

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC., *et al.*,¹

Debtors.

)
) Chapter 11
)
) Case No. 25-12105 (JKS)
)
) (Joint Administration Requested)
)

**DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EMPLOY AND
RETAIN KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS, LLC DBA VERITA GLOBAL
AS CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE**

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") respectfully state as follows in support of this application (this "Application"): ²

Relief Requested

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "Proposed Order"): (a) appointing Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global ("Verita") as the claims and noticing agent (the "Claims and Noticing Agent") in these chapter 11 cases pursuant to section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code and section 105(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), effective as of the Petition Date (as defined below); and (b) granting related relief.

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: American Signature, Inc. (6162); American Signature Home Inc. (8573); American Signature USA Inc. (6162); ASI Pure Promise Insurance LLC (6162); ASI Elston LLC (7520); ASI – Laporte LLC (6162); ASI Polaris LLC (6162); ASI Thomasville LLC (6162); and American Signature Woodbridge LLC (6162). The Debtors' business address is 4300 E. 5th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235.

² A detailed description of the Debtors and their business, including the facts and circumstances giving rise to the Debtors' chapter 11 cases, is set forth in the *Declaration of Rudolph Morando in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Relief* (the "First Day Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Application have the meanings ascribed to them in the First Day Declaration.



Jurisdiction and Venue

2. The United States District Court for the District of Delaware has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334, which was referred to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Court”) under 28 U.S.C. § 157 pursuant to the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012. This matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2), and the Debtors confirm their consent, within the meaning of Rule 9013-1(f) of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”), to the entry of a final order by the Court in connection with this Application to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution

3. Venue in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

4. The statutory bases for the relief requested herein are section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code, sections 105(a) and 503 of the Bankruptcy Code, Rule 2002(f) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), Local Rules 2002-1(e) and 9013-1(m), and the Court’s *Protocol for the Employment of Claims and Noticing Agents Under 28 U.S.C. § 156(c)*, instituted by the Clerk of the Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Clerk”) on February 1, 2012 (the “Claims Agent Protocol”).

Background

5. On November 22, 2025 (the “Petition Date”), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their business and managing their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. Concurrently with the filing of this Application, the Debtors filed a motion requesting procedural consolidation and joint administration of these chapter 11 cases pursuant to

Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) and Local Rule 1015-1. No request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in these chapter 11 cases, and no official committees have been appointed or designated.

6. Debtor American Signature, Inc., together with its subsidiaries (“ASI” or the “Company”) is a residential furniture company operating across its Value City Furniture (“VCF”) and American Signature Furniture (“ASF”) brands and serving as a furniture destination consumers can rely on for style, quality, and value. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, the Company operates more than 120 stores across 17 states, with the largest concentrations in Ohio (20), Michigan (16), and Illinois (11). The Company employs approximately 3,000 team members.

Verita’s Qualifications

7. This Application is made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c), section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, and Local Rule 2002-1(f) for an order appointing Verita to act as the claims and noticing agent in order to assume full responsibility for the distribution of notices and the maintenance, processing, and docketing of proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases. The Debtors’ selection of Verita to act as the claims and noticing agent has satisfied the Claims Agent Protocol, in that the Debtors have obtained and reviewed engagement proposals from at least two other court-approved claims and noticing agents to ensure selection through a competitive process. Moreover, the Debtors submit, based on all engagement proposals obtained and reviewed, that Verita’s rates are competitive and reasonable given Verita’s quality of services and expertise. The terms of retention are set forth in the Engagement Agreement attached as Exhibit 1 to the Proposed Order (the “Engagement Agreement”); *provided, however*, that Verita is seeking approval solely of the terms and provisions as set forth in this Application and the Proposed Order.

8. Although the Debtors have not yet filed their schedules of assets and liabilities, they anticipate that there will be in excess of 200 entities to be noticed. In view of the number of

anticipated claimants and the complexity of the Debtors' business, the Debtors submit that the appointment of a claims and noticing agent is both necessary and in the best interests of the Debtors' estates and creditors.

9. Verita is a leading chapter 11 administrator and comprises industry professionals with significant experience in both the legal and administrative aspects of large, complex chapter 11 cases. Verita has acted as the official claims and noticing agent in many large bankruptcy cases in this district and in other districts nationwide. Verita's recent cases in this district include: *In re Dynamic Aerostructures LLC*, No. 25-10292 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 27, 2025); *In re Grtistone Bio, Inc.*, No. 24-12305 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 16, 2024); *In re Fulcrum Bioenergy, Inc.*, No. 24-12008 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Sept. 12, 2024); *In re QLess, Inc.*, No. 24-11395 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 21, 2024); *In re Fisker Inc.*, No. 24-11390 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. July 2, 2024); *In re Supply Source Enterprises, Inc.*, No. 24-11054 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 13, 2024); *In re ProSomnus, Inc.*, No. 24-10972 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. May 9, 2024); *In re Sticky's Holding LLC*, No. 24-10856 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 26, 2024); *In re SC Healthcare Holding, LLC*, No. 24-10443 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 22, 2024); *In re Cano Health, Inc.*, No. 24-10164 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 6, 2024); *In re InVivo Therapeutics Corp.*, No. 24-10137 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 6, 2024); *In re AN Global, LLC*, No. 23-11294 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 29, 2023); *In re Proterra Inc.*, No. 23-11120 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 10, 2023); *In re Novan, Inc.*, No. 23-10937 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 19, 2023); *In re Lordstown Motors Corp.*, No. 23-10831 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. June 28, 2023); *In re KDC Agribusiness LLC*, No. 23-10786 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. June 21, 2023); *In re PGX Holdings, Inc.*, No. 23-10718 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. June 6, 2023); *In re PlastiQ Inc.*, No. 23-10671 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. May 25, 2023); *In re Christmas Tree Shops, LLC*, No. 23-10576 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. May 9, 2023); *In re Structurlam*

Mass Timber U.S., Inc., No. 23-10497 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 26, 2023); *In re Catalina Mktg. Corp.*, No. 23-10620 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 31, 2023); *CBCRC Liquidating Corp.*, No. 23-10245 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 3, 2023); *In re Starry Grp. Holdings, Inc.*, No. 23-10219 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 22, 2023); *In re Stanadyne LLC*, No. 23-10207 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 22, 2023); *In re Tricida*, No. 23-10024 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 23, 2023); *In re Carestream Health, Inc.*, No. 22-10778 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 26, 2022); *In re First Guar. Mortg. Corp.*, No. 22-10584 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 1, 2022); *In re Zosano Pharma Corp.*, No. 22-10506 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 6, 2022).

10. By appointing Verita as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, the distribution of notices and the processing of claims will be expedited, and the Clerk will be relieved of the administrative burden of processing what may be an overwhelming number of claims. In support of this Application, the Debtors submit the *Declaration of Evan Gershbein in Support of Debtors' Application for Authorization to Employ and Retain Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global as Claims and Noticing Agent Effective as of the Petition Date*, attached hereto as **Exhibit B** (the "Gershbein Declaration").

11. This Application pertains only to the work to be performed by Verita under the Clerk's delegation of duties as permitted by 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) and Local Rule 2002-1(f). Any work to be performed by Verita outside of this scope is not covered by this Application or by any order of the Court granting approval hereof.³

³ The Debtors plan to seek authorization to retain and employ Verita as administrative advisor in these chapter 11 cases by separate application pursuant to section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, because the administration of these chapter 11 cases will require Verita to perform duties outside the scope of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c).

12. Specifically, Verita will perform the following tasks in its role as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases (collectively, the “Claims and Noticing Services”), as well as all quality control relating thereto:

- (a) prepare and serve required notices and documents in these chapter 11 cases in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules in the form and manner directed by the Debtors or the Court, including, without limitation: (i) notice of the commencement of these chapter 11 cases and the initial meeting of creditors under section 341(a) of the Bankruptcy Code in conformity with Local Form 132; (ii) notice of any claims bar date; (iii) notices of transfers of claims; (iv) notices of objections to claims and objections to transfers of claims; (v) notices of any hearings on a disclosure statement and confirmation of the Debtors’ chapter 11 plan or plans, including under Bankruptcy Rule 3017(d); (vi) notice of the effective date of any plan; (vii) notice of hearing on motions filed by the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the “U.S. Trustee”); (viii) any motion to convert, dismiss, appoint a trustee, or appoint an examiner filed by the U.S. Trustee; and (ix) all other notices, orders, pleadings, publications, and other documents as the Debtors or the Court may deem necessary or appropriate for an orderly administration of these chapter 11 cases;
- (b) for all notices, motions, orders, or other pleadings or documents served, prepare and file, or cause to be filed, with the Clerk an affidavit or certificate of service within seven business days of service, which includes: (i) either a copy of the notice served or the docket number(s) and title(s) of the pleading(s) served; (ii) a list of persons to whom it was served (in alphabetical order) with their mailing or email addresses as appropriate; (iii) the manner of service; and (iv) the date served;
- (c) process all proofs of claim received, including those received by the Clerk, check said processing for accuracy, and maintain the original proofs of claim in a secure area;
- (d) relocate, by messenger or overnight delivery, all of the court-filed proofs of claim to the offices of Verita, not less than weekly;
- (e) maintain the official claims register for each Debtor (collectively, the “Claims Registers”) on behalf of the Clerk, and, upon the Clerk’s request, provide the Clerk with certified, duplicate unofficial Claims Registers;
- (f) specify in the Claims Registers the following information for each claim docketed: (i) the claim number assigned; (ii) the date received; (iii) the name and address of the claimant and agent, if applicable, who filed the claim; (iv) the amount asserted; (v) the asserted classification(s) of the claim (*e.g.*, secured, unsecured, priority, etc.); (vi) the applicable Debtor; and (vii) any disposition of the claim;
- (g) maintain a separate claims register and separate creditor mailing matrix for each debtor in jointly administered cases;

- (h) record all Transfers of Claims and make changes to the creditor matrix after the objection period has expired; Verita shall also record any order entered by the Court that may affect the claim by making a notation on the claims register and monitor the Court's docket for any claims related pleading filed and make necessary notations on the claims register; no claim or claim information should be deleted for any reason;
- (i) file a quarterly updated claims register with the Court in alphabetical and numerical order; if there has been no claims activity, Verita may file a Certification of No Claim Activity;
- (j) allow public access to claims and the claims register at no charge; the complete proof of claim and any attachment thereto shall be viewable and accessible by the public, subject to Local Rule 9037-1;
- (k) maintain an official copy of the Debtors' schedules of assets and liabilities and statements of financial affairs (collectively, the "Schedules"), listing the Debtors' known creditors and the amounts owed thereto;
- (l) maintain: (i) an up-to-date list of all potential creditors, equity holders, and other parties in interest; and (ii) a "core" service list consisting of all parties described in Bankruptcy Rule 2002(i), (j), and (k), and those parties that have filed a notice of appearance pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9010, and update said lists and make said lists available upon request by a party in interest or the Clerk within 48 hours;
- (m) furnish a notice to all potential creditors of the last date for filing proofs of claim and a form for filing a proof of claim, after such notice and form are approved by the Court, and notify such potential creditors of the existence, amount, and classification of their respective claims as set forth in the Schedules, which may be effected by inclusion of such information (or the lack thereof, in cases where the Schedules indicate no debt due to the subject party) on a customized proof of claim form provided to potential creditors;
- (n) maintain a post office box or address for the purpose of receiving claims and returned mail, and process all mail received;
- (o) implement necessary security measures to ensure the completeness and integrity of the Claims Registers and the safekeeping of the original claims;
- (p) assist in the dissemination of information to the public and respond to requests for administrative information regarding these chapter 11 cases as directed by the Debtors or the Court, including through the use of a case website or call center;
- (q) within 14 days of entry of an Order dismissing a case or within 28 days of entry of a Final Decree, Verita shall: (i) forward to the Clerk an electronic version of all imaged claims; (ii) upload the creditor mailing list into CM/ECF; and (iii) docket a Final Claims Register; if a case has jointly administered entities, one combined register shall be docketed in the lead case containing claims of all cases;

- (r) within the earlier to occur of (a) 14 days of entry of an Order converting a case, and (b) entry of a termination order, Verita shall: (i) forward to the Clerk an electronic version of all imaged claims; (ii) upload the creditor mailing list into CM/ECF; and (iii) docket a Final Claims Register; if a case has jointly administered entities, one combined claims register shall be docketed in the lead case containing claims of all cases; a Final Claims Register and creditor mailing matrix shall also be docketed in each jointly administered case, containing the claims and creditor mailing matrix parties, respectively, of only that specific case; and
- (s) upon conversion of a chapter 11 case to a chapter 7 case, if there are more than 200 creditors, Verita shall (i) continue to serve all notices required to be served, at the direction of the chapter 7 trustee or the Clerk, or (ii) submit a termination order.

Verita's Compensation

13. The Debtors respectfully request that the undisputed fees and expenses incurred by Verita in the performance of the Claims and Noticing Services in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Agreement be treated as administrative expenses of the Debtors' chapter 11 estates pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) and section 503(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and be paid in the ordinary course of business without further application to or order of the Court.

14. Verita agrees to maintain records of all services showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred. Verita further agrees to serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, counsel for the Debtors, counsel for any official committee monitoring the expenses of the Debtors, and any party in interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices. If any dispute arises relating to the Engagement Agreement or the monthly invoices, the parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the dispute. If a resolution is not achieved, the parties may seek resolution of the matter by the Court.

15. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors provided Verita a retainer in the amount of \$45,000. Verita seeks first to apply the retainer to all prepetition invoices, then to have the retainer replenished to the original retainer amount, and thereafter to hold the retainer under the

Engagement Agreement during these cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Engagement Agreement.

16. Additionally, under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors have agreed to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Verita and its affiliates, members, directors, officers, employees, consultants, subcontractors, and agents under certain circumstances specified in the Engagement Agreement, except in circumstances resulting solely from Verita's gross negligence or willful misconduct or as otherwise provided in the Engagement Agreement or any order authorizing the employment and retention of Verita. The Debtors believe that such an indemnification obligation is customary, reasonable, and necessary to retain the services of a claims and noticing agent in these chapter 11 cases.

Verita's Disinterestedness

17. Although the Debtors do not propose to employ Verita under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code pursuant to this application, Verita has nonetheless reviewed its conflicts system to determine whether it has any relationships with the creditors and parties in interest provided by the Debtors, and the Debtors have been advised that, to the best of Verita's knowledge, information, and belief, and except as disclosed in the Gershbein Declaration, Verita has represented that it neither holds nor represents any interest materially adverse to the Debtors' estates in connection with any matter on which it would be employed.

18. Moreover, in connection with its retention as Claims and Noticing Agent, Verita represents in the Gershbein Declaration, among other things, that:

- (a) Verita is not a creditor of the Debtors;
- (b) Verita is a "disinterested person," as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code;

- (c) Verita will not consider itself employed by the United States government and will not seek any compensation from the United States government in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (d) by accepting employment in these chapter 11 cases, Verita waives any rights to receive compensation from the United States government in connection with these chapter 11 cases;
- (e) in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Verita will not be an agent of the United States and will not act on behalf of the United States;
- (f) Verita will not employ any past or present employees of the Debtors in connection with its work as the claims and noticing agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (g) in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Verita will not intentionally misrepresent any fact to any person;
- (h) Verita shall be under the supervision and control of the Clerk with respect to the receipt and recordation of claims and claim transfers;
- (i) Verita will comply with all requests of the Clerk and the guidelines promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States for the implementation of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c); and
- (j) none of the services provided by Verita as the claims and noticing agent in these chapter 11 cases shall be at the expense of the Clerk.

Basis for Relief

I. The Retention and Employment of Verita as Claims and Noticing Agent is Permitted

19. Bankruptcy Rule 2002 generally regulates what notices must be given to creditors and other parties in interest in bankruptcy cases. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(f). Under Bankruptcy Rule 2002(f), the Court may direct that some person other than the Clerk give notice of the various matters described therein. Moreover, section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code, which governs the staffing and expenses of a bankruptcy court, authorizes the Court to use “facilities” or “services” other than the Clerk for administration of bankruptcy cases. 28 U.S.C. § 156(c). Specifically, the statute states, in relevant part:

Any court may utilize facilities or services, either on or off the court’s premises, which pertain to the provision of notices, dockets, calendars and other administrative information to parties in cases

filed under the provisions of title 11, United States Code, where the costs of such facilities or services are paid for out of the assets of the estate and are not charged to the United States. The utilization of such facilities or services shall be subject to such conditions and limitations as the pertinent circuit council may prescribe.

28 U.S.C. § 156(c).

20. In addition, Local Rule 2002-1(f) provides:

Upon motion of the debtor or trustee, at any time without notice or hearing, the Court may authorize the retention of a notice and/or claims clerk under 28 U.S.C. § 156(c). In all cases with more than 200 creditors or parties in interest listed on the creditor matrix, unless the Court orders otherwise, the debtor shall file such motion on the first day of the case or within seven (7) days thereafter. The notice and/or claims clerk shall comply with the Protocol for the Employment of Claims and Noticing Agents under 28 U.S.C. 156(c) (which can be found on the Court's website) and shall perform the [Claims and Noticing Services].

Del. Bankr. L.R. 2002-1(f). Accordingly, Bankruptcy Rule 2002, Local Rule 2002-1(f), and section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code empower the Court to use outside agents and facilities for notice and claims purposes, provided that the Debtors' estates bear the cost of such services.

21. Accordingly, for all of the foregoing reasons, the Debtors believe that the retention of Verita as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases is necessary and in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors, and all parties in interest. Furthermore, the Debtors respectfully submit that the fees and expenses that would be incurred by Verita under the proposed engagement would be administrative in nature and should not be subject to standard fee application procedures of professionals.

II. Relief Effective as of the Petition Date is Appropriate

22. Pursuant to the Debtors' request, Verita has agreed to serve as the Claims and Noticing Agent on and after the Petition Date with assurances that the Debtors would seek approval

of its employment and retention effective as of the Petition Date, so that Verita may be compensated for its services prior to approval of this Application. The Debtors believe that no party in interest will be prejudiced by the granting employment effective as of the Petition Date, as provided in this Application, because Verita has provided and continues to provide valuable services to the Debtors' estates in the interim period. The Local Rules empower courts in this district to approve employment effective as of the petition date, and the Debtors submit that such approval is justified here. *See, e.g.*, Del. Bankr. L.R. 2014-1(b) ("If the retention application is granted, the retention shall be effective as of the date the application was filed, unless the Court orders otherwise.").

Compliance with Claims Agent Protocol

23. This Application complies with the Claims Agent Protocol and substantially conforms to the standard form of application in use in this Court. To the extent that there is any inconsistency between this Application, the order approving this Application, and the Engagement Agreement, the order approving this Application shall govern.

Notice

24. The Debtors will provide notice of this Application to: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee; (b) the holders of the thirty (30) largest unsecured claims against the Debtors (on a consolidated basis); (c) the office of the attorney general for each of the states in which the Debtors operate; (d) the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware; (e) the Internal Revenue Service; (f) the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; (g) counsel to the DIP Agent and the Prepetition ABL Agent; (h) counsel to the Prepetition Term Agent; and (i) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. As this Application is seeking "first day" relief, the Debtors will serve copies of this Application and any order entered in respect

to this Application as required by Local Rule 9013-1(m). In light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

No Prior Request

25. No prior request for the relief sought in this Application has been made to this Court or any other court.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as is just and proper.

Dated: November 23, 2025

**AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC.
AND ITS AFFILIATES**

By: /s/ Rudy Morando
Rudy Morando
Chief Restructuring Officer

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC., *et al.*,¹

Debtors.

)

) Chapter 11

)

) Case No. 25-12105 (JKS)

)

) (Joint Administration Requested)

) **Ref. Docket No.** _____

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO EMPLOY AND RETAIN
KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS, LLC DBA VERITA GLOBAL AS
CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE**

Upon the application (the “Application”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of an order (this “Order”): (a) appointing Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global (“Verita”) as the claims and noticing agent (the “Claims and Noticing Agent”) in these chapter 11 cases pursuant to section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code and section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, effective *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date; and (b) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Application; and upon the First Day Declaration; and the United States District Court for the District of Delaware having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334, which was referred to this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 157 pursuant to the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court having found that it may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are: American Signature, Inc. (6162); American Signature Home Inc. (8573); American Signature USA Inc. (6162); ASI Pure Promise Insurance LLC (6162); ASI Elston LLC (7520); ASI – Laporte LLC (6162); ASI Polaris LLC (6162); ASI Thomasville LLC (6162); and American Signature Woodbridge LLC (6162). The Debtors’ business address is 4300 E. 5th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Application in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Application is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Application and opportunity for a hearing on the Application were appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Application and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application is GRANTED as set forth herein.
2. Any objections to the entry of this Order, to the extent not withdrawn or settled, are overruled.
3. Notwithstanding the terms of the Engagement Letter attached hereto as Exhibit 1, the Application is approved solely as set forth in this Order.
4. The Debtors are authorized to retain Verita, effective as of the Petition Date, under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, and Verita is authorized and directed to perform noticing services and to receive, maintain, record and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in these cases, and all related tasks, all as described in the Application (the "Claims and Noticing Services").
5. Verita shall serve as the custodian of court records and shall be designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these chapter 11 cases (if any) and is authorized

and directed to maintain official claims registers for each of the Debtors, to provide public access to every proof of claim unless otherwise ordered by the Court, and to provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate thereof upon the request of the Clerk.

6. Verita is authorized and directed to provide an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim and to obtain a post office box or address for the receipt of proofs of claim (if necessary).

7. Verita is authorized to take such other action to comply with all duties set forth in the Application.

8. Without further order of this Court, the Debtors are authorized to compensate and reimburse Verita in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Engagement Agreement upon receipt of reasonably detailed invoices setting forth the services provided by Verita and the rates charged for each, and to reimburse Verita for all reasonable and necessary expenses it may incur, upon the presentation of appropriate documentation, without the need for Verita to file fee applications or otherwise seek Court approval for the compensation of its services and reimbursement of its expenses.

9. Verita shall maintain records of all services performed showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred, and shall serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, counsel to the Debtors, counsel to any official committee monitoring the expenses of the Debtors, and any party in interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices.

10. The parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any dispute which may arise relating to the Engagement Agreement or monthly invoices, and the parties may seek resolution of such matter from this Court if resolution is not achieved.

11. Pursuant to section 503(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, the fees and expenses of Verita under this Order shall be an administrative expense of the Debtors' estates.

12. Verita may apply its retainer to all prepetition invoices, then have the retainer replenished to the original retainer amount, and thereafter hold the retainer under the Engagement Agreement during the cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Engagement Agreement.

13. The Debtors shall indemnify Verita under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, as modified pursuant to this Order.

14. Verita shall not be entitled to indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement pursuant to the Engagement Agreement for services other than the Claims and Noticing Services, as provided under the Engagement Agreement, unless such services and the indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement therefor is approved by this Court

15. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors shall have no obligation to indemnify Verita, or provide contribution or reimbursement to Verita, for any losses, claims, damages, judgments, liabilities or expense that are either: (a) judicially determined (the determination having become final) to have arisen from Verita's gross negligence, willful misconduct, or fraud; (b) for a contractual dispute in which the Debtors allege the breach of Verita's contractual obligations, if this Court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *United Artists Theatre Co. v. Walton (In re United Artists Theatre Co.)*, 315 F.3d 217 (3d Cir. 2003); or (c) settled prior to a judicial determination under subsection (a) or (b), but determined by this Court, after notice and a hearing, to be a claim or expense for which Verita should not receive indemnity, contribution, or reimbursement under the terms of the Engagement Agreement as modified by this Order.

16. Before the earlier of: (a) the entry of an order confirming a chapter 11 plan in these chapter 11 cases (that order having become a final order no longer subject to appeal); and (b) the

entry of an order closing these chapter 11 cases, should Verita believe that it is entitled to the payment of any amounts by the Debtors on account of the Debtors' indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement obligations under the Engagement Agreement (as modified by this Order), including, without limitation, the advancement of defense costs, Verita must file an application in this Court, and the Debtors may not pay any such amounts to Verita before the entry of an order by this Court approving such application and the payment requested therein. This paragraph is intended only to specify the period of time under which this Court shall have jurisdiction over any request for fees and expenses by Verita for indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement, and not a provision limiting the duration of the Debtors' obligation to indemnify Verita. All parties in interest shall retain the right to object to any demand by Verita for indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement.

17. In the event Verita is unable to provide the Claims and Noticing Services, Verita will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' attorney and cause to have all original proofs of claim and computer information turned over to another claims and noticing agent with the advice and consent of the Clerk and Debtors' attorney.

18. The Debtors may submit a separate retention application, pursuant to section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code or any applicable law, for work that is to be performed by Verita but is not specifically authorized by this Order.

19. Verita shall not cease providing claims processing services during these chapter 11 cases for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of this Court.

20. In the event of any inconsistency between the Engagement Agreement, the Application, and this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.

21. Notice of the Application as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Application and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

22. The Debtors and Verita are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Application.

23. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

Exhibit 1

Engagement Agreement

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

This Agreement is entered into as of the 18 day of November 2025, between American Signature, Inc. (together with its affiliates and subsidiaries, the "Company"),¹ and Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global (together with its affiliates and subcontractors, "Verita"). In consideration of the premises set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Terms and Conditions

I. SERVICES

A. Verita agrees to provide the Company with consulting services regarding noticing, claims management and reconciliation, plan solicitation, balloting, disbursements and any other services agreed upon by the parties or otherwise required by applicable law, government regulations or court rules or orders.

B. Verita further agrees to provide (i) computer software support and training in the use of the support software, (ii) Verita's standard reports as well as consulting and programming support for the Company requested reports, (iii) program modifications, (iv) data base modifications, and/or (v) other features and services in accordance with the fees outlined in a pricing schedule provided to the Company (the "Verita Fee Structure").

C. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Verita may, upon request by the Company, (i) provide a communications plan including, but not limited to, preparation of communications materials, dissemination of information and a call center staffed by Verita and/or (ii) provide confidential on-line workspaces or virtual data rooms and publish documents to such workspaces or data rooms (which publication shall not be deemed to violate the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement).

D. The price listed for each service in the Verita Fee Structure represents a bona fide proposal for such services, which may be accepted in whole or in part. Services will be provided when requested by the Company or required by applicable law, government regulations or court rules or orders. Services are mutually exclusive and are deemed delivered and accepted by the Company when provided by Verita.

E. The Company acknowledges and agrees that Verita will often take direction from the Company's representatives, employees, agents and/or professionals (collectively, the "Company Parties") with respect to the services being provided under this Agreement. The parties agree that Verita may rely upon, and the Company agrees to be bound by, any requests, advice or information provided by the Company Parties to the same extent as if such requests, advice or information were provided by the Company. The Company agrees and understands that Verita shall not provide the Company or any other party with any legal advice.

II. PRICES, CHARGES AND PAYMENT

A. Verita agrees to charge and the Company agrees to pay Verita for its services at the rates and prices set by Verita that are in effect as of the date of this Agreement and in accordance with the Verita Fee Structure. Verita's prices are generally adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the business and economic environment and are inclusive of all charges. Verita reserves the right to reasonably increase its

¹ The term Company shall include, to the extent applicable, the Company, as debtor and debtor in possession in its chapter 11 case, together with any affiliated debtors and debtors in possession whose chapter 11 cases are jointly administered with the Company's chapter 11 case.

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

prices, charges and rates; provided, however, that if any such increase exceeds 15%, Verita will give thirty (30) days written notice to the Company.

B. In addition to fees and charges for services, the Company agrees to pay Verita's reasonable transportation, lodging, and meal expenses incurred in connection with services provided under this Agreement.

C. In addition to all fees for services and expenses hereunder, the Company shall pay to Verita (i) any fees and charges related to, arising out of, or as a result of any error or omission made by the Company or the Company Parties, as mutually determined by Verita and the Company, and (ii) all taxes that are applicable to this Agreement or that are measured by payments made under this Agreement and are required to be collected by Verita or paid by Verita to a taxing authority.

D. Where the Company requires services that are unusual or beyond the normal business practices of Verita, or are otherwise not provided for in the Verita Fee Structure, the cost of such services shall be charged to the Company at a competitive rate.

E. Verita agrees to submit its invoices to the Company monthly and the Company agrees that the amount invoiced is due and payable upon the Company's receipt of the invoice. Verita's invoices will contain reasonably detailed descriptions of charges for both hourly (fees) and non-hourly (expenses) case specific charges. Where total invoice amounts are expected to exceed \$10,000 in any single month and Verita reasonably believes it will not be paid, Verita may require advance payment from the Company due and payable upon demand and prior to the performance of services hereunder. If any amount is unpaid as of thirty (30) days from the receipt of the invoice, the Company further agrees to pay a late charge, calculated as two and one-half percent (2-1/2%) of the total amount unpaid every thirty (30) days. In the case of a dispute in the invoice amount, the Company shall give written notice to Verita within ten (10) days of receipt of the invoice by the Company. The undisputed portion of the invoice will remain due and payable immediately upon receipt of the invoice. Late charges shall not accrue on any amounts in dispute or any amounts unable to be paid due to Court order or applicable law. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, the fees for print notice and media publication (including commissions) must be paid at least three (3) days in advance of those fees and expenses being incurred.

F. In the event that the Company files for protection pursuant to chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (a "Chapter 11 Filing"), the parties intend that Verita shall be employed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) to the extent possible and otherwise in accordance with applicable Bankruptcy law and that all amounts due under this Agreement shall, to the extent possible, be paid as administrative expenses of the Company's chapter 11 estate. As soon as practicable following a Chapter 11 Filing (and otherwise in accordance with applicable law and rules and orders of the Bankruptcy Court), the Company shall cause pleadings to be filed with the Bankruptcy Court seeking entry of an order or orders approving this Agreement (the "Retention Order"). The form and substance of the pleadings and the Retention Order shall be reasonably acceptable to Verita. If any Company chapter 11 case converts to a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, Verita will continue to be paid for its services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The parties recognize and agree that if there is a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of the Retention Order, the terms of the Retention Order shall govern during the chapter 11 or other proceeding.

G. To the extent permitted by applicable law, Verita shall receive a retainer in the amount of \$45,000 (the "Retainer") that may be held by Verita as security for the Company's payment obligations under the Agreement. The Retainer is due upon execution of this Agreement. In the event of a Chapter 11 Filing,

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

Verita will first apply the Retainer to all pre-petition invoices, and thereafter, will have the Retainer replenished to the original amount. Verita shall be entitled to hold the Retainer until the termination of the Agreement. Following termination of the Agreement, Verita shall return to the Company any amount of the Retainer that remains following application of the Retainer to the payment of unpaid invoices.

III. RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP

A. The parties understand that the software programs and other materials furnished by Verita pursuant to this Agreement and/or developed during the course of this Agreement by Verita are the sole property of Verita. The term “program” shall include, without limitation, data processing programs, specifications, applications, routines, and documentation. The Company agrees not to copy or permit others to copy the source code from the support software or any other programs or materials furnished pursuant to this Agreement.

B. The Company further agrees that any ideas, concepts, know-how or techniques relating to data processing or Verita’s performance of its services developed or utilized during the term of this Agreement by Verita shall be the exclusive property of Verita. Fees and expenses paid by the Company do not vest in the Company any rights in such property, it being understood that such property is only being made available for the Company’s use during and in connection with the services provided by Verita under this Agreement.

IV. NON-SOLICITATION

The Company agrees that neither it nor its subsidiaries or other affiliated companies shall directly or indirectly solicit for employment, employ or otherwise retain employees of Verita during the term of this Agreement and for a period of twelve (12) months after termination of this Agreement unless Verita provides prior written consent to such solicitation or retention.

V. CONFIDENTIALITY

Each of Verita and the Company, on behalf of themselves and their respective employees, agents, professionals and representatives, agrees to keep confidential all non-public records, systems, procedures, software and other information received from the other party in connection with the services provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that if either party reasonably believes that it is required to produce any such information by order of any governmental agency or other regulatory body it may, upon not less than five (5) business days’ written notice to the other party, release the required information.

VI. SUSPENSION OF SERVICE AND TERMINATION

A. This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated or suspended by either party (i) upon thirty (30) days’ written notice to the other party or (ii) immediately upon written notice for Cause (defined herein). As used herein, the term “Cause” means (i) gross negligence or willful misconduct of Verita that causes serious and material harm to the Company’s reorganization under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, (ii) the failure of the Company to pay Verita invoices for more than sixty (60) days from the date of invoice, or (iii) the accrual of invoices or unpaid services in excess of the retainer held by Verita where Verita reasonably believes it will not be paid.

B. In the event that this contract is terminated, regardless of the reason for such termination, Verita shall coordinate with the Company and, to the extent applicable, the clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, to

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

maintain an orderly transfer of record keeping functions and Verita shall provide all necessary staff, services and assistance required for an orderly transfer. The Company agrees to pay for such services in accordance with Verita's then existing prices for such services. If such termination occurs following entry of the Retention Order, the Company shall immediately seek entry of an order (in form and substance reasonably acceptable to Verita) that discharges Verita from service and responsibility in the Company's bankruptcy case.

C. Any data, programs, storage media or other materials furnished by the Company to Verita or received by Verita in connection with the services provided under the terms of this Agreement may be retained by Verita until the services provided are paid for, or until this Agreement is terminated with the services paid in full. The Company shall remain liable for all fees and expenses imposed under this Agreement as a result of data or physical media maintained or stored by Verita. Verita shall dispose of the data and media in the manner requested by the Company. The Company agrees to pay Verita for reasonable expenses incurred as a result of the disposition of data or media. If the Company has not utilized Verita's services under this Agreement for a period of at least ninety (90) days, Verita may dispose of the data or media, and be reimbursed by the Company for the expense of such disposition, after giving the Company thirty (30) days' notice. Notwithstanding any term herein to the contrary, following entry of the Retention Order, the disposition of any data or media by Verita shall be in accordance with any applicable instructions from the clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, local Bankruptcy Court rules and orders of the Bankruptcy Court.

VII. SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Verita strives to provide continuous improvements in the quality of service to its clients. Verita, therefore, reserves the right to make changes in operating procedure, operating systems, programming languages, general purpose library programs, application programs, time period of accessibility, types of terminal and other equipment and the Verita data center serving the Company, so long as any such changes do not materially interfere with ongoing services provided to the Company in connection with the Company's chapter 11 case.

VIII. BANK ACCOUNTS

At the Company's request and subject to Court approval following any chapter 11 filing, Verita may be authorized to establish accounts with financial institutions in the name of and as agent for the Company. To the extent that certain financial products are provided to the Company pursuant to Verita's agreement with financial institutions, Verita may receive compensation from such financial institutions for the services Verita provides pursuant to such agreement.

IX. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

A. The Company shall indemnify and hold Verita, its affiliates, members, directors, officers, employees, consultants, subcontractors and agents (collectively, the "Indemnified Parties") harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, judgments, liabilities and expenses (including reasonable counsel fees and expenses) (collectively, "Losses") resulting from, arising out of or related to Verita's performance under this Agreement. Such indemnification shall exclude Losses resulting from Verita's gross negligence or willful misconduct. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Losses include any liabilities resulting from claims by any third-parties against any Indemnified Party. The Company shall notify Verita in writing promptly upon the assertion, threat or commencement of any claim, action, investigation or proceeding that the Company becomes aware of with

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

respect to the services provided by Verita under this Agreement. The Company's indemnification obligations hereunder shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

B. In no event shall Verita be liable for any indirect, special or consequential damages such as loss of anticipated profits or other economic loss in connection with or arising out of the services provided for in this Agreement. In no event shall Verita's liability to the Company for any Losses, whether direct or indirect, arising out of this Agreement exceed the total amount billed to the Company and actually paid to Verita for the services contemplated under the Agreement; provided, however, that this limitation shall not apply to the Company during any chapter 11 case in which the Company is a debtor.

C. The Company is responsible for the accuracy of the programs, data and information it or any Company Party submits for processing to Verita and for the output of such information. Verita does not verify information provided by the Company and, with respect to the preparation of schedules and statements, all decisions are at the sole discretion and direction of the Company. The Company reviews and approves all schedules and statements filed on behalf of, or by, the Company; Verita bears no responsibility for the accuracy or contents therein. The Company agrees to initiate and maintain backup files that would allow the Company to regenerate or duplicate all programs and data submitted by the Company to Verita.

D. The Company agrees that except as expressly set forth herein, Verita makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, any implied or express warranty of merchantability, fitness or adequacy for a particular purpose or use, quality, productiveness or capacity.

X. FORCE MAJEURE

Verita will not be liable for any delay or failure in performance when such delay or failure arises from circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation acts of God, acts of government in its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of public enemy or terrorists, acts of civil or military authority, war, riots, civil strife, terrorism, blockades, sabotage, rationing, embargoes, epidemics, pandemics, outbreaks of infectious diseases or any other public health crises, earthquakes, fire, flood, other natural disaster, quarantine or any other employee restrictions, power shortages or failures, utility or communication failure or delays, labor disputes, strikes, or shortages, supply shortages, equipment failures, or software malfunctions.

XI. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

The Company and Verita are and shall be independent contractors of each other and no agency, partnership, joint venture or employment relationship shall arise, directly or indirectly, as a result of this Agreement.

VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

XII. NOTICES

All notices and requests in connection with this Agreement shall be given or made upon the respective parties in writing and shall be deemed as given as of the third day following the day it is deposited in the U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid or on the day it is given if sent by facsimile or electronic mail or on the day after the day it is sent if sent by overnight courier to the appropriate address set forth below:

KCC/Verita Global, LLC
222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd Floor
El Segundo, CA 90245
Attn: Drake D. Foster
Tel: (310) 823-9000
Fax: (310) 823-9133
E-Mail: dfoster@veritaglobal.com

American Signature, Inc.
Address
City, ST Zip
Attn:
Tel:
Fax:

Or to such other address as the party to receive the notice or request so designates by written notice to the other.

XIII. APPLICABLE LAW

The validity, enforceability, and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

XIV. ENTIRE AGREEMENT/ MODIFICATIONS

Each party acknowledges that it has read this Agreement, understands it, and agrees to be bound by its terms and further agrees that it is the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties, which supersedes and merges all prior proposals, understandings, other agreements, and communications oral and written between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. The Company represents that it has the authority to enter into this Agreement, and the Agreement is non-dischargeable under any applicable statute or law. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall in no way be affected or impaired thereby. This Agreement may be modified only by a written instrument duly executed by an authorized representative of the Company and an officer of Verita.

XV. COUNTERPARTS; EFFECTIVENESS

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement will become effective when one or more counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties, which delivery may be made by exchange of copies of the signature page by facsimile or electronic mail.

XVI. ASSIGNMENT

This Agreement and the rights and duties hereunder shall not be assignable by the parties hereto except upon written consent of the other, with the exception that this Agreement can be assigned without written consent by Verita to a wholly-owned subsidiary or affiliate of Verita.



VERITA AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

XVII. ATTORNEYS' FEES

In the event that any legal action, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce the performance or interpret the provisions of this Agreement, the parties agree to reimburse the prevailing party's reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs, and all other related expenses, which may be set by the court in the same action or in a separate action brought for that purpose, in addition to any other relief to which the prevailing party may be entitled.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement effective as of the first date mentioned above.

Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global

DocuSigned by:

Evan J. Gershbein

41878F97BE7747D...

BY: Evan Gershbein

DATE:

TITLE: EVP, Corporate Restructuring Services

19-Nov-2025 | 8:51:01 PM EST

American Signature, Inc.

Rudy Moncada

BY:

DATE:

TITLE: Co-Chief Restructuring Officer

11/19/25

Exhibit B

Gershbein Declaration

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC., *et al.*,¹

Debtors.

)
)
)
)
)
)

Chapter 11

Case No. 25-12105 (JKS)

(Joint Administration Requested)

**DECLARATION OF EVAN GERSHBEIN IN SUPPORT OF
DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EMPLOY AND
RETAIN KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS, LLC DBA VERITA GLOBAL
AS CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE**

I, Evan Gershbein, being duly sworn, state the following under penalty of perjury:

1. I am an Executive Vice President of Corporate Restructuring Services for Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global ("Verita"), whose offices are located at 222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd Floor, El Segundo, California 90245. Except as otherwise noted, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and if called and sworn as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. This declaration (this "Declaration") is made in support of the *Debtors' Application for Authorization to Employ and Retain Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC dba Verita Global as Claims and Noticing Agent Effective as of the Petition Date* (the "Application").²

3. Verita comprises leading industry professionals with significant experience in both the legal and administrative aspects of large, complex chapter 11 cases. Verita's professionals

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: American Signature, Inc. (6162); American Signature Home Inc. (8573); American Signature USA Inc. (6162); ASI Pure Promise Insurance LLC (6162); ASI Elston LLC (7520); ASI – Laporte LLC (6162); ASI Polaris LLC (6162); ASI Thomasville LLC (6162); and American Signature Woodbridge LLC (6162). The Debtors' business address is 4300 E. 5th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

have experience in noticing, claims administration, solicitation, balloting, and facilitating other administrative aspects of chapter 11 cases.

4. Verita has acted as official claims and noticing agent in many large bankruptcy cases in this district and in other districts nationwide. Verita's recent cases in this district include: *In re Dynamic Aerostructures LLC*, No. 25-10292 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 27, 2025); *In re Grtistone Bio, Inc.*, No. 24-12305 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 16, 2024); *In re Fulcrum Bioenergy, Inc.*, No. 24-12008 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Sept. 12, 2024); *In re QLess, Inc.*, No. 24-11395 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 21, 2024); *In re Fisker Inc.*, No. 24-11390 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. July 2, 2024); *In re Supply Source Enterprises, Inc.*, No. 24-11054 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 13, 2024); *In re ProSomnus, Inc.*, No. 24-10972 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. May 9, 2024); *In re Sticky's Holding LLC*, No. 24-10856 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 26, 2024); *In re SC Healthcare Holding, LLC*, No. 24-10443 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 22, 2024); *In re Cano Health, Inc.*, No. 24-10164 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 6, 2024); *In re InVivo Therapeutics Corp.*, No. 24-10137 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 6, 2024); *In re AN Global, LLC*, No. 23-11294 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 29, 2023); *In re Proterra Inc.*, No. 23-11120 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 10, 2023); *In re Novan, Inc.*, No. 23-10937 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 19, 2023); *In re Lordstown Motors Corp.*, No. 23-10831 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. June 28, 2023); *In re KDC Agribusiness LLC*, No. 23-10786 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. June 21, 2023); *In re PGX Holdings, Inc.*, No. 23-10718 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. June 6, 2023); *In re PlastiQ Inc.*, No. 23-10671 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. May 25, 2023); *In re Christmas Tree Shops, LLC*, No. 23-10576 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. May 9, 2023); *In re Structurlam Mass Timber U.S., Inc.*, No. 23-10497 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 26, 2023); *In re Catalina Mktg. Corp.*, No. 23-10620 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 31, 2023); *CBCRC Liquidating Corp.*, No. 23-10245 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 3, 2023); *In re Starry Grp. Holdings, Inc.*, No. 23-10219

(KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 22, 2023); *In re Stanadyne LLC*, No. 23-10207 (TMH) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 22, 2023); *In re Tricida*, No. 23-10024 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 23, 2023); *In re Carestream Health, Inc.*, No. 22-10778 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 26, 2022); *In re First Guar. Mortg. Corp.*, No. 22-10584 (CTG) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 1, 2022); *In re Zosano Pharma Corp.*, No. 22-10506 (JKS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 6, 2022).

5. As agent and custodian of the Court records pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c), Verita will perform at the request of the Clerk's office the noticing and claims-related services specified in the Application. In addition, at the Debtors' request, Verita will perform such other noticing, claims, technical, administrative, and support services specified in the Application, subject to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) and the Claims Agent Protocol.

6. Verita represents, among other things, the following:

- (a) Verita is not a creditor of the Debtors;
- (b) Verita is a "disinterested person," as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code;
- (c) Verita will not consider itself employed by the United States government and will not seek any compensation from the United States government in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (d) by accepting employment in these chapter 11 cases, Verita waives any rights to receive compensation from the United States government in connection with these chapter 11 cases;
- (e) in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Verita will not be an agent of the United States and will not act on behalf of the United States;
- (f) Verita will not employ any past or present employees of the Debtors in connection with its work as the claims and noticing agent in these chapter 11 cases;
- (g) in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these chapter 11 cases, Verita will not intentionally misrepresent any fact to any person;
- (h) Verita shall be under the supervision and control of the Clerk with respect to the receipt and recordation of claims and claim transfers;

- (i) Verita will comply with all requests of the Clerk and the guidelines promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States for the implementation of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c); and
- (j) none of the services provided by Verita as the claims and noticing agent in these chapter 11 cases shall be at the expense of the Clerk.

7. Although the Debtors do not propose to retain Verita under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code pursuant to the Application,³ I caused to be submitted for review by our conflicts system the names of all known potential parties in interest (the “Potential Parties in Interest”) in these chapter 11 cases. The list of Potential Parties in Interest was provided by the Debtors and included, among other things, the Debtors, non-Debtor affiliates, significant equity holders, the Debtors’ current and former directors and officers, secured creditors, top 50 unsecured creditors, vendors, and other parties. The results of the conflict check were compiled and reviewed by Verita professionals under my supervision. At this time, and as set forth in further detail herein, Verita is not aware of any relationship that would present a disqualifying conflict of interest. Should Verita discover any new relevant facts or relationships bearing on the matters described herein during the period of its retention, Verita will use reasonable efforts to promptly file a supplemental declaration.

8. To the best of my knowledge, and based solely upon information provided to me by the Debtors, and except as provided herein, neither Verita, nor any of its professionals, has any materially adverse connection to the Debtors, their creditors or other relevant parties. Verita may have relationships with certain of the Debtors’ creditors as vendors or in connection with cases in which Verita serves or has served in a neutral capacity as claims and noticing agent or administrative advisor for another chapter 11 debtor.

³ As stated in the Application, such retention will be sought by separate application.

9. On May 1, 2023, funds affiliated with GCP Capital Partners LLC (“GCP”) indirectly acquired a controlling equity interest in Verita (the “Acquisition”). Pursuant to the Acquisition, an indirect, non-controlling, beneficial minority interest in Verita was acquired by funds affiliated with J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. (“JPMIM”). GCP is a middle-market private equity investment firm based in New York. GCP has made investments in a number of industries, including tech-enabled business services, payments, and select financials. JPMIM is a U.S. registered investment adviser. Designees of GCP are members of the Board of Managers (the “Board”) of Verita’s ultimate parent company, KCC Parent LLC (“Parent”). Parent wholly owns Verita Intermediate, LLC, which in turn wholly owns Verita Global, LLC, which in turn wholly owns Verita Global Services, LLC, which in turn wholly owns Verita. One representative of JPMIM is entitled to attend and observe (but not vote) at all meetings of the Board, but no designee of JPMIM is a member of the Board.

10. Verita searched all entities listed in the list of Potential Parties in Interest against an internal database that includes (i) Verita’s parent entities, affiliates, and subsidiaries, and (ii) GCP, GCP’s funds, and each such fund’s respective portfolio companies and investments as set forth in the list most recently provided to Verita by GCP. Based solely on the foregoing search, Verita has determined, to the best of its knowledge, that there are no material connections.

11. To the extent Verita learns of any other material connections between the funds or investments included in the above-described conflicts search and the Debtor, Verita will promptly file a supplemental disclosure. In addition, Verita may have had, may currently have, or may in the future have business relationships unrelated to the Debtors with one or more GCP or JPMIM entities including, among others, portfolio companies of GCP.

12. Verita has no contract or relationship with XClaim Inc. or with any other party under which Verita provides or will provide exclusive access to claims data or under which Verita will be compensated for claims data that is made available by Verita.

13. Verita has and will continue to represent clients in matters unrelated to these chapter 11 cases. In addition, Verita and its personnel have and will continue to have relationships in the ordinary course of its business with certain vendors, professionals, and other parties in interest that may be involved in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases. Verita may also provide professional services to entities or persons that may be creditors or parties in interest in these chapter 11 cases, which services do not directly relate to, or have any direct connection with, these chapter 11 cases or the Debtors.

14. To the best of my knowledge, neither Verita nor any of its employees represent any interest materially adverse to the Debtors' estates with respect to any matter upon which Verita is to be engaged. Based on the foregoing, I believe that Verita is a "disinterested person" as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

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

Dated: November 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Evan Gershbein

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