#### CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-18-001285

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
INSURANCE,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
-	§	
V.	§	TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ACCESS INSURANCE COMPANY,	§	
Defendant.	§	261 <sup>ST</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# SPECIAL DEPUTY RECEIVER'S APPLICATION TO APPROVE PLAN TO DEEM CERTAIN CLAIMS AS DULY FILED AGAINST THE ESTATE

## TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., solely in its capacity as Special Deputy Receiver of Access Insurance Company (the "SDR" and "AIC," respectively), files this Application to Approve Plan to Deem Certain Claims as Duly Filed Against the Estate (the "Application").

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The SDR requests Court approval of its plan to deem certain proofs of claim ("POCs") as duly filed against the estate. This Application seeks authority under TEX. INS. CODE § 443.251 (a), which provides, in part, "[t]he receivership court, only upon application of the liquidator, may allow alternative procedures and requirements for the filing of proofs of claim or for allowing or proving claims.

#### II. AUTHORITY

2.1 On March 13, 2018, the Court entered an *Agreed Order Appointing Liquidator*, *Permanent Injunction, and Notice of Automatic Stay* (the "Liquidation Order"), appointing the Texas Commissioner of Insurance as Liquidator of AIC. Effective March 13, 2018, the Texas Commissioner of Insurance, as Liquidator, appointed CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P. as SDR of AIC.

- 2.2 This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Application and the parties herein pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 443.005. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over property of the estate pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 443.005(c) and personal jurisdiction over all parties affected herein because this is a civil proceeding arising under and related to a delinquency proceeding under the Texas Insurer Receivership Act, Chapter 443 of the Texas Insurance Code.
- 2.3 Travis County is the mandatory, sole, and exclusive venue for this proceeding. TEX. INS. CODE § 443.005.
- 2.4 The subject matter of this Application has been referred to the Special Master appointed in this proceeding in accordance with Paragraph III of the *Order of Reference to Master*.

#### III. PLAN TO DEEM CLAIMS

- 3.1 On March 25, 2019, the Receivership Court entered its *Order Granting Special Deputy Receiver's Application for Approval of Claims Filing Deadline, Guidelines for Providing Notice, and Procedures for Processing Claims* (the "POC Order"). The order established September 13, 2019, as the deadline to file POCs. The POC Order authorized the SDR to deem certain POCs for consumers whose covered guaranty association claims were reduced by guaranty association deductibles or co-insurance as duly filed claims against the estate. Such claims if duly filed would have Class 2 priority under TEX. INS. CODE § 443.301 (b) and the SDR estimates that all such claims would be paid in full.
- 3.2 A number of the guaranty associations affected by the liquidation of AIC have statutory deductibles or minimum claim amounts on covered claims or claims for unearned premium ("UEP"). By way of example only, the South Carolina Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association will only pay the excess of policy claims over \$250.00 (up to \$300,000.00) and the excess of UEP claims over \$100.00.

- 3.3 The SDR has obtained from the guaranty associations the names and addresses of claimants whose covered guaranty association claim award or UEP reimbursement was reduced by a statutory deductible or minimum claim amount. The SDR has not been able to identify certain claimants whose claims were completely denied because the guaranty associations did not keep records of such claims. The SDR will not deem a POC has been duly filed for these unidentified individuals, but will do so if the person is subsequently identified.
- 3.4 Most of the claimant addresses are more than five years old and were collected from submissions by the guaranty associations. The SDR has determined that it will not be an efficient use of estate resources to deem a POC has been duly filed for a Class 2 claim without confirming that the claimant can receive the distribution check. The SDR wants to avoid mailing thousands of small checks to potentially bad addresses, as researching, re-issuing and re-mailing distribution checks will not be an efficient use of estate resources and would result in unclaimed funds for thousands of claimants that must be transferred to the Commissioner at closing. Therefore, the SDR proposes to confirm the address of each potential deemed claimant for guaranty association deductibles or minimum claim amounts by mailing an address confirmation letter to the potential deemed claimant's last known address. The address confirmation letter will inform potential deemed claimants that they have a claim that will be deemed as duly filed against the estate if they respond affirmatively to the SDR and confirm their mailing address. The SDR proposes to only deem POCs as duly filed against the estate for those consumers who respond to the address confirmation letter. The SDR requests that the Court approve the requirement that each potential deemed claimant respond affirmatively to the SDR's address confirmation letter and confirm their mailing address, before the SDR is authorized to deem a POC as duly filed against the estate on their behalf.

3.5 The SDR has determined that out of 14,430 potential deemed claims for guaranty association deductibles or minimum claims amounts, there are more than 3,000 valued at \$25.00 or less. The SDR proposes setting a de minimis amount and only deem a POC as duly filed against the estate for such claims valued at \$25.00 or more. There are fixed expenses for each potential deemed claim, regardless of the amount, and the SDR expects many of the address confirmation letters will be returned, requiring additional expense. The SDR has observed in other estates that many people do not cash checks for small amounts. Therefore, the SDR requests the Court approve its plan to set a de minimis amount and only deem POCs as duly filed against the estate for consumer's claims for guaranty association deductibles or minimum claims valued at \$25.00 or more.

#### IV. NOTICE

4.1 Pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 443.007(d), this Application has been served on the entire service list for this proceeding, including applicable guaranty associations, in the manner shown on the Certificate of Service.

#### V. OFFER OF PROOF AND VERIFICATION

5.1 This Application is verified by the affidavit and certification pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 443.017(b) of Susan E. Salch, designated representative of Cantilo & Bennett, L.L.P., solely in its capacity as Special Deputy Receiver of Access Insurance Company.

# VI. NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

6.1 All pleadings filed in response to this Application shall be served by e-mail on the undersigned counsel and all parties shown in the attached Certificate of Service.

**PRAYER** 

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., solely in its

capacity as SDR of AIC, respectfully requests this Court:

1. Grant the Application;

2. Approve the SDR's plan to deem POCs for consumers who had guaranty

association payments reduced by deductibles or statutory minimum amounts;

3. Order that POCs can only be deemed as duly filed against the estate for those

consumers who respond to the SDR's address confirmation letter by confirming

their mailing address;

4. Approve \$25.00 as the de minimis amount and order that the SDR shall only deem

POCs as duly filed against the estate for consumers whose claims for guaranty

association deductibles or statutory minimums are valued at \$25.00 or more; and

5. Grant the SDR such further relief to which it may show itself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FULLER LAW GROUP

By: /s/Christopher Fuller

Christopher Fuller

Texas Bar No. 07515500

4612 Ridge Oak Drive

Austin, Texas 78731

Telephone: (512) 470-9544

Email: cfuller@fullerlaw.org

Attorney for CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., solely in its capacity as Special Deputy Receiver of

**Access Insurance Company** 

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on October 22, 2024, a true and correct copy of this Application was served pursuant to the Order of Reference, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and Tex. Ins. Code Ann. § 443.007 (d) on the following:

Via Email: specialmasterclerk@tdi.texas.gov

Tom Collins, Receivership Master

c/o Special Master's Clerk

RLO MC-FRD PO Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

Via Email: David.Carbajal@tdi.texas.gov

David Carbajal

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

RLO MC-FRD PO Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

Via Email: Kimberly.Hammer@tdi.texas.gov

Kimberly Hammer

General Counsel Division Office of Financial Counsel

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

PO Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

Via e-Service: bburner@mwlaw.com

Burnie Burner

MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG, GATES &

WOODYARD, PLLC

500 W. 5th Street Suite 1150

Austin, TX 78701 Counsel for Defendant Access Insurance Company

Via Email: MSurguine@azinsurance.gov

Michael E. Surguine Executive Director

ARIZONA P&C INSURANCE GUARANTY FUND

2910 N. 44th Street, Second Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85018

Via e-Service: Shawn.Martin@tdi.texas.gov

Shawn Martin

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

RLO MC-FRD PO Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

Via Email: Vane.Hugo@tdi.texas.gov

Vane Hugo

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

RLO MC-FRD PO Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

Via e-Service: Zachary.Rhines@oag.texas.gov

Zachary L. Rhines

Assistant Attorney General General Litigation Division

OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 12548, Mail Stop 01901

Austin, TX 78711-2548

Counsel for Texas Department of Insurance

Via Email: aiga01@bellsouth.net

Andrea Lentine Executive Director

ALABAMA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION

2020 Canyon Road, Suite 200 Birmingham, AL 35216

Via Email: Steve.Uhrynowycz@arkansas.gov

Steve Uhrynowycz Administrator

ARKANSAS PROPERTY & CASUALTY

**GUARANTY FUND** 

1023 W. Capitol Avenue, Suite 2

Little Rock, AR 72201

Via Email: RoeberB@caiga.org
Brad Roeber, Executive Director
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE GUARANTEE
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 29066
Glendale, CA 91209-9066

Via Email: fknighton@gaiga.org
Frank Knighton
Executive Director
GEORGIA INSURERS INSOLVENCY POOL
3700 Crestwood Parkway NW, Suite 400
Duluth, GA 30096

Via Email: JWells@laiga.org
John Wells
Executive Director
LOUISIANA INSURANCE GUARANTY
ASSOCIATION
2142 Quail Run Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4126

Via Email: arussell@msiga.net
Arthur Russell
Executive Director
MISSISSIPPI INSURANCE GUARANTY
ASSOCIATION
713 South Pear Orchard Road, Suite 200
Ridgeland, MS 39157-4823

Via Email: debbiel@integriongroup.com
Debbie Luera
Director of Operations
NEW MEXICO INSURANCE GUARANTY
ASSOCIATION - Integrion Group, Inc.
PO Box 27815
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Via Email: rbauso@ppciga.org
Raymond Bauso, Executive Director
PENNSYLVANIA PROPERTY & CASUALTY
INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
One Penn Center, Suite 1850
1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Via Email: stbrown@agfgroup.org
Steve Brown
Executive Director
FLORIDA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 15159
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Via Email: abarbera@quadassoc.org
Amanda Barbera
Executive Director
INDIANA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Via Email: blaw@gfms.org
Barbara Peterson law
President
GUARANTY FUND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114-2916

Via Email: BGilbert@niga-pc.org
Bruce W. Gilbert
Executive Director
Nevada Insurance Guaranty Association
3821 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 100 Las
Vegas, NV 89102-1859

Via Email: JCannon@opciga.org
Jesica Cannon
OKLAHOMA PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE
GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
2601 Northwest Expressway, Suite 330E
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Via Email: smitty@scwind.com
J. Smith Harrison
Executive Director/Secretary
SOUTH CAROLINA PROPERTY & CASUALTY
INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 407
Columbia, SC 29202

Via Email: <a href="mailto:lbrouse@tiga.net">lbrouse@tiga.net</a>
Via Email: <a href="mailto:knations@tiga.net">knations@tiga.net</a>
Lorrie Brouse, Executive Secretary
Kerry Nations, Plan Administrator
TENNESSEE INSURANCE GUARANTY
ASSOCIATION

3100 West End Ave., Suite 670 Nashville, TN 37203-5805

Via Email: <a href="mtsutsui@tpciga.org">mtsutsui@tpciga.org</a>
Mark Tsutsui, Executive Director

TEXAS PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION (TPCIGA)

9120 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78758

Via Email: <a href="mailto:aevans@tpciga.org">aevans@tpciga.org</a>
Annette Evans, Claims Director

TEXAS PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

GUARANTY ASSOCIATION (TPCIGA)

9120 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78758

Via Email: Young.Courtney@aaa-calif.com

Courtney Young

Office of the General Counsel

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

3333 Fairview Rd., A-451 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Via Email: sternisha.andrew@aaa-texas.com

Andrew Sternisha Subrogation Analyst

AAA Texas Dallas, Texas

*Via e-Service*: anthony@icenoglefirm.com

Anthony Icenogle

ICENOGLE & BOGGINS, P.L.L.C.

6805 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Ste 220

Austin, TX 78731

Attorneys for Allianz Risk Transfer AG

(Bermuda Branch)

Via Email: awalker@tpciga.org Via Email: rstroud@tpciga.org Via Email: slang@tpciga.org

Amber A. Walker, Rachel Stroud, & Sara Lang

TEXAS PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION (TPCIGA)

9120 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78758

Via Email: jdamato@tpciga.org

John J. D'Amato, CPA, Chief Financial Officer TEXAS PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

GUARANTY ASSOCIATION (TPCIGA)

9120 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78758

Via Email: Wallock.Michael@aaa-calif.com

Mike Wallock

Office of the General Counsel

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

3333 Fairview Rd., A-451 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Via Email: Stanley.jason@aaa-texas.com

Jason Stanley

Subrogation Claims Team Manager

AAA TEXAS Dallas, TX

Via First Class Mail

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE Special Procedures Branch 300 East 8th Street, Suite 352

Mail Stop 5026AUS Austin, TX 78701

Via e-Service: Elliott.Kroll@arentfox.com

Elliott Kroll ARENT FOX, LLP

1301 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 42

New York, NY 10019

Attorneys for Allianz Risk Transfer AG

(Bermuda Branch)

#### APPLICANT'S NOTICE OF SUBMISSION

Pursuant to the terms of the Order of Reference to Master entered by the District Court in this cause, the SDR's *Application to Approve Plan to Deem Certain Claims as Duly Filed Against the Estate* is hereby set for written submission before the Special Master, Tom Collins, on **November 11, 2024**.

The Special Master has asked that the following rules be provided you:

- 1. Any objection must be filed with the Travis County District Clerk at least three (3) calendar days before the submission date.
- 2. A copy of any objection shall be served by email by such date on:
  - (a) The Special Master's Docket Clerk, at specialmasterclerk@tdi.texas.gov;
  - (b) The undersigned counsel, Christopher Fuller at cfuller@fullerlaw.org; and
  - (c) All interested parties, including those listed on the SDR's Certificate of Service.
- 3. The objecting party shall coordinate with the SDR's counsel and the Docket Clerk [(512) 676-6915)] to obtain an oral hearing setting for argument on the Application and Objection, and complete and attach an "Objecting Party's Notice of Oral Hearing" to the objection.
- 4. The written objection must specifically list all reasons for objection with supporting references to and discussion of statutory and case authorities. Reasons not stated in writing will not be considered orally.
- 5. Please note that if an objection is not filed as described in the Notice of Submission, the Master may consider the Application without a hearing.
- 6. Failure to file timely a written objection before the Special Master constitutes a waiver of the right to object to the Special Master's recommendation to the District Court.
- 7. Any Acknowledgment of Notice and Waiver to be filed by the Guaranty Association or other interested party should be filed at least three (3) calendar days before the submission or hearing date.

/s/ Christo	pher Fuller/	
Christophe	er Fuller	

# SPECIAL DEPUTY RECEIVER'S VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO TEX. INS.CODE ANN. §443.017(b)

# AFFIDAVIT OF SUSAN E. SALCH

State of Texas

County of Travis

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority appeared Susan E. Salch, who after being by me duly sworn, stated the following under oath:

- 1. "My name is Susan E. Salch. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and am competent to testify to the matters contained in this affidavit.
- 2. I am a partner in CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., the Special Deputy Receiver of Access Insurance Company (the "SDR" and "AIC" respectively), I am duly authorized to make this Affidavit on behalf of the SDR.
- 3. I have reviewed the Application to Approve Plan to Deem Certain Claims as Duly Filed Against the Estate and the facts stated therein are true and correct based on my personal knowledge, my review of estate records and my consultation with the staff and subcontractors.
- 4. I certify that the exhibits, books, accounts, records, papers, correspondence, and/or other records and documents attached hereto, if any, were produced pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 443.017, are either true and correct copies of records of AIC and were received from the custody of AIC or found among its effects, or were created by and filed with the Receiver's office in connection with the receivership of this delinquent company, and are held by the Special Deputy Receiver in its official capacity."

By: W/W

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on October 21, 2024, by Susan E. Salch, Special Deputy Receiver of Access Insurance Company

**Notary Public** 



#### CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-18-001285

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
INSURANCE,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
V.	§	TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ACCESS INSURANCE COMPANY,	§	
Defendant.	§	261 <sup>ST</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# ORDER GRANTING SPECIAL DEPUTY RECEIVER'S APPLICATION TO APPROVE PLAN TO DEEM CERTAIN CLAIMS AS DULY FILED AGAINST THE ESTATE

On this date, the Court heard the Application to Approve Plan to Deem Certain Claims as Duly Filed Against the Estate (the "Application") filed by CANTILO & BENNETT, L.L.P., solely in its capacity as Special Deputy Receiver of Access Insurance Company (the "SDR" and "AIC," respectively). The SDR appeared by and through its counsel.

Having considered the Application, the Court finds as follows:

- 1. The *Order of Reference to Master* provides that motions filed pursuant to TEX. INS.

  CODE §§ 443.251 are referred to the Special Master appointed in this proceeding;
- 2. Notice of the Application was provided in accordance with TEX. INS. CODE § 443.007 and the *Order of Reference to Master*;
- 3. The Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association filed its acknowledgment and waiver;
  - 4. No objections to the Application were filed;
- 5. The Court has jurisdiction over the Application and the parties affected hereunder; and
  - 6. The SDR's Application should be granted in all respects.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1) The Application is GRANTED in all respects.

2) The SDR's plan to deem POCs for consumers whose guaranty association

payments were reduced by deductibles or statutory minimum amounts is

APPROVED.

3) POCs shall only be deemed as duly filed against the estate for those consumers who

respond to the SDR's address confirmation letter by confirming their mailing

address;

4) The SDR shall only deem POCs as duly filed against the estate for consumers

whose claims for guaranty association deductibles or statutory minimums are

valued at \$25.00 or more;

5) This Order constitutes a final order fully resolving all issues relating to the

Application, provided that this Court shall retain jurisdiction to issue further orders

pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code Chapter 443.

Signed on	, 2024.	, 2024.		
	JUDGE PRESIDING			

## **Automated Certificate of eService**

This automated certificate of service was created by the efiling system. The filer served this document via email generated by the efiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules.

Christopher Fuller on behalf of Christopher Fuller

Bar No. 07515500 cfuller@fullerlaw.org Envelope ID: 93432901

Filing Code Description: Motion (No Fee)

Filing Description: SPECIAL DEPUTY RÉCEIVER'S APPLICATION TO

APPROVE PLAN TO DEEM CERTAIN CLAIMS AS DULY FILED

AGAINST THE ESTATE

Status as of 10/22/2024 1:53 PM CST

#### **Case Contacts**

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Brian Falligant		bfalligant@inquestresources.com	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Special Masters Clerk Special Masters Clerk		specialmasterclerk@tdi.texas.gov	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Amber Walker	785581	awalker@tpciga.org	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Kimberly Hammer	24002219	kimberly.hammer@tdi.texas.gov	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Melvin Burner	3425700	bburner@mwlaw.com	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Anthony Icenogle	10382948	anthony@icenoglefirm.com	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT
Patricia Muniz		pmuniz@inquestresources.com	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT

## Associated Case Party: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Zachary Rhines	24116957	zachary.rhines@oag.texas.gov	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT

Associated Case Party: TPCIGA

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Rachel Stroud		rstroud@tpciga.org	10/22/2024 1:25:57 PM	SENT