

[CASE STYLE]

**EMERGENCY EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF
AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF
[CLAIMS AGENT NAME] AS [CLAIMS, NOTICING, AND SOLICITATION AGENT]**

The Debtors file this emergency *ex parte* application to employ a [claims, noticing, and solicitation agent] (the “Application”):

Relief Requested

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order authorizing, the Debtors to employ [CLAIMS AGENT NAME] (“Agent”) as [claims, noticing, and solicitation agent] in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the engagement letter dated [DATE] (the “Engagement Letter”) attached as **Exhibit A**. The Application is supported by the *Declaration of [Declarant]* attached as **Exhibit B**.

2. Emergency consideration of this Application is requested to effectuate the Debtors’ transition into bankruptcy and to immediately begin providing effective notice of pleadings and orders to interested parties.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the “Court”) has jurisdiction over this application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334.

4. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).

5. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Request to Employ Agent

6. The Debtors request approval to employ Agent to serve as Claims and Noticing Agent in their chapter 11 cases to provide the services outlined in the Engagement Letter. The Debtors believe that Agent's employment is in the best interest of the estates.

7. The Agent's rates are competitive and reasonable. The Agent has the expertise required in a complex chapter 11 case.

8. The Debtors request this Court authorize Agent's employment.

Compensation

9. The Debtors request that Agent's fees and expenses be paid as an administrative expense in the ordinary course of the Debtors' business without further application or order of the Court. Should a dispute develop, the matter will be brought to the Court for resolution. Agent agrees to maintain records of all services showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred.

10. Agent will provide a monthly invoice to the Debtors, Debtors' counsel, the U.S. Trustee, counsel for any official committee, and any party-in-interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices.

11. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors provided Agent an advance in the amount of \$_____. Agent will apply these funds in accordance with the Engagement Letter.

Indemnification

12. The Debtors have agreed to indemnify the Agent as set forth in the Engagement Letter. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Agent will not be indemnified for liability arising out of gross negligence, willful misconduct, and certain other matters identified in the proposed order.

Disinterestedness

13. Agent has reviewed its conflicts system to determine whether it has any relationships with the Debtors’ creditors and parties-in-interest. Except as disclosed in the Declaration, Agent represents that it neither holds nor represents any interest materially adverse to the Debtors’ estates in connection with any matter on which it would be employed. To the best of the Debtors’ knowledge, Agent is a “disinterested person” as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Agent agrees that it will supplement its disclosure to the Court if any facts or circumstances are discovered that would require such additional disclosure.

The Debtors request that the Court grant the relief requested in this Application.

Date: _____.

Signature Block

Certificate of Service

This Application is being filed *ex parte*. Service will only occur by notice on the Court’s CM/ECF system.

/s/

[COUNSEL FOR DEBTORS]

Exhibit A

Engagement Letter

Exhibit B

Declaration

[CASE STYLE]

**DECLARATION OF [DECLARANT]
IN SUPPORT OF DEBTORS' EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR ENTRY
OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF
[NAME] AS [CLAIMS, NOTICING, AND SOLICITATION AGENT]**

I, [DECLARANT], under penalty of perjury, declare as follows:

1. I am a [TITLE] of [NAME OF AGENT] ("Agent"), a chapter 11 administrative services firm whose headquarters are located at [ADDRESS]. Except as otherwise noted in this declaration (this "Declaration"), I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and if called and sworn as a witness, I could and would testify competently as follows.

2. I submit this Declaration in support of the above-captioned Debtors' (collectively, the "Debtors") *Debtors' Emergency Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of [NAME] as [Claims, Noticing, and Solicitation Agent]*, filed contemporaneously herewith (the "Application").¹

3. Agent represents the following:

- (a) Agent, its members, and employees are not and were not, within two years before the date of the filing of these chapter 11 cases, creditors, equity security holders, insiders, or employees of the Debtors;
- (b) Agent will not consider itself employed by the United States government and shall not seek any compensation from the United States government in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (c) by accepting employment in these chapter 11 cases, Agent waives any rights to receive compensation from the United States government in connection with these chapter 11 cases;
- (d) in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Agent will not be an agent of the United States and will not act on behalf of the United States;

¹ Capitalized terms used herein but not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed in the Application.

- (e) Agent will not employ any past or present employees of the Debtors in connection with its work as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (f) Agent is a “disinterested person” as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to the matters upon which it is engaged;
- (g) in its capacity as Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Agent will not intentionally misrepresent any fact to any person;
- (h) Agent shall be under the supervision and control of the Clerk with respect to the receipt and recordation of claims and claim transfers;
- (i) Agent will comply with all requests of the Clerk and the guidelines promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States for the implementation of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c); and
- (j) none of the services provided by Agent as Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases shall be at the expense of the Clerk.

4. I caused to be submitted for review by our conflicts system the names of all known potential parties in interest (the “Potential Parties in Interest”) in these chapter 11 cases. The results of the conflict check were compiled and reviewed by Agent professionals under my supervision. Agent is not aware of any connection that would present a disqualifying conflict of interest. Should Agent discover any new relevant facts or connections bearing on the matters described herein during the period of its retention, Agent will use reasonable efforts to promptly file a supplemental declaration.

5. To the best of my knowledge, neither Agent, nor any of its professionals, has any materially adverse connection to the Debtors, their creditors, or other relevant parties. Agent may have relationships with certain of the Debtors’ creditors as vendors or in connection with cases in which Agent serves or has served in a neutral capacity as claims and noticing agent and/or administrative advisor for another chapter 11 debtor.

6. Agent discloses the following connections, each of which Agent believes does not present an interest adverse to the Debtors:

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7. I believe that Agent is a “disinterested person” as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Date: _____.

Signature

[CASE STYLE]

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION
OF [NAME] AS [CLAIMS, NOTICING, AND SOLICITATION AGENT]**

The Court has considered the Debtors' application (the "Application")¹ to employ [NAME OF AGENT] ("Agent") as its [claims, noticing, and solicitation agent] in these cases. The Court finds that *ex parte* relief is appropriate. The Court orders:

1. The Debtors are authorized to employ Agent under the terms of the Engagement Letter attached to the Application as modified by this Order.

2. The Agent is authorized and directed to perform the services as described in the Application, the Engagement Letter, and this Order. If a conflict exists, this Order controls.

3. The Clerk shall provide Agent with Electronic Case Filing ("ECF") credentials that allow Agent to receive ECF notifications and file certificates and/or affidavits of service.

4. The Agent is a custodian of court records and is designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these cases. Agent shall maintain the official Claims Register(s) in these cases. The Agent must make complete copies of all proofs of claims available to the public electronically without charge. Proofs of Claims and all attachments may be redacted only as ordered by the Court.

5. The Agent must not transmit or utilize the data obtained by the Agent in exchange for direct or indirect compensation from any person other than the Debtors.

6. The Agent shall provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate of the official Claims Register(s) upon request.

7. The Agent shall provide (i) an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim in these cases; and (ii) a post office box or street mailing address for the receipt of proofs of claim sent by United States Mail or overnight delivery.

8. The Agent is authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to comply with all duties and provide the Services set forth in the Application and the Engagement Letter.

9. The Agent shall provide detailed invoices setting forth the services provided and the rates charged on a monthly basis to the Debtors, their counsel, the Office of the United States Trustee, counsel for any official committee, and any party in interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices in writing.

¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

10. The Agent shall not be required to file fee applications. Upon receipt of Agent's invoices, the Debtors are authorized to compensate and reimburse Agent for all undisputed amounts in the ordinary course in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Letter. All amounts due to the Agent will be treated as § 503(b) administrative expenses. The Agent may apply its advance in accordance with the Engagement Letter and the terms of this Order.

11. The Debtors shall indemnify Agent under the terms of the Engagement Letter, as modified and limited by this Order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Agent is not indemnified for, and may not receive any contribution or reimbursement with respect to:

a. For matters or services arising before this case is closed, any matter or service not approved by an order of this Court.

b. Any matter that is determined by a final order of a Court of competent jurisdiction that arises from (i) the Agent's gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, bad faith, self-dealing, or breach of fiduciary duty (ii) a contractual dispute if the court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible under applicable law; or (iii) any situation in which the Court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *In re Thermadyne Holdings Corp.*, 283 B.R. 749, 756 (B.A.P. 8th Cir. 2002). No matter governed by this paragraph may be settled without this Court's approval.

c. This paragraph does not preclude Agent from seeking an order from this Court requiring the advancement of indemnity, contribution, or reimbursement obligations in accordance with applicable law.

12. The Agent shall not cease providing services during these chapter 11 cases for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of the Court. In the event Agent is unable to provide the Services set out in this Order and/or the Engagement Letter, Agent will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney and cause all original proofs of claim and data turned over to such persons as directed by the Court.

13. After entry of an order terminating the Agent's services, the Agent shall deliver to the Clerk an electronic copy in pdf format of all proofs of claim. Once the electronic copy has been received by the Clerk, Agent may destroy all proofs of claim in its possession sixty days after filing a Notice of Intent to Destroy on the Court's docket.

14. The terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

15. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order. The scope of Agent's services may be altered only on further order of this Court.