair.com; jbair jbair.com; jbair jbair.com; jbair jbair.com; jbair.com; jbair.

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

Thank you – we'll consider the Lexington subpoena withdrawn subject to your reservation of rights. Would the Committee consider extending American Home's time to respond until March 21?

Regards,

Amy

Amy P. Klie

aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

10 South Wacker Drive | 21st Floor | Chicago, IL 60606

D: 312.585.1422 | F: 312.585.1401

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From: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:19 AM **To:** Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com>

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-3 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 5

Cc: Alison V. Lippa <a injuga@nicolaidesllp.com>; RCBO <a injuga@nicolaidesllp.com>; tburns@burnsbair.com>; jbair <jbair@burnsbair.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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With respect to American Home Assurance Company, please see the attached Affidavit of Service, showing service of the Subpoena on January 31 on a legal representative of the company.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel she. her. hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161







From: Amy P. Klie <aklie@nicolaidesllp.com> Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:23 PM

To: Restel, Colleen M. <crestel@lowenstein.com> Cc: Alison V. Lippa <alippa@nicolaidesllp.com>

Subject: RE: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance

Company and Lexington Insurance Company

Colleen,

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Regards,

Amy

Case: 23-40523 Doc# 1056-3 Filed: 04/12/24 Entered: 04/12/24 13:12:03 Page 6

Amy P. Klie aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

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From: Restel, Colleen M. < crestel@lowenstein.com>

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:31 AM

To: Alison V. Lippa <a in the image is a lippa and in the

Cc: RCBO < RCBO@lowenstein.com >; tburns < tburns@burnsbair.com >; jbair < jbair@burnsbair.com >; Gabrielle Albert < galbert@kbkllp.com >; Uetz, Ann Marie < AUetz@foley.com >; Ridley, Eileen R. < ERidley@foley.com >; Lee, Matt < MDLee@foley.com >

Subject: In re Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523; Subpoenas to American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company

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Counsel,

Pursuant to the Order Granting the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' Ex Parte Application for Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004 Examination of Insurers [Dkt. 796], entered on January 18, 2024, please find the attached subpoenas.

Please advise whether you will accept service of the subpoenas on behalf of American Home Assurance Company and Lexington Insurance Company. Absent your consent, we will proceed with formal service of the subpoenas on Monday of next week.

Thank you,

Colleen

Colleen Restel

she, her, hers Counsel Lowenstein Sandler LLP

T: (973) 597-6310 M: (973) 768-5161

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Exhibit 3



Amy P. Klie 312-585-1422 aklie@nicolaidesllp.com

March 4, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Jeffrey D. Prol Michael A. Kaplan Coleen Restle Lowenstein Sandler One Lowenstein Drive Roseland, NJ 07068

Re: In re The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, Case No. 23-40523-WJL Committee's Subpoena for Rule 2004 Examination

Counsel:

As you know, this Firm represents American Home Assurance Company ("AHAC"), one of the insurers identified by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland ("RCBO") as having issued a policy or policies of insurance under which RCBO asserts a right to coverage in connection with the lawsuits brought against it pursuant to AB 218 of the California Child Victims Act ("Underlying Lawsuits"). This letter is written in connection with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' Subpoena for Rule 2004 Bankruptcy Subpoena ("Subpoena").

In particular, we write to advise you that AHAC's good faith search for documents responsive to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6, is ongoing. AHAC reserves the right to supplement its responses to Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6 accordingly.¹

In a March 2, 2023 email pertaining to the Subpoena, the Committee acknowledged that documents for which AHAC asserts a privilege, including documents subject to the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work-product doctrine, settlement and mediation privilege, joint defense, common interest, or any other judicially recognized protection or privilege, or any information for which

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¹ For reference, Request No. 1 seeks Copies of all Your Insurance Policies issued to, or insuring, RCBO, including any endorsements or attachments to those policies; Request No. 2 seeks All Secondary Evidence of Your Insurance Policies issued to, or insuring, RCBO, but only with respect to any of Your Insurance Policies that are missing or incomplete; Request No. 4 seeks Documents sufficient to show any exhaustion, erosion, or impairment of the limits of liability of each of Your Insurance Policies, such as loss runs, loss history reports, and/or claims reports; Request No. 6 seeks All Underwriting Files Relating to Your Insurance Policies concerning any Abuse Claims tendered by or on behalf of RCBO to You.

March 4, 2024 Page 2 of 2

production may violate any constitutional, statutory or common law privacy interest of American Home or any third party, may be withheld and logged in a privilege log. AHAC reserves all rights with respect to the classification of any documents that may be responsive to any of the Subpoena requests, including Subpoena Request Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6.

In addition to the forgoing, we note that previously reached to the Committee in an effort confer regarding the Committee's other requests. Since it does not appear that the parties are currently able to resolve AHAC's issues, AHAC is moving forward with a motion to quash or modify the subpoena. We do, however, remain open to further discussion with the Committee to the extent the Committee believes that such discussions would be fruitful.

Very truly yours,

Amy P. Klie