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Attorneys for the Plaintiff

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

STATE OF NEVADA, EX REL. COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS STATUTORY RECEIVER FOR DELINQUENT DOMESTIC INSURER,

Plaintiff,

VS.

SPIRIT COMMERCIAL AUTO RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC., a Nevada Domiciled Association Captive Insurance Company,

Defendant.

Case No. A-19-787325-B

Dept. No. 27

ELEVENTH STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW, Commissioner of Insurance and Receiver, Barbara D. Richardson, and CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., Special Deputy Receiver ("SDR"), and files this Eleventh Status Report in the above-captioned receivership. In accordance with the orders of this Court and the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") Chapter 696B, the Receiver makes this "true report[s] in summary form of the insurer's affairs under the receivership and of progress being made in accomplishing the objectives of the receivership." NRS 696B.290(7).

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I.

INTRODUCTION

Spirit Commercial Auto Risk Retention Group, Inc. ("Spirit" or the "Company") is an association captive insurance company organized under the insurance laws of Nevada and the Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986. Spirit received its Certificate of Authority on February 24, 2012, and operates under the authority of NRS Chapter 694C. Spirit transacted commercial auto liability insurance business. Within that line, Spirit specialized in serving commercial truck owners.

Pursuant to NRS 679A.160, Spirit is subject to Nevada laws in Chapters 694C and 695E that pertain to captive insurers (as "captive insurer" is defined in NRS 694C.060) and risk retention groups (as "risk retention group" is defined in NRS 695E.110) that have a Certificate of Authority from the Division. Spirit is considered an association captive insurer (as "association captive insurer" is defined in NRS 694C.050). As a risk retention group ("RRG"), Spirit is subject to the Federal Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986. RRGs domiciled in Nevada do not participate in the Nevada Guaranty Association. Pursuant to NRS 695E.140(1)(a), Spirit is also subject to all laws that pertain to traditional liability insurers (with exceptions given in Bulletin 14-008).

As discussed in the Receiver's First Status Report, Spirit is part of an Insurance Holding Company System and in large part it only did business with other members of that system. CTC Transportation Insurance Services of Missouri, LLC ("CTC"), with offices in Missouri, New Jersey, and California, served as the program administrator and managing general agent for Spirit. Criterion Claims Solutions of Omaha, Inc. ("Criterion") was the third-party claims administrator for Spirit. Lexicon Insurance Management LLC was the captive manager for the company (after Risk Services initially served in that role through circa July 2018). Chelsea Financial Group, Inc. provided premium financing services for the majority of Spirit's policies. The company 10-4 Risk Management provided risk management and loss run services. The owner or ultimate controlling person for each of these entities

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The Commissioner initially filed her first petition to put the Company into receivership on January 11, 2019, and her efforts to protect the policyholders and other creditors of the estate were contested vigorously by the Company. On February 27, 2019, this Court entered its Permanent Receivership Order. Barbara D. Richardson, Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner"), in her capacity as Receiver for Spirit appointed the firm of CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P. as the Special Deputy Receiver of the Companies. The "Receiver" and "Special Deputy Receiver" are referred to collectively herein as the "Receiver."

is or was Thomas Mulligan. All of these companies were taking a portion of the premium dollars from

In brief, the Permanent Receivership Order established the following key points for the Spirit receivership:

- that the Company's in-force insurance policies are to be canceled effective on the earlier of April 15, 2019, or the date when the insured ceased making premium payments to Spirit;
- 2) that the Receiver may impose a full suspension on all disbursements owed by Spirit, including insurance policy disbursements, and costs related to the defense or adjudication of insurance policy claims;
- 3) that the receivership court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to Spirit and all persons are enjoined from commencing, bringing, maintaining, or further prosecuting any action at law, suit in equity, arbitration, or special or other proceeding against the Company, Receiver, or Special Deputy Receiver;
- 4) that the Receiver is vested with exclusive title both legal and equitable to all of Spirit's property wherever located, to administer under the general supervisions of the Court;
- 5) that the Receiver may change to her own name the name of any of Spirit's accounts, funds or other property or assets, held with any bank, savings and loan association, other

¹ See Schedule Y: Part 1A, to the Company's 2018 Annual Statement, the "Detail of Insurance Holding Company System" (the Receiver's <u>First Status Report</u>, Ex. B).

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financial institution, or any other person, wherever located, and may withdraw s	sucl
funds, accounts and other assets from such institutions or take any lesser action neces	sary
for the proper conduct of the receivership; and	

6) that the Receiver is authorized to establish a receivership claims and appeal procedure, for all receivership claims. The receivership claims and appeals procedures shall be used to facilitate the orderly disposition or resolution of claims or controversies involving the receivership or the receivership estate.

On September 16, 2019, the Receiver filed a consolidated motion for a Final Order Placing Spirit Commercial Auto Risk Retention Group into Liquidation, and for an Order Setting a Claims Filing Deadline, and Granting Related Relief (the "Consolidated Motion"). The Consolidated Motion was heard and granted on October 24, 2019. On November 6, 2019, the Court entered its Final Order Placing Spirit into Liquidation (the "Liquidation Order") and its Final Order Setting Claims Filing Deadline for Spirit and Related Relief ("the Claims Order"). The Claims Order established a Claims Filing Deadline, and procedures for filing claims against Spirit. The Liquidation Order also granted the Receiver's request to formally place Spirit into liquidation effective on November 6, 2019. On September 30, 2020, the Court entered an Order Extending the Claims Filing Deadline for Spirit Commercial Auto Risk Retention Group, Inc. The Claims Filing Deadline was extended to May 31, 2021, and has now expired.

II.

RECEIVERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

A. **Notice of Developments in Receivership**

On August 19, 2019, the Court entered its Order Regarding Motion for Instructions Including Notice Requirements (the "Notice Order"). Future notices about Spirit's receivership will be provided to interested parties in accordance with the Court's Notice Order. Interested parties may also monitor the Spirit receivership web site (www.spiritinsure.com) to keep up to date about developments in the receivership.

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В. Claims Administration and Third-Party Support Services

TRISTAR Risk Management ("TRISTAR") is assisting the Receiver in evaluating the incoming Proofs of Claim ("POC").

The Claims Filing Deadline expired on May 31, 2021. There were 1,405 timely POC submissions received.

The Receiver is evaluating the claims against the estate and has begun mailing written Notices of Claim Determination to claimants – and these notices advise claimants of whether their claims are approved (in full or in part) or denied. Approximately one hundred fifty-five (155) claims have been adjudicated, and Notices of Claim Determination completed and mailed to the claimants to date. The Receiver has posted a status update (i.e., advising that POCs are in the process of being evaluated) to the home page of the Spirit receivership web site.

The United States has filed a POC in the receivership, asserting the priority of its claims—if any (they are unknown at this time according to the POC)—over and above any other claims against the estate pursuant to 31 U.S. Code § 3713, also known as the government "superpriority" statute. The Receiver sent letters to the United States to provide a reminder that its claim must be complete, noncontingent, and liquidated in amount on or before the May 31, 2021, deadline – and that if no amendment or supplement to the POC was received by that date, the claim would be denied and barred from sharing in the assets of the Spirit estate. No amendment or supplement from the United States has been received as of the date of this report.

TRISTAR also assists the Receiver by responding to loss run requests submitted by former policyholders of Spirit which are frequently necessary for the policyholders to obtain new policies of insurance. Responding to the loss run requests, which are submitted in substantial volume on a regular basis, requires considerable expenditure of estate resources. At this time, so as to minimize harm to policyholders, the Receiver continues to provide loss run reports. It may be necessary at some point in the future to conserve the assets of the estate further by ceasing this practice. The Receiver will continue to evaluate the reasonableness of this expense.

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The policy data of Spirit is held in the Aspire Information System ("Aspire"), which was created by Maple Technologies. The Receiver believes that this system is still of value to the receivership, particularly during the pendency of the POC process and certain litigation matters. The Receiver will regularly review the need for this system.

Actuarial firm Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting, Inc. ("Oliver Wyman") has been engaged to prepare actuarial estimates for Spirit's claims and future losses. Oliver Wyman has completed actuarial estimates for Spirit as of December 31, 2020, as reported in the Receiver's previous Tenth Status Report.

Calhoun, Thompson & Matza, L.L.P. is a CPA firm that has been hired by the Receiver to prepare Spirit's federal and state tax returns.

PALOMAR FINANCIAL, LC ("Palomar") is an affiliated company of the Special Deputy Receiver and performs financial and technical administrative support services for Spirit in receivership—and those services are now being performed by Palomar. Palomar is being used to facilitate the receivership's administration of financial matters. The Receiver, with assistance from Palomar, has finalized all outstanding premium tax matters for the Company, including tax matters that were left outstanding and overdue by former Spirit leadership at the outset of the Receivership.

As the Court is aware, the Receiver has engaged the law firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP ("Greenberg Traurig"), as counsel in this receivership matter. Additionally, as reported in the previous status reports, the Receiver has engaged the services of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie ("Lewis Roca") to handle certain limited matters and to act as outside conflicts counsel to address other matters that may arise in which Greenberg Traurig is not representing the receivership estate.

The Receiver has continued to receive notice from time to time of lawsuits filed against Spirit in violation of the Court's Permanent Receivership Order. The Receiver will continue its established procedure of writing to the parties involved to inform them of the injunctions of the Permanent Receivership Order, and to request a voluntary dismissal of Spirit from the matter. Thus far, the majority of counsel have been amenable to such requests. In limited cases and only when absolutely necessary, the Receiver will engage outside counsel to address ongoing or repeated violations of this Court's orders.

C. Records

The Receiver has made efforts to secure Spirit's electronic records from third parties. The Receiver will continue with the evaluation of the Company and will continue gathering the Company's records and data. This process will remain ongoing as the Receiver continues to identify parties that may have information or records that will assist in carrying out the liquidation of Spirit. The recovery of Spirit's complete records from third parties remains incomplete.

D. Asset Recovery Litigation

On February 6, 2020, the Receiver filed an asset recovery lawsuit against a number of parties, including Thomas Mulligan, CTC, Criterion, Spirit's former directors and officers, various other former vendors of Spirit, and various other related persons and entities ("Asset Recovery Lawsuit"). The Asset Recovery Lawsuit was filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Clark County, Nevada, and assigned Case No. A-20-809963-B. Excerpts from the Asset Recovery Lawsuit are included below to illustrate the nature of the Receiver's complaint are as follows:

- This complaint arises out of a vast fraudulent enterprise orchestrated by Defendant
 Thomas Mulligan and others, by which the Defendants operated a multitude of
 interrelated companies in the insurance service industry for their own benefit and to
 the detriment of their customers and insureds, including Spirit.
- 2. Through a web of interrelated companies that wrote insurance policies, provided so-called financing for insureds wishing to purchase insurance, processed insurance premiums, and/or adjusted and paid insurance claims, and collected Spirit's assets (the "Mulligan Enterprise"), Mulligan and his confederates siphoned millions of dollars from Spirit.
- 3. While Mulligan was the primary architect of his Enterprise, Defendant Pavel Kapelnikov participated heavily in the design and implementation of the scheme and assisted with perpetuating the fraud through his ownership and control of Mulligan Enterprise entities, including a key Spirit services provider, which breached its obligations to Spirit. Mulligan and Pavel Kapelnikov used the many moving pieces

4. As a result of this scheme, Spirit – an insurance company that insured trucking companies – became financially insolvent and was placed into permanent receivership and subsequently into liquidation, leaving hundreds of unpaid claims and a host of creditors. This complaint seeks to recover, on behalf of Spirit and those affected, the tens of millions of dollars that are owed to Spirit from its principal Mulligan and his cohorts and/or the companies over which he exercised interest and/or control, including companies that were contracted to provide services to Spirit that absconded with virtually all of Spirit's assets and third-party companies to which Spirit's funds were siphoned.

On March 27, 2020, an answer was filed on behalf of certain Defendants, along with a demand for jury trial: Pavel Kapelnikov, Chelsea Financial Group, Inc., Global Forwarding Enterprises, LLC, Kapa Management Consulting, Inc., and Kapa Ventures, Inc. The following Defendants have also filed answers to the suit: Brenda Guffey, ICAP Management Solutions, LLC, Daniel George, Lexicon Insurance Management, LLC, James Marx, Igor and Yanina Kapelnikov (along with a demand for jury trial), and Carlos and Virginia Torres. A default judgment was entered on April 24, 2020, against Global Capital Group, LLC, after no answer or other appearance was filed. A three-day Notice of Intent to Take Default Upon Defendant John S. Maloney was filed on May 1, 2020. On May 13, 2020, Defendant John Maloney filed an Answer. On May 14, 2020, an Answer was filed by Defendant Thomas Mulligan. Also, on May 14, 2020, an Answer was filed by Six Eleven, LLC, Quote My Rig, LLC, New Tech Capital, LLC, 195 Gluten Free, LLC, 10-4 Preferred Risk Managers, LLC, Ironjab, LLC, Fourgorean

² Both the California and New Jersey corporations.

Capital, LLC, and Chelsea Holding Company, LLC. On May 21, 2020, a default judgment was entered against Chelsea Holdings, LLC³ and Chelsea Financial Group, Inc. However, on June 4, 2020, a Stipulation and Order was entered to set aside the default judgment against Chelsea Financial Group, Inc. On June 10, 2020, Chelsea Financial Group, Inc. filed its answer to the Complaint. On August 24, 2020, Matthew Simon filed an Answer. On August 26, 2020, Scott McCrae filed an Answer.

In addition to the filing of the answers referenced above, CTC⁴ and Criterion Claim Solutions of Omaha, Inc. each filed Motions to Compel Arbitration of the claims asserted by the Receiver in her asset recovery lawsuit. The Motions to Compel Arbitration were granted by Judge Denton and thereafter nine of the defendants⁵ filed a Motion to Stay Pending Arbitration and joinders were filed by nineteen additional defendants. The Court granted the Motion to Stay Pending Arbitration and the Joinders thereto and the formal Notice of Entry of Order was entered on November 17, 2020.

On April 1, 2021, the Receiver filed a Petition for Writ of Mandamus in the Nevada Supreme Court regarding, *inter alia*, (1) the Court's July 17, 2020, Order Granting CTC Defendants' Motion to Compel Arbitration, (2) the Court's July 22, 2020, Order Granting Criterion Claim Solution's Motion to Compel Arbitration, and (3) the Court's November 17, 2020, Order Granting the Motion to Stay Pending Arbitration and all Joinders Thereto. The Nevada Supreme Court has not yet ruled on the Petition. However, on July 14, 2021, the Nevada Supreme Court entered an order directing the respondents to file an answer, including authorities, against issuance of the Receiver's requested writ. As of September 15, 2021, answers have been filed by all respondents.

On December 31, 2020, QBE Insurance Corporation ("QBE") submitted its Application for Relief from the Permanent Injunction (the "QBE Application") so as to permit QBE to advance defense costs to the individual defendants (*i.e.*, Spirit's former directors and officers) named in Case No: A-20-

³ Thomas Mulligan has attested that he is a member of defendant Chelsea Holdings Company, LLC, but is not affiliated or associated in any way with Chelsea Holdings, LLC. Counsel located the real member of Chelsea Holdings, LLC, and the Secretary of State filings have been corrected. Chelsea Holdings, LLC, was voluntarily dismissed without prejudice from this matter on December 21, 2020.

⁴ Here, "CTC" refers to Defendants CTC Transportation Insurance Services of Missouri LLC; CTC Transportation Insurance Services, LLC; and CTC Transportation Insurance Services of Hawaii LLC.

⁵ Six Eleven LLC, Quote My Rig, LLC, New Tech Capital, LLC, 195 Gluten Free LLC, 10-4 Preferred Risk Managers, Inc., Ironjab LLC, Fourgorean Capital LLC, Chelsea Holdings Company, LLC ("Chelsea Holdings"), and Chelsea Financial Group, Inc. (MO) ("Chelsea Financial MO") (collectively, "Six Eleven Defendants").

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809963-C. On February 12, 2021, the Court entered its Order Granting Application for Relief from Permanent Injunction. The Receiver's previous Tenth Status Report provides additional detail regarding QBE's application.

Ε. **Actuarial Reports**

Oliver Wyman is an actuarial firm that was selected to prepare actuarial estimates for Spirit's claims and future losses. Oliver Wyman has completed its actuarial report for Spirit as of December 31, 2020. The Receiver wrote about the report in the previous Tenth Status Report.

F. **Receivership Assets and Liabilities**

The Receiver has been gathering information and evaluating the assets and liabilities of Spirit. The Receiver's liability analysis will continue to evolve as the claims of the estate are determined, asset recoveries are made, and actuary estimates of Spirit's liabilities are updated. Below is an overview of some key assets and liability matters thus far identified by the Receiver.

- 1. CTC owes a large balance to Spirit that is at least more than \$40 million and may be much greater after further discovery. The Receiver filed the Asset Recovery Lawsuit seeking the return of this money *inter alia* as detailed above.
- 2. The cash and invested assets of the Company were approximately \$42,057,016 as of August 31, 2021.
- 3. Gross Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense ("LAE") and General Liability Losses: The gross unpaid loss & allocated LAE as of December 31, 2020, are estimated by Oliver Wyman at \$198,663,000.
- 4. Other Assets: There is no known tangible personal property or real property owned by the Company.

We are enclosing the consultants and Special Deputy Receiver bills paid or approved for payment since the last status report filed with the Court. Detailed billings are submitted *in camera*, and summaries of such bills are submitted as Exhibit 1 to this report.⁶ The Receiver is including, as Exhibit 2 attached

⁶ The *in-camera* materials are being submitted in a separate envelope that reflect paid invoices. Certain billings submitted to the Court are appropriate for in camera review (as opposed to being made part of a public filing). More particularly, and as discussed in further detail below, certain consultants in this matter will provide expert witness related

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hereto, a cash flow report for August 2021 reflecting recoveries, disbursements, and cash flow since the receivership began.

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services. As such, the billing entries relating thereto should be considered confidential and/or otherwise not subject to discovery.

are not subject to legal disclosure, as this information may provide indications or context concerning potential litigation

strategy and the nature of the expert services being provided. See, e.g., Avnet, Inc. v. Avana Technologies Inc., No. 2:13-cv-00929-GMN-PAL, 2014 WL 6882345, at *1 (D. Nev. Dec. 4, 2014) (finding that billing entries were privileged because

they reveal a party's strategy and the nature of services provided); Fed. Sav. & Loan Ins. Corp. v. Ferm, 909 F.2d 372, 374-75 (9th Cir. 1990) (considering whether or not fee information revealed counsel's mental impressions concerning litigation

strategy). Other courts that have addressed this issue have recognized that the "attorney-client privilege embraces attorney time, records and statements to the extent that they reveal litigation strategy and the nature of the services provided." *Real v.*

In this regard, courts have held that the bills of legal counsel and experts may be withheld from legal discovery and

The *in-camera* review should apply not only to documentation concerning attorney fees, but it also extends to "details of work revealed in [an] expert's work description [which] would relate to tasks for which she [or he] was compensated[,]" a situation which is "analogous to protecting attorney-client privileged information contained in counsel's bills describing work performed." *See DaVita Healthcare Partners, Inc. v. United States*, 128 Fed. Cl. 584, 592-93 (2016); *see also Chaudhry v. Gallerizzo*, 174 F.3d 394, 402 (4th Cir. 1999) (recognizing that "correspondence, bills, ledgers, statements, and time records which also reveal the motive of the client in seeking representation, litigation strategy, or the specific nature of the services provided, such as researching particular areas of law," are protected from disclosure) (quoting *Clarke v. Am. Commerce Nat'l Bank*, 974 F.2d 127, 129 (9th Cir. 1992)).

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Cont'l Grp., Inc., 116 F.R.D. 211, 213 (N.D. Cal. 1986).

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III.

CONCLUSION

In compliance with this Court's instructions for a status report regarding the affairs of the Company, the Receiver has submitted the aforementioned status report and requests that the Court approve this Eleventh Status Report and the actions taken by the Receiver.

DATED this 28th day of September 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara D. Richardson, Commissioner Insurance of the State of Nevada, in her Official Capacity as Statutory Receiver of Delinquent Domestic Insurer

/s/ Cantilo & Bennett, L.L.P. By: Special Deputy Receiver By Its Authorized Representative Mark F. Bennett

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Counsel for Barbara D. Richardson, Commissioner of Insurance. as the Permanent Receiver for Spirit Commercial Auto Risk Retention Group, Inc.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Nev. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(D) and E.D.C.R. 8.05, I certify that on this 28th day of September 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Eleventh Status Report* to be e-filed and e-served on the upon the parties all parties registered for e-service. The date and time of the electronic proof of service is in place of the date and place of deposit in the mail.

/s/ Andrea Lee Rosehill
An employee of Greenberg Traurig, LLP

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