#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

In re:

CASE NO. 14-34941 (SGJ)

ALCO STORES, INC., et al.<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 11

**Debtors.** 

Jointly Administered

#### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR DEBTORS' FIRST AMENDED PLAN OF LIQUIDATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

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Dated: February \_\_, 2015

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four (4) digits of their taxpayer identification number, are ALCO Stores, Inc. (1080) and ALCO Holdings, LLC (0364). The mailing address of the Debtors, solely for purposes of notices and communications, is ALCO Stores, Inc., 751 Freeport Parkway, Coppell, Texas 75019.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS THE ONLY DOCUMENT AUTHORIZED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAN. NO SOLICITATIONS FOR OR AGAINST THE PLAN MAY BE MADE EXCEPT THROUGH THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN. ALTHOUGH THE DEBTORS BELIEVE AND HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THIS SUMMARY PROVIDES ADEQUATE INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PLAN, IT DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE COMPLETE AND IS QUALIFIED TO THE EXTENT IT DOES NOT SET FORTH THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE PLAN. IF THERE IS ANY INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE PLAN AND THE SUMMARY OF THE PLAN CONTAINED IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, THE PLAN SHALL CONTROL. ACCORDINGLY, EACH HOLDER OF A CLAIM SHOULD REVIEW THE PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY.

THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTION 1125 AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 3016 AND NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL OR STATE SECURITIES LAW OR OTHER APPLICABLE NONBANKRUPTCY LAW. PERSONS OR ENTITIES TRADING IN OR OTHERWISE PURCHASING, SELLING OR TRANSFERRING CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEBTORS SHOULD EVALUATE THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND THE PLAN IN LIGHT OF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED. THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO BE ADVICE ON THE TAX, SECURITIES OR OTHER LEGAL EFFECTS OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEBTORS AS TO HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEBTORS.

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THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MAY CONTAIN "FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995. SUCH STATEMENTS CONSIST OF ANY STATEMENT OTHER THAN A RECITATION OF HISTORICAL FACT AND CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE USE OF FORWARD LOOKING TERMINOLOGY SUCH AS "MAY," "EXPECT," "ANTICIPATE," "ESTIMATE" OR "CONTINUE" OR THE NEGATIVE THEREOF OR OTHER VARIATIONS THEREON OR COMPARABLE TERMINOLOGY. THE READER IS CAUTIONED THAT ALL FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE NECESSARILY SPECULATIVE AND THERE ARE CERTAIN RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES THAT COULD CAUSE ACTUAL EVENTS OR RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE REFERRED TO IN SUCH FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS.

ALL OF THE PROJECTED RECOVERIES TO CREDITORS ARE BASED UPON THE ANALYSES PERFORMED BY THE DEBTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONALS. ALTHOUGH THE DEBTORS HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED HEREIN AND IN THE EXHIBITS ATTACHED HERETO, THE DEBTORS CANNOT MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION.

AS TO CONTESTED MATTERS, ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS AND OTHER ACTIONS OR THREATENED ACTIONS, THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED AS AN ADMISSION OF ANY FACT OR LIABILITY, STIPULATION OR WAIVER BUT RATHER AS THE DEBTORS' STATEMENT OF THE STATUS OF THE RESPECTIVE MATTER.

THE DEBTORS RECOMMEND THAT CREDITORS SUPPORT AND VOTE TO ACCEPT THE PLAN. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE DEBTORS THAT THE

TREATMENT OF CREDITORS UNDER THE PLAN CONTEMPLATES A GREATER RECOVERY THAN THAT WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED UNDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR THE REORGANIZATION OR LIQUIDATION OF THE DEBTORS. ACCORDINGLY, THE DEBTORS BELIEVE THAT CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CREDITORS.

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## **EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1 Debtors' First Amended Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, dated April 7, 2015
- Exhibit 2 Liquidation Analysis

#### I. INTRODUCTION

On October 12, 2014 (the "*Petition Date*"), ALCO Stores, Inc. ("*Stores*"), and ALCO Holdings, LLC. ("Holdings", and collectively with Stores, the "*Debtors*") each filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, as now in effect or as hereafter amended (the "*Bankruptcy Code*").

The Debtors submit this disclosure statement (the "*Disclosure Statement*"), pursuant to section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code, and rule 3017 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, as now in effect or as hereafter amended (the "*Bankruptcy Rules*"), in connection with the solicitation of votes on their proposed *First Amended Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code*, dated as of April 7, 2015 (the "*Plan*") and attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The Debtors believe that confirmation and implementation of the Plan is in the best interests of the Debtors' Estates, Creditors and all other interested parties.

This Disclosure Statement and the other documents described herein are being furnished by the Debtors to Creditors in the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "*Bankruptcy Court*"). This Disclosure Statement is intended to provide adequate information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, to enable the Debtors' Creditors to make an informed judgment about the Plan, including whether to accept or reject the Plan. This Disclosure Statement sets forth certain information regarding (i) the Debtors' prepetition operating and financial history; (ii) the Debtors' need to file for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code; (iii) significant events that have occurred during the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases; (iv) the terms of the Plan; (v) the manner in which distributions will be made under the Plan; (vi) certain effects of confirmation of the Plan; (vii) certain risk factors associated with the Plan; and (viii) the confirmation process and the voting procedures that holders of Claims entitled to vote under the Plan must follow for their votes to be counted.

This Disclosure Statement is subject to the Bankruptcy Court's approval, as containing information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, adequate to enable a hypothetical, reasonable investor typical of each of the Classes whose votes are being solicited to make an informed judgment with respect to the Plan. THE BANKRUPTCY COURT'S APPROVAL OF THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO THE MERITS OF THE PLAN. ALL CREDITORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND ITS EXHIBITS CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BEFORE DECIDING TO VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN.

The summary of the Plan provided herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Plan. To the extent that the information provided in this Disclosure Statement and the Plan (including any Plan Supplements) conflict, the terms of the Plan (including any Plan Supplements) will control. Terms not otherwise specifically defined herein will have the meanings attributed to them in the Plan. Each definition in this Disclosure Statement and in the Plan includes both the singular and plural. Headings are for convenience or reference and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Disclosure Statement.

#### A. Overview of Chapter 11 and the Plan Confirmation Process.

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code allows debtors to reorganize or to liquidate and wind up their affairs for the benefit of the debtors and their creditors. Upon the commencement of a chapter 11 case, an estate is created comprised of all the legal and equitable interests of a debtor as of the date the petition is filed, which typically remain in control of the debtor as a debtor-inpossession. Except with respect to certain of the Debtors that sold or transferred ownership of substantially all of their assets during the pendency of their Chapter 11 Cases as described in greater detail herein, the Debtors remain in possession of their property and continue to operate their businesses without the oversight of a trustee.

Pursuant to section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code, the filing of a chapter 11 petition imposes an automatic stay of all attempts by creditors or third-parties to collect or enforce prepetition claims against a debtor or otherwise interfere with its property or business, unless relief from the automatic stay is obtained from the bankruptcy court.

The Bankruptcy Code is designed to encourage the parties-in-interest in a chapter 11 proceeding to negotiate the terms of a chapter 11 plan so that it may be confirmed. A chapter 11 plan is the vehicle for satisfying or otherwise addressing the claims against and the interests in the debtor. Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan makes it binding on the debtor and all of its creditors and the prior obligations owed by the debtor to such parties are compromised in exchange for the obligations specified in the plan.

After a chapter 11 plan has been filed, the holders of impaired claims against the debtor are permitted to vote to accept or reject the plan. Before soliciting acceptances of the proposed plan, section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code requires the debtor to file a disclosure statement containing adequate information of a kind, and in sufficient detail, to enable a hypothetical, reasonable investor to make an informed judgment about the plan. This Disclosure Statement is presented to holders of Claims against the Debtors entitled to vote under section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code in connection with the Debtors' solicitation of votes on the Plan.

#### B. Recommendation of the Debtors and Plan Overview.

The Debtors believe that the Plan, which provides for, among other things, the creation of a liquidating trust for the benefit of the Debtors' Creditors, will allow for a prompt resolution of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases and will achieve the best possible result for Creditors and other interested parties. The following is a brief overview of the Plan and is qualified by reference to the Plan itself.

#### C. Summary of Classification and Treatment of Claims Under the Plan.

A brief summary of the Classes established under the Plan, including the treatment and voting rights of each Class, is set forth below. A complete description of the treatment of each class is set forth in section 3 of the Plan and section IV of this Disclosure Statement. Parties should refer to those sections for a complete description of the proposed treatment for each class.

Class	Claims & Interest	Status	Treatment	Entitled to Vote	Estimated Recovery
1	Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Paid in Full	No (deemed to accept)	100%
2	General Unsecured Claims	Impaired	Pro Rata Share of Liquidating Trust Cash	Yes	1% to 15%
3	Subordinated Claims	Impaired	No Distribution	No (deemed to reject)	0%
4	Equity Interests	Impaired	No Distribution	No (deemed to reject)	0%

#### D. Summary of Voting Requirements for Plan Confirmation.

#### 1. In General.

Creditors should refer only to this Disclosure Statement and the Plan to determine whether to vote to accept or reject the Plan. Under the Bankruptcy Code, only holders of Claims that are "impaired" are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. Under section 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code, a class of claims or interests is deemed to be "impaired" under a plan unless (1) the plan leaves unaltered the legal, equitable and contractual rights to which such claim or interest entitles the holder thereof; or (2) notwithstanding any legal right to an accelerated payment of such claim or interest, the plan, among other things, cures all existing defaults (other than defaults resulting from the occurrence of events of bankruptcy) and reinstates the maturity of such claim or interest as it existed before the default. An impaired class of creditors votes to accept a plan if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in dollar amount, and more than one-half (1/2) in number, of those creditors that actually cast ballots vote to accept a plan. Those classes that are not impaired are not entitled to vote and are deemed to accept a plan are deemed to reject a plan.

A class of interest holders is deemed to accept a plan if the holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount of those interest holders that actually cast ballots vote to accept such plan. A class of interest holders is impaired, not entitled to vote, and deemed to reject the plan if the plan treats such holders by providing that they will retain no property and receive no distributions under the plan.

Any Claim in an Impaired Class that is subject to a pending objection or is scheduled as unliquidated, disputed or contingent is not entitled to vote unless the holder of such Claim has obtained an order of the Bankruptcy Court temporarily allowing the Claim for the purpose of voting on the Plan.

Pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, only creditors who actually vote on the Plan will be counted for purposes of determining whether the required number of acceptances have been obtained. Failure to deliver a *properly completed ballot* by the Voting Deadline (as defined in the Plan) will result in an abstention; consequently, the vote will neither be counted as an acceptance or rejection of the Plan.

## 2. Impaired Classes Entitled to Vote.

Only the Claims in Class 2 (General Unsecured Claims) are Impaired and are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

## 3. Unimpaired Classes Deemed to Accept the Plan.

Under Bankruptcy Code section 1126(f), only the Claims in Class 1 (Secured Claims) are Unimpaired and the vote of holders of such Claims in these Classes will not be solicited.

## 4. Certain Classes Are Deemed to Reject the Plan and Do Not Vote.

Under Bankruptcy Code section 1126(g), the following Classes will receive no Distributions and are deemed to have rejected the Plan: Class 3 (Subordinated Claims) and Class 4 (Equity Interests). The vote of holders of such Equity Interests in these Classes will not be solicited.

## 5. Voting Deadline.

The Debtors have engaged Prime Clerk, LLC. as their voting agent (the "*Voting Agent*") to assist in the transmission of voting materials and tabulation of votes with respect to the Plan. If a Creditor holds a Claim classified in a voting Class of Claims under the Plan, the Creditor's acceptance or rejection of the Plan is important and must be in writing and submitted on time. The record date for determining which Creditors may vote on the Plan is April 10, 2015 (the "*Voting Record Date*"). The voting deadline is [\_\_\_\_], 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) (the "*Voting Deadline*").

#### 6. Voting Instructions.

IN ORDER FOR A VOTE TO BE COUNTED, THE BALLOT MUST BE PROPERLY COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BALLOT AND RETURNED TO THE VOTING AGENT BY THE VOTING DEADLINE.

#### 7. Ballots.

Creditors must use only the Ballot or Ballots sent to them with the notice of this Disclosure Statement. If a Creditor has Claims in more than one Class, it should receive multiple Ballots. IF A CREDITOR RECEIVES MORE THAN ONE BALLOT, THEN THE CREDITOR SHOULD ASSUME THAT EACH BALLOT IS FOR A SEPARATE CLAIM AND SHOULD COMPLETE AND RETURN ALL OF THEM.

## 8. Additional Information.

If you have any questions about (i) the procedure for voting on your Claim, (ii) the package of materials that you have received, (iii) the amount of your Claim, (iv) obtaining or replacing a Ballot, or (v) obtaining an additional copy of the Plan, this Disclosure Statement, or any exhibits to such documents, please contact the Voting Agent at (844) 794-3478 or alcoballots@primeclerk.com.

#### II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### A. Overview of the Debtors' Businesses.

The Company was founded in 1901 as a general merchandising operation in Abilene, Kansas. The Company's stores historically offered a broad line of merchandise consisting of approximately 35,000 items, including automotive, consumables and commodities, crafts, domestics, electronics, furniture, hardware, health and beauty aids, housewares, jewelry, ladies', men's and children's apparel and shoes, prerecorded music and video, sporting goods, seasonal items, stationery and toys. For fiscal year 2014, the Company's percentages of sales by product category were as follows:

Product Category	Percentage of Sales
Consumables and commodities	34%
Hardlines	34%
Apparel and accessories	15%
Home furnishings and décor	17%

As of the Petition Date, the Company operated 198 stores in 23 states throughout the central United States. The current geographic distribution of the Company's stores was as follows:

State	No. of Stores	State	No. of Stores
Arizona	7	Montana	4
Arkansas	2	Nebraska	13
Colorado	12	New Mexico	5
Florida	1	North Dakota	13
Georgia	3	Ohio	1
Idaho	5	Oklahoma	9
Illinois	10	South Dakota	10
Indiana	12	Texas	32
Iowa	10	Utah	6
Kansas	22	Wisconsin	1
Minnesota	11	Wyoming	4

State	No. of Stores	State	No. of Stores
Missouri	5		

The stores averaged approximately 21,000 square feet of selling space, with an additional 4,000 square feet utilized for merchandise processing, temporary storage, and administration. As of the Petition Date, the Company owned five of the store locations and leased the remaining 193 locations.

The Company also operated a 352,000 square foot distribution center in Abilene, Kansas from which it serviced all of its stores. The distribution center was responsible for distributing approximately 80% of the Company's merchandise, with the balance being delivered directly to the Company's stores by its vendors. The Company owned this distribution center along with its former store support center in Abilene, Kansas, which consisted of approximately 35,000 square feet of office space and an approximately 95,500 square feet adjacent warehouse. The Company also leased its current store support center in Coppell, Texas, comprising approximately 43,000 square feet.

The Company's historical strategy had been to target smaller markets not served by other regional or national broad line retail chains and to provide the most convenient access to retail shopping within each market. This strategy primarily focused on towns with populations of less than 5,000 that are in regional areas with populations of less than 16,000 where (a) there is no direct competition from national or regional broad line retailers, (b) economic and demographic criteria indicate the market is able to commercially support a broad line retailer, and (c) the opening of a store would significantly reduce the likelihood of the entry into such market of another broad town retailer. The Company had expanded its strategy for additional store locations to include under-served areas with urban markets that may have had national or regional broad line retail stores in the near proximity; however, as of the Petition Date, approximately 78% of the Company's stores operated in primary markets that do not have another broad line retailer.

#### **B.** Organizational Structure of the Debtors.

ALCO Stores, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas with its executive offices located in Coppell, Texas. ALCO Holdings is a wholly owned subsidiary of ALCO Stores, Inc. and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas. The Company previously operated under the name "Duckwall-ALCO Stores, Inc." but in July 2012, changed its name to the current "ALCO Stores, Inc." At an annual meeting of stockholders held on August 29, 2014, the then-existing board of directors of the Company was replaced with seven newly elected board members.

During the fiscal year ended February 2, 2014, the Company generated net sales from continuing operations of approximately \$474.1 million. As of the Petition Date, the Company had assets totaling approximately \$222 million and liabilities totaling approximately \$162 million. The bulk of the liabilities was total debt outstanding under a credit facility, which is described in greater detail below.

#### C. The Debtors' Prepetition Capital Structure.

As of the Petition Date, the Debtors' total consolidated funded debt obligations was approximately \$162 million and consisted of, among other things, the Wells Fargo Credit Facility, capital lease obligations and other indebtedness. The major components of the Debtors' prepetition debt structure and their prepetition debt obligations are described below.

#### 1. Wells Fargo Credit Facility.

Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors were borrowers under an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2014, as amended pursuant to that certain First Amendment to and Waiver to Credit Agreement, dated as of September 4, 2014 (as amended, the "*WF Credit Agreement*"), with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association ("*Wells Fargo*"), as administrative agent, collateral agent, and lender. CIT Bank ("*CIT*") was also a lender under the WF Credit Agreement.

Pursuant to the WF Credit Agreement, (a) Wells Fargo and CIT, as real estate term lenders, agreed to make certain real estate term loans to the Debtors in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5 million (the "*Real Estate Term Loan*"), (b) Wells Fargo, as term lender, agreed to make a certain term loan to the Debtors in an amount not to exceed \$12.5 million (the "*Term Loan*"), and (c) Wells Fargo and CIT, as revolving lenders, agreed to make certain revolving loans from time to time to the Debtors in an aggregate amount not to exceed at any time outstanding \$125 million, subject to availability under a borrowing base (the "*Revolving Loan*" and, together with the Real Estate Term Loan and the Term Loan, the "*Credit Facility*").

Pursuant to the WF Credit Agreement, Wells Fargo agreed to issue approximately \$8.4 million in letters of credit (the "*WF Letters of Credit*") from time to time as part of, and not in addition to, the limits provided under the Credit Facility, and to honor drawings made under the letters of credit, with the Debtors having an absolute and unconditional obligation to reimburse Wells Fargo for each drawing under the WF Letters of Credit on the terms set forth in the WF Credit Agreement.

As security for the Debtors' obligations under the WF Credit Agreement, each Debtor granted to Wells Fargo, as Administrative Agent, a security interest in substantially all of each Debtor's personal property assets as well as the Company's five owned properties—four retail stores and the Company's distribution center (collectively, the "*Collateral*").

As of the Petition Date, the aggregate amount outstanding under the WF Credit Agreement was approximately \$104.2 million.

#### 2. Capital Lease Obligations.

The Company is a lessee of certain buildings, fixtures, and software under various longterm capital leases expiring at various dates. As of the end of fiscal year 2014, the Company had total capital lease obligations, including long-term obligations, of approximately \$15.3 million. As of the Petition Date, approximately \$15.6 million was owing in connection with the capital leases.

#### **3.** Other Indebtedness.

The Company is a lessee under various operating leases for store locations throughout the central United States, with average monthly rental obligations under such leases totaling more than \$2 million. The Debtors also regularly received goods, services, and supplies from various vendors and providers in the ordinary course of the Debtors' operations. As of the Petition Date, an aggregate amount of more than \$24 million was owing to prepetition vendors, service providers, and landlords.

#### III. EVENTS LEADING TO THE CHAPTER 11 FILINGS

The lingering economic slowdown had caused disruptions and significant volatility in financial markets, increased rates of mortgage loan default and personal bankruptcy, and declining consumer and business confidence, which led to decreased customer traffic and reduced levels of consumer spending, particularly on discretionary items. These economic conditions negatively impacted the Debtors' customers, many of whom were on a fixed or low income, which in turn negatively affected sales in the discount retail industry. Net sales from continuing operations during fiscal year 2014 decreased 1.6% to \$474.1 million compared to net sales during fiscal year 2013 of \$481.8 million. Operating results from continuing operations decreased \$26.4 million to a net operating loss of \$24.5 million in fiscal year 2014 compared to net income of \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2013.

In addition, the discount retail industry became increasingly competitive in recent years, facing competition from specialty retailers, mass merchandisers, dollar stores, nearby broad line retail stores and retailers located in regional trade centers, and internet-based businesses. The Company's operations also experienced seasonal fluctuations, with sales and profitability generally being higher in the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter sales for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 were approximately \$143.6 million and \$130.9 million, respectively, compared with third quarter sales of approximately \$105.9 million and \$106.7 million for the same fiscal years.

As a result of the decline in the Company's operating results in the first two quarters of fiscal year 2015, coupled with continued economic weakness in the markets in which the Company operates, the Company recognized the critical need to delever its balance sheet in order to avoid violating various loan covenants.

These efforts coincided with a proxy solicitation to replace the incumbent board of directors, ultimately leading to the then-existing board of directors being replaced with seven newly-elected board members at an annual meeting of stockholders held on August 29, 2014. The proxy battle was led by various stockholders who had filed class action petitions in the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas citing, among other parties, the Company and certain of the Company's directors, including Royce Winsten, Terrence Babilla, Dennis Logue, Lolan Mackey and Richard Wilson, as defendants. The various petitions alleged, among other things, breaches of fiduciaries duties and the aiding and abetting of breaches of fiduciary duties. Following the successful proxy fight, the newly-elected board of directors appointed new management to oversee ongoing business and financial operations.

To these ends, the Debtors' new management and the Debtors' advisors performed an analysis of the Company's operations and financial performance to identify areas for improvement. Also, in September 2014, the Company engaged Houlihan Lokey Capital, Inc. ("*Houlihan Lokey*") as financial advisor and investment banker. The Company and its advisors, including Houlihan Lokey, engaged in discussions with the Company's key stakeholders, including Wells Fargo, stockholders and vendors, to explore all available alternatives, including obtaining additional liquidity through the infusion of capital and/or pursuing one or more transactions to restructure existing debt obligations and improve overall financial and operating performance.

As uncertainty mounted with respect to future financial covenant compliance, the Company began to face increased pressure with respect to its suppliers and vendors as many of the Company's most significant suppliers tightened their payment terms, thereby further constricting the Company's already-strained liquidity position.

#### IV. EVENTS OCCURRING DURING DEBTORS' CHAPTER 11 CASES

#### A. Bankruptcy Filings and First Day Orders.

The Debtors commenced their Chapter 11 Cases on the Petition Date by filing voluntary petitions under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are considered debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107(a) and 1108. With the exception of certain Debtors, the Debtors remain in possession of their Assets and continue to operate their businesses without interruption. As described in more detail herein, certain of the Debtors have sold or otherwise transferred control of their Assets to third parties.

On October 15, 2014, the Bankruptcy Court held an initial hearing to consider certain "first day" matters and entered orders that, among other things:

1. Permitted the joint administration of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases [Docket No. 58];

**2.** Permitted the Debtors to make certain payroll payments to employees and continue certain employee benefit plans and other practices [Docket No. 68];

**3.** Approved the Debtors' continued use of their existing cash management system, bank accounts and business forms [Docket No. 70];

**4.** Authorized the Debtors' use of postpetition financing and prepetition secured lenders' cash collateral on an interim basis [Docket Nos. 67];

**5.** Prohibited utility providers from altering, refusing or discontinuing services to the Debtors on account of prepetition invoices [Docket No. 63];

**6.** Approved the Debtors' payment of prepetition claims of shippers and warehousemen [Docket No. 64];

7. Approved the Debtors' continuation of certain prepetition customer programs [Docket No. 65];

**8.** Approved the Debtors payment of certain prepetition taxes on an interim basis [Docket No. 69];

**9.** Authorized the Debtors to pay prepetition claims of Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc. ("*AWG*") as a critical vendor [Docket No. 60]; and

**10.** Extended the Debtors' time to file their Schedules and statements of financial affairs ("*SOFAs*") through November 14, 2014 [Docket No. 66].

## **B.** Schedules and Statements.

On November 14, 2014, the Debtors each filed their Schedules and SOFAs.

## C. Retention and Employment of Ordinary Course Professionals.

On November 14, 2014, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order authorizing the Debtors' retention of certain professionals to represent the Debtors in matters arising in the ordinary course of their businesses, including, but not limited to, Deloitte Tax LLP as the Debtors' auditor and Lathrop & Gage as the Debtors' litigation counsel [Docket No. 330].

## D. Retention and Employment of Bankruptcy Professionals.

During the Chapter 11 Cases, the Bankruptcy Court also approved the Debtors' retention and employment of the following Professionals to assist in the administration of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases: (i) DLA Piper LLP (US), as bankruptcy counsel to the Debtors; (ii) Houlihan & Lokey Capital, Inc., as investment banker for the Debtors [Docket No. 324]; (iii) Deloitte Transactions and Business Analytics, to provide a Chief Restructuring Officer and certain additional personnel for the Debtors [Docket No. 379]; and (iv) A&G Realty Partners, LLC, as real estate consultant to the Debtors [Docket No. 413].

## E. DIP Financing.

In the ordinary course of their businesses, the Debtors required cash on hand and cash flow from their operations to fund their working capital, liquidity needs and other routine payables. In addition, the Debtors required cash on hand to fund their Chapter 11 Cases and to successfully reorganize. Accordingly, during the course of these Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors sought and obtained approval from the Bankruptcy Court, on a final basis, to obtain post-petition financing in the principal aggregate amount of up to \$122,675,000 (the "*DIP Financing*") in substantially the form attached to the final order authorizing such post-petition financing (the "*DIP Financing Order*"). On January 22, 2015, the Debtors satisfied in full all of their indebtedness and other obligations under the DIP Financing, except for certain continuing indemnification obligations set forth in a letter agreement between the Debtors and Wells Fargo.

## F. Appointment of Creditors' Committee.

On October 22, 2014, an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "*Creditors*' *Committee*") was appointed by the United States Trustee. The Creditors' Committee consists of: (i) Alliance Entertainment, LLC; (ii) Hallmark Marketing Company, LLC; (iii) Silver One International; (iv) Sunbeam Products, Inc. d/b/a Jarden Consumer Solutions; (v) PepsiCo, Inc.;

(vi) Cocca Development, Ltd.; and (vii) Maurice Sporting Goods [Docket No. 33]. The Creditors' Committee retained Cooley LLP and the Law Offices of Judith W. Ross as its counsel and Glass Ratner Advisory & Capital Group, LLC as its financial advisor.

#### G. Interim Compensation and Expense Reimbursement.

On November 6, 2014, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order approving certain interim compensation and expense reimbursement procedures for Professionals [Docket No. 261] (the "*Interim Compensation Order*"). In accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, Professionals that comply with the procedures set forth therein can request payment of eighty percent (80%) of their fees and one hundred percent (100%) of their expenses on a monthly basis. The fees and expenses paid pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order are not deemed allowed or disallowed for purposes of sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, and Professionals are required to seek approval and allowance of such fees and expenses by filing and serving applications in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules.

## H. Exclusivity Extension.

On March 6, 2015, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order [Docket No. 855] (the "*Extension Order*") granting the Debtors' request, pursuant to section 1121(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, to extend the Debtors' exclusive period to file a plan of reorganization and solicit acceptances thereof to April 10, 2015 and June 9, 2015, respectively. The Debtors have filed the Plan within the exclusive time period to propose a plan of reorganization.

#### I. Asset Sales.

Beginning prior to the Petition Date, and continuing since the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors have been engaged in a process to monetize their assets. Such efforts have, to date, been successful.

#### 1. The Agency Agreement

On October 15, 2014, the Debtors entered into that certain Agency Agreement (as amended, the "*Agency Agreement*") by and among the Debtors, on the one hand, and a joint venture among Tiger Capital Group, LLC, SB Capital Group, LLC, and Great American Group WF, LLC (jointly, severally and collectively, the "*Agent*"), on the other hand. Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Agent would act as the Debtors' exclusive agent and conduct "going out of business", "store closing", "sale on everything", "everything must go", or similarly themed sales or other dispositions of all of the Debtors' merchandise located at the Debtors' stores (collectively, the "*Sale*").

On November 20, 2014, following a robust bidding process with respect to the rights to conduct the Sale, the Court held a sale hearing, approved the Agency Agreement and authorized the Debtors to enter into and perform under the Agency Agreement [D.I. 369]. Immediately thereafter, on November 21, 2014, the Agent commenced the Sale. The Agent has already concluded sales at many of the stores, and anticipates completing all sales and vacating the Debtors' remaining leased stores by March 8, 2015.

#### 2. The Asset Sales

On October 23, 2014, the Debtors engaged A&G Realty Partners, LLC ("A&G") as their real estate consultant and advisor. On December 2, 2014, the Court approved the engagement *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date [D.I. 413]. The Debtors, A&G and the Debtors' other professionals undertook extensive marketing efforts to identify potential purchasers of the Debtors' owned real properties and certain owned personal property, as well as potential purchasers for the designation rights to the Debtors' leased properties. Through such efforts, the Debtors identified purchasers for several of their assets and have either sold, or are in the process of selling, such assets, as follows:

- The Debtors sold their owned Abilene, Kansas distribution center (the "*Distribution Center*"), as well as the personal property assets located at the Distribution Center, to Orscheln Supply, LLC for a purchase price of \$3 million. On December 17, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the sale of the Distribution Center [D.I. 530]. The sale closed on December 31, 2014.
- The Debtors sold their owned property located at 1145 S. Highway 191, Moab, Utah 84532 (the "*Moab Property*") to FIDC XL LLC for a purchase price of \$1.385 million. On December 23, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the sale of the Moab Property [D.I. 558]. The sale closed on December 31, 2014.
- The Debtors sold their owned property located at 499 S. Broadway, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901 (the "*Truth or Consequences Property*") to Lucky Turtle LLC for a purchase price of \$300,000. On December 23, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the sale of the Truth or Consequences Property [D.I. 555]. The sale closed on January 14, 2015.
- The Debtors sold the right to assume the Debtors' leased property in Watford City, North Dakota to Home of Economy, Inc. for the purchase price of \$750,000. On December 23, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the agreement for assignment and assumption of the Watford City lease [D.I. 556]. On December 23, 2014, Home of Economy, Inc. wired the purchase price to the Debtors.
- The Debtors sold designation rights for twelve (12) of the Debtors' leased properties (the (the "*Bomgaars Designation Properties*") to Bomgaars Supply, Inc. for an aggregate purchase price of \$2.4 million. On December 23, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the agreement for assignment and assumption of the Bomgaars Designation Properties [D.I. 554]. The assumption and assignment of the Bomgaars Designation Properties closed on February 1, 2015.
- On February 4, 2015, the Debtors sold certain personal property at its Abilene, Kansas headquarters to Orscheln Farm and Home LLC for a purchase price of \$50,000.
- The Debtors sold their (a) owned property located at 6527 Highway 40, Tioga, North Dakota 58852 (the "*Tioga Property*"), (b) owned property located at 500 North Central St., Sidney, Montana 59270 (the "*Sidney Property*"), (c) designation rights to twenty-seven (27) of the Debtors' leased properties (the "*Shopko Designation Properties*"), and

(d) personal property assets located at the Tioga Property, the Sidney Property, and the Shopko Designation Properties (collectively, the "Shopko Assets"), to ShopKo Stores Operating Co., LLC ("Shopko"). On December 23, 2014, the Court entered an order approving the sale of the Shopko Assets [D.I. 557]. The sale of the Tioga Property closed on December 31, 2014 for a purchase price of \$3.75 million. The sale of the Sidney Property closed on February 6, 2015 for a purchase price of \$1.6 million. Certain funds were escrowed as of the date of closing to resolve a purported encumbrance on the Sidney Property alleged to be held by Shops at Fox Run, LLC and Shops at Fox Run II, LLC pursuant to that certain Stipulation and Order Resolving Proof of Claim and Limited Objection of Shops at Fox Run, LLC and Shops at Fox Run II, LLC dated as of December 19, 2014 [D.I. 548]. As of the date hereof, the Debtors, Shops at Fox Run, LLC and Shops at Fox Run II, LLC have entered into a settlement in principle resolving the purported encumbrance on the Sidney Property through a settlement payment by the Debtors in the amount of \$285,000, and the parties expect to seek Bankruptcy Court approval of such settlement no later than April 10, 2015. The closing on the assumption and assignment of thirteen (13) of the Shopko Designation Properties occurred on February 9, 2015, pursuant to the Court's February 8, 2015 Order Authorizing Debtors to Assume and Assign Certain Unexpired Leases [D.I. 731]. The purchase price for the sale of the designation rights for each of the Shopko Designation Properties is \$32,000.

#### **3.** The Remaining Assets

Following the sales of the assets as described above, the Debtors received additional offers for outstanding assets of the Debtors, which the Debtors anticipate selling pursuant to a motion for private sales of property. The Debtors have secured and accepted offers, contingent on the Court's approval of such sales, for the following properties:

- The Debtors have accepted a \$750,000 offer from Thunderstruck Inc. for the purchase of the Debtors' owned headquarters located at 401 Cottage Ave., Abilene, Kansas 67410 as well as the remaining personal property assets located at the headquarters.
- The Debtors have accepted a \$35,000 offer for the purchase of the Debtors' owned mobile home located in Parshall, North Dakota.
- The Debtors have accepted a \$210,000 offer from Home of Economy, Inc. for the purchase of the Debtors' owned townhouse located at 416 8th St. NW, Watford City, North Dakota.
- The Debtors have accepted a \$15,000 offer from Jetstar Marketing, L.L.C. ("*Jetstar*") for the purchase of its owned real estate located adjacent to the Debtors' leased property in South Hutchinson, Kansas. Pursuant to an agreement with the Debtors, Jetstar has the exclusive option to purchase the South Hutchinson property.

The above referenced sales may occur prior to the confirmation hearing on the Debtors' plan.

## V. THE CHAPTER 11 PLAN

## A. Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests Under the Plan.

#### THIS SECTION PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF THE STRUCTURE, CLASSIFICATION, TREATMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN, AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO THE PLAN, WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AS EXHIBIT 1.

The Claims against the Debtors are divided into Classes according to their seniority and other criteria. The Classes of Claims for each of the Debtors and the funds and other property to be distributed under the Plan are described more fully below.

#### THE DEBTORS BELIEVE THAT THE PLAN AFFORDS CREDITORS THE POTENTIAL FOR THE GREATEST REALIZATION OF THE VALUE OF THE DEBTORS' ASSETS.

#### 1. Administrative and Priority Claims.

#### a. Administrative Expense Claims.

The Liquidating Trustee shall pay, from the Debtors' assets, each holder of an Allowed Administrative Claim, in satisfaction of such Allowed Administrative Claim, the full unpaid amount of such Allowed Administrative Claim in Cash: (1) on the Effective Date or as soon as practicable thereafter (or, if not then due, when such Allowed Administrative Claim is due or as soon as practicable thereafter); (2) if such Claim is Allowed after the Effective Date, on the date such Claim is Allowed or as soon as practicable thereafter (or, if not then due, when such Allowed Administrative Claim is due or as soon as practicable thereafter); (3) at such time and upon such terms as may be agreed upon by such holder and the Liquidating Trustee; or (4) at such time and upon such terms as set forth in an order of the Bankruptcy Court; provided, however, that Administrative Claims do not include Administrative Claims filed after the Administrative Claims Bar Date or Administrative Claims filed or asserted pursuant to section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code after the General Bar Date, unless the Liquidating Trustee, in its discretion, chooses to treat such Claims as Administrative Claims. Administrative Claims include, without limitation: the actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred after the Petition Date of preserving the Estates and operating the businesses of the Debtors (such as wages, salaries or commissions for services and payments for goods and other services and leased premises), Claims timely asserted under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code for goods delivered to the Debtors in the twenty days prior to the Petition date and Claims timely asserted for stub rental payments under the Debtors' leases.

#### **b.** Administrative Expense Claims Bar Date.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, on or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern time, on the Administrative Claims Bar Date, each holder of an Administrative Claim shall file with the Bankruptcy Court and serve on counsel for (i) the Debtors, (ii) the Creditors' Committee, and (iii) the Liquidating Trustee, any request for payment of an Administrative Claim. Requests for payment of an Administrative Claim; (ii) the amount of the Administrative Claim; (iii) the basis of the Administrative Claim; and (iv) all supporting documentation for the Administrative Claim. The request for payment of an Administrative Claim will be timely filed only if it is filed with the Bankruptcy Court by 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern time, on the Administrative Claims Bar Date.

Requests for payment of Administrative Claims may not be delivered by facsimiles, telecopy, or electronic mail transmission.

#### c. Accrued Professional Compensation Claims.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan, the Debtors' Professionals and the Creditors' Committee's Professionals shall not be required to file a request for payment of any Administrative Claim on or before the Administrative Claims Bar Date for fees and expenses arising under sections 330, 331 or 503(b)(2 5) of the Bankruptcy Code, as such Professionals will instead file final fee applications as required by the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules and the Confirmation Order. Any professionals retained by the DIP Lenders shall similarly not be required to file a request for payment of any Administrative Claim on or before the Administrative Claims Bar Date for fees and expenses.

#### d. Priority Tax Claims.

The Liquidating Trustee shall pay, from the Debtors' assets, each holder of an Allowed Priority Tax Claim, in satisfaction of such Allowed Priority Tax Claim, the full unpaid amount of such Allowed Priority Tax Claim in Cash, on the later of (i) the Effective Date, (ii) the date such Allowed Priority Tax Claim becomes Allowed or as soon as practicable thereafter and (iii) the date such Allowed Priority Tax Claim is payable under applicable non bankruptcy law; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u> that the Liquidating Trustee shall not pay any premium, interest or penalty in connection with such Allowed Priority Tax Claim.

#### 2. Classification of Claims and Equity Interests.

#### a. Classified Claims Against and Equity Interests in the Debtors.

Except as set forth in the Plan, all Claims against and Equity Interests in a particular Debtor are placed in a particular Class. The Debtors have not classified Administrative Expense Claims, Accrued Professional Compensation Claims or Priority Tax Claims.

The following tables show the classification of Claims against and Equity Interests in each of the Debtors for all purposes, including voting, confirmation and Distribution pursuant to the Plan and pursuant to sections 1122 and 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Plan deems a Claim or Equity Interest to be classified in a particular Class only to the extent that the Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and deems a Claim classified in a different Class to the extent that any remainder of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and has not been paid or otherwise settled prior to the Effective Date. Each Class set forth below is treated under the Plan as a distinct Class for voting and Distribution purposes.

Subject to all other applicable provisions of the Plan (including its Distribution provisions), classified Claims shall receive the treatment described in section III of the Plan. The Plan will not provide any Distributions on account of a Claim to the extent that such Claim has been disallowed, released, withdrawn, waived, or otherwise satisfied or paid as of the Effective Date, including, without limitation, payments by third parties.

Class	Claims & Interest	Status	Treatment	Entitled to Vote	Estimated Recovery
1	Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Paid in Full	No (deemed to accept)	100%
2	General Unsecured Claims	Impaired	Pro Rata Share of Liquidating Trust Cash	Yes	1% to 15%
3	Subordinated Claims	Impaired	No Distribution	No (deemed to reject)	0%
4	Equity Interests	Impaired	No Distribution	No (deemed to reject)	0%

## **3.** Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests.

a. Secured Claims (Class 1). Except to the extent that a holder of an Allowed Secured Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a less favorable classification and treatment, each holder of an Allowed Secured Claim shall receive, at the sole option of the Liquidating Trustee, Cash in the full amount of such Allowed Secured Claim or the collateral securing its Allowed Secured Claim, on or as soon as practicable after the latest to occur of (i) the Effective Date; (ii) the first Business Day after the date that is ten (10) Business Days after the date such Claim becomes an Allowed Other Secured Claim; and (iii) the date or dates agreed to by the Liquidating Trustee and the holder of the Allowed Secured Claim.

**b.** General Unsecured Claims (Class 2). Except to the extent that a holder of an Allowed General Unsecured Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a less favorable classification and treatment, each holder of an Allowed General Unsecured Claim shall receive their Pro Rata share of remaining Cash. Distributions to holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims shall be made as soon as practicable as the Liquidating Trustee may determine in its sole discretion.

c. Subordinated Claims (Class 3). Class 3 is Impaired and will receive no Distribution under the Plan.

**d.** Equity Interests (Class 4). Class 4 is Impaired and will receive no Distribution under the Plan. All equity interest/shares of stock in Alco Stores, Inc. shall be deemed cancelled upon the Effective Date.

#### **B.** Means for Implementation of the Plan

## 1. Establishment of Liquidating Trust.

On the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall sign the Liquidating Trust Agreement and, in his capacity as Liquidating Trustee, accept all Liquidating Trust Assets on behalf of the beneficiaries thereof, and be authorized to obtain, seek the turnover, liquidate, and collect all of the Liquidating Trust Assets not in his possession. The Liquidating Trust will then be deemed created and effective without any further action by the Bankruptcy Court or any Person as of the Effective Date. The Liquidating Trust shall be established for the purposes of (i) liquidating any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets; (ii) prosecuting and resolving the Causes of Action; (iii) maximizing recovery of the Liquidating Trust Assets for the benefit of the beneficiaries thereof; and (iv) distributing the proceeds of the Liquidating Trust Assets to the beneficiaries in accordance with this Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement, with no objective to continue or engage in the conduct of a trade or business, except only in the event and to the extent necessary for, and consistent with, the liquidating purpose of the Liquidating Trust.

#### 2. Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee.

On the Effective Date, each of the members of the Creditors' Committee shall immediately, and without further need for further documentation or Bankruptcy Court approval, be deemed to act as the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee. On the Effective Date, the Creditors' Committee's Professionals shall be retained by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee, without further need for documentation or Bankruptcy Court approval, on the same terms and conditions in effect prior to the Effective Date. All fees and expenses incurred by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and its professionals following the Effective Date shall be paid from the Liquidating Trust Assets. The Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee may authorize its own dissolution by filing with the Bankruptcy Court an appropriate notice that its responsibilities hereunder have concluded. Unless earlier dissolved, the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee shall be dissolved as of the date the Chapter 11 Cases are closed.

## **3.** Appointment of the Liquidating Trustee.

The Liquidating Trustee shall be appointed by the Creditors' Committee, in consultation with the Debtors, and appointed pursuant to the Confirmation Order. Following appointment, the Liquidating Trustee shall act only at the direction of the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and in accordance with the Plan, and in such capacity shall have the same powers as the board of directors and officers of the Debtors, subject to the direction of the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and the provisions hereof (and all bylaws, articles of incorporation and related corporate documents are deemed amended by this Plan to permit and authorize the same). The Liquidating Trustee may be removed at any time by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee, with or without cause, upon at least ten (10) days' prior written notice to the United States Trustee and the Liquidating Trustee. In the event of resignation or removal, death or incapacity of the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee shall designate another Person or Entity to serve as Liquidating Trustee and thereupon the successor Liquidating Trustee, without any further act or need for an order of the Bankruptcy Court, shall become fully vested with all of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the predecessor; provided, however, that the Liquidating Trustee shall be deemed removed on the date the Chapter 11 Cases are closed, and no successor thereto shall be designated. The Liquidating Trustee shall be entitled to compensation payable from the Liquidating Trust Assets as set forth in the Liquidating Trust Agreement.

## 4. Beneficiaries of Liquidating Trust.

The holders of General Unsecured Claims against the Debtors entitled to Distributions shall be the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust. Such beneficiaries shall be bound by the Liquidating Trust Agreement. The interests of the beneficiaries in the Liquidating Trust shall be uncertificated and nontransferable except upon death of the interest holder or by operation of law.

# 5. Vesting and Transfer of Liquidating Trust Assets to the Liquidating Trust.

Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1141(b), the Liquidating Trust Assets shall vest in the Liquidating Trust free and clear of all Liens, Claims and Equity Interests, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Plan or in the Confirmation Order; provided, however, that the Liquidating Trustee may abandon or otherwise not accept any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets that the Liquidating Trustee believes, in good faith, have no value to the Liquidating Trust. Any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets that the Liquidating Trust Assets primarily consist of claims against third parties. These claims include, but are not limited to, (a) preference, fraudulent transfer and other avoidance claims pursuant to chapter 5 of the Bankruptcy Code and state law counterparts and (b) state and common law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, as against Creditors, former directors and officers of the Debtors for actions or inactions occurring prior to the Proxy Date (including, without limitation, former directors and officers Royce L. Winsten, Terrence M. Babila, Dennis E. Logue, Lolan C. Mackey and Richard E. Wilson), and other Persons. These claims will be preserved and transferred to the Liquidating Trust.

## 6. Liquidating Trust Expenses.

Subject to the provisions of the Liquidating Trust Agreement, all costs, expenses and obligations incurred by the Liquidating Trustee in administering this Plan, the Liquidating Trust, or in any manner connected, incidental or related thereto, in effecting distributions from, as applicable, the Liquidating Trust shall be a charge against the Liquidating Trust Assets remaining from time to time in the hands of the Liquidating Trustee. Such expenses shall be paid in accordance with the Liquidating Trust Agreement.

## 7. Role of the Liquidating Trustee.

The Liquidating Trustee shall be the exclusive trustee of the Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trust Assets for purposes of 31 U.S.C. § 3713(b) and 26 U.S.C. § 6012(b)(3). The powers, rights, and responsibilities of the Liquidating Trustee shall be specified in the Liquidating Trust Agreement and shall include the authority and responsibility to: (a) receive, manage, invest, supervise, and protect the Liquidating Trust Assets; (b) pay taxes or other obligations incurred by the Liquidating Trust; (c) retain and compensate, without further order of the Bankruptcy Court, the services of employees, professionals and consultants to advise and assist in the administration, prosecution and distribution of Liquidating Trust Assets; (d) calculate and implement Distributions of Liquidating Trust; (f) resolve issues involving Claims and Equity Interests in accordance with this Plan; (g) undertake all administrative functions of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, including the payment of fees payable to the United States Trustee and the ultimate closing of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases. The Liquidating Trust is the successor to the Debtors and their Estates.

On the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall: (a) take possession of all books, records, and files of the Debtors and their respective Estates; and (b) provide for the retention

and storage of such books, records, and files until such time as the Liquidating Trust determines, in accordance with the Liquidating Trust Agreement, that retention of same is no longer necessary or required.

The Liquidating Trust may invest Cash (including any earnings thereon or proceeds therefrom) as permitted by Bankruptcy Code section 345 or in other prudent investments, provided, however, that such investments are permitted to be made by a liquidating trust within the meaning of Treasury Regulation section 301.7701-4(d), as reflected therein, or under applicable IRS guidelines, rulings, or other controlling authorities.

The Liquidating Trust shall have the right to object to Claims not otherwise Allowed in connection with post-Effective Date Claims allowance process.

In no event later than thirty (30) Business Days after the end of the first full month following the Effective Date and on a quarterly basis thereafter until all Cash in the Liquidating Trust has been distributed in accordance with this Plan, the Liquidating Trustee shall file with the Bankruptcy Court a report setting forth the amounts, recipients and dates of all Distributions made by the Liquidating Trustee under this Plan through each applicable reporting period.

The Liquidating Trustee shall file tax returns for the Liquidating Trust as a grantor trust pursuant to Treasury Regulation section 1.671-4(a) and in accordance with this Plan. The Liquidating Trust also shall annually (for tax years in which Distributions from the Liquidating Trust are made) send to each beneficiary a separate statement setting forth the beneficiary's share of items of income, gain, loss, deduction or credit and all such holders shall report such items on their federal income tax returns; provided, however, that no such statement need be sent to any Class that is not expected to receive any Distribution from the Liquidating Trust. The Liquidating Trust's taxable income, gain, loss, deduction or credit will be allocated to the Liquidating Trust's beneficiaries in accordance with their relative beneficial interests in the Liquidating Trust. As soon as possible after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall make a good faith valuation of assets of the Liquidating Trust, and such valuation shall be used consistently by all parties for all federal income tax purposes. The Liquidating Trust also shall file (or cause to be filed) any other statements, returns, or disclosures relating to the Liquidating Trust that are required by any Governmental Unit for taxing purposes. The Liquidating Trust may request an expedited determination of taxes of the Debtors or of the Liquidating Trust under Bankruptcy Code section 505(b) for all tax returns filed for, or on behalf of, the Debtors and the Liquidating Trust for all taxable periods through the dissolution of the Liquidating Trust. The Liquidating Trust shall be responsible for filing all federal, state, and local tax returns for the Debtors and the Liquidating Trust. The Liquidating Trust shall comply with all withholding and reporting requirements imposed by any federal, state, or local taxing authority, and all distributions made by the Liquidating Trust shall be subject to any such withholding and reporting requirements.

The Liquidating Trust shall be responsible for payments of all Allowed tax obligations of the Debtors, and any taxes imposed on the Liquidating Trust or the Liquidating Trust Assets

#### 8. Preservation of Right to Conduct Investigations.

The preservation for the Liquidating Trust of any and all rights to conduct investigations pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 is necessary and relevant to the liquidation and administration of the Liquidating Trust Assets. Accordingly, any and all rights to conduct investigations pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 held by the Debtors or the Creditors' Committee prior to the Effective Date shall vest with the Liquidating Trust and shall continue until dissolution of the Liquidating Trust.

#### 9. Prosecution and Resolution of Causes of Action.

From and after the Effective Date, prosecution and settlement of all Causes of Action transferred to the Liquidating Trust shall be the sole responsibility of the Liquidating Trust pursuant to this Plan and the Confirmation Order. From and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall have exclusive rights, powers, and interests of the Debtors' Estates to pursue, settle or abandon such Causes of Action as the sole representative of the Debtors' Estates pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1123(b)(3). Proceeds recovered from all Causes of Action will be deposited into the Liquidating Trust and will be distributed by the Liquidating Trustee to the beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and Liquidating Trust Agreement. All Causes of Action that are not expressly released or waived under this Plan are reserved and preserved and vest in the Liquidating Trust in accordance with this Plan. No Person may rely on the absence of a specific reference in this Plan, the Plan Supplement, or the Disclosure Statement to any Cause of Action against it as any indication that the Debtors or Liquidating Trustee will not pursue any and all available Causes of Action against such Person. The Liquidating Trustee expressly reserves all Causes of Action, except for any Causes of Action against any Person that are expressly released or waived under this Plan, and, therefore, no preclusion doctrine, including the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, estoppel (judicial, equitable, or otherwise), or laches, shall apply to such Causes of Action upon, after, or as a consequence of confirmation or consummation of this Plan. No claims or Causes of Action against the Released Parties shall be transferred to the Liquidating Trust, the Liquidating Trustee shall not have standing to pursue such claims or Causes of Action, and all such claims and Causes of Action shall be waived, released and discharged pursuant to the Plan.

Settlement by the Liquidating Trust of any Cause of Action transferred to the Liquidating Trust shall require: (i) approval only of the Liquidating Trustee if the amount claimed by the Liquidating Trust against a defendant is less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000); and (ii) approval of the Liquidating Trustee and the Bankruptcy Court, upon notice and a hearing, if the amount claimed by the Liquidating Trust against a defendant is unliquidated or equals to or exceeds one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

# 10. Federal Income Tax Treatment of the Liquidating Trust for the Liquidating Trust Assets.

For federal income tax purposes, it is intended that the Liquidating Trust be classified as a liquidating trust under section 301.7701-4 of the Treasury regulations and that such trust be owned by its beneficiaries. Accordingly, for federal income tax purposes, it is intended that the beneficiaries be treated as if they had received a distribution from the Debtors' Estates of an undivided interest in each of the Liquidating Trust Assets (to the extent of the value of their respective share in the applicable assets) and then contributed such interests to the Liquidating Trust, and the Liquidating Trust's beneficiaries will be treated as the grantors and owners thereof.

#### 11. Limitation of Liability.

No recourse will ever be had, directly or indirectly, against the Liquidating Trustee, its members, officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns, by legal or equitable proceedings or by virtue of any statute or otherwise, or any deed of trust, mortgage, pledge or note, nor upon any promise, contract, instrument, undertaking, obligation, covenant or agreement whatsoever executed by the Liquidating Trust under this Plan or by reason of the creation of any indebtedness by the Liquidating Trust or the Liquidating Trustee under this Plan. All such liabilities under this Plan will be enforceable only against, and will be satisfied only out of, the Liquidating Trust Assets. The Liquidating Trustee and its agents shall not be deemed to be the agent for any holder of a Claim in connection with Distributions made under this Plan. The Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trustee and their respective officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns will not be liable for any act they may do, or omit to do hereunder in good faith and in the exercise of their sound judgment; provided, however, that this section will not apply to any gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trustee or their respective officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns.

## 12. Term of Liquidating Trust.

The Liquidating Trustee shall be discharged and the Liquidating Trust shall be terminated, at such time as (i) all Disputed Claims have been resolved, (ii) all of the Liquidating Trust Assets have been liquidated, (iii) all duties and obligations of the Liquidating Trustee under the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been fulfilled, (iv) all Distributions required to be made by the Liquidating Trust under this Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been made, and (v) the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases have been closed; provided, however, that in no event shall the Liquidating Trust be dissolved later than three (3) years from the Effective Date unless the Bankruptcy Court, upon motion within the six-month period prior to the third anniversary (or the end of any extension period approved by the Bankruptcy Court), determines that a fixed period extension not to exceed one (1) year is necessary to facilitate or complete the recovery and liquidation of the Liquidating Trust Assets.

#### **13.** Retention of Professionals by Liquidating Trust.

The Liquidating Trustee may retain and compensate attorneys and other professionals to assist in its duties on such terms (including on a contingency or hourly basis) as it deems reasonable and appropriate without Bankruptcy Court approval.

#### 14. Conflicts Between the Liquidating Trust Agreement and the Plan.

In the event of any inconsistencies or conflict between the Liquidating Trust Agreement and this Plan, the terms and provisions of this Plan shall control.

#### 15. Excess Funds.

Subject to Article V.M of the Plan, in the event there is Liquidating Trust Distributable Cash remaining after all required Distributions under the Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been made, such Cash will be turned over to the Attorney General for the State of Texas in accordance with Texas law.

#### 16. Cancellation of Existing Securities and Agreements.

Except for purposes of evidencing a right to Distributions under the Plan or as otherwise provided hereunder, on the Effective Date, all agreements and other documents evidencing Claims or rights of any holder of a Claim or Equity Interest against any of the Debtors, including, but not limited to, all indentures, notes, bonds and share certificates evidencing such Claims and Equity Interests and any agreements or guarantees related thereto shall be cancelled, terminated, deemed null and void and satisfied, as against the Debtors but not as against any other Person.

# 17. Operations of the Debtors Between the Confirmation Date and the Effective Date.

The Debtors shall continue to operate as Debtors in Possession during the period from the Confirmation Date through and until the Effective Date, and as a liquidating estate on and after the Effective Date. The retention and employment of the Professionals retained by the Debtors shall terminate as of the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Debtors shall be deemed to exist, and their Professionals shall be retained, after such date only with respect to (a) applications filed pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, and to the extent necessary (b) motions seeking the enforcement of the provisions of the Plan or the Confirmation Order. Upon the Effective Date, the Debtors' board of directors shall be relieved of their duties and the Debtors shall be dissolved.

#### **18.** Automatic Stay.

The automatic stay provided for under section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code shall remain in effect in the Chapter 11 Cases until the Effective Date.

#### **19.** The Creditors' Committee.

Upon the Effective Date, the Creditors' Committee shall dissolve, and their members shall be released and discharged from all further authority, duties, responsibilities and obligations relating to and arising from the Chapter 11 Cases. The retention and employment of the Professionals retained by the Creditors' Committee shall terminate as of the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Creditors' Committee shall exist, and their Professionals shall be retained, after such date with respect to applications filed pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and motions seeking the enforcement of the provisions of the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

#### 20. Books and Records.

As part of the appointment of the Liquidating Trustee, to the extent not already transferred on the Effective Date, the Debtors shall transfer dominion and control over all of their books and records to the Liquidating Trustee in whatever form, manner or media those books and records existed immediately prior to the transfer thereof to the Liquidating Trustee. The Liquidating Trustee may abandon all such books and records on or after ninety (90) days from the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Liquidating Trustee shall not dispose or abandon any books and records that are reasonably likely to pertain to pending litigation in which the Debtors or their current or former officers or directors are a party or that pertain to General Unsecured Claims without further order of the Bankruptcy Court. Pursuant to section 554 of the Bankruptcy Code, Article IV.O of the Plan shall constitute a motion and notice, so that no further notice or Bankruptcy Court filings are required to effectuate the aforementioned abandonment of the books and records of the Debtors.

#### 21. D&O Insurance Policies

No prepaid D&O Insurance Policy shall be cancelled, and the Debtors' directors, officers and employees who have valid claims against the D&O Insurance Policies for indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation of liability may be paid from the D&O Insurance Policies to the extent of the coverage provided by the D&O Insurance Policies. As such, and notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, pursuant to sections 365(a) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, the D&O Insurance Policies, to the extent the contract providing for such is determined to be an executory contract, shall be deemed assumed by the Debtors.

#### C. Provisions Governing Voting And Distributions

#### 1. Voting of Claims.

Each holder of an Allowed Claim in an Impaired Class of Claims that is entitled to vote on the Plan pursuant to Article II and Article III of the Plan shall be entitled to vote separately to accept or reject the Plan, as provided in such order as is entered by the Bankruptcy Court establishing procedures with respect to the solicitation and tabulation of votes to accept or reject the Plan, or any other order or orders of the Bankruptcy Court. For purposes of calculating the number of Allowed Claims in a Class of Claims that have voted to accept or reject the Plan under section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, all Allowed Claims in such Class held by one Entity or any Affiliate thereof shall be aggregated and treated as one Allowed Claim in such Class. For purposes of any Claim in any Impaired Class that is Disputed as to its amount only, the holder of such claim shall be entitled to vote on the Plan as if such holder held an Allowed Claim in an amount equal to the undisputed portion of such Claim.

#### 2. Distribution Dates.

Distributions to holders of Claims shall be made as provided in Articles II and III of the Plan. In the event that any payment or act under the Plan is required to be made or performed on a date that is not a Business Day, then the making of such payment or the performance of such act may be completed on the next succeeding Business Day, but shall be deemed to have been completed as of the required date.

#### 3. Disbursing Agent.

All Distributions under the Plan by the Liquidating Trustee shall be made by the Liquidating Trustee as Disbursing Agent or such other entity designated by the Liquidating Trustee as Disbursing Agent.

The Disbursing Agent shall be empowered to (a) effect all actions and execute all agreements, instruments and other documents necessary to perform their duties under the Plan, (b) make all Distributions contemplated by the Plan, (c) employ professionals to represent them with respect to their responsibilities, and (d) exercise such other powers as may be vested in the Disbursing Agent by order of the Bankruptcy Court, pursuant to the Plan or as deemed by the Disbursing Agent to be necessary and proper to implement the provisions of the Plan.

The Disbursing Agent shall only be required to act and make Distributions in accordance with the terms of the Plan and shall have no (x) liability for actions taken in accordance with the Plan or in reliance upon information provided to them in accordance with the Plan or (y) obligation or liability for Distributions under the Plan to any party who does not hold an Allowed Claim at the time of Distribution or who does not otherwise comply with the terms of the Plan.

Except as otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, any reasonable fees and expenses incurred by the Liquidating Trustee acting as the Disbursing Agent (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) on or after the Effective Date shall be paid in Cash from the Debtors' assets in the ordinary course of business.

#### 4. **Record Date for Distributions.**

Except as otherwise provided in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, the transferees of Claims that are transferred pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3001 on or prior to the Record Date will be treated as the holders of those Claims for all purposes, notwithstanding that any period provided by Bankruptcy Rule 3001 for objecting to the transfer may not have expired by the Record Date. The Liquidating Trustee shall have no obligation to recognize any transfer of any Claim occurring after the Record Date. In making any Distribution with respect to any Claim, the Liquidating Trustee shall be entitled instead to recognize and deal with, for all purposes hereunder, only the Entity that is listed on the proof of Claim filed with respect thereto or on the Schedules as the holder thereof as of the close of business on the Record Date and upon such other evidence or record of transfer or assignment that was known to the Debtors as of the Record Date and is available to the Liquidating Trustee.

#### 5. Delivery of Distributions.

Subject to Bankruptcy Rule 9010 and except as otherwise provided in the Plan, Distributions to the holders of Allowed Claims shall be made by the Disbursing Agent at (a) the address of each holder as set forth in the Schedules, unless superseded by the address set forth on proofs of Claim filed by such holder or (b) the last known address of such holder if no proof of Claim is filed or if the Liquidating Trustee have not been notified in writing of a change of address.

#### 6. Undeliverable and Unclaimed Distributions.

In the event that any Distribution to any holder of an Allowed Claim made by the Liquidating Trustee is returned as undeliverable, the Disbursing Agent shall use commercially reasonable efforts to determine the current address of each holder, but no Distribution to such holder shall be made unless and until the Disbursing Agent has determined the then current address of such holder; provided, however, that all Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims made by the Liquidating Trustee that are unclaimed for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the first attempted Distribution shall have its, his or her Claim for such undeliverable Distribution deemed satisfied and will be forever barred from asserting any such Claim against the Debtors or their property. Any Distributions which are undeliverable or have not been negotiated within the time period set forth above shall be deemed unclaimed property under section 347(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and revested in the Debtors' Estates. The Liquidating Trustee shall have no further obligation to make any Distribution to the holder of such Claim on account of such Claim, and any entitlement of any holder of such Claim to any such Distributions shall be extinguished and forever barred; provided, however, that the holder of such Claim may receive future Distributions on account of such Claim by contacting the Liquidating Trustee at some point prior to the final Distribution.

#### 7. Manner of Cash Payments Under the Plan.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, Cash payments made pursuant to the Plan shall be in United States dollars by checks drawn on a domestic bank or by wire transfer from a domestic bank, at the option of the Liquidating Trustee.

#### 8. Compliance with Tax Requirements.

The Disbursing Agent may withhold and pay to the appropriate taxing authority all amounts required to be withheld pursuant to the Tax Code or any provision of any foreign, state or local tax law with respect to any payment or Distribution on account of Claims. All such amounts withheld and paid to the appropriate taxing authority shall be treated as amounts distributed to such holders of the Claims. The Disbursing Agent shall be authorized to collect such tax information from the holders of Claims (including social security numbers or other tax identification numbers) as it in its sole discretion deems necessary to effectuate the Plan. In order to receive Distributions under the Plan, all holders of Claims will need to identify themselves to the Disbursing Agent and provide all tax information the Disbursing Agent deems appropriate (including completing the appropriate Form W-8 or Form W-9, as applicable to each holder). The Disbursing Agent may refuse to make a Distribution to any holder of a Claim that fails to furnish such information within the time period specified by the Disbursing Agent and such Distribution shall be deemed an unclaimed Distribution under the Plan, and, provided further that, if the Disbursing Agent fails to withhold in respect of amounts received or distributable with respect to any such holder and such Disbursing Agent is later held liable for the amount of such withholding, such holder shall reimburse the Disbursing Agent for such liability. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, (a) each holder of an Allowed Claim that is to receive a Distribution under the Plan shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for the satisfaction and payment of any tax obligations imposed by any governmental unit, and (b) no Distributions shall be required to be made to or on behalf of such holder pursuant to the Plan unless and until such holder has made arrangements satisfactory to the Disbursing Agent for the

payment and satisfaction of such tax obligations or has, to the Disbursing Agent's satisfaction, established an exemption therefrom.

## 9. No Payments of Fractional Dollars.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, no payment of fractional dollars shall be made pursuant to the Plan. Whenever any payment of a fraction of a dollar under the Plan would otherwise be required, the actual Distribution made shall reflect a rounding down of such fraction to the nearest whole dollar.

## **10.** Interest on Claims.

Except as specifically provided for in this Plan or the Confirmation Order or required by the Bankruptcy Code, interest shall not accrue on Claims and no holder of a Claim shall be entitled to interest on any Claim accruing on or after the Petition Date. Interest shall not accrue on any General Unsecured Claim that is a Disputed Claim in respect of the period from the Effective Date to the date a final Distribution is made thereon if and after that Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim. Except as expressly provided in the Plan or in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, no prepetition Claim shall be Allowed to the extent that it is for postpetition interest or similar charges.

## 11. No Distribution in Excess of Allowed Amount of Claim.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Plan, no holder of an Allowed Claim shall receive in respect of that Claim any Distribution in excess of the Allowed amount of such Claim.

## 12. Setoff and Recoupment.

The Liquidating Trustee may setoff against, or recoup from, any Claim and the Distributions to be made pursuant to the Plan in respect thereof, any Claims or defenses of any nature whatsoever that any of the Debtors or the Estates may have against the holder of such Claim, but neither the failure to do so nor the allowance of any Claim under the Plan shall constitute a waiver or release by the Debtors, the Estates or the Liquidating Trustee of any right of setoff or recoupment that any of them may have against the holder of any Claim. Any such setoffs or recoupments may be challenged in Bankruptcy Court. Notwithstanding any provision in the Plan to the contrary, nothing in the Plan shall bar any creditor from asserting its setoff or recoupment rights to the extent permitted under section 553 or any other provision of the Bankruptcy Code; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that such setoff or recoupment rights are timely asserted; <u>provided further</u> that all rights of the Debtors, their estates and the Liquidating Trustee with respect thereto are reserved.

## **13.** De Minimis Distributions; Charitable Donation.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Plan, the Liquidating Trustee shall not be required to make a Distribution to any Creditor if the dollar amount of the Distribution is less than \$25 or otherwise so small that the cost of making that Distribution exceeds the dollar amount of such Distribution. On or about the time that the final Distribution is made, the

Liquidating Trustee may make a charitable donation with undistributed funds if, in the reasonable judgment of the Liquidating Trustee, the cost of calculating and making the final Distribution of the remaining funds is excessive in relation to the benefits to the or holders of Claims who would otherwise be entitled to such Distributions, and such charitable donation is provided to an entity not otherwise related to the Debtors or the Liquidating Trustee.

#### 14. United States Trustee Fees.

All fees due and payable pursuant to section 1930 of Title 28 of the U.S. Code prior to the Effective Date shall be paid by the Debtors. On and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall pay any and all such fees payable by the Debtors, when due and payable, and shall file with the Bankruptcy Court quarterly reports for each of the Debtors, in a form reasonably acceptable to the U.S. Trustee. Each Debtor shall remain obligated to pay quarterly fees to the Office of the U.S. Trustee until the earliest of that particular Debtor's case being closed (whether closed pursuant to Article IV.P of the Plan or otherwise), dismissed or converted to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

# **15.** Withholding from Distributions.

Any federal, state or local withholding taxes or other amounts required to be withheld under applicable law shall be deducted from Distributions pursuant to the Plan. The Liquidating Trustee may withhold from amounts distributable pursuant to the Plan to any Person or Entity any and all amounts, determined in the sole and reasonable discretion of the Liquidating Trustee, required to be withheld by any law, regulation, rule, ruling, directive, or other governmental requirement.

#### 16. No Distributions on Late-Filed Claims.

Except as otherwise provided in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, any Claim as to which a proof of Claim was required to be filed and was first filed after the applicable bar date in the Chapter 11 Cases, including, without limitation, the General Bar Date and any bar date established in the Plan or in the Confirmation Order, shall automatically be deemed a late-filed Claim that is disallowed in the Chapter 11 Cases, without the need for (a) any further action by the Liquidating Trustee or (b) an order of the Bankruptcy Court. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to expand or modify the applicable bar dates or any orders of the Bankruptcy Court relating thereto. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee and/or their successors and assigns agree that Claim No. 2570 asserted by Brother International Corp. shall be deemed timely filed and further agree to not object to such claim on the basis of timeliness; provided, however, the Debtors and the Liquidating Trustee reserve any and all rights to object to the claim on any substantive basis other than timeliness.

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### D. Disputed Claims

#### 1. Disputed Claims Reserve.

After the Effective Date, the Disputed Claims Reserve shall be managed by the Liquidating Trustee for the treatment of Disputed Claims. On each Distribution date after the Effective Date in which the Liquidating Trustee makes Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims, the Liquidating Trustee shall retain on account of Disputed Claims an amount the Liquidating Trustee estimates is necessary to fund the Pro Rata Share of such Distributions to holders of Disputed Claims if such Claims were Allowed, with any Disputed Claims that are unliquidated or contingent being reserved in an amount reasonably determined by the Liquidating Trustee. Cash retained on account of such Disputed Claims shall be retained in the Disputed Claims Reserve for the benefit of the holders of Disputed Claims pending a determination of their entitlement thereto under the terms of the Plan. If any Disputed Claims are disallowed or Allowed in an amount that is lower than the aggregate assets retained on account of such Disputed Claims for account of such Disputed Claims that are disallowed or allowed in an amount that is lower than the aggregate assets retained on account of such Disputed Claims for the benefit of the Allowed amount of such Disputed Claims to the Debtors' Estates.

# 2. Resolution of Disputed Claims.

The Liquidating Trustee shall have the right to make and file objections to Claims in the Bankruptcy Court. Unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court after notice and a hearing, all Disputed Claims shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court.

#### **3. Objection Deadline.**

All objections to Disputed Claims shall be filed no later than the Claims Objection Bar Date, unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court after notice and a hearing, with notice only to those parties entitled to notice in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

#### 4. Estimation of Claims.

At any time, the Liquidating Trustee may request that the Bankruptcy Court estimate any contingent or unliquidated Claim to the extent permitted by section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code regardless of whether the Liquidating Trustee or the Debtors have previously objected to such Claim or whether the Bankruptcy Court has ruled on any such objection, and the Bankruptcy Court shall have jurisdiction to estimate any Claim at any time during litigation concerning any objection to such Claim, including during the pendency of any appeal relating to any such objection. If the Bankruptcy Court estimates any contingent or unliquidated Claim, that estimated amount shall constitute either the Allowed amount of such Claim or a maximum limitation on the Claim, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court. If the estimated amount constitutes a maximum limitation on the Claim, the Liquidating Trustee may elect to pursue supplemental proceedings to object to the ultimate allowance of the Claim. All of the aforementioned Claims objection, estimated and subsequently compromised, settled, withdrawn or resolved by any mechanism approved by the Bankruptcy Court.

#### 5. No Distributions Pending Allowance.

Notwithstanding any other provision in the Plan, if any portion of a Claim is disputed, no payment or Distribution provided under the Plan shall be made on account of such Claim unless and until such Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim.

To the extent that a Disputed Claim ultimately becomes an Allowed Claim, Distributions (if any) shall be made to the holder of such Allowed Claim in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. Upon allowance, a holder of the Allowed Disputed Claim shall receive any Distributions that would have been made up to the date of allowance to such holder under the Plan had the Disputed Claim been allowed on the Effective Date.

#### 6. **Resolution of Claims.**

On and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall have the authority to compromise, settle, otherwise resolve or withdraw any objections to Claims, and to compromise, settle, or otherwise resolve any Disputed Claims without approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

#### E. Treatment of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

# 1. Assumption or Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.

Pursuant to sections 365(a) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, upon the Effective Date, all executory contracts and unexpired leases that exist between the Debtors and any Person or Entity shall be deemed rejected by the Debtors, except for any executory contract or unexpired leases (i) that has been assumed or rejected pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court entered prior to the Effective Date, (ii) as to which a motion for approval of the assumption of such executory contract or unexpired lease has been filed and served prior to the Effective Date or (iii) that is specifically designated as a contract to be assumed on Schedule 7.1, which Schedule shall be contained in the Plan Supplement; provided, however, that the Debtors reserve the right, on or prior to the Confirmation Date, to amend Schedule 7.1 to delete any executory contract therefrom, or add any executory contract, in which event such executory contract(s) shall be deemed to be, respectively, either rejected or assumed as of the Effective Date. Subject to the occurrence of the Effective Date, entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute approval of such assumption or rejection pursuant to section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that each such assumption or rejection is in the best interests of the Debtors, their Estates, and all parties in interest in the Chapter 11 Cases.

#### 2. Cure of Defaults.

Except to the extent that different treatment has been agreed to by the non-Debtor party or parties to any executory contract to be assumed pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan, the Debtors shall, pursuant to the provisions of sections 1123(a)(5)(G) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code and consistent with the requirements of section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, within at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Confirmation Hearing, file with the Bankruptcy Court and serve by first class mail on each non-debtor party to such executory contracts to be assumed pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan, an Assumption Notice, which shall list the cure amount as to each executory contract to be assumed. The parties to such executory contracts to be assumed or assumed and assigned by the Debtors shall have ten (10) days from the date of service of the Assumption Notice to file and serve any objection to assumption or the cure amounts listed by the Debtors. If there are any objections filed, the Bankruptcy Court shall hear the objections at the Confirmation Hearing or on such other date as may be set by the Bankruptcy Court. Notwithstanding Article VII.A of the Plan, the Debtors shall retain their rights to reject any of their executory contracts that are subject to a dispute concerning amounts necessary to cure any defaults through the Confirmation Date.

# 3. Claims Based on Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.

Claims created by the rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan, must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee no later than thirty (30) days after service of notice of the Effective Date. Any Claims arising from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan for which proofs of Claim are not timely filed within that time period will be forever barred from assertion against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, their successors and assigns, and their assets and properties, unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court or as otherwise provided in the Plan. All such Claims shall, as of the Effective Date, be subject to the permanent injunction set forth in Article IX.F of the Plan. Unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, all such Claims that are timely filed as provided herein shall be treated as General Unsecured Claims under the Plan and shall be subject to the provisions of Article III of the Plan.

#### 4. Indemnification and Reimbursement.

Subject to the occurrence of the Effective Date, all Allowed Claims against the Debtors for indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation of liability of current or former directors, officers, or employees of the Debtors against any Claims, costs, liabilities or causes of action as provided in the Debtors' articles of organization, certificates of incorporation, bylaws, other organizational documents, or applicable law, shall, to the extent such indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation is owed in connection with one or more events or omissions occurring before the Petition Date, be (i) paid only to the extent of any applicable insurance coverage, and (ii) to the extent a proof of Claim has been timely filed and is Allowed, treated as Allowed General Unsecured Claims to the extent such Claims are not covered by any applicable insurance, including deductibles. Nothing contained in the Plan shall affect the rights of directors, officers or employees under any insurance policy or coverage with respect to such Claims, costs, liabilities or Causes of Action or limit the rights of the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee or the Debtors' Estates to object to, seek to subordinate or otherwise contest or challenge Claims or rights asserted by any current or former officer, director or employee of the Debtors.

# F. Conditions Precedent to the Effective Date

#### 1. Conditions Precedent.

The following are conditions precedent to the Effective Date that must be satisfied or waived:

(a) The Bankruptcy Court shall have entered the Confirmation Order.

(b) There shall be no stay or injunction in effect with respect to the Confirmation Order, which such Confirmation Order shall contain approval of the releases provided for herein.

(c) The appointment of the Liquidating Trustee shall have been confirmed by order of the Bankruptcy Court.

(d) All agreements and instruments that are exhibits to the Plan shall be in a form reasonably acceptable to the Debtors and the Creditors' Committee, and have been duly executed and delivered; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that no party to any such agreements and instruments may unreasonably withhold its execution and delivery of such documents to prevent this condition precedent from occurring.

# 2. Waiver.

Notwithstanding the conditions set forth in Article VIII.A of the Plan, the Debtors reserve, in their sole discretion, the right to waive the occurrence of any condition precedent or to modify any of the foregoing conditions precedent. Any such written waiver of a condition precedent set forth in Article VIII.A may be effected at any time, without notice, without leave or order of the Bankruptcy Court, and without any formal action other than proceeding to consummate the Plan; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, the Creditors' Committee shall have the right to be consulted on and consent to any proposed modification of the Plan, the Plan Supplement or the Confirmation Order. Any actions required to be taken on the Effective Date or Confirmation Date (as applicable) shall take place and shall be deemed to have occurred simultaneously, and no such action shall be deemed to have occurred prior to the taking of any other such action.

# G. Indemnification, Release, Injunctive and Related Provisions

# 1. Compromise and Settlement.

Pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, and in consideration for the Distributions and other benefits provided pursuant to the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall constitute a good faith compromise of all Claims and Equity Interests. The entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the compromise or settlement of all Claims and Equity Interests, as well as a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that such compromise or settlement is fair, equitable, reasonable and in the best interests of the Debtors, the Estates and holders of Claims and Equity Interests.

# 2. Releases by the Debtors and Their Estates.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan to the contrary, as of the Effective Date, for the good and valuable consideration provided by each of the Released Parties, each of the Debtors and their current and former affiliates and Representatives and the Estates shall be deemed to have provided a full, complete, unconditional and irrevocable release to the Released Parties (and each such Released Party so released shall be deemed released by the Debtors and their current and former affiliates and Representatives, the Estates and the Creditors' Committee and its members but solely in their capacity as members of the Creditors' Committee and not in their individual capacities), from any and all Causes of Action and any other debts, obligations, rights, suits, damages, actions, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, whether accrued or unaccrued, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing before the Effective Date, as of the Effective Date or arising thereafter, in law, at equity, whether for tort, contract, violations of statutes (including but not limited to the federal or state securities laws), or otherwise, based in whole or in part upon any act or omission, transaction, or other occurrence or circumstances existing or taking place prior to or on the Effective Date arising from or related in any way to the Debtors, including, without limitation, those that any of the Debtors would have been legally entitled to assert or that any holder of a Claim or Equity Interest or other Entity would have been legally entitled to assert for or on behalf of any of the Debtors or the Estates, including those in any way related to the Chapter 11 Cases or the Plan; provided, however, that the foregoing release shall not prohibit the Debtors, the Estates or the Liquidating Trustee from asserting any and all defenses and counterclaims in respect of any Disputed Claim asserted by any Released Parties; provided further that nothing contained in the foregoing provision or elsewhere in the Plan or Confirmation Order shall be construed as a release against the Debtors' former officers and/or directors that served in such capacity on or before the Proxy Date based upon any acts, omissions, transactions or other occurrences or circumstances existing or taking place prior to the **Proxy Date.** 

#### 3. Releases by Holders of Claims.

Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.B of the Plan, each Person, other than any of the Debtors, who votes to accept the Plan and does not mark such ballot to indicate their refusal to grant the release provided for in this paragraph, shall be deemed to fully, completely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever release the Released Parties of and from any and all Claims and Causes of Action and any other debts, obligations, rights, suits, damages, actions, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, whether accrued or unaccrued, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing before the Effective Date, as of the Effective Date or arising thereafter, in law, at equity, whether for tort, contract, violations of statutes (including but not limited to the federal or state securities laws), or otherwise, based in whole or in part upon any act or omission, transaction, or other occurrence or circumstances existing or taking place prior to or on the Effective Date arising from or related in any way to the Debtors and their current and former affiliates and Representatives, whether direct, derivative, accrued or unaccrued, liquidated or unliquidated, fixed or contingent, matured or unmatured, disputed or undisputed, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, in law, equity or otherwise.

Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the releases set forth in Article IX.B of the Plan pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and its finding that they are: (a) in exchange for good and valuable consideration, representing a good faith settlement and compromise of the Claims and Causes of Action released by this Plan; (b) in the best interests of the Debtors and all holders of Claims and Equity Interests; (c) fair, equitable and reasonable; (d) approved after due notice and opportunity for hearing; and (e) a bar to the assertion of any Claim or Cause of Action thereby released.

4. Exculpation.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan to the contrary, the Released Parties shall neither have nor incur any liability relating to these Chapter 11 Cases to any Entity for any and all Claims and Causes of Action arising after the Petition Date and through the Effective Date, including any act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or related to, formulating, negotiating, preparing, disseminating, implementing, administering, confirming or consummating the Plan or distributing property thereunder, the Disclosure Statement, or any other contract, instrument, release or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Plan or any other postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases; provided, however, that the provisions of Article IX.C of the Plan shall have no effect on the liability of any Entity that results from any such act or omission that is determined in a Final Order to have constituted gross negligence or willful misconduct. Notwithstanding anything contained in Article IX.C of the Plan to the contrary, nothing shall restrict the United States Securities and Exchange Commission from bringing any regulatory or enforcement action for violation of the federal securities laws respecting any parties otherwise protected thereunder.

5. Preservation of All Causes of Action Not Expressly Settled or Released.

Unless a Cause of Action against a holder or other Entity is expressly waived, relinquished, released, compromised or settled in the Plan or any Final Order (including the Confirmation Order) of the Bankruptcy Court, the Debtors and their Estates expressly reserve such Cause of Action for later adjudication or administration by the Liquidating Trustee (including, without limitation, Causes of Action not specifically identified or described in the Plan or elsewhere or of which the Debtors may presently be unaware or which may arise or exist by reason of additional facts or circumstances unknown to the Debtors at this time or facts or circumstances which may change or be different from those the Debtors now believe to exist) and, therefore, no preclusion doctrine, including, without limitation, the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, waiver, estoppel (judicial, equitable or otherwise) or laches shall apply to such Causes of Action upon or after the entry of the Confirmation Order or Effective Date based on the Disclosure Statement, Plan or Confirmation Order, except where such Causes of Action have been released in the Plan or any other Final Order (including the Confirmation Order). In addition, the Debtors and their Estates expressly reserve the right of the Liquidating Trustee to pursue or adopt any claims alleged in any lawsuit in which the Debtors are a defendant or an interested party, against any Entity, including, without limitation, the plaintiffs or co-defendants in such lawsuits.

Subject to the immediately preceding paragraph, any Entity to whom the Debtors have incurred an obligation (whether on account of services, purchase or sale of goods or otherwise), or who has received services from the Debtors or a transfer of money or property of the Debtors, or who has transacted business with the Debtors, or leased equipment or property from the Debtors should assume that any such obligation, transfer, or transaction may be reviewed by the Liquidating Trustee subsequent to the Effective Date and may be the subject of an action after the Effective Date, regardless of whether: (i) such Entity has filed a proof of Claim against the Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases; (ii) the Debtors have objected to any such Entity's proof of Claim; (iii) any such Entity's Claim was included in the Schedules; (iv) the Debtors have objected to any such Entity's scheduled Claim; or (v) any such Entity's scheduled Claim has been identified by the Debtors as disputed, contingent or unliquidated.

#### 6. Injunction.

From and after the Effective Date, all Entities are permanently enjoined from commencing or continuing in any manner against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns, and their assets and properties, as the case may be, any suit, action or other proceeding, on account of or respecting any Claim or Equity Interest, demand, liability, obligation, debt, right, Cause of Action, interest or remedy released or satisfied or to be released or satisfied pursuant to the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

Except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Plan or in obligations issued pursuant to the Plan, from and after the Effective Date, all Entities shall be precluded from asserting against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties, any other Claims or Equity Interests based upon any documents, instruments, or any act or omission, transaction or other activity of any kind or nature that occurred prior to the Effective Date, solely to the extent that (a) such Claims or Equity Interests have been released or satisfied pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order or (b) such Claims, Equity Interests, actions or assertions of Liens relate to property that will be distributed pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order.

The rights afforded in the Plan and the treatment of all Claims and Equity Interests in the Plan shall be in exchange for and in complete satisfaction of Claims and Equity Interests against the Debtors or any of their assets or properties solely to the extent that (a) such Claims or Equity Interests have been released or satisfied pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order or (b) such Claims, Equity Interests, actions or assertions of Liens relate to property that will be distributed pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order. On the Effective Date, all such Claims against, and Equity Interests in, the Debtors shall be satisfied and released in full.

Except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Plan or in obligations issued pursuant to the Plan, all Persons and Entities are permanently enjoined, on and after the Effective Date, on account of any Claim or Equity Interest satisfied and released pursuant to the Plan or Confirmation Order, from:

(a) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties;

(b) enforcing, attaching, collecting or recovering by any manner or means any judgment, award, decree or order against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee,

the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties;

(c) creating, perfecting or enforcing any encumbrance of any kind against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties; and

(d) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind in respect of any Claim or Equity Interest or Cause of Action released or settled hereunder).

#### 7. Releases of Liens.

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or in any contract, instrument, release or other agreement or document created pursuant to the Plan, on the Effective Date, all mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges or other security interests against property of the Estates distributed under the Plan shall be fully released and discharged and all of the right, title and interest of any holder of such mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges or other security interest shall revert to the Debtors.

#### H. Retention of Jurisdiction

Notwithstanding the entry of the Confirmation Order and the occurrence of the Effective Date, the Bankruptcy Court shall, after the Effective Date, retain such jurisdiction over the Chapter 11 Cases and all Entities, including, without limitation, the Liquidating Trustee, with respect to all matters related to the Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors and the Plan as is legally permissible, including, without limitation, jurisdiction to:

1. allow, disallow, determine, liquidate, classify, estimate or establish the priority or secured or unsecured status of any Claim or Equity Interest against the Debtors, including the resolution of any request for payment of any Administrative Claim and the resolution of any and all objections to the allowance or priority of Claims;

2. grant, deny or otherwise resolve any and all applications of Professionals or Persons retained in the Chapter 11 Cases by the Debtors or the Creditors' Committee for allowance of compensation or reimbursement of expenses authorized pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code or the Plan, for periods ending on or before the Effective Date;

**3.** resolve any matters related to the assumption, assignment or rejection of any executory contract or unexpired leases to which a Debtor is party or with respect to which a Debtor may be liable and to hear, determine and, if necessary, liquidate, any Claims arising therefrom;

4. ensure that Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims are accomplished pursuant to the provisions of the Plan, including by resolving any disputes regarding the Debtors' entitlement to recover assets held by third parties;

5. decide or resolve any motions, adversary proceedings, contested or litigated matters and any other matters and grant or deny any applications involving a Debtor that

may be pending on the Effective Date or instituted by the Liquidating Trustee after the Effective Date;

6. enter such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to implement or consummate the provisions of the Plan and all other contracts, instruments, releases, indentures and other agreements or documents adopted in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement;

7. resolve any cases, controversies, suits or disputes that may arise in connection with the Effective Date, interpretation or enforcement of the Plan or any Entity's obligations incurred in connection with the Plan;

**8.** issue injunctions, enforce them, enter and implement other orders or take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to restrain interference by any Entity with the Effective Date or enforcement of the Plan, except as otherwise provided in the Plan;

# 9. enforce Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., Article IX.D and Article IX.E of the Plan;

10. resolve any cases, controversies, suits or disputes with respect to the releases, injunction and other provisions contained in Error! Reference source not found. of the Plan, and enter such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to implement or enforce all such releases, injunctions and other provisions;

**11.** enter and implement such orders as necessary or appropriate if the Confirmation Order is modified, stayed, reversed, revoked or vacated; and

**12.** resolve any other matters that may arise in connection with or related to the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Confirmation Order, or any contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document adopted in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement.

# I. Miscellaneous Provisions

#### 1. Modification of Plan.

Subject to the limitations contained in the Plan and <u>provided</u> that the Creditors' Committee shall have the right to be consulted on any proposed modification of the Confirmation Order and the Plan, the Debtors reserve the right, in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules to amend or modify the Plan prior to the entry of the Confirmation Order, including amendments or modifications to satisfy section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that any pre-Confirmation Date amendments shall not materially or adversely affect the interests, rights or treatment of any Allowed Claims or Equity Interests under the Plan; and (2) after the entry of the Confirmation Order, the Debtors or the Liquidating Trustee may, upon order of the Bankruptcy Code, or remedy any defect or omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan in such manner as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of the Plan.

# 2. Revocation of Plan.

The Debtors, in consultation with the Creditors' Committee, reserve the right to revoke or withdraw the Plan prior to the entry of the Confirmation Order, and to file subsequent chapter 11 plans. If the Debtors revoke or withdraw the Plan or if entry of the Confirmation Order or the Effective Date does not occur, then: (1) the Plan shall be null and void in all respects; (2) any settlement or compromise embodied in the Plan, assumption or rejection of executory contracts effected by the Plan, and any document or agreement executed pursuant hereto shall be deemed null and void; and (3) nothing contained in the Plan shall: (a) constitute a waiver or release of any Claims by or against, or any Equity Interests in, such Debtor or any other Entity; (b) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Debtors or any other Entity; or (c) constitute an admission of any sort by the Debtors or any other Entity.

# 3. Binding Effect.

On the Effective Date, the provisions of the Plan shall bind any holder of a Claim against, or Equity Interest in, a Debtor and such holder's respective successors and assigns, whether or not the Claim or Equity Interest of such holder is Impaired under the Plan, whether or not such holder has accepted the Plan and whether or not such holder is entitled to a Distribution under the Plan.

# 4. Successors and Assigns.

The rights, benefits and obligations of any Entity named or referred to herein shall be binding on, and shall inure to the benefit of, any heir, executor, administrator, successor or assign of such Entity.

# 5. Governing Law.

Except to the extent that the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules apply, unless otherwise stated, and subject to the provisions of any contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document entered into in connection herewith, the rights and obligations arising hereunder shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the state of Texas without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws thereof.

#### 6. Reservation of Rights.

Except as expressly set forth in the Plan, the Plan shall have no force or effect unless and until the Effective Date occurs. Neither the filing of the Plan, any statement or provision contained therein, nor the taking of any action by a Debtor or any Entity with respect to the Plan shall be or shall be deemed to be an admission or waiver of any rights of: (1) any Debtor with respect to the holders of Claims or Equity Interests or other parties in interest; or (2) any holder of a Claim or other party in interest prior to the Effective Date.

#### 7. Article 1146 Exemption.

Pursuant to section 1146(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, any transfers of property pursuant hereto shall not be subject to any stamp tax or other similar tax or governmental assessment in the United States, and the Confirmation Order shall direct the appropriate state or local governmental officials or agents to forego the collection of any such tax or governmental assessment and to accept for filing and recordation instruments or other documents pursuant to such transfers of property without the payment of any such tax or governmental assessment.

#### 8. Section 1125(e) Good Faith Compliance.

Confirmation of the Plan shall act as a finding by the Court that the Debtors and each of their respective Representatives have acted in "good faith" under section 1125(e) of the Bankruptcy Code.

# 9. Further Assurances.

The Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee, all holders of Claims receiving Distributions hereunder and all other parties in interest shall, from time to time, prepare, execute and deliver any agreements or documents and take any other actions as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the provisions and intent of the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

#### 10. Service of Documents.

Any pleading, notice or other document required by the Plan to be served on or delivered to the Debtors shall be sent by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid as follows:

#### To the Debtors:

ALCO Stores, Inc. c/o Deloitte CRG . 2200 Ross Ave., Suite 1600 Dallas, Texas 75201-6703 Attn.: Michael Juniper

with a copy to:

DLA PIPER LLP (US) Attention: Thomas R. Califano 1251 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10020 Telephone: (212) 335-4500 Facsimile: (212) 335-4501 E-mail: thomas.califano@dlapiper.com

-and-

DLA PIPER LLP (US) Attention: Vincent P. Slusher 1717 Main Street, Suite 4600 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 743-4500 Facsimile: (214) 743-4545 E-mail: vince.slusher@dlapiper.com

#### To the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee:

COOLEY LLP Attention: Jay R. Indyke 1114 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036 Telephone: (212) 479-6000 Facsimile: (212) 479-6275 E-mail: jindyke@cooley.com

-and-

Law Offices of Judith W. Ross 700 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1610 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 377-7879 Facsimile: (214) 377-9409 E-mail: judith.ross@judithwross.com

# To the Liquidating Trustee:

[INSERT CONTACT INFO]

#### 11. Filing of Additional Documents.

On or before the Effective Date, the Debtors may file with the Bankruptcy Court all agreements and other documents that may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and further evidence the terms and conditions hereof.

#### 12. No Stay of Confirmation Order.

The Debtors shall request that the Court waive stay of enforcement of the Confirmation Order otherwise applicable, including pursuant to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 3020(e), 6004(h) and 7062.

#### VI. RISK FACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAN

The holders of Claims against the Debtors should read and carefully consider the following risk factors, as well as the other information set forth in this Disclosure Statement (and the documents delivered together herewith), before deciding whether to vote to accept or reject the Plan. These risk factors should not, however, be regarded as constituting the only risks associated with the Plan and its implementation.

#### A. Bankruptcy Considerations.

Although the Debtors believe the Plan will satisfy all requirements necessary for confirmation by the Bankruptcy Court, there can be no assurance that the Bankruptcy Court will confirm the Plan as proposed. Moreover, there can be no assurance that modifications of the Plan will not be required for confirmation or that such modifications would not necessitate the re-solicitation of votes.

In addition, the occurrence of the Effective Date is conditioned on the satisfaction (or waiver) of the conditions precedent set forth in Article VIII.A of the Plan, and there can be no assurance that such conditions will be satisfied or waived. In the event the conditions precedent described in Article VIII.A of the Plan have not been satisfied, or waived (to the extent possible) by the Debtors or applicable parties (as provided for in the Plan) as of the Effective Date, then the Confirmation Order will be vacated, no Distributions will be made pursuant to the Plan, and the Debtors and all holders of Claims and Equity Interests will be restored to the *status quo ante* as of the day immediately preceding the Confirmation Date as though the Confirmation Date had never occurred.

Section 1122 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a plan may place a claim or an equity interest in a particular class only if such claim or equity interest is substantially similar to the other claims or equity interests in such class. The Debtors believe that the classification of Claims and Equity Interests under the Plan complies with the requirements set forth in the Bankruptcy Code because each Class of Claims and Equity Interests encompass Claims or Equity Interests, as applicable, that are substantially similar to the other Claims and Equity Interests in each such Class. Nevertheless, there can be no assurance that the Bankruptcy Court will reach the same conclusion.

The Plan provides that certain Classes are to receive a Pro Rata share of Liquidating Trust Assets, which will be generated, in part, by the liquidation of certain Assets and the prosecution of certain Causes of Action. The potential recoveries from such actions, however, are unknown. In addition, there can be no assurance that the Liquidating Trust Assets will be sufficient to pay the fees and expenses of the Liquidating Trustee and/or the professionals employed in connection therewith or make any Distributions to the beneficiaries.

The Plan provides for no Distribution to certain Classes as specified in Article III of the Plan. The Bankruptcy Code conclusively deems these Classes to have rejected the Plan. Pursuant to section 1129(a)(10) of the Bankruptcy Code, notwithstanding the fact that these Classes are deemed to have rejected the Plan, the Bankruptcy Court may confirm the Plan if at least one Impaired Class votes to accept the Plan (with such acceptance being determined without including the vote of any "insider" in such class). As to each Impaired Class that has not accepted the Plan, the Plan may be confirmed if the Bankruptcy Court determines that the Plan "does not discriminate unfairly" and is "fair and equitable" with respect to these Classes. The Debtors believe that the Plan satisfies these requirements.

#### **B.** No Duty to Update Disclosures.

The Debtors have no duty to update the information contained in this Disclosure Statement as of the date hereof, unless otherwise specified herein, or unless the Debtors are required to do so pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court. Delivery of the Disclosure Statement after the date hereof does not imply that the information contained herein has remained unchanged.

#### C. Representations Outside this Disclosure Statement.

This Disclosure Statement contains representations concerning or related to the Debtors and the Plan that are authorized by the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Court. Please be advised that any representations or inducements outside this Disclosure Statement and any related documents which are intended to secure your acceptance or rejection of the Plan should not be relied upon by holders of Claims or Equity Interests that are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

#### D. No Admission.

The information and representations contained herein shall not be construed to constitute an admission of, or be deemed evidence of, any legal effect of the Plan on the Debtors or holders of Claims and Equity Interests.

# E. Tax and Other Related Considerations.

A discussion of potential tax consequences of the Plan is provided in section VIII hereof; however, the content of this Disclosure Statement is not intended and should not be construed as tax, legal, business or other professional advice. Holders of Claims and/or Equity Interests should seek advice from their own independent tax, legal or other professional advisors based on their own individual circumstances.

# VII. PLAN CONFIRMATION AND CONSUMMATION

# A. The Confirmation Hearing.

Bankruptcy Code section 1128(a) requires the Bankruptcy Court, after appropriate notice, to hold a hearing on confirmation of a plan (the "*Confirmation Hearing*"). On, or as promptly as practicable after the filing of the Plan and this Disclosure Statement, the Debtors will request, pursuant to the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules, that the Bankruptcy Court schedule the Confirmation Hearing. Notice of the Confirmation Hearing (the "*Confirmation Hearing Notice*") will be provided to all known Creditors or their representatives. The Confirmation Hearing may be adjourned from time to time by the Bankruptcy Court without further notice except for an announcement of the adjourned date made at the Confirmation Hearing or any subsequent adjourned Confirmation Hearing.

Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1128(b), any party in interest may object to confirmation of a plan of reorganization. Any objection to confirmation of the Plan must be in writing, must conform to the Bankruptcy Rules, must set forth the name of the objector, the nature and amount of Claims or Equity Interests held or asserted by the objector against the particular Plan Debtor(s), the basis for the objection and the specific grounds of the objection, and must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court, together with proof of service thereof, and served upon: (i) DLA Piper LLP (US), 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, Attn:

Thomas R. Califano, and 1717 Main Street, Suite 4600, Dallas, TX 75201, Attn: Vincent P. Slusher, counsel to the Debtors; (ii) Cooley LLP, 1114 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Jay R. Indyke, and Law Offices of Judith W. Ross, 700 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1610, Dallas, TX 75201, Attn: Judith W. Ross, counsel to the Creditors' Committee; (iii) the United States Trustee, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 976, Dallas, TX 75242, Attn: Lisa L. Lambert; and (iv) such other parties as the Bankruptcy Court may order, so as to be *actually received* no later than the date and time designated in the Confirmation Hearing Notice.

Bankruptcy Rule 9014 governs objections to confirmation of the Plan. UNLESS AN OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN IS TIMELY SERVED UPON THE PARTIES LISTED ABOVE AND FILED WITH THE BANKRUPTCY COURT, IT MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT IN DETERMINING CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN.

#### **B.** Plan Confirmation Requirements Under the Bankruptcy Code.

In order for the Plan to be confirmed, the Bankruptcy Code requires that the Bankruptcy Court determine that the Plan complies with the technical requirements of chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and that the disclosures concerning the Plan have been adequate and have included information concerning all payments made or promised in connection with the Plan and these Chapter 11 Cases. The Bankruptcy Code also requires that: (1) the Plan be accepted by the requisite votes of Creditors except to the extent that confirmation despite dissent is available under Bankruptcy Code section 1129(b); (2) the Plan is feasible (that is, there is a reasonable probability that the Debtors will be able to perform their obligations under the Plan without needing further financial reorganization not contemplated by the Plan); and (3) the Plan is in the "best interests" of all Creditors (that is, Creditors will receive at least as much under the Plan as they would receive in a hypothetical liquidation case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code). To confirm the Plan, the Bankruptcy Court must find that all of the above conditions are met, unless the applicable provisions of Bankruptcy Code section 1129(b) are employed to confirm the Plan, subject to satisfying certain conditions, over the dissent or deemed rejections of Classes of Claims.

#### **1.** Best Interests of Creditors.

The Bankruptcy Code requires that, with respect to an impaired class of claims or interests, each holder of an impaired claim or interest in such class either (i) accepts the plan or (ii) receives or retains under the plan property of a value, as of the effective date of the plan, that is not less than the amount (value) such holder would receive or retain if the debtor was liquidated under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code on the Effective Date.

The Debtors, with the assistance of their professionals, have prepared the Liquidation Analysis attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. The Liquidation Analysis is based upon a hypothetical liquidation in a chapter 7 case. In preparing the Liquidation Analysis, the Debtors have taken into account the nature, status and underlying value of their Assets, the ultimate realizable value of their Assets, and the extent to which such Assets are subject to liens and security interests. In addition, the Liquidation Analysis also reflects the required time and resources necessary to effectuate an orderly wind down of the Estates.

Based upon the Liquidation Analysis, the Debtors believe that liquidation under chapter 7 would result in smaller distributions, if any, being made to Creditors than those provided for in the Plan because of (a) the likelihood that other Assets of the Debtors would have to be sold or otherwise disposed of in a less orderly fashion; (b) additional administrative expenses attendant to the appointment of a trustee and the trustee's employment of attorneys and other professionals, and (c) additional expenses and Claims, some of which would be entitled to priority, which would be generated during the liquidation and from the rejection of leases and other executory contracts in connection with a cessation of the Debtors' operations. In the opinion of the Debtors, the recoveries projected to be available in a chapter 7 liquidation are not likely to afford the holders of Claims as great a realization potential as afforded to them under the Plan.

Accordingly, the Debtors believe that in a chapter 7 liquidation, holders of Claims would receive less than such holders would receive under the Plan. There can be no assurance, however, as to values that would actually be realized in a chapter 7 liquidation, nor can there be any assurance that a Bankruptcy Court would accept the Debtors' conclusions or concur with such assumptions in making its determinations under section 1129(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code.

# 2. Feasibility of the Plan.

Pursuant to section 1129(a)(11) of the Bankruptcy Code, a debtor must demonstrate that a bankruptcy court's confirmation of a plan is not likely to be followed by the liquidation or need for further financial reorganization of the debtor or its successor under the plan, unless such liquidation or reorganization is proposed under the plan. Pursuant to the Plan, the Debtors intend to sell all or substantially all of their Assets to third parties and transfer the Causes of Action and all remaining unencumbered Assets to the Liquidating Trust to be liquidated and distributed to beneficiaries in accordance with the Plan and Liquidating Trust Agreement. Therefore, the Bankruptcy Court's confirmation of the Plan is not likely to be followed by liquidation or the need for any further reorganization.

#### **3.** Acceptance by Impaired Classes.

The Bankruptcy Code requires, as a condition to confirmation, that, except as described below, each class of claims or equity interests that is impaired under a plan, accept the plan. A class that is not "impaired" under a plan is deemed to have accepted the plan and, therefore, solicitation of acceptances with respect to such class is not required. As a general matter under the Bankruptcy Code, a class is "impaired," unless the plan: (a) leaves unaltered the legal, equitable and contractual rights to which the claim or the equity interest entitles the holder of such claim or equity interest; (b) cures any default and reinstates the original terms of such claim or equity interest; or (c) provides that, on the consummation date, the holder of such claim or equity interest receives cash equal to the allowed amount of that claim or, with respect to any equity interest, any fixed liquidation preference to which the holder of such equity interest is entitled to any fixed price at which the debtor may redeem the security.

Section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code defines acceptance of a plan by a class of impaired claims as acceptance by holders of at least two-thirds (2/3) in dollar amount and more than one-half (1/2) in number of claims in that class, but for that purpose counts only those who actually vote to accept or to reject the plan. Thus, a class of claims will have voted to accept the

plan only if two-thirds (2/3) in amount and a majority in number actually voting cast their ballots in favor of acceptance. A vote may be disregarded if the Bankruptcy Court determines, after notice and a hearing, that acceptance or rejection was not solicited or procured in good faith or in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

Any Class of Claims that is not occupied as of the commencement of the Confirmation Hearing by an Allowed Claim or a Claim temporarily Allowed under Bankruptcy Rule 3018 shall be deemed eliminated from the Plan for purposes of voting to accept or reject the Plan and for purposes of determining acceptance or rejection of the Plan by such Class pursuant to section 1129(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code. If no votes to accept or reject the Plan are received with respect to a Class whose votes have been solicited under the Plan (other than a Class that is deemed eliminated under the Plan), such Class shall be deemed to have voted to accept the Plan.

#### 4. Section 1129(b).

The Bankruptcy Code permits confirmation of a plan even if it is not accepted by all impaired classes, as long as (a) the plan otherwise satisfies the requirements for confirmation, (b) at least one impaired class of claims has accepted it without taking into consideration the votes of any insiders in such class, and (c) the plan is "fair and equitable" and does not "discriminate unfairly" as to any impaired class that has not accepted the plan. These so called "cramdown" provisions are set forth in section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### a. No Unfair Discrimination.

The "no unfair discrimination" test requires that the plan not provide for unfair treatment with respect to classes of claims or interests that are of equal priority, but are receiving different treatment under the plan.

#### b. Fair and Equitable.

The fair and equitable requirement applies to classes of claims of different priority and status, such as secured versus unsecured. The plan satisfies the fair and equitable requirement if no class of claims receives more than 100% of the allowed amount of the claims in such class. Further, if a class of claims is considered a dissenting class ("*Dissenting Class*"), *i.e.*, a Class of Claims that is deemed to reject the Plan because the required majorities in amount and number of votes is not received from the Class, the following requirements apply:

#### 1. Class of Secured Claims.

Each holder of an impaired secured claim either (i) retains its liens on the subject property, to the extent of the allowed amount of its secured claim and receives deferred cash payments having a value, as of the effective date of the plan, of at least the allowed amount of such claim, (ii) has the right to credit bid the amount of its claim if its property is sold and retains its liens on the proceeds of the sale (or if sold, on the proceeds thereof), or (iii) receives the "indubitable equivalent" of its allowed secured claim.

#### 2. Class of Unsecured Creditors.

Either (i) each holder of an impaired unsecured claim receives or retains under the plan property of a value equal to the amount of its allowed claim or (ii) the holders of claims and interests that are junior to the claims of the Dissenting Class will not receive any property under the plan.

#### **3.** Class of Equity Interests.

Either (i) each interest holder will receive or retain under the plan property of a value equal to the greater of (a) the fixed liquidation preference or redemption price, if any, of such stock and (b) the value of the stock, or (ii) the holders of interests that are junior to the interests of the Dissenting Class will not receive any property under the plan.

The Debtors believe the Plan does not "discriminate unfairly" and will satisfy the "fair and equitable" requirement notwithstanding that certain Classes of Equity Interests are deemed to reject the Plan because no Class that is junior to such Class will receive or retain any property on account of the Claims and Equity Interests in such Class and the Plan does not provide for unfair treatment with respect to Classes of Claims or Equity Interests that are of equal priority.

# VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO CONFIRMATION AND CONSUMMATION OF THE PLAN

The Debtors believe the Plan is in the best interests of their Creditors and should accordingly be accepted and confirmed. If the Plan as proposed, however, is not confirmed, the following three alternatives may be available to the Debtors: (i) a liquidation of the Debtors' Assets pursuant to chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) an alternative plan of reorganization or liquidation may be proposed and confirmed; or (iii) the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases may be dismissed.

#### A. Chapter 7 Liquidation.

If a plan pursuant to chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code is not confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court, the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases may be converted to liquidation cases under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, in which a trustee would be elected or appointed, pursuant to applicable provisions of chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, to liquidate the Assets of the Debtors for distribution in accordance with the priorities established by the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors believe that such a liquidation would result in smaller distributions being made to the Debtors' creditors than those provided for in the Plan because (a) the likelihood that other Assets of the Debtors would have to be sold or otherwise disposed of in a less orderly fashion, (b) additional administrative expenses attendant to the appointment of a trustee and the trustee's employment of attorneys and other professionals, (c) additional expenses and Claims, some of which would be entitled to priority, which would be generated during the liquidation and from the rejection of leases and other executory contracts in connection with a cessation of the Debtors' operations. The Debtors have found that confirmation of the Plan will provide each holder of an Allowed Claim with a recovery that is not less than such holder would receive pursuant to liquidation of the Debtors under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### **B.** Alternative Plan Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

If the Plan is not confirmed, the Debtors may propose a different plan, which might involve an alternative means for the reorganization or liquidation of the Debtors' Assets. However, the Debtors believe that the terms of the Plan provide for an orderly and efficient liquidation of the Debtors' Assets and will result in the realization of the most value for holders of Claims against the Debtors' Estates.

#### C. Dismissal of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases.

Dismissal of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases would have the effect of restoring (or attempting to restore) all parties to the *status quo ante*. Upon dismissal of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors would lose the protection of the Bankruptcy Code, thereby requiring, at the very least, an extensive and time-consuming process of negotiation with the various creditors of the Debtors, and possibly resulting in costly and protracted litigation in various jurisdictions. Most significantly, dismissal of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases would permit secured creditors to foreclose upon any Assets that are subject to their Liens. Dismissal will also permit unpaid unsecured creditors to obtain and enforce judgments against the Debtors' Assets under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, the Debtors believe that dismissal of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases is not a preferable alternative to the Plan.

#### IX. CERTAIN FEDERAL TAX CONSEQUENCES

THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION IS INTENDED ONLY AS A SUMMARY OF CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLAN AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CAREFUL TAX PLANNING WITH A TAX PROFESSIONAL. THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. THE TAX CONSEQUENCES ARE IN MANY CASES UNCERTAIN AND MAY VARY DEPENDING ON A HOLDER'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES. ACCORDINGLY, EACH HOLDER IS STRONGLY URGED TO CONSULT ITS TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND APPLICABLE NON-U.S. INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLAN.

TO COMPLY WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CIRCULAR 230, TAXPAYERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT (A) ANY DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL TAX ISSUES CONTAINED OR REFERRED TO IN THIS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (INCLUDING ANY ATTACHMENTS) IS NOT INTENDED OR WRITTEN TO BE USED, AND CANNOT BE USED, BY ANY TAXPAYER FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON A TAXPAYER UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, (B) ANY SUCH DISCUSSION IS WRITTEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROMOTION OR MARKETING OF THE TRANSACTIONS OR MATTERS ADDRESSED HEREIN, AND (C) TAXPAYERS SHOULD SEEK ADVICE BASED ON THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES FROM AN INDEPENDENT TAX ADVISOR.

#### A. General.

The following discussion summarizes certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences to the Debtors, the Liquidating Trust and holders entitled to vote on the Plan. This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "*IRC*"), applicable Treasury Regulations, judicial authority and current administrative rulings and pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (the "*Service*"). There can be no assurance that the Service will not take a contrary view, no ruling from the Service has been or will be sought nor will any counsel provide a legal opinion as to any of the expected tax consequences set forth below.

Legislative, judicial or administrative changes or interpretations may be forthcoming that could alter or modify the statements and conclusions set forth herein. Any such changes or interpretations may or may not be retroactive and could affect the tax consequences to holders of Claims, the Liquidating Trust or the Debtors. It cannot be predicted at this time whether any tax legislation will be enacted or, if enacted, whether any tax law changes contained therein would affect the tax consequences described herein.

The following summary is for general information only. The tax treatment of a holder may vary depending upon such holder's particular situation. This summary does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder, including any alternative minimum tax consequences and does not address the tax consequences to a holder that has made an agreement to resolve its claim in a manner not explicitly provided for in the Plan. This summary also does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences to persons not entitled to vote on the Plan or holders subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as brokers or dealers in securities or currencies, certain securities traders, tax-exempt entities, financial institutions, insurance companies, foreign persons, partnerships and other pass-through entities, holders that have a "functional currency" other than the United States dollar and holders that have acquired Claims in connection with the performance of services. The following summary assumes that the Claims are held by holders as "capital assets" within the meaning of Section 1221 of the IRC and that all Claims denominated as indebtedness are properly treated as debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The tax treatment of holders and the character, amount and timing of income, gain or loss recognized as a consequence of the Plan and the distributions provided for by the Plan may vary, depending upon, among other things: (i) whether the Claim (or portion thereof) constitutes a Claim for principal or interest; (ii) the type of consideration received by the holder in exchange for the Claim and whether the holder receives Distributions under the Plan in more than one taxable year; (iii) whether the holder is a citizen or resident of the United States for tax purposes, is otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis, or falls into any special class of taxpayers, such as those that are excluded from this discussion as noted above; (iv) the manner in which the holder acquired the Claim; (v) the length of time that the Claim has been held; (vi) whether the holder has previously included in income accrued but unpaid interest with respect to the Claim; (ix) the method of tax accounting of the holder; (x) whether the Claim is an installment obligation for U.S. federal income tax purposes; and (xi) whether the "market discount" rules are applicable to the holder. Therefore, each holder should consult its tax advisor

for information that may be relevant to its particular situation and circumstances, and the particular tax consequences to such holder of the transactions contemplated by the Plan.

#### **B.** U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment With Respect to the Liquidating Trust.

It is intended that the Liquidating Trust will be treated as a "grantor trust" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, a grantor trust is not a separate taxable entity. The Service, in Revenue Procedure 94-45, 1994-2 C.B. 684, set forth the general criteria for obtaining an advanced ruling as to the grantor trust status of a liquidating trust under a chapter 11 plan. The Debtors are not requesting a private letter ruling regarding the status of the Liquidating Trust as a grantor trust. Consistent with the requirements of Revenue Procedure 94-45, however, the Liquidating Trust Agreement requires all relevant parties to treat, for federal income tax purposes, the transfer of the Debtors' Assets to the Liquidating Trust as (i) a transfer of such assets to the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust (to the extent of the value of their respective interests in the applicable Liquidating Trust Assets) followed by (ii) a transfer of such assets by such beneficiaries to the Liquidating Trust (to the extent of the value of their respective interests in the applicable Liquidating Trust Assets), with the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust being treated as the grantors and owners of the Liquidating Trust. Each beneficiary of the Liquidating Trust will generally recognize gain (or loss) in its taxable year that includes the Effective Date in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized in respect of its Claim and its adjusted tax basis in such Claim. The amount realized for this purpose should generally equal the amount of cash and the fair market value of any other assets received or deemed received for U.S. federal income tax purposes under the Plan in respect of such holder's Claim. A holder that is deemed to receive for U.S. federal income tax purposes a non-cash asset under the Plan in respect of its Claim should generally have a tax basis in such asset in an amount equal to the fair market value of such asset on the date of its deemed receipt.

The Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement generally provide that the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust must value the assets of the Liquidating Trust consistently with the values determined by the Liquidating Trustee for all U.S. federal, state, and local income tax purposes. As soon as possible after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall make a good faith valuation of the assets transferred to the Liquidating Trust.

Consistent with the treatment of the Liquidating Trust as a grantor trust, the Liquidating Trust Agreement and the Plan will require each holder to report on its U.S. federal income tax return its allocable share of the Liquidating Trust's income. Therefore, a holder may incur a U.S. federal income tax liability with respect to its allocable share of the Liquidating Trust whether or not the Liquidating Trust has made any distributions to such holder. The character of items of income, gain, deduction, and credit to any holder and the ability of such holder to benefit from any deduction or losses will depend on the particular situation of such holder.

In general, a distribution of underlying assets from the Liquidating Trust to a beneficiary thereof may not be taxable to such holder because such holders are already regarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes as owning such assets. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the appropriate U.S. federal income tax treatment of distributions from the Liquidating Trust.

The Liquidating Trustee will file with the Service tax returns for the Liquidating Trust as a grantor trust pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.671-4(a) and will also send to each holder a separate statement setting forth such holder's share of items of Liquidating Trust income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit. Each such holder will be required to report such items on its U.S. federal income tax return.

The discussion above assumes that the Liquidating Trust will be respected as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Service were to successfully challenge such classification, the U.S. federal income tax consequences to the Liquidating Trust and the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust could differ materially from those discussed herein (including the potential for an entity level tax to be imposed on all income of the Liquidating Trust).

# C. U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment With Respect to Holders of Allowed Claims that are Beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust.

Holders of Allowed Claims as of the Effective Date that are beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust should be treated as receiving from the Debtors their respective shares of the applicable assets of the Liquidating Trust in satisfaction of their Allowed Claims, and simultaneously transferring such assets to the Liquidating Trust. Accordingly, a holder of such Claim should generally recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the amount deemed realized on the Effective Date (as described above) less its adjusted tax basis of its Claim. Additionally, such holders should generally recognize their allocable share of income, gain, loss and deductions recognized by the Liquidating Trust on an annual basis.

Because a holder's ultimate share of the assets of the Liquidating Trust based on its Allowed Claim will not be determinable on the Effective Date due to, among other things, the existence of Disputed Claims and the value of the assets at the time of actual receipt not being ascertainable on the Effective Date, such holder should recognize additional or offsetting gain or loss if, and to the extent that, the aggregate amount of cash and fair market value of the assets of the Liquidating Trust ultimately received by such holder is greater than or less than the amount used in initially determining gain or loss in accordance with the procedures described in the preceding paragraph. It is unclear when a holder of an Allowed Claim that is a beneficiary of the Liquidating Trust should recognize, as an additional amount received for purposes of computing gain or loss, an amount attributable to the disallowance of a Disputed Claim.

The character of any gain or loss as capital gain or loss or ordinary income or loss and, in the case of capital gain or loss, as short-term or long-term, will depend on a number of factors, including: (i) the nature and origin of the Claim; (ii) the tax status of the holder of the Claim; (iii) whether the Claim has been held for more than one year; (iv) the extent to which the holder previously claimed a loss or bad debt deduction with respect to the Claim; and (v) whether the Claim was acquired at a market discount. A holder that purchased its Claim from a prior holder at a market discount may be subject to the market discount rules of the IRC. Under those rules (subject to a *de minimis* exception), assuming that such holder has made no election to accrue the market discount and include it in income on a current basis, any gain recognized on the exchange of such Claim generally would be characterized as ordinary income to the extent of the accrued market discount on such Claim as of the date of the exchange.

It is possible that the Service may assert that any loss should not be recognizable until the Liquidating Trustee makes its final distribution of the assets of the Liquidating Trust. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the possibility that the recognition of gain or loss may be deferred until the final distribution of the assets of the Liquidating Trust.

Although not free from doubt, holder of Disputed Claims should not recognize any gain or loss on the date that the Liquidating Trust Assets are transferred to the Liquidating Trust, but should recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to: (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any other property actually distributed to such holder less (ii) the adjusted tax basis of its Claim. It is possible, however, that such holders may be required to recognize the fair market value of such holder's allocable share of the Liquidating Trust Assets, as an amount received for purposes of computing gain or loss, either on the Effective Date or the date such holder's Claim becomes an Allowed Claim.

Holders of Allowed Claims will be treated as receiving a payment of interest (includible in income in accordance with the holder's method of accounting for tax purposes) to the extent that any cash or other property received (or deemed received) pursuant to the Plan is attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, if any, on such Allowed Claims. The extent to which the receipt of cash or other property should be attributable to accrued but unpaid interest is unclear. Each holder should consult its tax advisor regarding the determination of the amount of consideration received under the Plan that is attributable to interest (if any). A holder generally will be entitled to recognize a loss to the extent any accrued interest was previously included in its gross income and is not paid in full.

#### X. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The Debtors believe the Plan is in the best interests of their Estates, Creditors and other interested parties and urge the holders of Impaired Claims entitled to vote to accept the Plan and to evidence such acceptance by properly voting and timely returning their ballots.

Dated: April 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

ALCO Stores, Inc. ALCO Holdings, LLC

By: <u>/s/ Michael Juniper</u> Name: Michael Juniper Title: Chief Restructuring Officer

# <u>Exhibit 1</u>

Debtors' Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, dated February 18, 2015

#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

In re:

ALCO STORES, INC., et al.<sup>1</sup>

CASE NO. 14-34941 (SGJ)

Chapter 11

**Debtors.** 

Jointly Administered

#### DEBTORS' FIRST AMENDED PLAN OF LIQUIDATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

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Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Dated: February 18, 2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four (4) digits of their taxpayer identification number, are ALCO Stores, Inc. (1080) and ALCO Holdings, LLC (0364). The mailing address of the Debtors, solely for purposes of notices and communications, is ALCO Stores, Inc., 751 Freeport Parkway, Coppell, Texas 75019.

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# DEBTORS' FIRST AMENDED PLAN OF LIQUIDATION UNDER CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

The Debtors in the above-captioned cases hereby respectfully propose the following Debtors' First Amended Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.<sup>2</sup>

# ARTICLE I.

# DEFINED TERMS AND RULES OF INTERPRETATION

#### A. Defined Terms

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings when used in capitalized form herein:

"Accrued Professional Compensation" means, at any given moment, all accrued 1. and/or unpaid fees and expenses (including, without limitation, fees or expenses allowed or awarded by a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court) for legal, financial advisory, accounting, liquidation and other professional services and reimbursement of expenses of such professionals that are awardable and allowable under sections 328, 330(a), 331 or 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, or otherwise rendered prior to the Effective Date, including in connection with (a) applications filed pursuant to sections 330, 331 and 363 of the Bankruptcy Code; (b) motions seeking the enforcement of the provisions of the Plan or Confirmation Order, by all Professionals in the Chapter 11 Cases that the Bankruptcy Court has not denied by a Final Order, to the extent that any such fees and expenses have not previously been paid regardless of whether a fee application has been filed for any such amount; and (c) applications for allowance of Administrative Expenses arising under sections 503(b)(2), 503(b)(3), 503(b)(4) or 503(b)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code. To the extent the Bankruptcy Court or any higher court denies by a Final Order any amount of a Professional's fees or expenses, then those amounts shall no longer be Accrued Professional Compensation.

2. "Administrative Claims" means Claims that have been timely filed before the Administrative Claims Bar Date, pursuant to the deadline and procedure set forth in the Confirmation Order (except as otherwise provided by a separate order of the Bankruptcy Court), for costs and expenses of administration under sections 503(b), 507(b) or 1114(e)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, including, without limitation: the actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred after the Petition Date of preserving the Estates and operating the businesses of the Debtors (such as wages, salaries or commissions for services and payments for goods and other services and leased premises), Claims timely asserted under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code for goods delivered to the Debtors in the twenty days prior to the Petition date and Claims timely asserted for stub rental payments under the Debtors' leases. Any fees or charges assessed against the estates of the Debtors under section 1930 of chapter 123 of title 28 of the United

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All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall be subject to the definition of such capitalized terms in Article I.A. hereof.

States Code are excluded from the definition of Administrative Expense Claim and shall be paid in accordance with Article V.N of the Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the filing of an Administrative Claim shall not be required in order to receive payment for any tax liability described in sections 503(b)(1)(B) and (C) in accordance with section 503(b)(1)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**3.** *"Administrative Claims Bar Date"* means the first Business Day that is thirty (30) days after the Effective Date and is the deadline for a holder of an Administrative Claim to file a request with the Bankruptcy Court for payment of such Administrative Claim in the manner indicated in Article II herein.

4. *"Allowed"* means, with respect to any Claim against the Debtors, except as otherwise provided herein: (a) a Claim that has been scheduled by the Debtors in their Schedules filed in the Chapter 11 Cases as other than disputed, contingent or unliquidated and as to which the Debtors or other parties-in-interest have not filed an objection by the Claims Objection Bar Date; (b) a Claim filed in the Chapter 11 Cases and that either is not Disputed or has been allowed by a Final Order; or (c) a Claim filed in the Chapter 11 Cases that is allowed: (i) in any stipulation of amount and nature of Claim executed prior to the Effective Date and approved by the Bankruptcy Court; (ii) in any stipulation or written agreement with the Liquidating Trustee, of amount and nature of Claim executed on or after the Effective Date; or (iii) in or pursuant to any contract, instrument or other agreement entered into or assumed in connection herewith; (d) a Claim that is allowed pursuant to the terms of this Plan or (e) a Disputed Claim that the Debtors and/or Liquidating Trustee (as applicable) ultimately determine will not be objected to (such claim being deemed Allowed at the time such determination is made).

**5.** *"Bankruptcy Code"* means Articles 101 *et seq.* of title 11 of the United States Code, and applicable portions of titles 18 and 28 of the United States Code.

**6.** *"Bankruptcy Court"* means the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

7. "*Bankruptcy Rules*" means the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, promulgated under 28 U.S.C. § 2075, the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, the Local Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and general orders and chambers procedures of the Bankruptcy Court, each as applicable to the Chapter 11 Cases and as amended from time to time.

**8.** *"Bar Date Order"* means that certain order of the Bankruptcy Court dated as of December 12, 2014 [D.I. 481], establishing January 16, 2015 as the general bar date for filing proofs of Claim in the Chapter 11 Cases, with only those exceptions permitted thereby.

**9.** *"Books and Records"* means, with respect to the Debtors, all books and records of such Debtor(s), including, without limitation, all documents and communications of any kind, whether physical or electronic.

**10.** *"Business Day"* means any day, other than a Saturday, Sunday or "legal holiday" (as that term is defined in Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a)).

**11.** *"Cash"* means cash and cash equivalents in certified or immediately available U.S. funds, including but not limited to bank deposits, checks and similar items.

12. "Causes of Action" means all claims, actions, causes of action, choses in action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, remedies, rights of setoff, third-party claims, subrogation claims, contribution claims, reimbursement claims, indemnity claims, counterclaims and crossclaims (including, without limitation, all claims and any avoidance, preference, recovery, subordination or other actions against Creditors, insiders and/or any other entities under the Bankruptcy Code, and any and all state and common law claims for breach of fiduciary duty against the Debtors' directors and officers solely to the extent such directors and officers served in such capacity prior to the Proxy Date) against any Person or Entity, based in law or equity, including, without limitation, under the Bankruptcy Code, whether direct, indirect, derivative or otherwise and whether asserted or unasserted as of the Effective Date.

**13.** "*Chapter 11 Cases*" means the chapter 11 cases commenced when the Debtors each filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on the Petition Date and with the following case numbers: 14-34941 (SGJ) and 14-34942 (SGJ), which are jointly administered under case number 14-34941 (SGJ).

14. "*Claim*" means (a) a right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; (b) a right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured; or (c) any other claim, as such term is defined in section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**15.** *"Claims Agent"* means Prime Clerk LLC, the Bankruptcy Court appointed claims, and noticing agent in these jointly administered Chapter 11 Cases.

16. "*Claims Objection Bar Date*" means the bar date for objecting to proofs of Claim, which shall be one hundred twenty (120) days after the Effective Date; *provided*, *however*, that the Debtors and/or the Liquidating Trustee may seek additional extensions of this date from the Bankruptcy Court, with notice only to those parties entitled to notice in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. A party requesting to extend the Claims Objection Bar Date may specify which entities may benefit from such an extension.

**17.** *"Class"* means a category of holders of Claims or Equity Interests as set forth in Article III herein and pursuant to section 1122(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**18.** *"Confirmation Date"* means the date on which the Confirmation Order is entered by the Bankruptcy Court.

**19.** *"Confirmation Order"* means the order of the Bankruptcy Court confirming the Plan pursuant to section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code.

**20.** *"Creditor"* shall have the meaning in section 101(10) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**21.** *"Creditors' Committee"* means the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases by the U.S. Trustee.

**22.** "*D&O Insurance Policies*" means all primary and excess insurance policies of the Debtors that provide for, among other things, coverage for liability related to the actions or omissions of the Debtors' directors and officers.

**23.** *"Debtors"* means collectively, Alco Stores, Inc. and Alco Holdings, LLC and where applicable, the Estates thereof.

**24.** *"DIP Financing"* means the postpetition financing provided to the Debtors by the DIP Lenders pursuant to and under the DIP Orders.

**25.** *"DIP Lenders"* means the lenders party to the DIP Financing under the DIP Orders.

**26.** "DIP Orders" means the Final Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362, 363, 364 and 507 (I) Approving Postpetition Financing, (II) Authorizing Use of Cash Collateral, (III) Granting Liens and Providing Superpriority Administrative Expense Status, (IV) Modifying Automatic Stay, and (V) Granting Related Relief [D.I. 326].

**27.** *"Disbursing Agent"* means the person or entity empowered and authorized to make all Distributions pursuant to Article V.C herein.

28. "Disclosure Statement" means the Disclosure Statement for the Debtors' First Amended Plan of Liquidation under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, dated April 7, 2015, prepared and distributed in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules and any other applicable law, and approved by the Bankruptcy Court, as amended, supplemented or modified from time to time.

**29.** "*Disputed*" means, with respect to any Claim: (a) listed on the Schedules as unliquidated, disputed or contingent, unless a proof of Claim has been filed in a liquidated, noncontingent amount; (b) as to which the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee or any other party in interest, has interposed a timely objection or request for estimation in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules; or (c) as otherwise disputed in accordance with applicable bankruptcy or insolvency law, which objection, request for estimation or dispute has not been withdrawn or determined by a Final Order.

**30.** "*Disputed Claims Reserve*" means the reserve funds created pursuant to Article VI.A. herein.

**31.** *"Distributions"* means the distributions of Cash to be made in accordance with the Plan.

**32.** *"Effective Date"* means the first Business Day after the Confirmation Date on which the conditions precedent specified in Article VIII of this Plan have been either satisfied or

waived. Within five (5) Business days of the Effective Date, notice of the Effective Date shall be filed in the Bankruptcy Court.

**33.** *"Entity"* has the meaning set forth in section 101(15) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**34.** *"Equity Interest"* means any equity interest in a Debtor that existed immediately prior to the Petition Date.

**35.** *"Estates"* means the Debtors' estates created pursuant to section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code upon the filing of the Chapter 11 Cases.

**36.** *"Final Decree"* means the decree contemplated under Bankruptcy Rule 3022.

**37.** *"Final Order"* means an order or judgment of the Bankruptcy Court, or other court of competent jurisdiction with respect to the subject matter, which has not been reversed, stayed, modified or amended, and as to which the time to file an appeal, motion for reconsideration or rehearing, or request for a stay has expired with no appeal, motion for reconsideration or rehearing, or request for a stay having been timely filed.

**38.** *"General Bar Date"* means January 16, 2015 as established in the Bar Date Order.

**39.** *"General Unsecured Claims"* means Claims against any Debtor that are not Administrative Claims, Accrued Professional Compensation Claims, Secured Claims, Priority Tax Claims, Other Priority Claims, or Equity Interests.

**40.** *"GOB Sales"* means store closing sales conducted by a joint venture among Tiger Capital Group, LLC, SB Capital Group, LLC and Great American Group WF, LLC, as the Debtors' liquidating agent, at all of the Debtors' store locations.

**41.** *"Impaired"* means *"impaired"* within the meaning of sections 1123(a)(4) and 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code, with respect to a Claim, Equity Interest, or Class of Claims or Equity Interests.

**42.** *"Indemnified Persons"* means the Liquidating Trustee and its employees, officers, directors, agents, Representatives, and Professionals.

**43.** *"Lien"* shall mean any lien, mortgage, charge, security interest, pledge or other encumbrance against or interest in property to secure payment or performance of a claim, debt or litigation.

**44.** *"Liquidating Trust"* means the grantor trust to be created upon the Effective Date for the benefit of the Beneficiaries.

**45.** *"Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee"* means the committee formed in accordance with Article IV.B herein and which shall direct the Liquidating Trustee to carry out its powers in accordance with the Plan and Confirmation Order.

**46.** *"Liquidating Trust Agreement*" means the agreement, substantially in the form included in the Plan Supplement, governing the operations of the Liquidating Trust, as it may be subsequently modified from time to time.

**47.** *"Liquidating Trust Assets"* means the assets held in the Liquidating Trust comprised of (i) all Causes of Action of the Debtors, including, without limitation, any and all Causes of Action for which the Creditors' Committee was granted standing and authority to prosecute, resolve, settle and compromise in the Chapter 11 Cases, but excluding those expressly waived herein, and (ii) all other unencumbered assets of the Debtors' Estates remaining after all required payments have been made pursuant to the Plan, Confirmation Order and Liquidating Trust Agreement, as applicable, on the Effective Date.

**48.** *"Liquidating Trust Distributable Cash"* means the Cash and any other assets of the Liquidating Trust reduced to Cash net of all expenses and costs of operating or effectuating the duties of the Liquidating Trust and establishing any reserves as the Liquidating Trustee may determine is necessary in its sole discretion pursuant to the terms of this Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement.

**49.** *"Liquidating Trustee"* means the individual or entity designated and retained as the trustee to the Liquidating Trust, as of the Effective Date or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, as the fiduciary responsible for administering the Liquidating Trust.

**50.** *"Other Priority Claims"* means Claims accorded priority in right of payment under section 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, other than Priority Tax Claims.

**51.** *"Person"* means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, cooperative, trust, estate, unincorporated organization, association, joint venture, government unit or agency or political subdivision thereof or any other form of legal entity or enterprise.

**52.** *"Petition Date"* means October 12, 2014, the date on which the Debtors filed the Chapter 11 Cases.

**53.** *"Plan"* means this Debtors' First Amended Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code including exhibits and supplements, either in its present form or as it may be altered, amended, modified or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules.

**54.** *"Plan Supplement"* means the supplement to the Plan containing certain documents and forms of documents specified in the Plan, which documents and forms shall be filed with the Bankruptcy Court no later than ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the hearing on confirmation of the Plan.

**55.** *"Priority Tax Claims"* means Claims of governmental units of the kind specified in section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**56.** *"Pro Rata"* shall mean the proportion that the amount of a Claim in a particular Class or Classes bears to the aggregate amount of all Claims (including Disputed Claims, but excluding disallowed Claims) in such Class or Classes, unless this Plan provides otherwise.

**57.** *"Professionals"* means any Person employed in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to a Final Order in accordance with sections 327, 328 or 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code, and to be compensated for services rendered prior to the Effective Date pursuant to sections 327, 328, 329, 330, 331 or 363 of the Bankruptcy Code.

**58.** *"Proxy Date"* means August 29, 2014.

**59.** *"Record Date"* means the date that the Disclosure Statement is approved by the Bankruptcy Court.

**60.** *"Released Parties"* means, collectively, the Debtors, the Debtors' directors and officers solely to the extent such directors and officers served in such capacity after the Proxy Date, the Debtors' Professionals, the DIP Lenders, the members of the Creditors' Committee (solely in their capacity as members of the Creditors' Committee), the Creditors' Committee's Professionals, and the current and former Representatives of each of the foregoing.

**61.** *"Representatives"* means, with regard to an Entity (including the Debtors), any current or former officers, directors, employees, attorneys, Professionals, accountants, investment bankers, financial advisors, consultants, agents and other representatives (including their respective officers, directors, employees, independent contractors, members and professionals); <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that such term shall exclude those Debtors' directors and officers that served in such capacity prior to the Proxy Date.

**62.** *"Schedules"* mean the schedules of assets and liabilities, schedules of executory contracts and statements of financial affairs filed by the Debtors pursuant to section 521 of the Bankruptcy Code, as may be amended, modified or supplemented from time to time.

**63.** "Secured Claims" means Claim(s) against the Debtors that are secured by a Lien on property in which the Estates have an interest, which Liens are valid, perfected and enforceable under applicable law or by reason of a Final Order, or that are subject to setoff under section 553 of the Bankruptcy Code, to the extent of the value of the Claim holder's interest in the Estates' interest in such property or to the extent of the amount subject to setoff, as applicable, as determined pursuant to section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

**64.** "*Subordinated Claims*" means (a) any Claim of any Person or Entity that is liable with the respective Debtor on or has secured the Claim of another creditor to the extent that such co-obligor's Claim is for indemnity, contribution, or reimbursement and is not Allowed on or before the Confirmation Date, (b) any Claim for penalties or punitive damages and any other Claim of the type described in section 726(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code (and notwithstanding the general inapplicability of Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code), including any lien securing such Claim, or (c) any Claim subordinated under section 510 of the Bankruptcy Code and any lien securing such Claim

65. *"Tax Code"* means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**66.** *"Tax Returns"* means all tax returns, reports, certificates, forms or similar statements or documents, including amended tax returns or requests for refunds.

67. "U.S. Trustee" means the United States Trustee appointed under Article 591 of title 28 of the United States Code to serve in the Northern District of Texas.

**68.** *"Unimpaired"* means not *"impaired"* within the meaning of sections 1123(a)(4) and 1124 of the Bankruptcy Code, with respect to a Claim, Equity Interest, or Class of Claims or Equity Interests.

#### **B.** Rules of Interpretation

For purposes herein: (a) in the appropriate context, each term, whether stated in 1. the singular or the plural, shall include both the singular and the plural, and pronouns stated in the masculine, feminine or neutral gender shall include the masculine, feminine and the neutral gender; (b) any reference herein to a contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document being in a particular form or on particular terms and conditions means that the referenced document shall be substantially in that form or substantially on those terms and conditions; (c) any reference herein to an existing document or exhibit having been filed or to be filed shall mean that document or exhibit, as it may thereafter be amended, modified or supplemented; (d) unless otherwise specified, all references herein to "Articles" are references to Articles hereof or hereto; (e) the words "herein," "hereof" and "hereto" refer to the Plan in its entirety rather than to a particular portion of the Plan; (f) captions and headings to Articles are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the interpretation hereof; (g) the rules of construction set forth in section 102 of the Bankruptcy Code shall apply; and (h) any term used in capitalized form herein that is not otherwise defined but that is used in the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules shall have the meaning assigned to that term in the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules, as the case may be.

**2.** The provisions of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9006(a) shall apply in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed hereby.

**3.** All references herein to monetary figures shall refer to currency of the United States of America, unless otherwise expressly provided.

#### C. Exhibits

All exhibits and schedules, if any, to the Plan are incorporated into and are part of the Plan as if set forth herein. All exhibits and schedules to the Plan, shall be filed with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court not later than seven (7) days prior to the deadline set by the Bankruptcy Court to vote to accept or reject the Plan. Such exhibits may be inspected in the office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court during normal hours of operation of the Bankruptcy Court, or on the website of the Debtors' Claims Agent at cases.primeclerk.com/ALCO. Holders of Claims or Equity Interests may also obtain a copy of such exhibits, once filed, from the Debtors' Claims Agent by a written request sent to the following address:

Prime Clerk LLC Attention: ALCO Claims Processing 830 3rd Avenue, 9th Floor New York, NY 10022 Telephone: (844) 794-3478 E mail: alcoinfo@primeclerk.com

### ARTICLE II.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRIORITY CLAIMS

#### A. Establishment of the Administrative Claims Bar Date

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, on or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern time, on the Administrative Claims Bar Date, each holder of an Administrative Claim shall file with the Bankruptcy Court and serve on counsel for (i) the Debtors, (ii) the Creditors' Committee, and (iii) the Liquidating Trustee, any request for payment of an Administrative Claim. Requests for payment of an Administrative Claim must include at a minimum: (i) the name of the holder of the Administrative Claim; (ii) the amount of the Administrative Claim; (iii) the basis of the Administrative Claim; and (iv) all supporting documentation for the Administrative Claim.

2. The request for payment of an Administrative Claim will be timely filed only if it is filed with the Bankruptcy Court by 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern time, on the Administrative Claims Bar Date. Requests for payment of Administrative Claims may <u>not</u> be delivered by facsimiles, telecopy, or electronic mail transmission.

**3.** Notwithstanding anything herein, the Debtors' Professionals and the Creditors' Committee's Professionals shall not be required to file a request for payment of any Administrative Claim on or before the Administrative Claims Bar Date for fees and expenses arising under sections 330, 331 or 503(b)(2-5) of the Bankruptcy Code, as such Professionals will instead file final fee applications as required by the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules and the Confirmation Order. Any professionals retained by the DIP Lenders shall similarly not be required to file a request for payment of any Administrative Claim on or before the Administrative Claims Bar Date for fees and expenses.

#### **B.** Administrative Claims

The Liquidating Trustee shall pay, from the Debtors' assets, each holder of an Allowed Administrative Claim, in satisfaction of such Allowed Administrative Claim, the full unpaid amount of such Allowed Administrative Claim in Cash: (1) on the Effective Date or as soon as practicable thereafter (or, if not then due, when such Allowed Administrative Claim is due or as soon as practicable thereafter); (2) if such Claim is Allowed after the Effective Date, on the date such Claim is Allowed or as soon as practicable thereafter (or, if not then due, when such Allowed Administrative Claim is due or as soon as practicable thereafter); (3) at such time and upon such terms as may be agreed upon by such holder and the Liquidating Trustee; or (4) at such time and upon such terms as set forth in an order of the Bankruptcy Court; provided, however, that Administrative Claims do not include Administrative Claims filed after the Administrative Claims Bar Date or Administrative Claims filed or asserted pursuant to section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code after the General Bar Date, unless the Liquidating Trustee, in its discretion, chooses to treat such Claims as Administrative Claims.

#### C. Professional Compensation and Reimbursement Claims

The deadline for submission by Professionals for Bankruptcy Court approval of Accrued Professional Compensation shall be sixty (60) days after the Effective Date. Any Professional or other Person or Entity that is required to file and serve a request for approval of Accrued Professional Compensation and fails to timely file and serve such request on or before such date shall be forever barred, estopped and enjoined from asserting such request or participating in Distributions under the Plan on account thereof. All Professionals employed by the Debtors or the Creditors' Committee, shall provide to the Debtors an estimate of their Accrued Professional Compensation through the Effective Date (including an estimate for fees and expenses expected to be incurred after the Effective Date to prepare and prosecute allowance of final fee applications) before the Effective Date.

#### **D. Priority Tax Claims**

The Liquidating Trustee shall pay, from the Debtors' assets, each holder of an Allowed Priority Tax Claim, in satisfaction of such Allowed Priority Tax Claim, the full unpaid amount of such Allowed Priority Tax Claim in Cash, on the later of (i) the Effective Date, (ii) the date such Allowed Priority Tax Claim becomes Allowed or as soon as practicable thereafter and (iii) the date such Allowed Priority Tax Claim is payable under applicable non-bankruptcy law; provided, however that the Liquidating Trustee shall not pay any premium, interest or penalty in connection with such Allowed Priority Tax Claim.

#### E. Other Priority Claims

The Liquidating Trustee shall pay, from the Debtors' assets, each holder of an Allowed Other Priority Claim, in satisfaction of such Allowed Other Priority Claim, the full unpaid amount of such Allowed Other Priority Claim in Cash, on the later of (i) the Effective Date or as soon as practicable thereafter, (ii) the date such Allowed Other Priority Claim becomes Allowed or as soon as practicable thereafter and (iii) the date such Allowed Other Priority Claim is payable under applicable non-bankruptcy law.

#### ARTICLE III.

#### CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF CLAIMS AND EQUITY INTERESTS

#### A. Summary

**1.** The Plan constitutes a separate chapter 11 plan of liquidation for each Debtor. In accordance with section 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors have not classified Administrative Claims, Priority Tax Claims and Other Priority Claims, as described in Article II.

2. The following table classifies Claims against and Equity Interests in the Debtors for all purposes, including voting, confirmation and Distribution pursuant hereto and pursuant to sections 1122 and 1123(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. The Plan deems a Claim or Equity Interest to be classified in a particular Class only to the extent that the Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of that Class and shall be deemed classified in a different Class to the extent that any remainder of such Claim or Equity Interest qualifies within the description of

such different Class. A Claim or Equity Interest is in a particular Class only to the extent that any such Claim or Equity Interest is Allowed in that Class and has not been paid or otherwise settled prior to the Effective Date. Each Class set forth below is treated hereunder as a distinct Class for voting and Distribution purposes.

**3.** Summary of Classification and Treatment of Classified Claims and Equity Interests.

<u>Class</u>	Claim	<u>Status</u>	Voting Rights	
1	Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Deemed to Accept	
2	General Unsecured Claims	Impaired	Entitled to Vote	
3	Subordinated Claims	Impaired and No Distribution	Deemed to Reject	
4	Equity Interests	Impaired and No Distribution	Deemed to Reject	

## **B.** Classification and Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests

## 1. Secured Claims (Class 1)

(a) **Classification**: Class 1 consists of Secured Claims.

(b) Treatment: Except to the extent that a holder of an Allowed Secured Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a less favorable classification and treatment, each holder of an Allowed Secured Claim shall receive, at the sole option of the Liquidating Trustee, Cash in the full amount of such Allowed Secured Claim or the collateral securing its Allowed Secured Claim, on or as soon as practicable after the latest to occur of (i) the Effective Date; (ii) the first Business Day after the date that is ten (10) Business Days after the date such Claim becomes an Allowed Other Secured Claim; and (iii) the date or dates agreed to by the Liquidating Trustee and the holder of the Allowed Secured Claim.

(c) Voting: Class 1 is Unimpaired and, therefore, holders of Secured Claims in Class 1 are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

## 2. General Unsecured Claims (Class 2)

(a) Classification: Class 2 consists of General Unsecured Claims.

(b) **Treatment**: Except to the extent that a holder of an Allowed General Unsecured Claim has been paid by the Debtors prior to the Effective Date or agrees to a less favorable classification and treatment, each holder of an Allowed General Unsecured Claim shall receive their Pro Rata share of remaining Cash. Distributions to holders of Allowed General Unsecured Claims shall be made as soon as practicable as the Liquidating Trustee may determine in its sole discretion.

(c) Voting: Class 2 is Impaired and, therefore, holders of General Unsecured Claims in Class 2 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan.

## 3. Subordinated Claims (Class 3)

(a) Classification: Class 3 consists of Subordinated Claims.

(b) **Treatment**: Class 3 is Impaired and will receive no Distribution under the Plan.

(c) Voting: Class 3 will receive no Distribution under the Plan and therefore, holders of Subordinated Claims in Class 3 are deemed to have rejected the Plan and are not entitled to vote on the Plan.

## 4. Equity Interests (Class 4)

(d) Classification: Class 4 consists of Equity Interests.

(e) **Treatment**: Class 4 is Impaired and will receive no Distribution under the Plan. All equity interest/shares of stock in Alco Stores, Inc. shall be deemed cancelled upon the Effective Date.

(f) Voting: Class 4 will receive no Distribution under the Plan and therefore, holders of Equity Interests in Class 4 are deemed to have rejected the Plan and are not entitled to vote on the Plan.

## C. Special Provision Governing Unimpaired Claims

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, nothing under the Plan shall affect the Debtors' rights with respect to any Unimpaired Claim, including, without limitation, all rights in respect of legal and equitable defenses to or setoffs or recoupments against any such Unimpaired Claim.

#### D. Nonconsensual Confirmation

If any Impaired Class of Claims entitled to vote does not accept the Plan by the requisite statutory majority provided in section 1126 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors reserve the right to amend the Plan or to undertake to have the Bankruptcy Court confirm the Plan under section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, or both. With respect to Impaired Classes that are deemed to reject the Plan, the Debtors intend to request that the Bankruptcy Court confirm the Plan pursuant to section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code notwithstanding the deemed rejection of the Plan by such Class of Claims.

## ARTICLE IV.

#### MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

#### A. Establishment of Liquidating Trust

On the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall sign the Liquidating Trust Agreement and, in his capacity as Liquidating Trustee, accept all Liquidating Trust Assets on behalf of the beneficiaries thereof, and be authorized to obtain, seek the turnover, liquidate, and collect all of the Liquidating Trust Assets not in his possession. The Liquidating Trust will then be deemed created and effective without any further action by the Bankruptcy Court or any Person as of the Effective Date. The Liquidating Trust shall be established for the purposes of (i) liquidating any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets; (ii) prosecuting and resolving the Causes of Action; (iii) maximizing recovery of the Liquidating Trust Assets for the benefit of the beneficiaries thereof; and (iv) distributing the proceeds of the Liquidating Trust Assets to the beneficiaries in accordance with this Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement, with no objective to continue or engage in the conduct of a trade or business, except only in the event and to the extent necessary for, and consistent with, the liquidating purpose of the Liquidating Trust.

#### **B.** Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee

On the Effective Date, each of the members of the Creditors' Committee shall immediately, and without further need for further documentation or Bankruptcy Court approval, be deemed to act as the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee. On the Effective Date, the Creditors' Committee's Professionals shall be retained by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee, without further need for documentation or Bankruptcy Court approval, on the same terms and conditions in effect prior to the Effective Date. All fees and expenses incurred by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and its professionals following the Effective Date shall be paid from the Liquidating Trust Assets. The Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee may authorize its own dissolution by filing with the Bankruptcy Court an appropriate notice that its responsibilities hereunder have concluded. Unless earlier dissolved, the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee shall be dissolved as of the date the Chapter 11 Cases are closed.

#### C. Appointment of the Liquidating Trustee

The Liquidating Trustee shall be appointed by the Creditors' Committee, in consultation with the Debtors, and appointed pursuant to the Confirmation Order. Following appointment, the Liquidating Trustee shall act only at the direction of the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and in accordance with the Plan, and in such capacity shall have the same powers as the board of directors and officers of the Debtors, subject to the direction of the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee and the provisions hereof (and all bylaws, articles of incorporation and related corporate documents are deemed amended by this Plan to permit and authorize the same). The Liquidating Trustee may be removed at any time by the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee, with or without cause, upon at least ten (10) days' prior written notice to the United States Trustee and the Liquidating Trustee. In the event of resignation or removal, death or incapacity of the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee shall designate another Person or Entity to serve as Liquidating Trustee and thereupon the successor Liquidating

Trustee, without any further act or need for an order of the Bankruptcy Court, shall become fully vested with all of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the predecessor; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Liquidating Trustee shall be deemed removed on the date the Chapter 11 Cases are closed, and no successor thereto shall be designated. The Liquidating Trustee shall be entitled to compensation payable from the Liquidating Trust Assets as set forth in the Liquidating Trust Agreement.

## D. Beneficiaries of Liquidating Trust

The holders of General Unsecured Claims against the Debtors entitled to Distributions shall be the beneficiaries of the Liquidating Trust. Such beneficiaries shall be bound by the Liquidating Trust Agreement. The interests of the beneficiaries in the Liquidating Trust shall be uncertificated and nontransferable except upon death of the interest holder or by operation of law.

## E. Vesting and Transfer of Liquidating Trust Assets to the Liquidating Trust

Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1141(b), the Liquidating Trust Assets shall vest in the Liquidating Trust free and clear of all Liens, Claims and Interests, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Plan or in the Confirmation Order; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Liquidating Trustee may abandon or otherwise not accept any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets that the Liquidating Trustee believes, in good faith, have no value to the Liquidating Trust. Any non-Cash Liquidating Trust Assets that the Liquidating Trust Assets primarily consist of claims against third parties. These claims include, but are not limited to, (a) preference, fraudulent transfer and other avoidance claims pursuant to chapter 5 of the Bankruptcy Code and state law counterparts and (b) state and common law claims for breach of fiduciary duty, as against Creditors, former directors and officers of the Debtors for actions or inactions occurring prior to the Proxy Date (including, without limitation, former directors and officers Royce L. Winsten, Terrence M. Babila, Dennis E. Logue, Lolan C. Mackey and Richard E. Wilson), and other Persons. These claims will be preserved and transferred to the Liquidating Trust.

## F. Liquidating Trust Expenses

Subject to the provisions of the Liquidating Trust Agreement, all costs, expenses and obligations incurred by the Liquidating Trustee in administering this Plan, the Liquidating Trust, or in any manner connected, incidental or related thereto, in effecting distributions from, as applicable, the Liquidating Trust shall be a charge against the Liquidating Trust Assets remaining from time to time in the hands of the Liquidating Trustee. Such expenses shall be paid in accordance with the Liquidating Trust Agreement.

## G. Role of the Liquidating Trustee

**1.** The Liquidating Trustee shall be the exclusive trustee of the Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trust Assets for purposes of 31 U.S.C. § 3713(b) and 26 U.S.C. § 6012(b)(3). The powers, rights, and responsibilities of the Liquidating Trustee shall be specified in the

Liquidating Trust Agreement and shall include the authority and responsibility to: (a) receive, manage, invest, supervise, and protect the Liquidating Trust Assets; (b) pay taxes or other obligations incurred by the Liquidating Trust; (c) retain and compensate, without further order of the Bankruptcy Court, the services of employees, professionals and consultants to advise and assist in the administration, prosecution and distribution of Liquidating Trust Assets; (d) calculate and implement Distributions of Liquidating Trust Assets; (e) investigate, prosecute, compromise, and settle, in accordance with the specific terms of the Liquidating Trust Agreement, Causes of Action vested in the Liquidating Trust; (f) resolve issues involving Claims and Interests in accordance with this Plan; (g) undertake all administrative functions of the Plan Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, including the payment of fees payable to the United States Trustee and the ultimate closing of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases. The Liquidating Trust is the successor to the Debtors and their Estates.

2. On the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall: (a) take possession of all books, records, and files of the Debtors and their respective Estates; and (b) provide for the retention and storage of such books, records, and files until such time as the Liquidating Trust determines, in accordance with the Liquidating Trust Agreement, that retention of same is no longer necessary or required.

**3.** The Liquidating Trust may invest Cash (including any earnings thereon or proceeds therefrom) as permitted by Bankruptcy Code section 345 or in other prudent investments, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that such investments are permitted to be made by a liquidating trust within the meaning of Treasury Regulation section 301.7701-4(d), as reflected therein, or under applicable IRS guidelines, rulings, or other controlling authorities.

**4.** The Liquidating Trust shall have the right to object to Claims not otherwise Allowed in connection with post-Effective Date Claims allowance process.

5. In no event later than thirty (30) Business Days after the end of the first full month following the Effective Date and on a quarterly basis thereafter until all Cash in the Liquidating Trust has been distributed in accordance with this Plan, the Liquidating Trustee shall file with the Bankruptcy Court a report setting forth the amounts, recipients and dates of all Distributions made by the Liquidating Trustee under this Plan through each applicable reporting period.

6. The Liquidating Trustee shall file tax returns for the Liquidating Trust as a grantor trust pursuant to Treasury Regulation section 1.671-4(a) and in accordance with this Plan. The Liquidating Trust also shall annually (for tax years in which Distributions from the Liquidating Trust are made) send to each beneficiary a separate statement setting forth the beneficiary's share of items of income, gain, loss, deduction or credit and all such holders shall report such items on their federal income tax returns; provided, however, that no such statement need be sent to any Class that is not expected to receive any Distribution from the Liquidating Trust's taxable income, gain, loss, deduction or credit will be allocated to the Liquidating Trust's beneficiaries in accordance with their relative beneficial interests in the Liquidating Trust. As soon as possible after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall make a good faith valuation of assets of the Liquidating Trust, and such valuation shall be used consistently by all parties for all federal income tax purposes. The Liquidating Trust also shall

file (or cause to be filed) any other statements, returns, or disclosures relating to the Liquidating Trust that are required by any Governmental Unit for taxing purposes. The Liquidating Trust may request an expedited determination of taxes of the Debtors or of the Liquidating Trust under Bankruptcy Code section 505(b) for all tax returns filed for, or on behalf of, the Debtors and the Liquidating Trust for all taxable periods through the dissolution of the Liquidating Trust. The Liquidating Trust shall be responsible for filing all federal, state, and local tax returns for the Debtors and the Liquidating Trust. The Liquidating Trust is shall be responsible for filing Trust shall comply with all withholding and reporting requirements imposed by any federal, state, or local taxing authority, and all distributions made by the Liquidating Trust shall be subject to any such withholding and reporting requirements.

7. The Liquidating Trust shall be responsible for payments of all Allowed tax obligations of the Debtors, and any taxes imposed on the Liquidating Trust or the Liquidating Trust Assets.

## H. Preservation of Right to Conduct Investigations

The preservation for the Liquidating Trust of any and all rights to conduct investigations pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 is necessary and relevant to the liquidation and administration of the Liquidating Trust Assets. Accordingly, any and all rights to conduct investigations pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 held by the Debtors or the Creditors' Committee prior to the Effective Date shall vest with the Liquidating Trust and shall continue until dissolution of the Liquidating Trust.

## I. Prosecution and Resolution of Causes of Action

From and after the Effective Date, prosecution and settlement of all Causes of 1. Action transferred to the Liquidating Trust shall be the sole responsibility of the Liquidating Trust pursuant to this Plan and the Confirmation Order. From and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trust shall have exclusive rights, powers, and interests of the Debtors' Estates to pursue, settle or abandon such Causes of Action as the sole representative of the Debtors' Estates pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 1123(b)(3). Proceeds recovered from all Causes of Action will be deposited into the Liquidating Trust and will be distributed by the Liquidating Trustee to the beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and Liquidating Trust Agreement. All Causes of Action that are not expressly released or waived under this Plan are reserved and preserved and vest in the Liquidating Trust in accordance with this Plan. No Person may rely on the absence of a specific reference in this Plan, the Plan Supplement, or the Disclosure Statement to any Cause of Action against it as any indication that the Debtors or Liquidating Trustee will not pursue any and all available Causes of Action against such Person. The Liquidating Trustee expressly reserves all Causes of Action, except for any Causes of Action against any Person that are expressly released or waived under this Plan, and, therefore, no preclusion doctrine, including the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, estoppel (judicial, equitable, or otherwise), or laches, shall apply to such Causes of Action upon, after, or as a consequence of confirmation or consummation of this Plan. No claims or Causes of Action against the Released Parties shall be transferred to the Liquidating Trust, the Liquidating Trustee shall not have standing to pursue such claims or Causes of Action, and all such claims and Causes of Action shall be waived, released and discharged pursuant to the Plan.

2. Settlement by the Liquidating Trust of any Cause of Action transferred to the Liquidating Trust shall require: (i) approval only of the Liquidating Trustee if the amount claimed by the Liquidating Trust against a defendant is less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000); and (ii) approval of the Liquidating Trustee and the Bankruptcy Court, upon notice and a hearing, if the amount claimed by the Liquidating Trust against a defendant is unliquidated or equals to or exceeds one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

# J. Federal Income Tax Treatment of the Liquidating Trust for the Liquidating Trust Assets

For federal income tax purposes, it is intended that the Liquidating Trust be classified as a liquidating trust under section 301.7701-4 of the Treasury regulations and that such trust be owned by its beneficiaries. Accordingly, for federal income tax purposes, it is intended that the beneficiaries be treated as if they had received a distribution from the Debtors' Estates of an undivided interest in each of the Liquidating Trust Assets (to the extent of the value of their respective share in the applicable assets) and then contributed such interests to the Liquidating Trust, and the Liquidating Trust's beneficiaries will be treated as the grantors and owners thereof.

## K. Limitation of Liability

No recourse will ever be had, directly or indirectly, against the Liquidating Trustee, its members, officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns, by legal or equitable proceedings or by virtue of any statute or otherwise, or any deed of trust, mortgage, pledge or note, nor upon any promise, contract, instrument, undertaking, obligation, covenant or agreement whatsoever executed by the Liquidating Trust under this Plan or by reason of the creation of any indebtedness by the Liquidating Trust or the Liquidating Trustee under this Plan. All such liabilities under this Plan will be enforceable only against, and will be satisfied only out of, the Liquidating Trust Assets. The Liquidating Trustee and its agents shall not be deemed to be the agent for any holder of a Claim in connection with Distributions made under this Plan. The Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trustee and their respective officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns will not be liable for any act they may do, or omit to do hereunder in good faith and in the exercise of their sound judgment; provided, however, that this section will not apply to any gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Liquidating Trust and the Liquidating Trustee or their respective officers, directors, employees, professionals, representatives, agents, successors or assigns.

## L. Term of Liquidating Trust

The Liquidating Trustee shall be discharged and the Liquidating Trust shall be terminated, at such time as (i) all Disputed Claims have been resolved, (ii) all of the Liquidating Trust Assets have been liquidated, (iii) all duties and obligations of the Liquidating Trustee under the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been fulfilled, (iv) all Distributions required to be made by the Liquidating Trust under this Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been made, and (v) the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases have been closed; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that in no event shall the Liquidating Trust be dissolved later than three (3) years from the Effective Date unless the Bankruptcy Court, upon motion within the six-month period prior to the third

anniversary (or the end of any extension period approved by the Bankruptcy Court), determines that a fixed period extension not to exceed one (1) year is necessary to facilitate or complete the recovery and liquidation of the Liquidating Trust Assets.

### M. Retention of Professionals by Liquidating Trust

The Liquidating Trustee may retain and compensate attorneys and other professionals to assist in its duties on such terms (including on a contingency or hourly basis) as it deems reasonable and appropriate without Bankruptcy Court approval.

## N. Conflicts Between the Liquidating Trust Agreement and the Plan

In the event of any inconsistencies or conflict between the Liquidating Trust Agreement and this Plan, the terms and provisions of this Plan shall control.

## O. Excess Funds

Subject to Article V.M, in the event there is Liquidating Trust Distributable Cash remaining after all required Distributions under the Plan and the Liquidating Trust Agreement have been made, such Cash will be turned over to the Attorney General for the State of Texas in accordance with Texas law.

## P. Cancellation of Existing Securities and Agreements

Except for purposes of evidencing a right to Distributions under the Plan or as otherwise provided hereunder, on the Effective Date, all agreements and other documents evidencing Claims or rights of any holder of a Claim or Equity Interest against any of the Debtors, including, but not limited to, all indentures, notes, bonds and share certificates evidencing such Claims and Equity Interests and any agreements or guarantees related thereto shall be cancelled, terminated, deemed null and void and satisfied, as against the Debtors but not as against any other Person.

## Q. Operations of the Debtors Between the Confirmation Date and the Effective Date

The Debtors shall continue to operate as Debtors in Possession during the period from the Confirmation Date through and until the Effective Date, and as a liquidating estate on and after the Effective Date. The retention and employment of the Professionals retained by the Debtors shall terminate as of the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Debtors shall be deemed to exist, and their Professionals shall be retained, after such date only with respect to (a) applications filed pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, and to the extent necessary (b) motions seeking the enforcement of the provisions of the Plan or the Confirmation Order. Upon the Effective Date, the Debtors' board of directors shall be relieved of their duties and the Debtors shall be dissolved.

#### **R.** Automatic Stay

The automatic stay provided for under section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code shall remain in effect in the Chapter 11 Cases until the Effective Date.

#### S. The Creditors' Committee

Upon the Effective Date, the Creditors' Committee shall dissolve, and their members shall be released and discharged from all further authority, duties, responsibilities and obligations relating to and arising from the Chapter 11 Cases. The retention and employment of the Professionals retained by the Creditors' Committee shall terminate as of the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Creditors' Committee shall exist, and their Professionals shall be retained, after such date with respect to applications filed pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and motions seeking the enforcement of the provisions of the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

#### T. Books and Records

As part of the appointment of the Liquidating Trustee, to the extent not already transferred on the Effective Date, the Debtors shall transfer dominion and control over all of their books and records to the Liquidating Trustee in whatever form, manner or media those books and records existed immediately prior to the transfer thereof to the Liquidating Trustee. The Liquidating Trustee may abandon all such books and records on or after ninety (90) days from the Effective Date, <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that the Liquidating Trustee shall not dispose or abandon any books and records that are reasonably likely to pertain to pending litigation in which the Debtors or their current or former officers or directors are a party or that pertain to General Unsecured Claims without further order of the Bankruptcy Court. Pursuant to section 554 of the Bankruptcy Court filings are required to effectuate the aforementioned abandonment of the books and records of the Debtors.

#### U. D&O Insurance Policies

No prepaid D&O Insurance Policy shall be cancelled, and the Debtors' directors, officers and employees who have valid claims against the D&O Insurance Policies for indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation of liability may be paid from the D&O Insurance Policies to the extent of the coverage provided by the D&O Insurance Policies. As such, and notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, pursuant to sections 365(a) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, the D&O Insurance Policies, to the extent the contract providing for such is determined to be an executory contract, shall be deemed assumed by the Debtors.

#### ARTICLE V.

## **PROVISIONS GOVERNING VOTING AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

## A. Voting of Claims

Each holder of an Allowed Claim in an Impaired Class of Claims that is entitled to vote on the Plan pursuant to Article II and Article III of the Plan shall be entitled to vote separately to accept or reject the Plan, as provided in such order as is entered by the Bankruptcy Court establishing procedures with respect to the solicitation and tabulation of votes to accept or reject the Plan, or any other order or orders of the Bankruptcy Court. For purposes of calculating the number of Allowed Claims in a Class of Claims that have voted to accept or reject the Plan under section 1126(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, all Allowed Claims in such Class held by one Entity or any Affiliate thereof shall be aggregated and treated as one Allowed Claim in such Class. For purposes of any Claim in any Impaired Class that is Disputed as to its amount only, the holder of such claim shall be entitled to vote on the Plan as if such holder held an Allowed Claim in an amount equal to the undisputed portion of such Claim.

### **B.** Distribution Dates

Distributions to holders of Claims shall be made as provided in Articles II and III of the Plan. In the event that any payment or act under the Plan is required to be made or performed on a date that is not a Business Day, then the making of such payment or the performance of such act may be completed on the next succeeding Business Day, but shall be deemed to have been completed as of the required date.

## C. Disbursing Agent

All Distributions under the Plan by the Liquidating Trustee shall be made by the Liquidating Trustee as Disbursing Agent or such other entity designated by the Liquidating Trustee as Disbursing Agent.

The Disbursing Agent shall be empowered to (a) effect all actions and execute all agreements, instruments and other documents necessary to perform their duties under the Plan, (b) make all Distributions contemplated by the Plan, (c) employ professionals to represent them with respect to their responsibilities, and (d) exercise such other powers as may be vested in the Disbursing Agent by order of the Bankruptcy Court, pursuant to the Plan or as deemed by the Disbursing Agent to be necessary and proper to implement the provisions of the Plan.

The Disbursing Agent shall only be required to act and make Distributions in accordance with the terms of the Plan and shall have no (x) liability for actions taken in accordance with the Plan or in reliance upon information provided to them in accordance with the Plan or (y) obligation or liability for Distributions under the Plan to any party who does not hold an Allowed Claim at the time of Distribution or who does not otherwise comply with the terms of the Plan.

Except as otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, any reasonable fees and expenses incurred by the Liquidating Trustee acting as the Disbursing Agent (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) on or after the Effective Date shall be paid in Cash from the Debtors' assets in the ordinary course of business.

## D. Record Date for Distributions

Except as otherwise provided in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, the transferees of Claims that are transferred pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3001 on or prior to the Record Date will be treated as the holders of those Claims for all purposes, notwithstanding that any period provided by Bankruptcy Rule 3001 for objecting to the transfer may not have expired by the Record Date. The Liquidating Trustee shall have no obligation to recognize any transfer of any Claim occurring after the Record Date. In making any Distribution with respect to any Claim, the Liquidating Trustee shall be entitled instead to recognize and deal with, for all purposes hereunder, only the Entity that is listed on the proof of Claim filed with respect thereto or on the

Schedules as the holder thereof as of the close of business on the Record Date and upon such other evidence or record of transfer or assignment that was known to the Debtors as of the Record Date and is available to the Liquidating Trustee.

#### E. Delivery of Distributions

Subject to Bankruptcy Rule 9010 and except as otherwise provided herein, Distributions to the holders of Allowed Claims shall be made by the Disbursing Agent at (a) the address of each holder as set forth in the Schedules, unless superseded by the address set forth on proofs of Claim filed by such holder or (b) the last known address of such holder if no proof of Claim is filed or if the Liquidating Trustee have not been notified in writing of a change of address.

#### F. Undeliverable and Unclaimed Distributions

In the event that any Distribution to any holder of an Allowed Claim made by the Liquidating Trustee is returned as undeliverable, the Disbursing Agent shall use commercially reasonable efforts to determine the current address of each holder, but no Distribution to such holder shall be made unless and until the Disbursing Agent has determined the then current address of such holder; provided, however, that all Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims made by the Liquidating Trustee that are unclaimed for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the first attempted Distribution shall have its, his or her Claim for such undeliverable Distribution deemed satisfied and will be forever barred from asserting any such Claim against the Debtors or their property. Any Distributions which are undeliverable or have not been negotiated within the time period set forth above shall be deemed unclaimed property under section 347(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and revested in the Debtors' Estates. The Liquidating Trustee shall have no further obligation to make any Distribution to the holder of such Claim on account of such Claim, and any entitlement of any holder of such Claim to any such Distributions shall be extinguished and forever barred; provided, however, that the holder of such Claim may receive future Distributions on account of such Claim by contacting the Liquidating Trustee at some point prior to the final Distribution.

#### G. Manner of Cash Payments Under the Plan

Except as otherwise provided herein, Cash payments made pursuant to the Plan shall be in United States dollars by checks drawn on a domestic bank or by wire transfer from a domestic bank, at the option of the Liquidating Trustee.

#### H. Compliance with Tax Requirements

The Disbursing Agent may withhold and pay to the appropriate taxing authority all amounts required to be withheld pursuant to the Tax Code or any provision of any foreign, state or local tax law with respect to any payment or Distribution on account of Claims. All such amounts withheld and paid to the appropriate taxing authority shall be treated as amounts distributed to such holders of the Claims. The Disbursing Agent shall be authorized to collect such tax information from the holders of Claims (including social security numbers or other tax identification numbers) as it in its sole discretion deems necessary to effectuate the Plan. In order to receive Distributions under the Plan, all holders of Claims will need to identify themselves to the Disbursing Agent and provide all tax information the Disbursing Agent deems appropriate (including completing the appropriate Form W-8 or Form W-9, as applicable to each holder). The Disbursing Agent may refuse to make a Distribution to any holder of a Claim that fails to furnish such information within the time period specified by the Disbursing Agent and such Distribution shall be deemed an unclaimed Distribution under the Plan, and, <u>provided further</u> that, if the Disbursing Agent fails to withhold in respect of amounts received or distributable with respect to any such holder and such Disbursing Agent is later held liable for the amount of such withholding, such holder shall reimburse the Disbursing Agent for such liability. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, (a) each holder of an Allowed Claim that is to receive a Distribution under the Plan shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for the satisfaction and payment of any tax obligations imposed by any governmental unit, and (b) no Distributions shall be required to be made to or on behalf of such holder pursuant to the Plan unless and until such holder has made arrangements satisfactory to the Disbursing Agent for the payment and satisfaction of such tax obligations or has, to the Disbursing Agent's satisfaction, established an exemption therefrom.

## I. No Payments of Fractional Dollars

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, no payment of fractional dollars shall be made pursuant to the Plan. Whenever any payment of a fraction of a dollar under the Plan would otherwise be required, the actual Distribution made shall reflect a rounding down of such fraction to the nearest whole dollar.

#### J. Interest on Claims

Except as specifically provided for in this Plan or the Confirmation Order or required by the Bankruptcy Code, interest shall not accrue on Claims and no holder of a Claim shall be entitled to interest on any Claim accruing on or after the Petition Date. Interest shall not accrue on any General Unsecured Claim that is a Disputed Claim in respect of the period from the Effective Date to the date a final Distribution is made thereon if and after that Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim. Except as expressly provided herein or in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, no prepetition Claim shall be Allowed to the extent that it is for postpetition interest or similar charges.

#### K. No Distribution in Excess of Allowed Amount of Claim

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Plan, no holder of an Allowed Claim shall receive in respect of that Claim any Distribution in excess of the Allowed amount of such Claim.

## L. Setoff and Recoupment

The Liquidating Trustee may setoff against, or recoup from, any Claim and the Distributions to be made pursuant to the Plan in respect thereof, any Claims or defenses of any nature whatsoever that any of the Debtors or the Estates may have against the holder of such Claim, but neither the failure to do so nor the allowance of any Claim under the Plan shall constitute a waiver or release by the Debtors, the Estates or the Liquidating Trustee of any right of setoff or recoupment that any of them may have against the holder of any Claim. Any such setoffs or recoupments may be challenged in Bankruptcy Court. Notwithstanding any provision

in the Plan to the contrary, nothing herein shall bar any creditor from asserting its setoff or recoupment rights to the extent permitted under section 553 or any other provision of the Bankruptcy Code; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that such setoff or recoupment rights are timely asserted; <u>provided</u> <u>further</u> that all rights of the Debtors, their estates and the Liquidating Trustee with respect thereto are reserved.

## M. De Minimis Distributions; Charitable Donation

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary therein, the Liquidating Trustee shall not be required to make a Distribution to any Creditor if the dollar amount of the Distribution is less than \$25 or otherwise so small that the cost of making that Distribution exceeds the dollar amount of such Distribution. On or about the time that the final Distribution is made, the Liquidating Trustee may make a charitable donation with undistributed funds if, in the reasonable judgment of the Liquidating Trustee, the cost of calculating and making the final Distribution of the remaining funds is excessive in relation to the benefits to the or holders of Claims who would otherwise be entitled to such Distributions, and such charitable donation is provided to an entity not otherwise related to the Debtors or the Liquidating Trustee.

#### N. United States Trustee Fees

All fees due and payable pursuant to section 1930 of Title 28 of the U.S. Code prior to the Effective Date shall be paid by the Debtors. On and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall pay any and all such fees payable by the Debtors, when due and payable, and shall file with the Bankruptcy Court quarterly reports for each of the Debtors, in a form reasonably acceptable to the U.S. Trustee. Each Debtor shall remain obligated to pay quarterly fees to the Office of the U.S. Trustee until the earliest of that particular Debtor's case being closed (whether closed pursuant to Article IV.P of this Plan or otherwise), dismissed or converted to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### **O.** Withholding from Distributions

Any federal, state or local withholding taxes or other amounts required to be withheld under applicable law shall be deducted from Distributions pursuant to the Plan. The Liquidating Trustee may withhold from amounts distributable pursuant to the Plan to any Person or Entity any and all amounts, determined in the sole and reasonable discretion of the Liquidating Trustee, required to be withheld by any law, regulation, rule, ruling, directive, or other governmental requirement.

#### P. No Distributions on Late-Filed Claims

Except as otherwise provided in a Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court, any Claim as to which a proof of Claim was required to be filed and was first filed after the applicable bar date in the Chapter 11 Cases, including, without limitation, the General Bar Date and any bar date established in the Plan or in the Confirmation Order, shall automatically be deemed a late-filed Claim that is disallowed in the Chapter 11 Cases, without the need for (a) any further action by the Liquidating Trustee or (b) an order of the Bankruptcy Court. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to expand or modify the applicable bar dates or any orders of the Bankruptcy Court

relating thereto. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee and/or their successors and assigns agree that Claim No. 2570 asserted by Brother International Corp. shall be deemed timely filed and further agree to not object to such claim on the basis of timeliness; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, the Debtors and the Liquidating Trustee reserve any and all rights to object to the claim on any substantive basis other than timeliness.

#### ARTICLE VI.

#### **DISPUTED CLAIMS**

#### A. Disputed Claims Reserve

After the Effective Date, the Disputed Claims Reserve shall be managed by the Liquidating Trustee for the treatment of Disputed Claims. On each Distribution date after the Effective Date in which the Liquidating Trustee makes Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims, the Liquidating Trustee shall retain on account of Disputed Claims an amount the Liquidating Trustee estimates is necessary to fund the Pro Rata Share of such Distributions to holders of Disputed Claims if such Claims were Allowed, with any Disputed Claims that are unliquidated or contingent being reserved in an amount reasonably determined by the Liquidating Trustee. Cash retained on account of such Disputed Claims shall be retained in the Disputed Claims Reserve for the benefit of the holders of Disputed Claims pending a determination of their entitlement thereto under the terms of the Plan. If any Disputed Claims are disallowed or Allowed in an amount that is lower than the aggregate assets retained on account of such Disputed Claims for a such disallowance or allowance return the assets that exceed the Allowed amount of such Claim to the Debtors' Estates.

#### **B.** Resolution of Disputed Claims

The Liquidating Trustee shall have the right to make and file objections to Claims in the Bankruptcy Court. Unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court after notice and a hearing, all Disputed Claims shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court.

#### C. Objection Deadline

All objections to Disputed Claims shall be filed no later than the Claims Objection Bar Date, unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court after notice and a hearing, with notice only to those parties entitled to notice in the Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

#### **D.** Estimation of Claims

At any time, the Liquidating Trustee may request that the Bankruptcy Court estimate any contingent or unliquidated Claim to the extent permitted by section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code regardless of whether the Liquidating Trustee or the Debtors have previously objected to such Claim or whether the Bankruptcy Court has ruled on any such objection, and the Bankruptcy Court shall have jurisdiction to estimate any Claim at any time during litigation concerning any objection to such Claim, including during the pendency of any appeal relating to

any such objection. If the Bankruptcy Court estimates any contingent or unliquidated Claim, that estimated amount shall constitute either the Allowed amount of such Claim or a maximum limitation on the Claim, as determined by the Bankruptcy Court. If the estimated amount constitutes a maximum limitation on the Claim, the Liquidating Trustee may elect to pursue supplemental proceedings to object to the ultimate allowance of the Claim. All of the aforementioned Claims objection, estimation and resolution procedures are cumulative and not exclusive of one another. Claims may be estimated and subsequently compromised, settled, withdrawn or resolved by any mechanism approved by the Bankruptcy Court.

#### E. No Distributions Pending Allowance

Notwithstanding any other provision in the Plan, if any portion of a Claim is disputed, no payment or Distribution provided under the Plan shall be made on account of such Claim unless and until such Disputed Claim becomes an Allowed Claim.

To the extent that a Disputed Claim ultimately becomes an Allowed Claim, Distributions (if any) shall be made to the holder of such Allowed Claim in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. Upon allowance, a holder of the Allowed Disputed Claim shall receive any Distributions that would have been made up to the date of allowance to such holder under the Plan had the Disputed Claim been allowed on the Effective Date.

#### F. Resolution of Claims

On and after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall have the authority to compromise, settle, otherwise resolve or withdraw any objections to Claims, and to compromise, settle, or otherwise resolve any Disputed Claims without approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

#### ARTICLE VII.

#### TREATMENT OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES

#### A. Assumption or Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

Pursuant to sections 365(a) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, upon the Effective Date, all executory contracts and unexpired leases that exist between the Debtors and any Person or Entity shall be deemed rejected by the Debtors, except for any executory contract or unexpired leases (i) that has been assumed or rejected pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court entered prior to the Effective Date, (ii) as to which a motion for approval of the assumption of such executory contract or unexpired lease has been filed and served prior to the Effective Date or (iii) that is specifically designated as a contract to be assumed on Schedule 7.1, which Schedule shall be contained in the Plan Supplement; provided, however, that the Debtors reserve the right, on or prior to the Confirmation Date, to amend Schedule 7.1 to delete any executory contract therefrom, or add any executory contract, in which event such executory contract(s) shall be deemed to be, respectively, either rejected or assumed as of the Effective Date. Subject to the occurrence of the Effective Date, entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute approval of such assumption or rejection pursuant to section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that each such assumption or rejection is in the best interests of the Debtors, their Estates, and all parties in interest in the Chapter 11 Cases.

## B. Cure of Defaults

Except to the extent that different treatment has been agreed to by the non-Debtor party or parties to any executory contract to be assumed pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan, the Debtors shall, pursuant to the provisions of sections 1123(a)(5)(G) and 1123(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code and consistent with the requirements of section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, within at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Confirmation Hearing, file with the Bankruptcy Court and serve by first class mail on each non-debtor party to such executory contracts to be assumed pursuant to Article VII.A of the Plan, an Assumption Notice, which shall list the cure amount as to each executory contract to be assumed. The parties to such executory contracts to be assumed or assumed and assigned by the Debtors shall have ten (10) days from the date of service of the Assumption Notice to file and serve any objection to assumption or the cure amounts listed by the Debtors. If there are any objections filed, the Bankruptcy Court shall hear the objections at the Confirmation Hearing or on such other date as may be set by the Bankruptcy Court. Notwithstanding Article VII.A of the Plan, the Debtors shall retain their rights to reject any of their executory contracts that are subject to a dispute concerning amounts necessary to cure any defaults through the Confirmation Date.

#### C. Claims Based on Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases

Claims created by the rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases pursuant to Article VII.A herein, must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee no later than thirty (30) days after service of notice of the Effective Date. Any Claims arising from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease pursuant to Article VII.A herein for which proofs of Claim are not timely filed within that time period will be forever barred from assertion against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, their successors and assigns, and their assets and properties, unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court or as otherwise provided herein. All such Claims shall, as of the Effective Date, be subject to the permanent injunction set forth in Article IX.F herein. Unless otherwise ordered by the Bankruptcy Court, all such Claims that are timely filed as provided herein shall be treated as General Unsecured Claims under the Plan and shall be subject to the provisions of Article III herein.

#### D. Indemnification and Reimbursement

Subject to the occurrence of the Effective Date, all Allowed Claims against the Debtors for indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation of liability of current or former directors, officers, or employees of the Debtors against any Claims, costs, liabilities or causes of action as provided in the Debtors' articles of organization, certificates of incorporation, bylaws, other organizational documents, or applicable law, shall, to the extent such indemnification, defense, reimbursement, or limitation is owed in connection with one or more events or omissions occurring before the Petition Date, be (i) paid only to the extent of any applicable insurance coverage, and (ii) to the extent a proof of Claim has been timely filed and is Allowed, treated as Allowed General Unsecured Claims to the extent such Claims are not covered by any applicable insurance, including deductibles. Nothing contained herein shall affect the rights of directors, officers or employees under any insurance policy or coverage with respect to such Claims, costs, liabilities or Causes of Action or limit the rights of the Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee or the Debtors' Estates to object to, seek to subordinate or otherwise contest or challenge Claims or rights asserted by any current or former officer, director or employee of the Debtors.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

## CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE

#### A. Conditions Precedent

The following are conditions precedent to the Effective Date that must be satisfied or waived:

1. The Bankruptcy Court shall have entered the Confirmation Order.

**2.** There shall be no stay or injunction in effect with respect to the Confirmation Order, which such Confirmation Order shall contain approval of the releases provided for herein.

**3.** The appointment of the Liquidating Trustee shall have been confirmed by order of the Bankruptcy Court.

4. All agreements and instruments that are exhibits to the Plan shall be in a form reasonably acceptable to the Debtors and the Creditors' Committee, and have been duly executed and delivered; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that no party to any such agreements and instruments may unreasonably withhold its execution and delivery of such documents to prevent this condition precedent from occurring.

#### B. Waiver

Notwithstanding the foregoing conditions in Article VIII.A, the Debtors reserve, in their sole discretion, the right to waive the occurrence of any condition precedent or to modify any of the foregoing conditions precedent. Any such written waiver of a condition precedent set forth in this Article may be effected at any time, without notice, without leave or order of the Bankruptcy Court, and without any formal action other than proceeding to consummate the Plan; provided, however, the Creditors' Committee shall have the right to be consulted on and consent to any proposed modification of the Plan, the Plan Supplement or the Confirmation Order. Any actions required to be taken on the Effective Date or Confirmation Date (as applicable) shall take place and shall be deemed to have occurred simultaneously, and no such action shall be deemed to have occurred simultaneously.

#### ARTICLE IX.

#### INDEMNIFICATION, RELEASE, INJUNCTIVE AND RELATED PROVISIONS

#### A. Compromise and Settlement

Pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, and in consideration for the Distributions and other benefits provided pursuant to the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall constitute a good faith compromise of all Claims and Equity

Interests. The entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the compromise or settlement of all Claims and Equity Interests, as well as a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that such compromise or settlement is fair, equitable, reasonable and in the best interests of the Debtors, the Estates and holders of Claims and Equity Interests.

### B. Releases

Releases by the Debtors and their Estates. 1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan to the contrary, as of the Effective Date, for the good and valuable consideration provided by each of the Released Parties, each of the Debtors and their current and former affiliates and Representatives and the Estates shall be deemed to have provided a full, complete, unconditional and irrevocable release to the Released Parties (and each such Released Party so released shall be deemed released by the Debtors and their current and former affiliates and Representatives, the Estates and the Creditors' Committee and its members but solely in their capacity as members of the Creditors' Committee and not in their individual capacities), from any and all Causes of Action and any other debts, obligations, rights, suits, damages, actions, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, whether accrued or unaccrued, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing before the Effective Date, as of the Effective Date or arising thereafter, in law, at equity, whether for tort, contract, violations of statutes (including but not limited to the federal or state securities laws), or otherwise, based in whole or in part upon any act or omission, transaction, or other occurrence or circumstances existing or taking place prior to or on the Effective Date arising from or related in any way to the Debtors, including, without limitation, those that any of the Debtors would have been legally entitled to assert or that any holder of a Claim or Equity Interest or other Entity would have been legally entitled to assert for or on behalf of any of the Debtors or the Estates, including those in any way related to the Chapter 11 Cases or the Plan; provided, however, that the foregoing release shall not prohibit the Debtors, the Estates or the Liquidating Trustee from asserting any and all defenses and counterclaims in respect of any Disputed Claim asserted by any Released Parties; provided further that nothing contained in the foregoing provision or elsewhere in the Plan or Confirmation Order shall be construed as a release against the Debtors' former officers and/or directors that served in such capacity on or before the Proxy Date based upon any acts, omissions, transactions or other occurrences or circumstances existing or taking place prior to the Proxy Date.

2. <u>Releases by Holders of Claims</u>. Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.B of the Plan, each Person, other than any of the Debtors, who votes to accept the Plan and does not mark such ballot to indicate their refusal to grant the release provided for in this paragraph, shall be deemed to fully, completely, unconditionally, irrevocably, and forever release the Released Parties of and from any and all Claims and Causes of Action and any other debts, obligations, rights, suits, damages, actions, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, whether accrued or unaccrued, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing before the Effective Date, as of the Effective Date or arising thereafter, in law, at equity, whether for tort, contract, violations of statutes (including but not limited to the federal or state securities laws), or otherwise, based in whole or in part upon any act or omission, transaction, or other occurrence or circumstances existing or taking place prior to or on the Effective Date arising from or related in any way to the Debtors and their

current and former affiliates and Representatives, whether direct, derivative, accrued or unaccrued, liquidated or unliquidated, fixed or contingent, matured or unmatured, disputed or undisputed, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, in law, equity or otherwise.

3. Entry of the Confirmation Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the releases set forth in this Article IX.B pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019 and its finding that they are: (a) in exchange for good and valuable consideration, representing a good faith settlement and compromise of the Claims and Causes of Action released by this Plan; (b) in the best interests of the Debtors and all holders of Claims and Equity Interests; (c) fair, equitable and reasonable; (d) approved after due notice and opportunity for hearing; and (e) a bar to the assertion of any Claim or Cause of Action thereby released.

## C. Exculpation

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan to the contrary, the Released Parties shall neither have nor incur any liability relating to these Chapter 11 Cases to any Entity for any and all Claims and Causes of Action arising after the Petition Date and through the Effective Date, including any act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or related to, formulating, negotiating, preparing, disseminating, implementing, administering, confirming or consummating the Plan or distributing property thereunder, the Disclosure Statement, or any other contract, instrument, release or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Plan or any other postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with the Chapter 11 Cases; provided, however, that the foregoing provisions of this Article IX.C shall have no effect on the liability of any Entity that results from any such act or omission that is determined in a Final Order to have constituted gross negligence or willful misconduct. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Article IX.C of the Plan to the contrary, nothing shall restrict the United States Securities and Exchange Commission from bringing any regulatory or enforcement action for violation of the federal securities laws respecting any parties otherwise protected thereunder.

#### **D. Preservation of Causes of Action**

## 1. Vesting of Causes of Action

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or Confirmation Order, in accordance with section 1123(b)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, any Causes of Action that the Debtors and the Estates may hold against any Entity shall remain with the Debtors and the Estates on and after the Effective Date.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or Confirmation Order, after the Effective Date, the Liquidating Trustee shall have the exclusive right to institute, prosecute, abandon, settle or compromise any Causes of Action that were held by the Debtors and the Estates, in its sole discretion and without further order of the Bankruptcy

Court, in any court or other tribunal, including, without limitation, in an adversary proceeding filed in one or more of the Chapter 11 Cases.

#### 2. Preservation of All Causes of Action Not Expressly Settled or Released

Unless a Cause of Action against a holder or other Entity is expressly **(a)** waived, relinquished, released, compromised or settled in the Plan or any Final Order (including the Confirmation Order) of the Bankruptcy Court, the Debtors and their Estates expressly reserve such Cause of Action for later adjudication or administration by the Liquidating Trustee (including, without limitation, Causes of Action not specifically identified or described in the Plan or elsewhere or of which the Debtors may presently be unaware or which may arise or exist by reason of additional facts or circumstances unknown to the Debtors at this time or facts or circumstances which may change or be different from those the Debtors now believe to exist) and, therefore, no preclusion doctrine, including, without limitation, the doctrines of res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim preclusion, waiver, estoppel (judicial, equitable or otherwise) or laches shall apply to such Causes of Action upon or after the entry of the Confirmation Order or Effective Date based on the Disclosure Statement, Plan or Confirmation Order, except where such Causes of Action have been released in the Plan or any other Final Order (including the Confirmation Order). In addition, the Debtors and their Estates expressly reserve the right of the Liquidating Trustee to pursue or adopt any claims alleged in any lawsuit in which the Debtors are a defendant or an interested party, against any Entity, including, without limitation, the plaintiffs or co-defendants in such lawsuits.

(b) Subject to the immediately preceding paragraph, any Entity to whom the Debtors have incurred an obligation (whether on account of services, purchase or sale of goods or otherwise), or who has received services from the Debtors or a transfer of money or property of the Debtors, or who has transacted business with the Debtors, or leased equipment or property from the Debtors should assume that any such obligation, transfer, or transaction may be reviewed by the Liquidating Trustee subsequent to the Effective Date and may be the subject of an action after the Effective Date, regardless of whether: (i) such Entity has filed a proof of Claim against the Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases; (ii) the Debtors have objected to any such Entity's proof of Claim; (iii) any such Entity's Claim was included in the Schedules; (iv) the Debtors have objected to any such Entity's scheduled Claim; or (v) any such Entity's scheduled Claim has been identified by the Debtors as disputed, contingent or unliquidated.

#### E. Injunction

1. From and after the Effective Date, all Entities are permanently enjoined from commencing or continuing in any manner against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns, and their assets and properties, as the case may be, any suit, action or other proceeding, on account of or respecting any Claim or Equity Interest, demand, liability, obligation, debt, right, Cause of Action, interest or remedy released or satisfied or to be released or satisfied pursuant to the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

2. Except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Plan or in obligations issued pursuant to the Plan, from and after the Effective Date, all Entities shall be precluded from asserting against the Debtors, the Estates, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties, any other Claims or Equity Interests based upon any documents, instruments, or any act or omission, transaction or other activity of any kind or nature that occurred prior to the Effective Date, solely to the extent that (a) such Claims or Equity Interests have been released or satisfied pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order or (b) such Claims, Equity Interests, actions or assertions of Liens relate to property that will be distributed pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order.

**3.** The rights afforded in the Plan and the treatment of all Claims and Equity Interests in the Plan shall be in exchange for and in complete satisfaction of Claims and Equity Interests against the Debtors or any of their assets or properties solely to the extent that (a) such Claims or Equity Interests have been released or satisfied pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order or (b) such Claims, Equity Interests, actions or assertions of Liens relate to property that will be distributed pursuant to this Plan or the Confirmation Order. On the Effective Date, all such Claims against, and Equity Interests in, the Debtors shall be satisfied and released in full.

4. Except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Plan or in obligations issued pursuant to the Plan, all Persons and Entities are permanently enjoined, on and after the Effective Date, on account of any Claim or Equity Interest satisfied and released pursuant to the Plan or Confirmation Order, from:

(a) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties;

(b) enforcing, attaching, collecting or recovering by any manner or means any judgment, award, decree or order against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties;

(c) creating, perfecting or enforcing any encumbrance of any kind against any Debtor, any Estate, the Liquidating Trustee, the Creditors' Committee, and their successors and assigns and their assets and properties; and

(d) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind in respect of any Claim or Equity Interest or Cause of Action released or settled hereunder.

## F. Releases of Liens

Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or in any contract, instrument, release or other agreement or document created pursuant to the Plan, on the Effective Date, all mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges or other security interests against property of the Estates distributed under the Plan shall be fully released and discharged and all of the right, title and interest of any holder

of such mortgages, deeds of trust, Liens, pledges or other security interest shall revert to the Debtors.

### ARTICLE X.

#### **RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

Notwithstanding the entry of the Confirmation Order and the occurrence of the Effective Date, the Bankruptcy Court shall, after the Effective Date, retain such jurisdiction over the Chapter 11 Cases and all Entities, including, without limitation, the Liquidating Trustee, with respect to all matters related to the Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors and the Plan as is legally permissible, including, without limitation, jurisdiction to:

1. allow, disallow, determine, liquidate, classify, estimate or establish the priority or secured or unsecured status of any Claim or Equity Interest against the Debtors, including the resolution of any request for payment of any Administrative Claim and the resolution of any and all objections to the allowance or priority of Claims;

2. grant, deny or otherwise resolve any and all applications of Professionals or Persons retained in the Chapter 11 Cases by the Debtors or the Creditors' Committee for allowance of compensation or reimbursement of expenses authorized pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code or the Plan, for periods ending on or before the Effective Date;

**3.** resolve any matters related to the assumption, assignment or rejection of any executory contract or unexpired leases to which a Debtor is party or with respect to which a Debtor may be liable and to hear, determine and, if necessary, liquidate, any Claims arising therefrom;

4. ensure that Distributions to holders of Allowed Claims are accomplished pursuant to the provisions of the Plan, including by resolving any disputes regarding the Debtors' entitlement to recover assets held by third parties;

5. decide or resolve any motions, adversary proceedings, contested or litigated matters and any other matters and grant or deny any applications involving a Debtor that may be pending on the Effective Date or instituted by the Liquidating Trustee after the Effective Date;

6. enter such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to implement or consummate the provisions of the Plan and all other contracts, instruments, releases, indentures and other agreements or documents adopted in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement;

7. resolve any cases, controversies, suits or disputes that may arise in connection with the Effective Date, interpretation or enforcement of the Plan or any Entity's obligations incurred in connection with the Plan;

**8.** issue injunctions, enforce them, enter and implement other orders or take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to restrain interference by any Entity with the Effective Date or enforcement of the Plan, except as otherwise provided in the Plan;

**9.** enforce Article IX.A, Article IX.B, Article IX.C, Article IX.D and Article IX.E hereof;

10. resolve any cases, controversies, suits or disputes with respect to the releases, injunction and other provisions contained in Article IX herein, and enter such orders as may be necessary or appropriate to implement or enforce all such releases, injunctions and other provisions;

**11.** enter and implement such orders as necessary or appropriate if the Confirmation Order is modified, stayed, reversed, revoked or vacated;

12. resolve any other matters that may arise in connection with or related to the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Confirmation Order, or any contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document adopted in connection with the Plan or the Disclosure Statement;

**13.** enter an order and a Final Decree closing the Chapter 11 Cases.

## ARTICLE XI.

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### A. Modification of Plan

Subject to the limitations contained in the Plan and <u>provided</u> that the Creditors' Committee shall have the right to be consulted on any proposed modification of the Confirmation Order and the Plan, the Debtors reserve the right, in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules to amend or modify the Plan prior to the entry of the Confirmation Order, including amendments or modifications to satisfy section 1129(b) of the Bankruptcy Code; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that any pre-Confirmation Date amendments shall not materially or adversely affect the interests, rights or treatment of any Allowed Claims or Equity Interests under the Plan; and (2) after the entry of the Confirmation Order, the Debtors or the Liquidating Trustee may, upon order of the Bankruptcy Code, or remedy any defect or omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan in such manner as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of the Plan.

## **B.** Revocation of Plan

The Debtors, in consultation with the Creditors' Committee, reserve the right to revoke or withdraw the Plan prior to the entry of the Confirmation Order, and to file subsequent chapter 11 plans. If the Debtors revoke or withdraw the Plan or if entry of the Confirmation Order or the Effective Date does not occur, then: (1) the Plan shall be null and void in all respects; (2) any settlement or compromise embodied in the Plan, assumption or rejection of executory contracts effected by the Plan, and any document or agreement executed pursuant hereto shall be deemed null and void; and (3) nothing contained in the Plan shall: (a) constitute a waiver or release of any Claims by or against, or any Equity Interests in, such Debtor or any other Entity;

(b) prejudice in any manner the rights of the Debtors or any other Entity; or (c) constitute an admission of any sort by the Debtors or any other Entity.

#### C. Binding Effect

On the Effective Date, the provisions of the Plan shall bind any holder of a Claim against, or Equity Interest in, a Debtor and such holder's respective successors and assigns, whether or not the Claim or Equity Interest of such holder is Impaired under the Plan, whether or not such holder has accepted the Plan and whether or not such holder is entitled to a Distribution under the Plan.

#### D. Successors and Assigns

The rights, benefits and obligations of any Entity named or referred to herein shall be binding on, and shall inure to the benefit of, any heir, executor, administrator, successor or assign of such Entity.

#### E. Governing Law

Except to the extent that the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules apply, unless otherwise stated, and subject to the provisions of any contract, instrument, release, indenture or other agreement or document entered into in connection herewith, the rights and obligations arising hereunder shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the state of Texas without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws thereof.

#### F. Reservation of Rights

Except as expressly set forth herein, the Plan shall have no force or effect unless and until the Effective Date occurs. Neither the filing of the Plan, any statement or provision contained herein, nor the taking of any action by a Debtor or any Entity with respect to the Plan shall be or shall be deemed to be an admission or waiver of any rights of: (1) any Debtor with respect to the holders of Claims or Equity Interests or other parties-in-interest; or (2) any holder of a Claim or other party-in-interest prior to the Effective Date.

#### G. Article 1146 Exemption

Pursuant to section 1146(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, any transfers of property pursuant hereto shall not be subject to any stamp tax or other similar tax or governmental assessment in the United States, and the Confirmation Order shall direct the appropriate state or local governmental officials or agents to forego the collection of any such tax or governmental assessment and to accept for filing and recordation instruments or other documents pursuant to such transfers of property without the payment of any such tax or governmental assessment.

#### H. Section 1125(e) Good Faith Compliance

Confirmation of the Plan shall act as a finding by the Court that the Debtors and each of their respective Representatives have acted in "good faith" under section 1125(e) of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### I. Further Assurances

The Debtors, the Liquidating Trustee, all holders of Claims receiving Distributions hereunder and all other parties in interest shall, from time to time, prepare, execute and deliver any agreements or documents and take any other actions as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the provisions and intent of the Plan or the Confirmation Order.

#### J. Service of Documents

Any pleading, notice or other document required by the Plan to be served on or delivered to the Debtors shall be sent by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid as follows:

#### To the Debtors:

ALCO Stores, Inc. c/o Deloitte CRG . 2200 Ross Ave., Suite 1600 Dallas, Texas 75201-6703 Attn.: Michael Juniper

with a copy to:

DLA PIPER LLP (US) Attention: Thomas R. Califano 1251 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10020 Telephone: (212) 335-4500 Facsimile: (212) 335-4501 E-mail: thomas.califano@dlapiper.com

-and-

DLA PIPER LLP (US) Attention: Vincent P. Slusher 1717 Main Street, Suite 4600 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 743-4500 Facsimile: (214) 743-4545 E-mail: vince.slusher@dlapiper.com

#### To the Liquidating Trust Advisory Committee:

COOLEY LLP Attention: Jay R. Indyke 1114 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036 Telephone: (212) 479-6000 Facsimile: (212) 479-6275 E-mail: jindyke@cooley.com

-and-

Law Offices of Judith W. Ross 700 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1610 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 377-7879 Facsimile: (214) 377-9409 E-mail: judith.ross@judithwross.com

## To the Liquidating Trustee:

[INSERT CONTACT INFO]

#### K. Filing of Additional Documents

On or before the Effective Date, the Debtors may file with the Bankruptcy Court all agreements and other documents that may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and further evidence the terms and conditions hereof.

#### L. No Stay of Confirmation Order

The Debtors shall request that the Court waive stay of enforcement of the Confirmation Order otherwise applicable, including pursuant to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 3020(e), 6004(h) and 7062.

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Dated: April 7, 2015 Dallas, Texas

## ALCO Stores, Inc.

By: <u>/s/ Michael Juniper</u> Name: Michael Juniper Title: Chief Restructuring Officer

## ALCO Holdings, LLC

By: <u>/s/ Michael Juniper</u> Name: Michael Juniper Title: Chief Restructuring Officer

## Exhibit 2

Liquidation Analysis

#### APPENDIX C

#### LIQUIDATION ANALYSIS

This analysis has been prepared by management based on the Company's best estimates and knowledge of events as of March 6, 2015. Although the estimates and assumptions that were made in preparing the analysis are considered reasonable by management, they are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the estimates shown below will be realized. Actual results may therefore vary materially from those presented.

\$ in 000's Amounts as of March 6, 2015		Chapter 7 Estimated Sources & Uses Under a Chapter 7		Chapter 11 Estimated Sources & Uses Under a Chapter 11		
		Note	Low	High	Low	High
Α.	Estimated Proceeds from Sale of Assets					
	Cash on hand	1	13,501	13,501	13,501	13,501
	Other Asset Recoveries	2	5,141	7,329	5,465	7,936
	Total Estimated Proceeds		18,642	20,830	18,966	21,437
в.	Estimated Wind Down Expenses					
	Corporate Wind Down Expenses	3	1,808	1,608	1,808	1,608
	Wind Down Professional Fees	4	2,298	2,098	2,298	2,098
	Chapter 7 Trustee Fees	5	559	625	0	0
	Total Estimated Wind Down Expenses		4,666	4,331	4,106	3,706
	Estimated Proceeds Available For Distribution		13,977	16,499	14,859	17,730
C.	Estimated Administrative Expenses					
с.	503(b)(9) Claims	6	4,621	4,473	4,621	4,473
	All other Administrative Claims	7	8,789	4,758	8,789	4,758
	Total Estimated Administrative Expenses	-	13,409	9,232	13,409	9,232
	% Recovery to Administrative Expenses		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Estimated Proceeds For Priority and General Unsecured Claims		567	7,268	1,450	8,499
D.	Estimated Priority Claims	8	1,031	931	1,031	931
	% Recovery to Priority Claims		55.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Estimated Proceeds For General Unsecured Claims		0	6,337	419	7,568
Ε.	Estimated Unsecured Claims	9	63,361	49,504	63,361	49,504
	% Recovery to Unsecured Claims		0.0%	12.8%	0.7%	15.3%

#### Assumptions

The following notes describe the significant assumptions that were applied to the line items included in the liquidation analysis above.

Note

- 1 Cash excludes any amounts owed to Joint Venture ("JV") or in segregated accounts such as the Tax Escrow account.
- 2 Other assets include estimated proceeds from remaining assets, including real estate; collection of outstanding deposits and vendor monies, etc.
- **3** Corporate wind down costs include a downsizing staffing plan need to wrap up payroll, books and records and research claims as well an estimate for outstanding post-petition expenses.
- 4 Professional wind downs costs include legal and related expenses to wind down the organization.
- 5 Chapter 7 trustee fees are estimated at 3% of the estimated proceeds.
- 6 High case uses current estimate on 503(b)(9) claims; low case estimates additional allowed claims in certain categories (books and records, outside of period, etc.).
- 7 All other administrative claims include unpaid post-petition rents, payroll, operating expenses and professional fees.
- 8 Priority claims include certain prepetition wage and tax claims.
- 9 Estimates for unsecured creditor claims is comprised of known pre-petition liabilities as well as estimated lease rejection claims. Lease rejection claims are calculated as the greater of (i) on year's rent or (ii) 15% of the remaining term of the lease not to exceed three years. All unsecured claims are estimates only and the amounts may be materially different after a claim reconciliation process is completed.

Under a chapter 7, the unsecured creditors receive an estimated payment of 0 - 6.3 million. Under chapter 11, the unsecured creditors receive an estimated payment of 0.4 - 7.6 million.