

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION

In re:

ALDRICH PUMP LLC, et al.,¹

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 20-30608 (LMJ)

(Jointly Administered)

**MRHFM'S CLAIMANTS'² JOINDER TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATOR'S
RESPONSE TO THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR 2004 EXAMINATION**

MRHFM's claimants join the Bankruptcy Administrator's Response in Opposition to the Debtors' Motion for Bankruptcy Rule 2004 Examination of the Official Committee of Asbestos Personal Injury Claimants. *See* Dkt. 2886.

The Bankruptcy Administrator rightly describes the Debtors' Motion as an "attack [on] the ACC's³ governance and, by extension, its case strategy" and an "inappropriate sideshow," noting that the ACC's "refusal to settle with the Debtors is not evidence of bad faith or lack of client authority." *See* BA Resp. at 2 & 3. MRHFM's claimants agree. The Motion does nothing to advance this case in any substantive way.

¹ The Debtors are the following entities (the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers follow in parentheses): Aldrich Pump LLC (2290) and Murray Boiler LLC (0679). The Debtors' address is 800-E Beaty Street, Davidson, North Carolina 28036.

² Forty-seven clients of Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd, LLC ("MRHFM") filed proofs of claim in this case. MRHFM client Carol Gard is a member of the Official Committee. This Joinder is not filed on behalf of Ms. Gard or on behalf of the Committee.

³ The Official Committee of Asbestos Claimants.



Despite the case being five years old and refusing to send its own plan of reorganization (Dkt. 831) out for a vote, the Debtors' counsel told this Court last month that the asbestos-cancer claimants—most of whom would have been paid long before now but for this bankruptcy—are “not dying without compensation. They’re, at most, dying without the 3 percent that they would have otherwise gotten from these debtors.” Ex. 1, Tr. 10/23/25 at 111:7-9. Of course, said counsel, “I can’t prove that today.” *Id.* at 111:3.⁴ Counsel is right, he *cannot*.

This was certainly not the situation for Claimant Robert Semian. He worked for and was exposed to asbestos at Old Trane for over 26 years. In January 2023, Mr. Semian sought relief from stay to pursue the remedies available to him under state law against his former employer (Dkt. 1588) and then moved to dismiss this bankruptcy (Dkt. 1712) that summer. Both requests were denied.⁵

Mr. Semian has now passed away, his Constitutional rights unvindicated, and gone is any chance of his reaching an arm’s length resolution against *the* principal defendant in his case before his passing. His family—as he did—stands on their right to pursue all state law remedies before a jury. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); PA. CONST. art. 1, § 6 (“Trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolate.”).

⁴ One wonders how Trane would react if a furnace customer refused to pay its invoice on the grounds that Trane has thousands of other customers who have paid, so what is the problem?

⁵ *See* Dkts. 2438, 2047.

By contrast, Trane Technologies plc (“Trane”), who only benefits the longer this case lasts, is worth \$95 billion⁶ and recently reported “record enterprise bookings of \$6 billion,” an “operating margin up 150 [basis points],” and a 15% increase in earnings per share.⁷ As Trane upstreams money to equity and timely pays all of its creditors that are not dying from asbestos cancer, the Company’s subservient Debtors and the Legal Representative for Future Claimants continue to make baseless and unproductive allegations against the lawyers representing the cancer victims and the ACC.⁸

These irrelevant assertions aside, the Bankruptcy Administrator is right: “[i]f the Debtors (and FCR) believe a plan can be confirmed without the ACC’s support, they can put the decision directly to the claimants and solicit votes on the plan.” Dkt. 2886 at 19. This is a better way forward than a 2004 examination. And, given that the Debtors and the FCR believe the ACC is simply in the way, why do they both consistently refuse to let all the claimants vote now?

⁶ Trane Technologies plc, traded as “TT” available at <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/TT/?guccounter=1> (last accessed on 11/11/2025).

⁷ *Trane Technologies Reports Strong Third Quarter Results*, 10/30/2025, available at: <https://investors.tranetechnologies.com/news-and-events/news-releases/news-release-details/2025/Trane-Technologies-Reports-Strong-Third-Quarter-Results/default.aspx> (last accessed 11/11/2025).

⁸ See Dkt. 2849, Debtors’ Reply in Support of Rule 2004 Motion (“these tort lawyers have their own pecuniary interests that can conflict with those of the claimants....”); Dkt. 2839, The FCR’s Joinder at 1 (“it appears that the ACC law firms have been making decisions by proxy, perhaps more consistent with their personal interests than those of the creditor class they are charged with representing.”).

Dated: November 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Admitted Pro Hac Vice

*Counsel to Various Claimants Holding Mesothelioma
Claims*

Exhibit 1

1 that since the plaintiffs sue scores of defendants in the tort
2 system, that our 3 percent, they probably already recovered
3 from other defendants. I can't prove that today. I couldn't
4 prove it without a lot of discovery. It's not the point,
5 though, your Honor. Certainly possible that they've gotten all
6 the compensation they would have, whether we had filed this
7 bankruptcy or not. But the point is they're not dying without
8 compensation. They're, at most, dying without the 3 percent
9 that they would have otherwise gotten from these debtors. And
10 that's what this plan is about.

11 So this case has never been about whether claimants
12 are dying without compensation. This case has always been
13 about what is a fair resolution, a fair and final resolution of
14 these debtors' liabilities. And in 2021, these debtors put
15 half a billion dollars on the table, more than half a billion
16 dollars on the table in an agreement. We didn't force this
17 plan down on anybody. It was a negotiated resolution with the
18 Future Claimants' Representative who represents, again, about
19 75 to 80 percent of the liability, half a billion dollars, even
20 though it's our position, and we've said this repeatedly, that
21 it's unlikely that our products, encapsulated gaskets where the
22 asbestos was encapsulated inside a gasket, we don't believe
23 that caused, probably, any or, if any, very little harm to any
24 claimant, as opposed to the "big dusties," the insulation
25 companies and, and the like.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing **MRHFM'S CLAIMANTS' JOINDER TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSE TO THE DEBTORS' MOTION FOR 2004 EXAMINATION** was served electronically on those parties receiving notice in this case through the Court's CM/ECF system.

Dated: November 13, 2025.

WALDREP WALL BABCOCK & BAILEY PLLC

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