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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

Chapter 11

In re:

Case No. 24-11161 (JTD)

EPIC! CREATIONS, INC., et al., 1

(Jointly Administered)

Debtors.

Proposed Objection Deadline: At the time of the

Hearing

Proposed Hearing Date: December 3, 2024, at 9 a.m.

Related D.I. Nos. 245, 244, 288, 295

CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST VOIZZIT TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE, LTD., VOIZZIT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LLC, VINAY RAVINDRA, RAJENDRAN VELLAPATH, AND THINK & LEARN PRIVATE LTD. FOR THEIR CONTINUING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE AUTOMATIC STAY

Plaintiff Claudia Z. Springer, Esq., in her capacity as Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") of the Estates of Epic! Creations, Inc. ("Epic"), Neuron Fuel, Inc. ("Neuron Fuel"), and Tangible Play, Inc. ("Tangible Play," together with Epic and Neuron Fuel, the "Debtors") in the abovecaptioned chapter 11 cases brings this emergency motion (the "Motion") seeking damages against Voizzit Technology Private, Ltd. ("Voizzit India"), Voizzit Information Technology LLC ("Voizzit UAE"), and Rajendran Vellapalath ("Vellapalath," and with Voizzit India and Voizzit UAE, the "Voizzit Respondents") and Vinay Ravindra ("Ravindra") and Think & Learn Private Ltd. ("T&L," and with Ravindra, the "T&L Respondents") for their continued and knowing violations of the automatic stay, and states:

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Epic! Creations, Inc. (9113); Neuron Fuel, Inc. (8758); and Tangible Play, Inc. (9331).



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. On two separate occasions, in two different Orders, this Court has been compelled to unwind actions the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents have taken to exercise control over the Debtors' property in violation of the automatic stay. [See D.I. 276; Adv. 24-50233, D.I. 14.] In its November 12, 2024 Order, this Court even went so far as to enjoin the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents from further stay violations, ordering that: "[t]he Voizzit Entities and their affiliates, successors, assigns, agents, and related parties are expressly prohibited from taking or causing others to take any actions in violation of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)...." [D.I. 276, ¶ 6 (the "Stay Order").] It also scheduled a hearing for November 21, 2024 to assess appropriate damages. [Id. ¶ 5.]
- 2. Apparently undeterred by the threat of damages, three days later on November 15, 2024, the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents once again engaged in a blatant stay violation by infiltrating Tangible Play's account with Cloudflare, Inc.'s web-hosting service. That infiltration ultimately allowed the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents to obtain complete control over Tangible Play's playosmo.com domain on November 17, 2024. Making this stay violation all the more egregious is the fact that on the very same day the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents infiltrated Tangible Play's Cloudflare account and seized control of the playosmo.com domain, the Voizzit Respondents told this Court in a filing that "Voizzit has no intentions of violating the automatic stay and now that it has obtained counsel will look to guidance from this Court before taking any potentially stay violating actions through the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases." [D.I. 288, ¶ 43.] The Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents knowing stay violation caused Tangible Play's website to crash, resulting in continuing harm to the Debtors'

estates, until the Trustee was able to retake control of the Tangible Play accounts and playosmo.com domain on November 21, 2024.

3. As the Voizzit Respondents' and the T&L Respondents' conduct demonstrates, only the most severe of sanctions will have any chance of deterring future misconduct. The Trustee therefore asks this Court to award damages for this latest violation of the automatic stay *and* the Stay Order, including punitive damages. She further asks that the hearing on the Motion be combined with the already continued damages hearing scheduled for December 3, 2024 in connection with the Apple stay violation. Combining the hearings to include a request for damages related to the Cloudflare stay violation is most efficient as the Court has already received the evidence of the Voizzit Respondents' and the T&L Respondents' latest stay violation during the November 21, 2024 hearing as part of the Trustee's evidence that the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents have acted in defiance of the automatic stay.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated as of February 29, 2012. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A) and (O). Pursuant to 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 Trustee consents 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 the consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
 - 5. Venue is proper in the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

6. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief sought herein are sections 105 or 362 of title 11 of the United States Code, Rules 2002, 9014, and 9020 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and Local Rules 2002-1(b), 4001-1, 4001-2, and 9013-1.

BACKGROUND

- A. The Bankruptcy Filing and the Trustee's Appointment.
- 7. On June 4 and 5, 2024 (the "<u>Petition Dates</u>"), GLAS Trust Company LLC, in its capacity as administrative and collateral agent under that certain Credit and Guaranty Agreement dated November 24, 2021, and certain lenders under that Agreement (the "<u>Petitioning Creditors</u>") filed an involuntary chapter 11 petition against each Debtor. [D.I. 1].
- 8. On June 27, 2024, this Court entered an order directing joint administration of the Debtors' cases for procedural purposes. [D.I. 61].
- 9. On September 16, 2024 (the "Order for Relief Date"), this Court entered an order for relief in the Debtors' involuntary Chapter 11 Cases and directed the appointment of a chapter 11 trustee. [D.I. 147].
- 10. On September 23, 2024, the United States Trustee for Region 3 duly appointed Claudia Z. Springer as chapter 11 trustee of each Debtor's estate, subject to approval by the Court. [D.I. 152]. On October 7, 2024, this Court entered an order approving the appointment of the Trustee. [D.I. 180].
- 11. Immediately upon her appointment, the Trustee, with the support of her legal and financial advisors, among other steps, worked to familiarize herself with and stabilize the Debtors' businesses and operations, secure the Debtors' assets wherever located around the globe, identify reliable books and records, and assemble the information necessary to provide to this Court and other stakeholders.

B. The Stay Order.

- 12. On November 4, 2024, the Trustee filed an emergency motion to enforce the automatic stay (the "Stay Motion") after discovering that the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents had violated the automatic stay by, among other things, transferring funds and essential data—including the Debtors' applications on Apple's App Store—from the Debtors' estates to Voizzit India. [D.I. 244.] Specifically, on September 26, 2024, the former CEO of Epic and Tangible Play and the current chief content officer for T&L, Vinay Ravindra transferred the registered ownership of Epic's application from Epic's Apple account to Voizzit India's Apple account. [See Tr. Exs. 2, 4, 5, 37, 42; J. Grall Decl. [D.I. 256].] On October 14, 2024, all of Tangible Play's Osmo applications were similarly transferred from Tangible Play's Apple account to the same Voizzit India account with Apple. [Id.]
- 13. The Court held a hearing on the Stay Motion on November 12, 2024. Neither Mr. Ravindra nor T&L appeared at the November 12, 2024 hearing. The two Voizzit entities and Mr. Vellapalath, however, did appear and asked the Court to adjourn the hearing. They argued that an adjournment was appropriate because (i) they allegedly did not know about the Chapter 11 Cases when they took control of the Debtors' applications, and (ii) they had changed the registered owners of the Debtors' applications because the two Voizzit entities allegedly owned the Debtors and their intellectual property. [See D.I. 338 ("11/12/24 Tr.") at 11-15, attached hereto as Exhibit B; see also D.I. 288, ¶ 53.] According to their counsel, the two Voizzit entities and Mr. Vellapalath believed themselves to "be the rightful legal owners of the Debtors" and were "operating in good faith" and should not be sanctioned for the stay violation. [Id.] Their counsel even argued that

The Trustee Exhibits are the documents admitted into evidence at the November 21, 2024 hearing.

"the trustee may actually, again albeit unknowingly, I am not trying to ascribe any intent at this juncture, affirmatively interfering with the control and ownership of Voizzit." (11/12/24 Tr. at 12.)

14. The Court denied the request for a continuance and found the automatic stay had been violated. The Court's Stay Order found that the transfer of the registered ownership of the Debtors' applications were void *ab initio*. [D.I. 276, ¶ 1.] The Court further ordered:

[t]he Voizzit Entities and their affiliates, successors, assigns, agents, and related parties are expressly prohibited from taking or causing others to take any actions in violation of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a), including any actions to assert ownership over the Debtors' Apps or the funds collected from the sale of the Debtors' Apps.

[*Id.* ¶6 (emphasis added).] The Court also scheduled a hearing for November 21, 2024 to assess appropriate damages. [*Id.* ¶5.]

15. On November 12, 2024, the Trustee caused Verita to serve the Stay Order in accordance with its terms by email and overnight mail to the Voizzit Respondents and T&L Respondents. [D.I. 310.]

C. The November 15-17 Stay Violations.

- 16. On November 15, 2024, the Voizzit Respondents responded to the Stay Motion, again seeking a continuance. [D.I. 288.] In asking for a continuance, they represented to the Court that "Voizzit has no intentions of violating the automatic stay and now that it has obtained counsel will look to guidance from this Court before taking any potentially stay violating actions through the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases." [Id. ¶ 43.]
- 17. Despite their representation, that very same day, and *just three days after this Court's Stay Order*, Mr. Ravindra, who serves as T&L's Chief Content Officer, used his T&L email address (vinay@byjus.com) to access Tangible Play's Cloudflare account. Once in the account, he granted access to the account to kavitha@indiafirst.com. (Tr. Exs. 43-47.) India First

is a Voizzit-related entity. [11/21 Tr. 81.] On November 17, 2024, kavitha@indiafirst.com transferred Tangible Play's playosmo.com domain out of Tangible Play's Cloudflare account to an account under the control of "kavitha@voizzit.com." (Tr. Exs. 43-47; 11/21 Tr. 82.)

- 18. The Cloudflare account hosts Tangible Play's playosmo.com website. As a result of these actions, the playosmo.com website crashed, resulting in a considerable number of schools that use Tangible Play's apps reaching out to complain about a lack of access to the Tangible Play programs. As a result of these complaints, the Trustee contacted Cloudflare to determine what was happening and, by working with Cloudflare, was able to regain control over the Tangible Play accounts and playosmo.com domain on November 21, 2024.
- 19. The evidence presented at the November 21 sanctions hearing established that all of the stay violations that preceded the November 12 Stay Order, including the Voizzit Respondents' and T&L Respondents' attempted misappropriation of the Debtors' Stripe, Google, Github, and Apple accounts as detailed in Jacob Grall's Supplemental Declaration [D.I. 318], were done with knowledge of the bankruptcy cases as part of a scheme to take control of the Debtors' businesses. [11/21 Tr. 37-43, 59.] A business associate of T&L, William Hailer, testified that T&L's strategy of falsely claiming the Debtors' businesses were owned by another entity not in bankruptcy so as to obtain control over the businesses was the "backup to the backup" of T&L's plan to retain control over the Debtors' businesses and assets notwithstanding the Debtors' bankruptcies. [Id. at 59.]
- 20. In light of the service of the Stay Order on all of the Respondents and the representations made in the Voizzit Respondents' November 15 filing, there is no question that all of these bad actors knew of the automatic stay when they infiltrated Tangible Play's Cloudflare account and took control of Tangible Play's website domain as part of a scheme to retain control

over the Debtors' businesses, making the stay violation willful and subject to sanctions under Third Circuit precedent. *See In re Atl. Bus. & Cmty. Corp.*, 901 F.2d 325, 329 (3rd Cir. 1990).

21. In fact, the evidence also established that the Voizzit Respondents and the T&L Respondents knew of the Debtors' pending bankruptcy cases long before the November 12, 2024 Stay Order. Mr. Ravindra—the person who used his prior position with the Debtors to access and transfer ownership of the Debtors' applications to the Voizzit entities—certainly knew about the Chapter 11 Cases, not just because of his title but also because he signed the engagement letter retaining bankruptcy counsel to defend against the involuntary petitions. [Tr. Exs. 13-16; 11/21 Tr. 72-73, 85-87.] T&L, which directed Mr. Ravindra, knew of the chapter 11 filings for the same reason, among others. [Id.] And despite the Voizzit Respondents' counsel's representations that the Voizzit Respondents did not know about the bankruptcy filing until they were served with the Stay Motion [see D.I. 288, ¶53], Mr. Hailer testified that during the week of October 12, 2024 three weeks before the Stay Motion was served—Mr. Vellapalath participated in a meeting with Mr. Hailer and T&L's principal Byju Raveendran during which the Debtors' bankruptcy cases were discussed [11/21 Tr. 41, 44-45, 67-70]. Mr. Hailer further testified that Mr. Raveendran told him that Mr. Vellapalath was his "partner" and described Mr. Vellapalath as his "brother." [11/21/24 Tr. 40.] The most plausible inference, indeed the only reasonable inference, from the totality of this evidence is that each and every one of the Voizitt Respondents knew of the bankruptcy on September 26, 2024 when Mr. Ravindra, a senior T&L executive, transferred Epic's application from Epic's Apple account to Voizzit India as part of a scheme to claim a nondebtor owned the Debtors' businesses and to frustrate and prevent the Trustee from administering the assets of the Debtors' estates and running a value-maximizing sale process for the benefit of all of the Debtors' stakeholders.

- 22. The timing of the attempted takeover of the Debtors' businesses also supports the conclusion that the Voizzit Respondents knew the Debtors were in bankruptcy and that they committed their multiple stay violations as part of a scheme to retain the Debtors' businesses and circumvent the Trustee's administration of the Debtors' estates. Although the Voizzit Respondents claim Voizzit has owned the Debtors since April 2024, curiously all of the attempted seizures of the Debtors' technology platforms and applications only took place starting on or around September 24, 2024, the day after the Trustee's appointment, and accelerated thereafter. [See D.I. 318, ¶¶15-25.]
- 23. The Voizzit Respondents' and the T&L Respondents' misappropriation of Tangible Play's website in violation of the automatic stay and the Stay Order damaged the Debtors' estates. In addition to the attorneys' and other fees incurred in connection with remedying this violation, Tangible Play was unable to sell any products through its website after it crashed and its goodwill with customers and its reputation in the market suffered after its website was down for several days. Based upon this harm and the brazen, non-stop nature of the stay violations, the Trustee seeks additional damages for the Cloudflare stay violation.

<u>ARGUMENT</u>

- 24. The Trustee seeks sanctions pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §363(k) and requests that these sanctions be entered during the hearing to be held on December 3, 2024.
- 25. Section 362(k)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that "an individual injured by any willful violation of the [automatic] stay . . . shall recover actual damages, including costs and attorneys' fees, and, in appropriate circumstances, may recover punitive damages." 11 U.S.C. § 362(k)(1). In the Third Circuit, a corporate debtor has standing under section 362(k) of the Bankruptcy Code to recover damages for willful violations of the automatic stay. *See Atl. Bus.* &

Cmty. Corp.. 901 F.2d at 329 (interpreting section 362(h) of the Bankruptcy Code, now recodified as section 362(k)). A party commits a willful violation of the stay when it engages in deliberate conduct with knowledge of the debtor's bankruptcy. *Id.* at 329; *In re Daniels*, 206 B.R. 444, 445 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 1997). As the Third Circuit observed in *Atlantic Business & Community Corp.*:

A "willful violation" does not require a specific intent to violate the automatic stay. Rather, the statute provides for damages upon a finding that the defendant knew of the automatic stay and that the defendant's actions which violated the stay were intentional. Whether the party believes in good faith that it had a right to the property is not relevant to whether the act was "willful" or whether compensation must be awarded.

901 F.2d at 329 (quoting In re Bloom, 875 F.2d 224, 227 (9th Cir. 1989)).

- 26. When a party acts with actual notice of the bankruptcy, it is presumed to have violated the stay deliberately and is subject to strict liability under section 362(k). *See Daniels*, 206 B.R. at 445. Punitive damages under Section 362(k) of the Bankruptcy Code are warranted when, as here, a party "acted with actual knowledge that [they] were violating a federally protected right or with reckless disregard of whether [they] were doing so." *In re Frankel*, 391 B.R. 266, 275 (Bankr. M.D. Pa. 2008) (*quoting In re Wagner*, 74 B.R. 898, 904 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1987)).
- 27. Punitive damages should be imposed when a party acts with "arrogant defiance" towards federal bankruptcy law by continuing to violate the stay with a clear understanding of its existence and effect. *See In re Dean*, 490 B.R. 662, 671 (Bankr. M.D. Pa. 2013); *In re Johnson*, 601 B.R. 365, 382 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2019); *In re Howard*, No. 2:10CV962, 2011 WL 578777, at *13 (W.D. Pa. Feb. 9, 2011); *In re Mullarkey*, 81 B.R. 280, 284 (Bankr. D.N.J. 1987) (finding that a creditor "arrogantly defied" the bankruptcy code on multiple occasions, resulting in a violation of the automatic stay and granting punitive damages against the creditor for his "egregious willful violations").

- 28. Certainly by the time of the November 12 Stay Order (if not months earlier), there can be no question that all of the Respondents knew of the automatic stay and that by usurping control of yet another asset from the Debtors' estates—this time, Tangible Play's playosmo.com domain—all of the Respondents engaged in a willful and defiant stay violation. Accordingly, the Trustee requests that she be awarded her actual damages, including attorneys' fees and other fees, related to this most recent stay violation involving the Cloudflare accounts and website domains, as well as additional punitive damages.
- 29. Combining the hearing on the stay violation related to the Cloudflare stay violation with the continued hearing on the Apple stay violation is appropriate. The Court has already received the evidence of the Cloudflare violations in connection with determining sanctions related to the Apple stay violation and thus, all of the Respondents are on notice that the Trustee contends the stay was violated by their taking of the Tangible Play domain. Quickly addressing this latest stay violation, taken in defiance of this Court's Stay order, is therefore appropriate to make it clear to all of the Respondents that such conduct will not be tolerated by this Court and will be swiftly dealt with if it continues.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE the Trustee respectfully requests entry of the Proposed Order, substantially in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

[intentionally left blank]

Dated: November 26, 2024 Wilmington, Delaware

PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN, P.C.

/s/ Alexis R. Gambale

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Counsel to the Trustee

Exhibit A

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:

Chapter 11

EPIC! CREATIONS, INC., et al., 1

Case No. 24-11161 (JTD)

Debtors.

(Jointly Administered)

JUDGMENT ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND OTHER DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST VOIZZIT TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE, LTD., VOIZZIT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LLC, VINAY RAVINDRA, RAJENDRAN VELLAPATH, AND THINK & LEARN PRIVATE LTD. FOR THEIR CONTINUING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE AUTOMATIC STAY

Upon consideration of the Chapter 11 Trustee's Emergency Motion for Sanctions Against Voizzit Technology Private, Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath, and Think & Learn Private Ltd. for Their Continuing Failure to Comply With the Automatic Stay (the "Emergency Motion") filed by Plaintiff Claudia Z. Springer, Esq., in her capacity as Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") of the Estates of Epic! Creations, Inc. ("Epic"); Neuron Fuel, Inc. ("Neuron Fuel"); and Tangible Play, Inc. ("Tangible Play," together with Epic and Neuron Fuel, the "Debtors"); and the Court having reviewed the Emergency Motion and the Exhibits thereto; and the Court having held a hearing on December [•], 2024 (the "Hearing"); and the Court having considered all evidence and argument presented at the Hearing; the Court finds and concludes that:

A. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b).

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Epic! Creations, Inc. (9113); Neuron Fuel, Inc. (8758); and Tangible Play, Inc. (9331).

- B. This is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(A), (E), and (O).
 - C. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409(a).
 - D. Notice of the Motion was sufficient under the circumstances.
- E. The Court entered the Order Granting the Trustee's Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Enforcing the Automatic Stay, (II) Declaring Violations of the Automatic Stay to be Void Ab Initio, (III) Awarding Fees, Expenses, and Punitive Damages, and (IV) Granting Related Relief [D.I. 276] (the "Stay Order") on November 12, 2204.
- F. Following the entry of the Stay Order, Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd, Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath, and Think & Learn Private Ltd. (the "Respondents") again violated the automatic stay, this time by infiltrating Debtor Tangible Play's Cloudflare account and taking control of its playosmo.com website domain.
- G. The Respondents knowing stay violation caused Debtor Tangible Play's website to crash, resulting in continuing harm to the Tangible Play Estate, until the Trustee was able to retake control of the Tangible Play domain on November 21, 2024.

For the reasons stated on the record at the Hearing, it is hereby **DECLARED** and **ORDERED THAT** and **JUDGMENT IS HEREBY ENTERED**:

1. The Respondents are each jointly and severally liable to the Trustee for the fees and expenses she incurred in connection with prosecuting the Emergency Motion. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order, the Trustee shall submit a certification of her attorneys' fees and expenses to this Court, including any fees chargeable to the Estates by GLAS Trust Company LLC ("GLAS") on behalf of the lenders (each, an "Attorneys' Fees Certification") and after which the

Court will enter an Order granting judgment and directing payment of the fees and expenses set forth in the Attorneys' Fees Certification.

- 2. The Respondents are each jointly and severally liable to the Trustee for the following damages:
 - a. \$15,000 in actual damages representing the damage to Debtor Tangible Play's estate as a result of the Respondents' actions and the crashing of the Tangible Play website; and
 - b. \$[] in punitive damages.
 - 3. The terms of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon entry.
- 4. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

Exhibit B

1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT			
2	DIST	RICT OF DELAWARE		
3	IN RE:	. Chapter 11 . Case No. 24-11161 (JTD)		
4	EPIC! CREATIONS, INC., et al.,	. (Jointly Administered)		
5	CC 41.7	• Courtroom No. 5 • 824 North Market Street		
6		· Wilmington, Delaware 19801		
7	Debtor.	•		
8		Tuesday, November 12, 202410:00 a.m.		
9				
10	TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN T. DORSEY			
11	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE			
12	APPEARANCES:			
13	For the Trustee:	Joseph Barsalona, Esquire PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN, P.C. 824 North Market Street		
14		Suite 800 Wilmington, Delaware 19801		
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25	Proceedings recorded by e transcript produced by tr	electronic sound recording, canscription service.		

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6		Wilmington, Delaware 19801		
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(Proceedings commenced at 10:08 a.m.)

THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. This is Judge Dorsey. We're on the record in Epic! Creations, Case No. 24-11161.

I will go ahead and turn it over to debtors counsel to run the agenda -- excuse me, trustee's counsel.

MR. BARSALONA: Good morning, Your Honor. For the record Joe Barsalona from Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, cocounsel to the trustee.

We are going off of the third amended agenda that we filed at Docket No. 268, Your Honor. We just have our stay enforcement motion and with that I will hand it over to Ms. Steege.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. STEEGE: Good morning, Your Honor. Thank you for hearing our emergency motion on shortened notice.

As set forth in our moving papers, bad actors surrounding these debtors have bene engaged in a, what can only be described as, systematic scheme to loot these companies and prevent creditors from being paid. Before the orders for relief were entered in violation of this Court's 303(f) order over \$3 million of the debtors revenues were taken from these debtors and transferred to these bad actors.

Once the order for relief was entered and the trustee was appointed, these bad actors began a game of catch

me if you can in an effort to retain control over the revenues that they have been taking during the gap period.

Using their status as account administrators of the debtors various internet platforms and the fact that very few of the debtors employees were cooperating with the trustee and so they had a head start advantage over the trustee.

These bad actors have systematically been changing the names on various internet-based platforms and applications, scrambling to stay one step ahead of the trustee as she has investigated where the debtors IP and revenue sources are located. Since her appointment these transfers have primarily been to two entities: Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., or Voizzit Information Technology LLC.

So, in addition to the stay violations and other misconduct by these bad actors that are detailed in Mr.

Grall's declaration at Paragraphs 19 through 23, we learned late last night from Google's counsel that someone changed the name on Epic's Google cloud accounts to Voizzit.com email address. This change is significant because these accounts contain the codes that allow the direct payments allowed through the Google platform for the debtors products to be funneled into the debtors stripe account and to the other payment processing accounts that the debtor operates. Thus, this appears to be, again, an effort to get into the source

codes to misdirect the debtors revenues and assert control over the debtors property. So, the bad acts continue even as we are before the Court seeking to enforce the automatic stay.

So, that is our latest problem. We are working with Google to solve it, but we may well be back before Your Honor again with another stay violation if that becomes necessary. This morning, however, we are here in connection with two very specific violations of the automatic stay that occurred on September 26th and October 14th. The relief we are seeking is entry of an order enforcing the stay by finding that these two stay violations were void ab initio and should be treated as if they never occurred.

To put what happened in context of the timeline of this case the U.S. Trustee appointed the trustee on September 23rd. On September 26th, just three days later, a bad actor, whom we believe to be Vinra Ravindra (phonetic), used his status as an administrator of Epic's! Apple app and changed the name on that app to Voizzit Technology Private Ltd.

On October 14th we believe the same individual, again using his status as an administrator, changed the name on Tangible Play's Osmo's app with Apple to the same Voizzit entity, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd. Mr. Raveendran is our prime suspect here because one day after he changed the names on Epic's! Apple app on September 27th, the stripe

account records show that he attempted to change the name on the stripe account to Voizzit Information Technology LLC, a different Voizzit entity.

According to the California Secretary of State,
Mr. Raveendran is the chief executive officer of Epic! And
Tangible play. He is also identified in public press reports
as the chief content officer for the debtors India based
parent Think and Learn Pte Ltd. Finally, he had the means
because the trustee has discovered one, she got into the
Apple accounts on October 31st that he was also an
administrator of these Apple accounts and he is, of the
administrators, the one party who had ignored the trustee's
requests to meet and share information.

While all this was happening to the accounts, the trustee was negotiating an order with Apple to obtain status as the sole administrator of the debtors Apple applications. On October 30th, Your Honor entered an order giving her control over those accounts and giving her that status. Fortunately, because of the way Apple pays out money that is collected and because of the negotiations that were ongoing, no funds were sent to Voizzit from collections occurring after the name changes on these accounts. Apple has assured us that funds that are being collected on a daily basis here are frozen and have not been distributed to Voizzit.

Parenthetically, as outlined in our motion, there

were two transfers out of these accounts after the trustee was appointed to Voizzit Information Technology LLC, the entity that was trying to get into the stripe account and that will be the subject of a separate avoidance action.

These account name changes are very significant to this estate because the portion of revenue that the debtor receives from the Epic! Apple app, this is the app where parents download the application and download materials for their children to read and learn with.

That is a very significant source of the debtors revenue stream, approximately a million dollars per month is typically collected through that account and another, while lesser on the Osmos account its more in the nature of about \$15,000 a month. So, relief is necessary here for the trustee to get access to those revenues which she budgeted as receiving when she entered into the debtor-in-possession financing that that would be cash collateral that would not need to be borrowed in new loans from the debtors financing parties. And without that revenue we may very well need to increase the DIP loans and the like. So, that is why we are seeking emergency relief.

It's also, I think, important on a more fundamental level because as Your Honor knows from that financing order there is some very aggressive milestones aimed at the trustee stabilizing these businesses and getting

them ready for a 363 sale which we hope will occur in short order in these cases, but we are not going to be able to get to a 363 sale if we can't tell prospective parties that come looking at the debtor that we have control over the IP and the platforms that allow for payment to be made on the debtors products. No one is going to want to buy a business if it doesn't have control over its revenue sources and distribution channels.

So, what we are asking the Court to do today is to enforce the automatic stay by declaring that these two account name changes are void, that they were void as of the time that they were done. Under existing Third Circuit precedent we point the Court to Constitution Bank v. Tubbs at 68 F.3d 685, it's a 1995 Third Circuit decision. There are many others we cite at Paragraph 4 of our motion. Those decisions make it clear that violations of the stay are treated as if they never happened. It does not matter if the party who engaged in them had knowledge of the bankruptcy or not; although here we think there was knowledge for sure and that the Court can enforce the automatic stay by finding that these transfers were void as of the time they were made.

We would note, Your Honor, that this is a clear violation of the automatic stay. These apps were in the debtors name as of the petition date, as of the order for relief date. Somebody acting on behalf of Voizzit Technology

Private Ltd., we think Mr. Raveendran but it doesn't really matter much who did it. The fact is somebody went in and changed the name on those accounts, attempted to change control over those accounts. That is a violation of 362(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code and, therefore, that change is void ab initio and should be enforced by the Court.

We also are going to be asking, as part of the relief, for a further hearing to assess damages against Voizzit and whoever else was responsible for the stay violation but we are not asking for that on an emergency basis. That would be the subject, if Your Honor grants the relief we are requesting, for a later hearing either at the November 20th omnibus hearing or the December 18th omnibus hearing, whichever hearing is appropriate and convenient from the Court's perspective.

Given all of this misconduct here, we think not only correcting the automatic stay today so that this debtor can proceed to see if it can reorganize and maximize value for creditors who have been denied payment, but that getting sanctions is important because what has been occurring here since the trustee's appointment has been a very blatant effort to try to steal from these debtors the revenues that support its business. We think that that needs to be appropriately dealt with by the Court at a sanctions hearing.

In support of the motion and the facts I have just

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    recited, we would ask the Court to admit the declaration of
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    Jacob Grall, which we filed at Docket 256, along with the
    exhibits attached to his declaration that lay out the facts
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    that I have just recited to the Court.
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               THE COURT: Thank you. Anyone else wish to be
   heard?
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               Mr. Samis.
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               MR. SAMIS: Your Honor, good morning. Can you
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   hear me and see me, okay?
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               THE COURT: I can.
               MR. SHANKER: Your Honor, apologies. May I go
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                      This is Ravi Shanker from Kirkland on
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    after Ms. Steege.
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   behalf of GLAS Trust Company.
               THE COURT: Mr. Samis, who do you represent?
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               MR. SAMIS:
                          I represent Voizzit, Your Honor, as of
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    this morning and I was actually appearing to request an
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    adjournment of the hearing and I can explain why. Our
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    understanding of the facts are very different from Ms.
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    Steege's at this juncture. So, I would like to make that
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    request because I think it would make this hearing more
    efficient to the extent Your Honor agrees with me.
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               THE COURT: All right. Let me go ahead and hear
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    it.
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               MR. SAMIS: I appreciate it, Your Honor. So, Your
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    Honor, good morning. For the record Christopher Samis from
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Potter Anderson & Corroon.

I am in the somewhat unenviable position of appearing today at the hearing on behalf of Voizzit to request an adjournment but I am also glad that I'm here because I can offer some context as there appears to be a much broader multi-faceted dispute that is in play. Albeit perhaps unbeknownst to either party till now, but more specifically I am now in possession of documents that purport to show a September 2023 loan from Riju Ravindran, principle at Voizzit, in the face amount of \$100 million and then a subsequent assignment of that loan from Riju Ravindran to Voizzit in December of 2023, and then a default notice and foreclosure triggered by the initiation of an Indian insolvency proceeding dated April 2024.

This foreclosure notice and default notice purports to be effective as against the entire stock of Epic!, Tangible Play, and seemingly all of the relevant IP. All of this happened prior to the involuntary and prior to the appointment of the trustee. So, critically, the trustee may not be administering property of the estate at this juncture and worse it may be seeking to sell it.

Indeed, the trustee may actually, again albeit unknowingly, I am not trying to ascribe any intent at this juncture, affirmatively interfering with the control and ownership of Voizzit. This is grievously damaging Voizzit's

business and is also harmful to the children that are the end users of the applications by potentially interfering with their access.

To be clear, my client asserts it was unaware of the US bankruptcy proceeding and its first notice of the proceeding came in the form of the stay violation motion and accompanying motion to shorten late -- an order on motion to shorten late on November 7th. So, this has been quite a shock to them.

Since that time, they have been actively seeking to engage US counsel and were in the process of retaining a firm up until Sunday evening when that firm discovered a conflict. They then contacted me yesterday and I was engaged around 7:20 a.m. this morning at which time I received the documents that I just referenced.

Though I would note, as a matter of courtesy, I did inform counsel last night that I would likely be appearing, nevertheless my client has had no time to prepare for a full evidentiary hearing, the hearing is being conducted via Zoom which is less then ideal for witness testimony, and we have had no opportunity to test the evidence, produce our own or meaningfully reply.

Relief as serious as this demands adequate due process and that is what we are seeking here. For this reason alone, the hearing should be adjourned for 30 days to

give the parties time to assess the facts, work out a briefing schedule, and deal with these issues in an efficient and consolidate manner. I should also offer that we would be willing to consider a status quo arrangement to stem the issues while we are working on our way to an answer.

To be sure, Your Honor, Voizzit will likely seek a determination of ownership, injunctive relief of its own, damages and perhaps a dismissal of these cases. Beyond that, Your Honor, there is another reason to adjourn this hearing. In our view, the motion to shorten was improperly served seemingly by the debtors — seemingly by the trustee's own admission.

On this point I refer Your Honor to Paragraph 7, 8, and 9 of the Rendeniya declaration which was filed at Docket Item 259. These paragraphs describe the process for service of a foreign individual in a UAE proceeding and then reach the conclusion acknowledging that there is no official procedure for service in the inverse situation that local practice supports the proposition that the inverse of this process would be acceptable to serve a UAE based party in a US proceeding.

The key fact to focus on in this analysis, though, is that email service is only permitted with the express permission of a UAE Court authorizing service on the foreign party. In the inverse of this situation, which they say they

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are relying on, the Court passing on this would be Your 1 Honor. And with that I looked at the motion to shorten. They never specifically requested that relief from you in 3 connection with the motion to shorten. Indeed, I am assuming 5 they probably discovered the practice after the fact given 6 the timing of the Rendeniya declaration.

So, tellingly, if you look at the order on the pending motion now it actually does specifically call out such relief at Paragraph 4. This wasn't present in the motion to shorten. I think this is a procedural -- a serious procedural flaw. The motion to shorten was improperly served under UAE law and practice and should be voided providing further grounds for the adjournment. As is stated, the further remedy should be a directive to the parties to work out a consensual briefing schedule that appropriately resolves this matter in a coordinated way.

Your Honor, I have nothing further but I think those two independent reasons are grounds enough to adjourn this hearing for today.

THE COURT: Do you have some Court order saying that Voizzit could change the name of these entities?

MR. SAMIS: Not in my possession as of yet, Your Honor, but those are all things that I will be requesting.

THE COURT: All right. Well, the motion is denied. I have no authority, that has been presented to me,

1 that Voizzit has any interest whatsoever in the case other 2 then trying to change the names of the IP and the funds that were to receive in connection with that IP without any 3 authority, as far as I can tell, and haven't provided me with 4 5 any authority to that effect and there is harm to --6 MR. SAMIS: Just to be clear --7 THE COURT: Excuse me, Mr. Samis, I am not done. 8 And there is harm to the debtors here and the debtors are before me. The debtors are who I have authority over. I am 9 10 going to act accordingly. So, your motion to stay is denied. MR. SAMIS: Thank you, Your Honor. The only point 11 of clarification I would make is I don't think anybody is 12 13 alleging that Voizzit is the one that actually changed the names. I think it's a third party. 14 15 THE COURT: Well, then that's even more reason not 16 to grant it because I've got some third party who nobody 17 knows who it is who has been changing names on issues that 18 belong to the debtors here. So, your motion, again, is 19 denied. 20 MR. SAMIS: I understand, Your Honor. We will consult and decide what to do. 21 22 THE COURT: Mr. Shanker. 23 MR. SHANKER: Yes, Your Honor. Ravi Shanker from

Kirkland & Ellis on behalf of GLAS Trust Company.

Your Honor, I think I want to build off of the

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context here that we have seen from Mr. Samis's comments because there is a broader BYJU saga that is going on. I appreciate Ms. Steege walking through the specific issues today and when I look at the situation, Your Honor, it's a situation I have now been living with for 20 plus months personally and the misconduct, the secrecy, the idea that new equity is showing up when these bankruptcy proceedings were commenced by GLAS and the lenders in June of 2024 its hard for me to wrap my mind around the level of misconduct because we only see the tip of the iceberg.

What I would like to do, Your Honor, with the Court's indulgence is broaden out the scope just a hair for my presentation today and talk about the gravity of the misconduct we have seen over the course of these involuntary cases because I think, Your Honor, it's important to inform both next steps with respect to this motion, with respect to any defenses Mr. Samis, on behalf of Voizzit, raises, as well as charting out what is the value maximizing path for these debtors because I can tell you, Your Honor, from the lenders perspective, from GLAS's perspective there is grave concern about orchestrated crimes occurring to siphon out assets after these specific debtors have been put into bankruptcy and after the defenses of Voizzit or anyone else who has a stake in these debtors were never raised during the course of the involuntary petitions.

So, with the Court's indulgence and in typical 1 2 Kirkland fashion, Your Honor, I have prepared a few slides and I would like to walk through those slides to give the 3 macro view if okay with the Court. 4 5 THE COURT: Sure. MR. SHANKER: Your Honor, our trial tech, Jeremy 6 7 Young, if you wouldn't mind giving Mr. Young access. 8 THE COURT: You want to give access to Mr. Young? 9 MR. SHANKER: Yes, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Good to go. MR. SHANKER: Jeremy, if we could pull up the 11 slide deck and start at slide 2. 12 13 MR. YOUNG: Sadly, I am unable to share. THE COURT: Can you raise your hand, Mr. Young so 14 15 we can find you on the Zoom call and give you permission. 16 MR. YOUNG: I have done so, Your Honor. Thank 17 you. 18 THE COURT: Okay. All set. 19 MR. SHANKER: Thank you, Your Honor. 20 Your Honor, GLAS and the lenders commenced these purportedly, after Voizzit foreclosed on the equity in these 21 22 debtors. So, these cases were commenced well after Voizzit's 23 purported equity stake in these debtors. At the time, Your 24 Honor, at the time of the bankruptcy petitions in June, our 25 investigator, Mike Gallo, had discovered millions of dollars

of fraudulent transfers out of these very debtors, Epic! to be specific to affiliates.

In the Alpha case, Your Honor, if I can rewind you back in time, we were beginning to get discovery and we had just learned that the Camshaft LP interest, this was the interest Alpha held on account of the \$533 million, that had been moved out, Your Honor, after GLAS had exercised remedies. Right after Tim Pohl was appointed, insiders moved out the LP interest to frustrate and exercise the remedies.

So, when we commenced these cases, Your Honor, we were procedurally buttoned up, we learned our lessons from the past, and we weren't going to be fooled a second time. We weren't' going to let more money move out of the door. So, we moved for relief and on the screen shot, Your Honor, is an order the Court entered, a 303(f) order, it was a consent order and it was prohibiting non-ordinary course transfers including transfers to direct or indirect affiliates.

It was not contested, Your Honor, and I suspect that Alpha and its equity holders, whether Think and Learn, or Voizzit, or someone else, knew that given what happened in Alpha that contesting the motion was not practical. On the slide we called out two key provisions. We called our Section 2, the no transfers to affiliates, none, there were no exceptions, Your Honor. We also called out Section 3, the debtors must make weekly disclosures of their bank accounts.

And Section 3 was just important to me as Section 2 because it's the spirit of trust but verify. The verify was important to me.

Next slide. Your Honor, every week I feel like I learn about more misconduct happening in these cases and even today from Ms. Steege's comment I learn about more misconduct with respect to the Google account. In Mr. Grall's declaration, this was at Docket 256, Paragraph 20, what we learned last week, Your Honor, is that this Court's order, the 303(f) order, was violated 22 separate times, 22 times, its an incredible number of violations of a single Court order and it continues the pattern that we are seeing in the Alpha case and some of the misconduct that we are continuing to see today.

I want to focus, Your Honor, on the three highlighted cells. I mentioned Section 3 of the Court's 303(f) order, trust but verify. And the transfers that are called out right here, Your Honor, these are from a Silicon Valley bank account. The rest of the transfers are from a Wells Fargo account. We never received the Wells Fargo account. I didn't know that account existed. We only received the transfers from the Wells Fargo account.

When we learned of these transfers, Your Honor, we immediately flagged it for counsel for the then putative debtors. And if we can go to the next slide, Jeremy. Your

Honor, I wrote one of those lengthy litigator emails that I don't particularly enjoy writing and as Your Honor can see I had a very late night on July 11th, but I was direct in my email to DLA Piper, the debtors then counsel. I said that the transfers were extremely troubling. I said that they violated the 303(f) order. And in my closing argument, Your Honor, I didn't mince words, I said we expect you have told your clients in no uncertain terms of the legal consequences arising for their ongoing actions, these transfers need to stop immediately; they are unlawful.

We put the debtors on notice, Your Honor. And if we go back a slide, Jeremy. Your Honor, I sent my email on July 11th. The next day -- the same day \$196,000 is moved. That is where we marked the arrow. The next day, Your Honor, another \$100,000 is moved. Your Honor, I felt like I was reliving, as I saw these transfers yesterday, the charade of Riju Ravindran who Mr. Samis mentioned. I was reminded of when he was sending emails to his brother, Byju, about the \$533 million and yet their living in the same house the entire time.

I want to call out two more transfers, Your Honor, on this slide. September 10th, that is when we had a hearing before Judge Shannon on the involuntary petitions and at the end of that hearing Judge Shannon granted our involuntary petitions and he appointed a trustee. In that same day, Your

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Honor, \$1.3 million was being transferred out to affiliates.

Slide 5, Your Honor, it gets worse and this is the misconduct we are now seeing that Ms. Steege eluded to in her opening comments. The order for relief gets appointed on September 16th. On September 17th half a million dollars is moved out. On September 23rd Ms. Springer's appointment as trustee is announced. There are then six more transfers, Your Honor.

Its not that difficult to figure out. There is some orchestrated attempt going on, Your Honor, after there is a loss of control of these entities to siphon their assets. It appears to be led by BYJU's, it may be led by Voizzit as well. If we go to slide 6, Your Honor, this is a letter that Pankaj Srivastava sent and filed on the Court's docket on September 11th. Mr. Srivastava, that is a name Your Honor may recall because ahead of the summary judgment hearing in Alpha Mr. Srivastava also submitted a declaration then. Mr. Srivastava, as putative resolution professional of Think and Learn, asserting that these debtors remain under Think and Learn's ownership, so inconsistent with Mr. Samis's comments today, is asserting that the involuntary proceeding should not move forward. He is saying there is a contradiction with Indian law. We believe that contradiction is incorrect but it's a bit besides the point, Your Honor, when you had Delaware entities here and in any event Judge

Shannon entered the order for relief a few days later.

Your Honor, this was a delay tactic. It was the same misconduct you saw in the Alpha case to try to put a wrench into the proceedings going on here. It's the same reason, Your Honor, why I suspect the Court denied the motion for continuance that there are ongoing efforts to delay the furtherance and the progress in these involuntary cases.

Slide 7. Under Mr. Srivastava's watch, Your
Honor, this is the timeline of what happened. Ms. Springer
is appointed on September 23rd. As soon as Ms. Springer is
appointed BYJU takes up source code, it takes its Apple apps,
its stripe accounts and when they're don't with Epic!, when
we see the (indiscernible) of September being over they move
on to Tangible Play. These are ad tech companies; their IP
is critical. And having lost control of these businesses,
whether it is Voizzit or Think and Learn I don't think the
identify particularly matters in the context of 362(a)(3),
the IP is being taken and I can only presume, Your Honor,
it's to relaunch these businesses down the road and to strip
these particular entities barren.

Your Honor, I appreciate you indulging me on the macro view. I would like to focus on the micro view with respect to the Apple apps for just a moment and then come to my takeaways, Your Honor, for the Court's consideration with respect to next steps.

Jeremy, if we can go to the next slide. Your
Honor, Voizzit is a new name in our saga and much like we did
when we heard the name Camshaft we investigated. These
pictures, Your Honor, were taken on Thursday. This is the
registered office of Voizzit in India, this is the purported
holder of Epic! and Tangible Play's Apple apps on the Apple
store. What you are seeing, Your Honor, on the left-hand
picture that is a ten-story residential flat in the state of
Kerala in South India and it reminds me of the type of the
flat my uncle lives in.

There are no Voizzit signs. Voizzit purportedly is in Unit 1-C which we highlighted in the middle box. That door, that is a picture on the far right, Your Honor. You don't see a Voizzit sign, there is no office set up, there are no employees, this a residential flat of a former director of Voizzit. This is not a real office place. This is not who should be on the Epic! app.

If we go to the next slide, we also, Your Honor, pulled Voizzit's financials. This is Voizzit's latest financials filed with Indian regulatory authorities and, Jeremy, if we can blow up the first three rows in the table. Your Honor, for fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2022 there is no revenue, zero revenue done by Voizzit. In fiscal year 2023 expenses are \$24,000. That is the -- the unit here is rupee. That is less than \$300, Your Honor. This is the

entity that has now received the apps on account of a purported loan that Mr. Samis is referencing.

We read through these financials, Your Honor, as of last March there was 1072.6 rupees in assets held by Voizzit. That is about \$13 or as my son thinks about, about two packs of Pokeman cards. That is the entire asset base of this entity as of last March. And the best thing I guess I can say, Your Honor, about everything I am seeing is I am glad when I saw the pictures I didn't see another photo of an IHOP because this is not a real operating enterprise.

Last slide, Your Honor. Your Honor, if you look at the Alpha case and you look at this case, I can't help but notice all of the same similarities. A BYJU loyalist, whether its Riju Ravindran or Vina Ravindra (phonetic) in breach of his fiduciary duties following an exercise of remedies, moving critical assets to a company that is not a real operating business, whether its Camshaft or Voizzit. And all of this is being directed by folks abroad who are trying to avoid the jurisdiction of this Court by raising arguments around personal jurisdiction when personal jurisdiction exists.

Jeremy, if we can take down the slides.

Your Honor, these are education companies. You heard Mr. Samis invoke that that they're educational companies on behalf of the children. Their social mission is

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shaping future generations. And in another lifetime, Your
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   Honor, I took would have been a BYJU's customer but the first
   lesson I ever learned wasn't math or science, it was about
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    integrity. What we are seeing here, Your Honor, from the
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   BYJU's enterprise is a complete breakdown in integrity. Byju
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   and Riju and the people in their orbit do not care about the
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    Court's orders, the trustee's powers or the automatic stay.
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               Every week I get a call from the Jenner team, the
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    trustee's counsel, about their latest discoveries and my
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    stomach drops, Your Honor. The conduct is brazen, its
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    unlawful, its non-stop and it stinks. The debtors and these
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    lenders, Your Honor, I would submit are victims of crime and
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   if there was ever a situation that warranted a referral to
    the Department of Justice I would respectfully submit, Your
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    Honor, that the conduct we are seeing in these cases so
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    warrants.
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               Thank you, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Shanker.
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               Anyone else wish to be heard? Ms. Steege.
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               MS. STEEGE: Your Honor, on behalf of the trustee
    I don't know that you admitted Mr. Grall's declaration. I
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    don't think there is any objection to its admission.
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               THE COURT: Any objection?
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          (No verbal response)
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               THE COURT: Its admitted without objection.
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(Grall declaration received into evidence)

THE COURT: Let me just put on the record too I received this morning a letter from Mr. Srivastava, which was directed just to me, and declared to be privileged and confidential. Of course, that is not how the Court's in this country operate. Its an inappropriate ex parte communication. I am not taking the letter into account in any way in connection with these proceedings and I will post this letter on the docket so that everybody knows what this letter says. So, I just wanted to put that on the record.

I am going to grant the motion. I think there clearly is harm to the debtors here. These are US entities. They are in a US bankruptcy proceeding. They are subject to the protections of this Court. Information has been taken, names have been changed without permission from the trustee who has been appointed to oversee these cases, and there is no reason to not declare that those actions were void ab initio; therefore, they should be reversed immediately.

We have a form of order that was uploaded, is that right, Ms. Steege?

MS. STEEGE: Yes, Your Honor, but there is going to be an additional change to the order. In speaking with Apple's counsel we have revised the order based on conversations last night, but we probably over deleted. Specifically, we had in the form of the order that was filed

1 this morning Paragraph 2 was shown as being stricken but in 2 point in fact Apple is asking that that paragraph continue to remain in the order. 3 So, the only new addition to the order from the 4 5 order that was filed with the Court is language that was 6 added to the end of Paragraph 1 which simply states that any 7 entity that takes actins in reliance upon this order shall have no liability to the extent that such actions are taken 8 at the written request of the trustee. 9 10 So, that is the one change and we will upload a 11 new form of order. We will, of course, circulate that to all 12 of the parties that are present here today. 13 THE COURT: Okay. MR. BARSALONA: Your Honor, we will put it under 14 15 COC after the hearing so that is public as well. 16 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine. Thank you. 17 Anything else before we adjourn? 18 MS. STEEGE: No, Your Honor. Thank you very much. THE COURT: Well, we do need to set a hearing, I 19 The motion for sanctions --20 MS. STEEGE: The order has it for November 20th, 21 22 Your Honor, if that is an acceptable date. That is the next 23 omnibus. The omnibus after that would be December 18th. 24 THE COURT: I am guessing this might be longer

then what would be required in an omnibus hearing which is

only supposed to be an hour long. So, maybe we need to find another date. Contact Chambers and we will find a date and we will go from there. MS. STEEGE: Thank you, Your Honor. We will get that inserted in the revised order. THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. We are adjourned. (Proceedings concluded at 10:44 a.m.)

CERTIFICATION I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter to the best of my knowledge and ability. /s/ William J. Garling_____ Novemb<u>er 12, 2024</u> William J. Garling, CET-543 Certified Court Transcriptionist For Reliable