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

	)
In re:	) Chapter 11
	)
AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC., et al., 1	) Case No. 25-12105 (JKS)
Debtors.	) (Joint Administration Requested)
	) (Joint Administration Requested)

# DEBTORS' MOTION FOR THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING REJECTION OF EXECUTORY CONTRACT WITH MAN WAH (HONG KONG) TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") file this motion (this "Motion") for the entry of an order (the "Order"), substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, authorizing the Debtors to reject that certain *Supplier Managed USA Onshore Inventory and Exclusive Sales Agreement* (the "Contract")<sup>2</sup> between Man Wah (Hong Kong) Trading Company Limited ("Man Wah"), Debtor American Signature, Inc. ("ASI") and SB360 Capital Partners LLC ("SB360"), effective as of the Petition Date (defined below) and granting related relief. In support of the Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

For the avoidance of doubt, by this Motion, the Debtors seek to reject the Contract, including any amendments, restatements, supplements, purchase orders and associated statements of work associated with the Contract, whether or not such amendments, restatements, supplements, purchase orders and associated statements of work are specifically identified herein.



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.

#### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

- 1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012. The Debtors confirm their consent, pursuant to rule 7008 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and rule 9013-1(f) of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure 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 motion 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.
  - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 3. The statutory bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a), 365(a), and 554(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 6004, 6006, and 6007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Local Rule 9013-1.

#### **Background**

#### A. The Chapter 11 Cases

4. On November 22, 2025 (the "Petition Date"), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief pursuant to chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their businesses 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 Motion, the Debtors filed a motion requesting procedural consolidation and joint administration of these chapter 11 cases

pursuant toBankruptcy Rule 1015(b). No request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in these chapter 11 cases, and no official committee of unsecured creditors has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases.

- 5. 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.
- 6. Additional factual background regarding the Debtors, including their business operations, their corporate and capital structure, and the events leading to the filing of these chapter 11 cases, is set forth in detail in the *Declaration of Rudolph Morando in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Relief* (the "First Day Declaration"), filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference.<sup>3</sup>

#### B. The Man Wah Contract

7. Pursuant to the Contract, *inter alia*, Man Wah was named ASI's exclusive provider of all upholstered reclining motion furniture (the "<u>Product</u>") and ASI agreed to purchase all such Product from Man Wah during the term of the Contract on the terms set forth therein. The Debtors have determined the Contract no longer provides any benefit to their operations or estates. By rejecting the Contract as of the Petition Date, the Debtors will save the estates any unnecessary

Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the First Day Declaration.

administrative expenses associated with the Contract. Absent rejection, the Debtors could continue to incur expenses under the Contract.

#### **Relief Requested**

8. By this Motion, the Debtors seek the entry of the Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, authorizing the Debtors to reject the Contract effective as of the Petition Date and granting related relief.

#### **Basis for Relief**

#### A. Rejection Of The Contract Is Appropriate

9. Section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor in possession, "subject to the court's approval, may . . . reject any executory contract or unexpired lease of the debtor." 11 U.S.C. § 365(a). The decision to assume or reject an executory contract or unexpired lease is a matter within the "business judgment" of the debtor. See Nat'l Labor Relations Bd. v. Bildisco & Bildisco (In re Bildisco), 682 F.2d 72, 79 (3d Cir. 1982) ("The usual test for rejection of an executory contract is simply whether rejection would benefit the estate, the 'business judgment' test." (citation omitted)); see also Glenstone Lodge, Inc. v. Buckhead Am. Corp. (In re Buckhead Am. Corp.), 180 B.R. 83, 88 (Bankr. D. Del. 1995). Application of the business judgment standard requires a court to approve a debtor's business decision unless the decision is the product of bad faith, whim, or caprice. See Lubrizol Enters., Inc. v. Richmond Metal Finishes, 756 F.2d 1043, 1047 (4th Cir. 1985). Further, "[t]his provision allows a trustee to relieve the bankruptcy estate of burdensome agreements which have not been completely performed." Stewart Title Guar. Co. v. Old Republic Nat'l Title Ins. Co., 83 F.3d 735, 741 (5th Cir. 1996) (citation omitted).

- 10. Rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases is appropriate where such rejection would benefit the estate. *See Sharon Steel Corp. v. Nan Fuel Gas Distrib. Corp. (In re Sharon Steel Corp.)*, 872 F.2d 36, 39–40 (3d Cir. 1989). Upon finding that a debtor has exercised its sound business judgment in determining that rejection of certain contracts or leases is in the best interests of its creditors and all parties in interest, a court should approve the rejection under section 365(a). *See In re Fed. Mogul Glob., Inc.*, 293 B.R. 124, 126 (D. Del. 2003); *In re Bradlees Stores, Inc.*, 194 B.R. 555, 558 n.1 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1996), *appeal dismissed*, 210 B.R. 506 (S.D.N.Y. 1997); *In re Summit Land Co.*, 13 B.R. 310, 315 (Bankr. D. Utah 1981) (holding that, absent extraordinary circumstances, court approval of a debtors' decision to assume or reject an executory contract "should be granted as a matter of course").
- 11. The Debtors have determined that the Contract provides no benefit to their estates and constitutes an unnecessary drain on their resources. Rejection of the Contract thus reflects the Debtors' exercise of sound business judgment.

#### Waiver of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and 6004(h)

12. The Debtors request that the Court enter an order providing that notice of the relief requested herein satisfies Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and that the Debtors have established cause to exclude such relief from the 14-day stay period under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h).

#### **Notice**

13. The Debtors will provide notice of this Motion to: (a) the Office of the U.S. Trustee for the District of Delaware; (b) counsel to the DIP Agent; (c) Man Wah; (d) SB360; and (e) any party that requests service pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice is required.

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

Dated: November 24, 2025 PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP

/s/ Laura Davis Jones

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Proposed Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

### EXHIBIT A

**Proposed Order** 

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

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In re:	) Chapter 11
AMERICAN SIGNATURE, INC., et al., 1	) Case No. 25-12105 (JKS)
	)
Debtors.	) (Joint Administration Requested)
	)

## ORDER AUTHORIZING REJECTION OF EXECUTORY CONTRACT EFFECTIVE AS OF PETITION DATE

Upon consideration of the motion (the "Motion")<sup>2</sup> of the above-captioned debtors and debtors-in-possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for the entry of an order (this "Order") authorizing the Debtors to reject the Contract effective as of the Petition Date; and (ii) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon consideration of 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 the Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and the Court having found that it may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and the Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and the Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at any hearing before the Court (the "Hearing"); and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before the Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.
- 2. The Contract is rejected under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code effective as of the Petition Date.
- 3. Within two (2) business days after entry of this Order, the Debtors will serve this Order on Man Wah.
- 4. Man Wah must file a proof of claim relating to the rejection of the Contract, if any, by the later of: (a) any applicable claims bar date established in these chapter 11 cases; or (b) 30 days after entry of this Order. The Debtors reserve all rights to contest any such claim.
- 5. The Debtors reserve their rights to assume, assign, or reject other executory contracts or unexpired leases, and nothing herein shall be deemed to affect such rights.
- 6. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the validity of any claim against a Debtor entity; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Order or the Motion; (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the

Bankruptcy Code; or (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law.

- 7. Notwithstanding the possible applicability of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(g), 7062, or 9014, or otherwise, the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 8. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 9. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.