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)

Claudia Z. Springer, Chapter 11 Trustee,

Adv. Pro. No. 24-50233 (JTD)

Plaintiff,

(Jointly Administered)

VS.

Google LLC, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath,

Proposed Objection Deadline: At the time of the Hearing

Proposed Hearing Date: December 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Related Adv. D.I. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 14

Defendants.

CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S EMERGENCY MOTION TO HOLD THE VOIZZIT DEFENDANTS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR THEIR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE COURT'S NOVEMBER 19 ORDER

Plaintiff Claudia Z. Springer, Esq., in her capacity as Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") of the Estates of Epic! Creations, Inc. ("<u>Epic</u>"); Neuron Fuel, Inc. ("<u>Neuron Fuel</u>"); and Tangible Play, Inc. ("<u>Tangible Play</u>," together with Epic and Neuron Fuel, the "<u>Debtors</u>") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>") brings this emergency motion (the "<u>Motion</u>") to hold Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (collectively, the "<u>Voizzit Defendants</u>") in contempt of the

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).



Court for their failure to comply with this Court's November 19, 2024 *Order Granting Chapter* 11 Trustee's Motion for a Temporary Injunction [Adv. D.I. 14] (the "TRO"), and states:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. The Voizzit Defendants think that the law and this Court's orders do not apply to them. They remain "arrogantly defiant" not only of the of the Bankruptcy Code, see In re Dean, 490 B.R. 662, 671 (Bankr. M.D. Pa. 2013), but also of this Court's jurisdiction and authority. Since November 1, 2024, the Trustee has had to spend estate resources every single day fighting the Voizzit Defendants' efforts to fleece the Estate and disrupt the Debtors' businesses. To put a stop to it, the Trustee sought and received two Court orders: (1) the Order Granting In Part 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, (IV) Granting Related Relief [D.I. 276] (the "Stay Order"); and (2) the TRO. The Voizzit Defendants have not complied with the Stay Order and that violation is the subject of a separate motion for sanctions filed contemporaneously with this Motion. They also have not complied with the TRO, and their failure to do so has harmed, and will continue to harm, the Debtors' estates. Accordingly, the Trustee brings this Motion to hold the Voizzit Defendants in contempt of this Court's TRO and to award sanctions for their violation of the TRO.²

A continued hearing on the Stay Motion for purposes of determining sanctions is set for December 3, 2024. The Trustee intends to seek additional sanctions for the Voizzit Defendants' violation of the Stay Order at that hearing and reserves all rights. The sanctions request in this Motion pertains solely to the Voizzit Defendants' violation of the TRO.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. 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.
 - 3. Venue is proper in the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 4. 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.

- 5. 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].
- 6. On June 27, 2024, this Court entered an order directing joint administration of the Debtors' cases for procedural purposes. [D.I. 61].

- 7. 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].
- 8. 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].
- 9. 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 Voizzit Defendants' Failure To Comply With The TRO.

- 10. On November 18, 2024, the Trustee filed suit against the Voizitt Defendants and Google, seeking, among other relief, a temporary restraining order enjoining the Voizzit Defendants from continuing to assert control and possession over the Debtors' property. As set forth in the Trustee's motion for temporary restraining order, the Voizzit Defendants' actions were causing significant and ongoing harm to the Estates and needed to be stopped immediately.
 - 11. This Court entered the TRO on November 19, 2024. Paragraph 2 of the TRO states:

On or before 5:00 p.m. E.T. on November 22, 2024, Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd, Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (the "Voizzit Defendants") shall provide the Trustee and Google with a complete list of all accounts, assets, email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials relating in any way to the Google Accounts that were transferred by or to one or more of the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities working in concert with them from June 4,

2024 to present, and shall facilitate the transfer of any such email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials from the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities under their control and to the Trustee.

(TRO, ¶ 3.)

12. Paragraph 5 of the TRO states:

Defendant Voizzit Information Technology LLC is directed to transfer to the Trustee at instructions provided by the Trustee the Debtors' applications, data, project, funds, or any other information or property of the Debtors; given that any such transfer to Voizzit Information Technology LLC was void *ab initio* and a legal nullity, such that the technical return transfer to the Trustee maintains the status quo.

(TRO, ¶ 5.)

- 13. Before the TRO was entered, the Trustee gave counsel for the Voizzit Defendants the opportunity to comment on the TRO, and their counsel raised no objection to any of the provisions of the TRO, including the deadlines set forth in the draft order.
- 14. On November 19, 2024, the Trustee caused the TRO to be served on Vinay Ravindra by e-mail and overnight mail and upon counsel for the remaining Voizzit Defendants. *See* D.I. 17.
- 15. The Voizzit Defendants knew that the TRO required them to take certain actions to rectify their misconduct by November 22, 2024 as evidenced by the fact that at a hearing held on November 21, 2024, counsel for the Voizzit Defendants told this Court: "We also had a conversation [with our clients] about the TRO. They've also indicated they're planning to comply with the two provisions of the TRO order that required turnover of information to Google by Friday," [11/21/24 Tr. at 20 [D.I. 338], attached hereto as **Exhibit C**). Later in that same hearing, in response to concerns raised by the Trustee about the Voizzit Defendants' compliance with the TRO, their counsel reassured the Court that the Voizzit Defendants would comply by the deadline

set by the Court. Counsel stated: "Your Honor, the Court orders, we've been told by the client that they're planning on doing all of those things, *especially with respect to the TRO Order and they're just trying to get the analysis done on the funds returned.*" *Id.* at 95 (emphasis supplied).

- 16. Notwithstanding these statements to the Court, the Voizzit Defendants have not complied with the TRO. See Declaration of Jacob Grall in Support of Chapter 11 Trustee's Emergency Motion to Hold the Defendants in Contempt of Court for Their Failure to Comply With the Court's November 19 Order (the "Grall Decl.), at ¶ 7, attached hereto as Exhibit D. Before seeking relief from this Court, the Trustee met with counsel for the Voizzit Defendants on Monday, November 25, 2024 to discuss the Voizzit Defendants' failure to comply with the TRO. Counsel stated that they were continuing to "press" their clients to comply but could not state when compliance would be forthcoming. As of the filing of this Motion, the Trustee has not heard anything further from the Voizzit Defendants' counsel.
- 17. The Voizzit Defendants' refusal to comply with the TRO is causing significant harm to the Debtors' Estates. (See Grall Decl., at ¶¶ 8-10.) As set forth in Mr. Grall's Declaration, although Google has represented to the Trustee that it is working to restore the various accounts, intellectual property and other data and information that the Voizzit Defendants wrongfully transferred to themselves, Google has also told the Trustee that without the cooperation of the Voizzit Defendants that is mandated by the TRO, it could take weeks to unwind these transfers. (Grall Decl. ¶ 8.) Every day the Trustee does not have complete control over the Debtors' businesses harms the estates, not only because of the time and attention she and her counsel and advisors are required to spend addressing the operational and legal harm, but also because the Trustee is bound by tight milestones established by the lenders in the financing order to prepare the Debtors' businesses for a sale. (Id. at ¶¶ 9-10.)

ARGUMENT

- 18. Section 105(a) grants a bankruptcy court the authority to hold a litigant in contempt of court for violating a court order. *BYJU's Alpha, Inc. v. Camshaft Capital Fund, LP (In re BYJU's Alpha, Inc.)*, 661 B.R. 109, 117 (Bankr. D. Del. 2024). "To hold a party in civil contempt, a court must find that (i) a valid court order existed, (ii) that the party charged with contempt had knowledge of the court order, and (iii) that the party charged with contempt disobeyed the court order. These elements must be proven by clear and convincing evidence, and ambiguities must be resolved in favor of the party charged with contempt." *In re Wong v. Lubetkin (In re 40 Lake View Drive, LLC)*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58958, at *9 (D. N.J. 2018) (citing *John T. ex rel. Paul T. v. Del. Cty. Intermediate Unit*, 318 F.3d 545, 552 (3d Cir. 2003)); *accord BYJU's Alpha*, 661 B.R. at 117. A court also must give fair warning that certain acts are forbidden before holding a party in civil contempt. *Id.* (citing *U.S. on Behalf of I.R.S. v. Norton*, 717 F.2d 767, 774 (3d Cir. 1983)).
- 19. Each of these elements is met here by clear and convincing evidence. First, this Court entered the TRO. Second, the Voizzit Defendants were served with notice of the TRO. Sec D.I. 17. And all but Mr. Ravindra were represented by counsel at the hearing at which the TRO was entered. Moreover, as set forth above, the Trustee tendered a draft of the TRO to counsel for the Voizzit Defendants, and the Voizzit Defendants never raised any objection to the terms of the proposed order or their ability to comply with it, and indeed represented to the Court at the November 21, 2024 hearing that they intended to comply with the TRO. [11/21/24 Tr. at 20 [D.I. 338.] Finally, the Voizzit Defendants have not done what the TRO required. Accordingly, a finding of contempt is appropriate.
- 20. To provide fair warning of a possible contempt finding and to compel compliance with the TRO, the Trustee requests entry of a rule to show cause commanding the Voizzit

Defendants to appear in person in Court to explain why they should not be held in contempt of this Court for their failure to comply with the TRO and advising them that should they fail to purge their contempt, the Court may consider entering sanctions including a daily fine of \$25,000 per day to be assessed until the Voizzit Defendants have filed a certification with this Court attested by the Trustee that they have complied with the TRO, and a civil arrest warrant and body attachment. See *BYJU's Alpha*, 661 B.R. at 117-18 (imposing daily fine to compel compliance).³ Imposition of a fine of this magnitude is warranted given that the Voizzit Defendants have told this Court that "Voizzit is a well-funded startup worth hundreds of millions of dollars in valuation" and that Mr. Vellapalath is an "entrepreneur who has successfully exited his previous travel technology business for a few hundred million dollars." [D.I. 288 at ¶ 12.] Given the Voizzit Defendants' stated wealth, only a significant fine is likely to cause them to comply, making a fine of this magnitude justified to secure the Voizzit Defendants compliance with this Court's TRO.

CONCLUSION

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

[intentionally left blank]

Unlike a discovery certification which necessarily comes from the party producing its documents and information, here whether the Voizzit Defendants have done what is necessary to transfer the Google accounts and data back to the Estates is something that is within the knowledge of the Trustee making her certification of the Voizzit Defendants' compliance appropriate.

Wilmington, Delaware November 26, 2024

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)

Claudia Z. Springer, Chapter 11 Trustee,

Adv. Pro. No. 24-50233 (JTD)

Plaintiff,

(Jointly Administered)

VS.

Google LLC, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath,

Defendants.

ORDER GRANTING CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S EMERGENCY MOTION TO HOLD THE VOIZZIT DEFENDANTS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR THEIR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE COURT'S NOVEMBER 19 ORDER

Upon consideration of the Chapter 11 Trustee's Emergency Motion to Hold the Defendants in Contempt of Court for Their Failure to Comply With the Court's November 19 Order (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 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).

the Court having held a show cause 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).
- 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. On November 19, 2024, this Court entered the *Order Granting Chapter 11 Trustee's Motion for a Temporary Injunction* [Adv. D.I. 14] (the "TRO"). The TRO enjoined Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (the "Voizzit Defendants"), *inter alia*, as follows:

On or before 5:00 p.m. E.T. on November 22, 2024, Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd, Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (the "Voizzit Defendants") shall provide the Trustee and Google with a complete list of all accounts, assets, email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials relating in any way to the Google Accounts that were transferred by or to one or more of the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities working in concert with them from June 4, 2024 to present, and shall facilitate the transfer of any such email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials from the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities under their control and to the Trustee.

[TRO, ¶ 2.]

Defendant Voizzit Information Technology LLC is directed to transfer to the Trustee at instructions provided by the Trustee the Debtors' applications, data, project, funds, or any other information or property of the Debtors; given that any such transfer to Voizzit Information Technology LLC was void *ab initio* and a legal nullity, such that the technical return transfer to the Trustee maintains the status quo.

[TRO, ¶ 5.]

- F. Each of the Voizzit Defendants were served with the TRO and thus had knowledge of the entry of the TRO and its terms. [Adv. D.I. 17] In addition, counsel of record for Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, and Rajendran Vellapalath acknowledged on the record during a hearing held before this Court on November 21, 2024 that: "We also had a conversation [with our clients] about the TRO. They've also indicated they're planning to comply with the two provisions of the TRO order that required turnover of information to Google by Friday." [11/21/24 Tr. at 20.]
- G. As set forth in the testimony of Jacob Grall, none of the Voizzit Defendants complied with the TRO.
- H. The Trustee has established by clear and convincing evidence that: (i) a valid court order was entered; (ii) Defendants had knowledge of the TRO; and (iii) Defendants failed to comply with the TRO.
- I. Defendants were given fair warning of the possible contempt sanctions through the entry of a rule to show cause commanding their appearance before the Court to explain why they should not be held in civil contempt.

For the reasons stated on the record at the Hearing, it is hereby **ORDERED THAT**:

- 1. The Voizzit Defendants are found to be in contempt of this Court's TRO.
- 2. The Voizzit Defendants are ordered to immediately comply with the TRO.
- 3. The Defendants shall pay to the Estates a fine of \$25,000 per day, beginning on the date of this Order, until the Defendants have filed a certification with this Court, attested to by the Trustee, that they have complied with the TRO.

4. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order, including whether additional sanctions are warranted in light of the Defendants' failure to comply with the TRO.

Exhibit B

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)

Claudia Z. Springer, Chapter 11 Trustee,

Adv. Pro. No. 24-50233 (JTD)

Plaintiff,

(Jointly Administered)

VS.

Google LLC, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath,

Defendants.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Having considered the Chapter 11 Trustee's Emergency Motion To Hold The Voizzit Defendants In Contempt Of Court For Their Failure To Comply With The Court's November 19 Order (the "Emergency Motion") [Adv. D.I. ●] and in light of the failure of the Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd, Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (the "Voizzit Defendants"), to comply with the Court's temporary restraining order (the "TRO") (Adv. D.I. 14);

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).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Voizzit Defendants shall appear in person on December __, 2024, at ___ a.m. in Courtroom 5 of the United States Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Delaware, and SHOW CAUSE why they should not be held in civil contempt of Court for their failure to comply with this Court's TRO. The Court shall consider all possible sanctions against the Voizzit Defendants, including imposition of a daily fine and/or placing Defendants Ravindra Vinay or Rajendran Vellapalath in civil confinement until they purge the Voizzit Defendants of such contempt.

Exhibit C

1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF DELAWARE		
2			
3	IN RE:	. Chapter 11 . Case No. 24-11161 (JTD)	
4	EPIC! CREATIONS, INC., et al.,	. (Jointly Administered)	
5		. Courtroom No. 5	
6	Debtors.	824 Market StreetWilmington, Delaware 19801	
7		•	
8		. Thursday, November 21, 2024 . 2:00 p.m.	
9			
10	TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN T. DORSEY		
11	UNITED ST	TATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE	
12	APPEARANCES:		
13	For the Chapter 11		
14	Trustee:	Joseph C. Barsalona II, Esquire PASHMAN STEIN WALDER HAYDEN, P.C.	
15		824 North Market Street Suite 800	
16		Wilmington, Delaware 19801	
17			
18			
19	(APPEARANCES CONTINUED)		
20	Audio Operator:	Sharon A. Page, ECRO	
21	Transcription Company:	Reliable	
22		The Nemours Building 1007 N. Orange Street, Suite 110 Wilmington, Delaware 19801	
23		Telephone: (302)654-8080 Email: gmatthews@reliable-co.com	
24	Drogoodings recorded by	<u>-</u>	
25	transcript produced by tr	electronic sound recording, canscription service.	

1	<u>APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)</u> :	
2 3	For the Chapter 11 Trustee:	Catherine L. Steege, Esquire Melissa M. Root, Esquire
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5	For GLAS Trust	chicago, illinois ooosi
6	Company, LLC:	Ravi S. Shankar, Esquire KIRKLAND & ELLIS, LLP
7		333 West Wolf Point Plaza Chicago, Illinois 60654
8		
9	For the US Trustee:	Timothy J. Fox, Jr., Esquire OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE
LO		J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building 844 King Street
L1		Suite 2207, Lockbox 35 Wilmington, Delaware 19801
L2	For Voizzit	
L3	Information Technology, LLC:	Christopher M. Samis, Esquire
L4		Nicholas D. Mozal, Esquire POTTER ANDERSON & CORROON, LLP
L5		1313 North Market Street 6th Floor
L 6		Wilmington, Delaware 19801
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(Proceedings commence at 2:32 p.m.) 1 2 (Call to order of the Court) THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you. 3 Please be seated. 4 5 MR. BARSALONA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. For 6 the record, Joe Barsalona from Pashman Stein Walder Hayden on 7 behalf of the Chapter 11 Trustee. 8 Your Honor, we're going off of Docket Number 327, 9 the third amended agenda. 10 We only have the stay enforcement matters going forward, Your Honor. And after discussions with Voizzit, we 11 said we would start with their motion to adjourn the hearing 12 13 and then proceed to the actual motion. 14 THE COURT: Okay. 15 MR. SAMIS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Chris Samis from Potter Anderson, here today on behalf of the 16 Voizzit entities. 17 18 Your Honor, just to give you an idea of how things 19 are going to proceed, with Your Honor's ruling at the last 20 hearing that Mr. Vellapalath would have to be present in 21 order to have his declaration considered, we inquired with

are going to proceed, with Your Honor's ruling at the last hearing that Mr. Vellapalath would have to be present in order to have his declaration considered, we inquired with him as to whether or not that was a possibility. He informed us that his visa status would not allow him to go ahead and do that, so we do not have the benefit of his declaration today, so it does streamline things, I think, a little bit

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from our perspective. We'll simply be, you know, crossexamining the other witnesses and presenting legal argument, so ...

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SAMIS: All right. So, Your Honor, this -- we'll start with the adjournment portion.

And just to give Your Honor a little bit of the lay of the land, just about two weeks ago, on Tuesday, November 5th, Voizzit was stunned by the receipt of the order to shorten notice and stay violation motion, which Voizzit contends was improperly served. Those documents were served in involuntary bankruptcy pending on the other side of the planet, where Voizzit -- from where Voizzit is located, that Voizzit had no familiarity with and contends that, again, that it had no notice of.

Following receipt, after gaining some understanding of the completely alien, extremely expedited legal process and what it meant, Voizzit sprung into action to try to protect its rights by associating with U.S. counsel. Until this time, Voizzit was operating under the assumption that it had owned and controlled both Epic! and Tangible due to the loan purchase and equity conversion transaction described in our motion. Indeed, Voizzit was actively performing maintenance on the applications and software, directing employees of the debtors and -- that they

believed were their employees, and otherwise operating the business and supporting the debtors.

The ordering shortening notice scheduled a hearing on the stay violation motion for November 12th, the following Tuesday. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, Voizzit had trouble securing counsel over the intervening days.

On November 11th, Potter finally spoke with Voizzit for the first time and we were engaged on an emergency basis the following morning, just three hours before the hearing, to pursue an adjournment.

At the hearing, the trustee in GLAS used conspiracies by unrelated parties -- alleged conspiracies by unrelated parties with similar names and selective information to paint Voizzit as an illegitimate shell acting in bad faith. These allegations are discussed in detail in our papers and are refuted, in turn.

Counsel attended the hearing for Voizzit and requested an adjournment to give Voizzit adequate time to review, understand, and potentially contest the stay motion and examine vindicating any other rights it may have. The Court denied that request and entered the order on the stay motion.

After discussions on the impact of and compliance with the order and next steps, Voizzit decided to do its best to participate in the process while, again, seeking more time

to respond on a more fulsome record.

That same evening, Tuesday, November 12th, just hours after counsel for Voizzit made its appearance at the initial hearing and described the exigent circumstances in which it found itself, counsel for the trustee served five different discovery demands, including three deposition requests to take place in less than one week after counsel first made its appearance.

Unsurprisingly, just a day later, GLAS, acting in tandem with the trustee, joined in the deposition request and served its own document request.

Voizzit diligently prepared its responses to the interrogatories and requests for production over the remainder of the week, which they then served to counsel to GLAS and the trustee on Sunday night.

While Voizzit did decline to produce a witness for depositions, it did so because it was impossible to prepare a witness for deposition on the proposed time line. It was also impossible to gather the necessary documents to review and prepare in advance of any depositions.

As Your Honor knows, the stay motion was bifurcated into a hearing on whether the stay was violated and a hearing on damages and sanctions. To that end, Voizzit now requests an adjournment of the sanctions portion of the hearing for 30 days, to allow Voizzit time to evaluate the

sanctions relief in an organized, just fashion and respond to and pursue discovery in connection with same.

For certain, Your Honor, Voizzit has been unduly prejudiced by the speed of this proceeding, but it also understands the parties and the Court's concerns, and the seriousness of the allegations that are in play. Voizzit submits an adjournment is in the best interests of the parties for a host of reasons:

First, Your Honor, due process has not been satisfied in these circumstances and on these facts. Voizzit was taken completely by surprise on what appears to be defective notice, struggled to find counsel, and then respond, first, on effectively seven days' notice from the stay -- for the stay portion, and now on eight days to the sanctions portion.

In the 16 days Voizzit has been in this matter, it's had to respond to the sanctions relief on three days' notice, respond to adversary document requests, its own attorneys' requests, alter its activities to comply with the stay order, and digest the TRO. Voizzit has not had a meaningful opportunity to assess the damages, examine the facts and circumstances to establish Voizzit's lack of knowledge of the stay, and otherwise participate in this litigation.

The company is a UAE entity, located halfway

1 around the world and subject to a nine-hour time difference. 2 Working through this volume of information, reviewing and understanding multiple pending preexisting cases that include 3 this bankruptcy, the Indian insolvency proceeding, the New 4 5 York GLAS litigation in multiple jurisdictions, and 6 responding to other requests and pleadings while trying to collect and review its own records is -- was simply 7 untenable. Not to mention that Voizzit continues to run its own business operations, consisting of multiple business 10 lines and over a hundred employees.

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There are millions of dollars at issue and a party with little understanding of the U.S. legal system, completely unfamiliar with the discovery process, on an extremely compressed time line, Your Honor, that's what we're dealing with. Even considering weekends and holidays, on these facts, this is a nearly impossible time line to complete discovery.

Tellingly, all the depositions were noticed up by the trustee and GLAS, they all violated the local rules because the timing requirements needed to be violated by necessity.

Your Honor, similarly, Voizzit has not been afforded a realistic opportunity to take any discovery of the other interested parties, an absolutely critical component of the adversarial system. Voizzit has struggled to drink from

a fire hose as it frantically attempts to respond to requests from the trustee and GLAS, surprise filings, and last-minute facts. The winding, confusing, and largely irrelevant Hailer declaration filed yesterday evening is a good example of this.

The international element of Voizzit's business has also slowed production and action, as it must consult with its lawyers and advisors in the UAE and India to coordinate strategy and to ensure compliance with the laws of those jurisdictions. Voizzit did not ask for this schedule, Your Honor, but it is currently being forced to live under it, and doing so is hampering its ability to defend itself.

While one could pin responsibility on Voizzit for starting the chain of events with its actions, this does seem unwarranted, as it had no knowledge of the stay or the bankruptcy proceeding, especially in light of Voizzit's continued commitment to abide by the stay. Voizzit posits it is more appropriate to blame the petitioning creditors and the trustee for not providing Voizzit proper notice of the proceeding.

Second, Your Honor, Voizzit believes it has been in substantial compliance with the Court's stay order since its entry and Voizzit will not seek to take any further action implicating the automatic stay without seeking court approval. Such an agreement alleviates any concerns about

interference with the debtors' operations and further -- or further violative transfers. And the only evidence introduced of any further violative transfers was in the context of a TRO hearing that none of the parties had real time to prepare for.

To be clear, my client maintains the system breakdowns and residual Voizzit emails -- email address transfers or apparent residual Voizzit email transfers are the result of the need of system maintenance and integration. There is no -- there is no justification for requiring -- for expediting the sanctions relief in these circumstances.

Unlike the other parties, we -- third, unlike the other parties that we've seen in recent international bankruptcy litigation, I think it's important to remember that Voizzit did not hide. Voizzit did its best to respond to the motion and has actively been engaged since. It is concerned about its business and its reputation in the marketing process and is ready to work constructively with the trustee and GLAS to find a resolution or to fairly litigate this matter to an appropriate conclusion. Giving Voizzit, a foreign litigant, a full chance -- a full and fair opportunity to be heard encourages faith in the U.S. bankruptcy system internationally, from a policy perspective, and I think that should be something that should influence the Court here.

Fourth, Your Honor, the trustee and GLAS have been living with these cases for months and, with respect to GLAS, for years, in related litigation. They're all engaged with teams of lawyers and other advisors who have had substantial time reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding the parties, their interactions, and the alleged transfers in these cases. Voizzit should be given some modicum of time to evaluate the allegations, elicit a more complete record, assess its position, and level the playing field to ensure proportionality.

Your Honor, fifth, Voizzit will commit to make its -- to make its representatives available for depositions, it just needs more time to participate in them with adequate preparation and scheduling. The same goes with taking affirmative discovery from the trustee and others.

Sixth, Your Honor, an adjournment will give the parties time to discuss the very serious issue of the trustee's ability to effectively operate the business without Voizzit's maintenance and other software services. And that will allow us to potentially prevent further harm to the estates.

As discussed at the last hearing, we understand customer complaints have been pouring into Voizzit regarding the interruption in service over the weekend. My client did, in fact, hear the Tangible website had crashed. As noted,

and consistent with my representation to the Court at the TRO hearing, I asked my client and they confirmed that they have not taken action to harm the website. Rather, they again stressed to me that the need for technical oversight and service of these technical platforms was necessary in order to allow the trustee to ensure the proper maintenance of programs and maximization of value of the estate and the avoidance of any continued maintenance issues.

At bottom, if there are problems, Your Honor, with the software and the applications that need maintenance from Voizzit to function and that is the cause of the crash, then that's not a willful act of misconduct. Rather, if Voizzit is respecting the stay order and avoiding interference with what has been deemed the debtors' property by the stay order, the trustee and GLAS cannot, at the same time, claim a stay violation for Voizzit's inaction. Indeed, rather than just fighting about the sanctions and damages, we believe that it would be more beneficial for the debtors and the estates to simultaneously work with Voizzit to make sure everything stays functioning properly and assets are protected.

More pointedly, Your Honor, if the trustee and GLAS are going to seek further damages from Voizzit every time their system goes down and/or the system is going to continuously crash due to maintenance and software issues (indiscernible) that Voizzit at least tells me is likely to

give -- given its operational knowledge, is a likely outcome, it probably, again, makes more sense to talk over the pendency of the adjournment, both while we're pursuing the -- you know, the -- actively discuss -- both while we're actively pursuing discovery and working our way to a litigation conclusion, to also talk to make sure that we're continuing to effectively run -- the trustee is continuing to effectively run the business without further unnecessary stay litigation, a waste of resources, and degradation of the debtors' estates.

Seventh, Your Honor, more time will all Voizzit to effectively account for the value provided to the estates through the provisions of its services, employees, and support, value which may ultimately offset some of the -- some of the damages here, allowing for a full and fair resolution of the matter.

Eighth, it will give Voizzit time to satisfy the trustee and GLAS -- or may give Voizzit time to satisfy the trustee and GLAS that it was unaware of the bankruptcy and did not act willfully, potentially eliminating the need for a hearing on sanctions at all.

And then, ninth and most critically, Your Honor, if the matter does settle and ultimately -- or does not settle and ultimately goes forward, more time will benefit the Court and these proceedings. The Court was not presented

1 with the loan agreement, the assignment deed, the conversion note, or the Vellapalath declaration to which they're 2 attached. Mr. Vellapalath's absence today, borne of his 3 inability to participate by Zoom, decided at the last 4 5 hearing, and his inability to attend live by virtue of the 6 aggressive schedule, including his inability to get a visa on 7 such short notice, is preventing consideration of these documents and Mr. Vellapalath's testimony. More time ensures a full record, including as to communication and a fair 10 result.

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Your Honor, adjourning the sanctions hearing for 30 days would serve the interests of justice by quaranteeing the ability to weigh the new evidence set forth in the -- and attached to the Vellapalath declaration, and the benefit of actual, document-based depositions, and both sides having the opportunity to tell their full story before Your Honor is asked to levy financial damages on a party that, upon learning of the Chapter 11 cases, has attend -has engaged in a good faith attempt to comply with the auto -- has engaged with -- has engaged in good -- in a good -- in good faith compliance with the automatic stay and has tried to open communication.

Your Honor, this case has been a hurricane for Voizzit and its counsel. Multiple parties have assailed it from multiple angles with discovery with immediate and

unreasonable response deadlines and expedited motion practice. This has put the parties on unfair footing and that advantage has been pressed by our adversaries. They have gone too far and there is reason for the state of play -- and there's no reason for the state of play to get worse now. It's time for everyone to take a deep breath, build out a full record, and figure out what happened here.

Your Honor, with that, I would also -- I would also note that, even worse, the narrative in the last-minute Hailer declaration emphasizes how convoluted and confusing the contentions are here, and even suggests that Voizzit could have been defrauded. Voizzit, a potential victim itself, certainly needs time to adequately review the facts and defend itself.

Indeed, the fact that we just received document -indeed, I would also note, Your Honor, that we just received
further documents from our client right before the hearing,
to let Your Honor know that they are continuing to make a
good faith attempt to comply. They're simply overwhelmed.

THE COURT: Well, let me ask you this question.

Has Voizzit returned all of the information and provided the

Chapter 11 Trustee with all information and returned control

to them of all of the debtor information that they took?

MR. SAMIS: So, according to my client, Your Honor, they say they have. What we think we're seeing, or

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    the way that they explained to me, anyway, is some of the
    evidence that you'll be seeing today is the result of changes
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    that were made and there just being residual data, you know,
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    in the systems that still display things as being, you know,
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    rerouted inappropriately.
               But they have told me, anyway, that they believe
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    that they are compliant. We had a conversation about the
    order. We also had a conversation about the TRO. They've
    also indicated to us they're planning to comply with the two
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   provisions of the TRO order that required turnover of
    information to Google by Friday.
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               THE COURT: Have they returned all of the funds
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    that they removed or they took from the debtors?
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               MR. SAMIS: Your Honor, I don't believe they've
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    returned funds yet.
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               THE COURT: So they're not in compliance with the
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    order.
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               MR. SAMIS: Well, they've -- Your Honor, they're
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    taking actions to reverse everything. I don't believe
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    they've returned the funds yet.
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               THE COURT: Well, it seems that wouldn't take very
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    long to do. All right. Thank you.
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MR. SAMIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

Catherine Steege on behalf of the trustee.

MS. STEEGE: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

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In response to Your Honor's questions, no, Voizzit has not acted in compliance with the order. They have not done anything to return any of the programs or IP that they've taken. What's happened here is that the trustee has, working with Apple, obtained back control of the accounts. We have not received the funds, they've done nothing in connection with the Google accounts. And as the evidence will show today, and as we previewed for Your Honor at the three emergency hearings that we've had, there are other sites that have been affected, the GitHub site, the Cloudflare site.

As we laid out in our response, at Docket 295, to the motion to continue, we do not believe this continuance is necessary, and we think continuing this matter will cause great harm to the estate.

Your Honor received a flurry of exhibits very late this morning, and the reason for that is, is that, after the hearing on Tuesday, after Your Honor entered the order on November 12th, Voizzit has continued to violate the automatic stay.

On November 15th, the very day that counsel files a response to this motion, Voizzit says in their response:

"Voizzit has no intentions of violating the automatic stay and, now that it has obtained its counsel, will look to guidance from the Court before taking any

potentially stay-violating actions through the pendency of these Chapter 11 cases."

Counsel told you that again this afternoon.

But in fact, on November 15th, Voizzit actors infiltrated the Cloudflare system of the Osmo Play account and took over control of that system. On November 17th, they moved that domain out of the Cloudflare system and the Tangible Play control into Voizzit's control.

If this hearing continues, you will hear testimony from Mr. Grall, who is now in the system, about the fact that this happened on November 15th, after Your Honor had found they violated the stay, after a hearing in which there was a second violation of the stay brought forward, the Google violation, at a hearing in which Your Honor said you would be very disturbed if you heard that anything had happened after your order.

That morning, if you'll remember, we told you that the Osmo Play system had gone down and we were investigating what had happened. The reason why it went down -- we reached out to Cloudflare, and the reason why it went down was because of the taking on November 17th of that system.

After that hearing, in conversations with Cloudflare, they agreed to the entry of an order, which we submitted yesterday and Your Honor signed yesterday afternoon, which allowed us to get back control of that

administrator" of that site. As super administrator -- and ironically, when they gave him that super administrator permission, they did so sending it with an email that says "Voizzit.com." It wasn't coming from Voizzit, but it was Cloudflare going in, using the email moniker that was in control of the system and sending it back to the trustee.

At that point, Mr. Grall goes in. And there's a series of exhibits that we added to the exhibit list around 12:30, one o'clock this afternoon that show all of this. He went back in and saw that, on November 15th is when they infiltrated the system, and November 17th is when they took it. We now have it back and we hope to get the site back up.

Counsel says that we should have a continuance because they're doing all of this work for the debtors, and that this is important work to keep the systems going. If we actually get to that issue -- because they won't have any evidence to support that, this is just counsel's statement, at this point -- we would be prepared to show rebuttal evidence that no one here in the U.S. that is working for the debtor ever heard of Voizzit until these motions started being filed as a result of the violation of the automatic stay.

Mr. Grall would testify that he's gone through the debtors' email systems. There's no mention of Voizzit

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anywhere. Your Honor can take judicial notice that, when the 1 involuntary was filed, you received letters from counsel indicating that Think and Learn was the parent corporation, 3 no mention of Voizzit. There's no indications of any 4 5 payments to Voizzit until they start taking money after the 6 trustee's appointment. Voizzit pops up after the fact, as 7 Mr. Hailer's testimony will show, if the hearing goes forward, because they are working with the debtors' former ultimate principals to take control of these assets and to 10 prevent the trustee from having an orderly sale.

If all of that wasn't a reason not to continue this -- because I don't think Your Honor can trust, we certainly don't trust that they aren't going to continue to violate the automatic stay -- we also have a situation where there's -- I don't think you can call it anything other than witness tampering. Mr. Hailer received -- and he will testify to this, and this is the exhibit that the lenders seek to offer -- received a plane ticket for November 20th to go to Dubai. He was encouraged by the respondents here to come to Dubai, so he'd be outside of the country, so he couldn't testify.

That's wrongful conduct, Your Honor. They should not be encouraging witnesses not to come here and provide information to this Court. That is a reason also not to continue. That type of misconduct will continue if Your

Honor continues this hearing.

We believe that this hearing is necessary to send a signal, to the extent that these other orders hadn't, and you would think that they would. Entering sanctions against these parties we hope will let them know that they need to stop, and will let the world know that the trustee is actually in control of these debtors, so that she can commence an orderly sales process and maximize value for the creditors who have been wronged here.

And I'd finally say, just on a more mundane level, a continuance here isn't necessary. Counsel has never asked us for a single document during the two and a half weeks that these matters have been pending. Bankruptcy matters proceed at a very fast pace because they need to. This is very important to this debtor. These things that have been taken, these emergency hearings that we have been asking Your Honor to hold are all because the core of this business has been threatened by the actions of Voizzit.

Under those circumstances, quick hearings happen all the time in Bankruptcy Court and parties adjust and take discovery. They've never asked for any discovery. I have to assume that means they don't need any discovery. And why would they? The issue that's up before Your Honor isn't whether the stay has been violated; Your Honor has found that already with regard to the Apple accounts. The issue here is

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1 whether they knew of the bankruptcy, such that that would mean, under Third Circuit precedent, their conduct was a willful violation of the stay and whether their conduct has been egregious. All of -- both of those pieces of fact are 5 within their knowledge. They have control over that 6 information. If anyone needed discovery, it was us, and they 7 did not answer any of our discovery.

Yes, they gave us written responses. The written responses were we object and we will not produce anything. The only thing we have seen are the three pieces of documents, the three loan documents that were attached to the declaration.

But we're ready to proceed because this is damaging the estate and it's very important that we go forward, so that a message can be sent to these bad actors that they need to stop and that the world can see that this Court and the trustee are in control over these debtors' businesses, so that we can get them sold for the highest price that's available.

> THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, Ravi Shankar from Kirkland & Ellis on behalf of GLAS Trust Company.

Your Honor, I don't need nine points; I need two:

First, we've seen this movie before, delay being used to frustrate debtors before this Court, Delaware

entities; geography being used as an excuse not to perform, to refuse to sit for depositions, to not produce documents.

Second, Your Honor, William Hailer. Mr. Hailer is in the courtroom today. He showed up. He did something no one from Voizzit has done. He's here. And over the last 48 hours, I cannot imagine the amount of stress Mr. Hailer is under, not to be here today.

And he is prepared to introduce into evidence,

Your Honor, we have one exhibit. It is a plane ticket that

Byju Raveendran sent him on Signal to board a flight to

Dubai. He will walk the Court through the conversations that

Mr. Raveendran has had with him, so that he does not testify today.

Your Honor, Mr. Hailer lives in Nebraska, he is outside a trial subpoena of this Court, he is under no trial subpoena with his presence here today. I cannot guarantee his presence at any future hearing before the Court. He is one of the few people, Your Honor, who's willing to speak truth to a very frustrating and criminal situation and to tell the Court, based on his percipient knowledge, what has happened, to shed answers where there are questions, and to finally give a coherent explanation to why Voizzit suddenly claims to be equity in bankruptcy proceedings that have been ongoing since June.

Delay here is not used for preparation, Your

Honor; delay here is being used for mischief. And I would ask Your Honor that this hearing continue. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Samis.

MR. SAMIS: Your Honor, just a couple of brief responses.

Number one, I would say that the reason that we're -- we've only appeared here now is because we didn't receive adequate notice of the proceedings, so I'd respond in that way initially. And we'll get into a little bit more of how that plays into the sanctions argument, if we get there.

But Your Honor, I think that it's important to note, riding off that, that we've been on our back foot since this litigation started. Honestly, you know, it started before that, when we weren't given proper notice of the proceeding. They've been, essentially, operating a business that they believe is theirs, and they didn't know about the proceeding.

That is how we've gotten to the point that we are now. That is why they've inserted themselves at this stage of the proceeding, it's because they finally received notice by way of the stay motion. They -- you know, they sprung into action in order to respond to that.

It is a -- it is a situation that I think would be

difficult for U.S. litigants with sophisticated law firms and advisors to participate in. It's a completely different situation for an entity that's halfway across the world that has no understanding of the proceedings. Just under -- just explaining to them how the -- you know, how the stay functioned and how it applied was -- you know, was challenging.

They tell me that they have complied with the order. They -- you know, they tell me that they have complied with the order. They -- you know, they may not have reversed the transactions or -- back yet on the money side, but they say they have -- they've told me they have unlocked all the systems and they were going through and trying to do -- to make progress on all of those fronts. So, in that regard, they've told me that they are substantially compliant with the order.

I have not heard from the debtors since, you know, we had communicated previously, that there are any other amounts, money -- monetary amounts that appear that they were transferred out. I mean, I think we might be having access issues. But again, my client has described those as being residual in nature and not something that they're actively doing. They, again, represented that they had actively interfered with the website.

I think the point is, Your Honor, is that we have

just betting client -- the client has just been getting, you know, kind of just put in a box that it can't get out of by virtue of the time table here. And we're just trying to, you know, maintain status quo for some period, where we can talk to the debtor, try to nail down exactly, you know, what the issues are because I think we're talking to each other -- a lot of this is highly technical.

If people are talking to each other and we can actually figure out, you know, in what ways they say we're not complying, I think that that's -- I think that's part of the process. This is going to give that time to play out and it's also going to give my client time to have a full and fair opportunity to be heard.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. SAMIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to deny the motion for an adjournment. I'm going to go ahead and start the hearing today. I don't know if we're going to finish today, given the hour; it's already three o'clock and it sounds like we have some substantial evidence to go through.

And I will take under advisement the question of whether or not I will -- if we do have to go to another day, when that day will be and whether or not I will allow the Voizzit entities to introduce evidence at any subsequent hearing, if we do continue the hearing. And it won't be --

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    if we don't get done today -- and I -- to let you know, I
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    have another emergency hearing I have to have at 4:30, which
   hopefully won't take too long, but I do have to deal with
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    that, as well. If we don't finish today, there won't be
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    another hearing until sometime in early December, given the
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   holidays and other things that are getting on, both in my
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    chambers and in my personal life, so that's where we are at
    this point.
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               So we'll go forward with the evidence today and
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   we'll see where we end up.
               MS. STEEGE: Your Honor, for the first witness,
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    we're going to turn the podium over to Mr. Shankar, who is
    going to call Mr. Hailer.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Shankar.
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               MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, I would call Will Hailer
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    to the stand.
    THE COURT: Mr. Hailer, please come forward. Please take the
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    stand and remain standing for the oath.
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               MR. SHANKAR: And, Your Honor, with apologies,
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    could I clean up an administrative matter before we proceed?
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               THE COURT: Sure.
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               MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, we filed the declaration
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   of William Hailer at Docket 314. What I intended to do, Your
    Honor, is admit that declaration as direct testimony and then
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highlight and build on a few pieces of that declaration. I

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have conferred, Your Honor, with the attorneys from Potter Anderson this morning. I understand that they object to the admission of the declaration as part of Mr. Hailer's direct testimony. I understand that they have hearsay objections. If Your Honor indulges me, I'm happy to walk through a few buckets of response at a high appropriate level, Your Honor. THE COURT: On the declaration or on --MR. SHANKAR: On the declaration, Your Honor. THE COURT: What is the position of the --MR. MOZAL: We object, Your Honor, on the basis, I think, of relevance but also hearsay. I think part of our conversation was the blanket introduction of this affidavit. I think a lot of stuff that counsel agreed on is not necessarily relevant here. We were not willing to agree to a blanket introduction. THE COURT: All right. Is there any -- have you discussed the possibility of redacting portions of it or, at least, telling me what portions of it I should not consider in connection with it? MR. MOZAL: The questions, I think, went both ways this morning about what they would like to have introduced and what we objected to. MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, our position is that the declaration should come in, in full. There are percipient

admissions by party opponents as well as coconspirator

statements that are admissible under hearsay rules. The balance of the declaration there are some conversations about other transactions in the declaration and other components that Mr. Hailer has observed. To me, Your Honor, those are contacts behind his role within the meetings with Byju Ravindran. They led to the credibility. This declaration is Mr. Hailer's words. It is his context and story and the overall fulsome narrative.

Not all of it is being admitted for the truth of the matter. The truth of the matter we are going to go through in the direct, Your Honor, but it is the context by which he is observing a number of conversations and his role within the BYJU's organization and how it is that he came to have these conversations. To that extent, Your Honor, it is all relevant.

MR. MOZAL: Your Honor, I think they should elicit testimony they want from the witness and go from there.

THE COURT: My general rule is if someone objects to the introduction of a declaration you got to go forward with testimony.

MR. SHANKAR: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor, I interrupted you before you swore in Mr. Hailer.

THE CLERK: Please state your full name and spell your last name for the Court record.

MR. HAILER: William Hailer, W-I-L-I-A-M, H-A-I-1 2 L-E-R. WILLIAM HAILER, GLAS TRUST COMPANY'S WITNESS, SWORN 3 DIRECT EXAMINATION 4 5 BY MR. SHANKAR: Mr. Hailer, good afternoon. 6 7 Hi. 8 What do you presently do for a living? 9 I am the CEO of Rose Lake Incorporated, it's a public 10 benefit corporation registered here in Delaware. And, briefly, what is Rose Lake? What is its business? 11 We primarily serve as advisory, consulting and 12 management for global operators generally looking to either 13 14 enter new markets or do partnerships with government entities. 15 Give us an overview of your career history, and you 16 don't have to be biblical about, just a sense of what you 17 18 have done and the highlights. 19 Before founding Rose Lake I spent almost 20 years 20 working in politics, democratic politics in the United States 21 helping elect individuals from school board and city counsel 22 to the White House. At certain points, two kind of 23 highlights, I served as the executive director of the Texas Democratic Party and then later served as senior advisor to 24 25 Chairman Tom Perez at the DNC.

- 1 | Q Who are some of the biggest names you have helped get 2 | elected?
- 3 A Some of the proudest elections were Doug Jones, the 4 United States Senator from Alabama, and a slew of firsts:
- 5 | Keith Ellison, Pramila Jayapal, Deb Haaland, and Ilhan Omar,
- 6 | all elected to Congress.
- 7 \mathbb{Q} Before we discuss the substance I want to begin here.
- 8 Mr. Hailer, I take it you recognize the seriousness of
- 9 statements you made in your declaration?
- 10 || A I do.
- 11 | Q And speaking of your declaration, who wrote the
- 12 | document?
- 13 | A I did.
- 14 \parallel Q Each one of the 18 pages?
- 15 | A Yes.
- 16 Q Why did you write 18 pages and agree to testify today?
- 17 A I felt like it was the right thing to do. I have been
- 18 over the last several months a party to countless
- 19 | conversations, requests, actions demands, that I believe are
- 20 | not only fraudulent and dishonest but are bad for the
- 21 ultimate goals that the company has said they are trying to
- 22 | do, which is educate students all across the globe.
- 23 | Q From your shoes, what are the potential risks to you
- 24 professionally and personally from your decision to testify
- 25 | today?

- I think the -- I faced, I think, a grave set of potential exposure and liability to whether its Byju or any of his friends or associates or affiliates. Personally, there is a chance, based upon my disclosure of actions that I have taken in support of in tandem with Byju may make it impossible for me to continue the work that I love doing and may isolate me from people I have worked with in the past that I hope to continue to work with. Are you a family man?

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- I am. I have a wife and two kids. My wife actually works in the public schools, which is how I originally got to know Epic and, sort of, for lack of a better phrase, fell in love with the product and what it can do for students.
- What are the risks of you testifying today on your family?
- Deep risks in terms of financial personal stress, family stress. It would have been far easier to hop on a plane to Dubai in terms of compensation, been offered, equity, financial terms. It is because of what I have disclosed in the statement actions that not only Byju have taken, the founders of Voizzit have taken, but actions that I have taken could make it financially impossible for my family based upon what outcomes could happen.
- 24 Who is covering the cost of your travel to attend this 25 hearing?

- 1 | A Myself.
- 2 | Q Is anyone paying you to testify today?
- 3 | A No.
- 4 Q Did GLAS or the lenders make any promises to you in
- 5 exchange for your testimony today?
- 6 II A No.
- 7 | Q I want to talk substance. Since July of 2024 have you
- 8 | had any conversations with Byju Ravindran about Rose Lake
- 9 potentially acquiring Epic!'s assets?
- 10 || A Yes.
- 11 | Q Ballpark the number of those conversations?
- 12 A Since July probably hundreds of conversations both in
- 13 | person, over multiple meetings and on the phone almost on a
- 14 | daily basis if not multiple times a day.
- 15 Q At a high level what are the strategies being discussed
- 16 | with respect to Epic!'s assets?
- 17 | A Well, goal number one was always to try and acquire
- 18 | term loan B and that goal was in part done with an attempt or
- 19 | promise to bring investors along from BYJU's network to be
- 20 | able to look at an acquisition of term loan B, but we have
- 21 discussed multiple alternative scenarios, backups to the
- 22 | blackout. That would include things by which Rose Lake would
- 23 come in on the trustee process and attempt to bid on the
- 24 | assets in that process. Rose Lake would find other entities
- 25 | to come in and bid on that process. And, you know, there

- were the backups to the backups included creating documents
 that showed that Rose Lake already owned the US based assets.
- 3 Q I want to spin out that last point for a second. Tell
- 4 us about the discussions with Mr. Ravindran since July of
- 5 2024 about the backup to the backout and the creating
- 6 | documents?
- 7 | A On numerous occasions, both in person and over the
- 8 | phone, as we sort of walked through the list of action items
- 9 | and what it would take to accomplish the ultimate goal which
- 10 was for Byju to be in control of the assets again. Several
- 11 | conversations happened where Byju suggested that we backdate
- 12 documents that would show Rose Lake owns the assets, whether
- 13 | it was through a convertible note, or equity grants, or even
- 14 | if needed to move us some money to show, you know, at some
- 15 point that we had control. There were, you know, multiple
- 16 | kind of conversations.
- 17 | Q I want to talk about Rajendran Vellapalath. In recent
- 18 | months have you had any meetings with Mr. Vellapalath?
- 19 | A I have.
- 20 | Q Virtual, in person?
- 21 \parallel A In person. I met with him the week of October 12th in
- 22 | Dubai.

Byju.

- 23 Q Where in Dubai?
- 24 \parallel A At the home of -- either owned home or rented home of
- 25

- Q And this meeting you are referencing, the week of October 12th, other than you and Mr. Vellapalath, who else was there?
- A Byju was there for the majority of the meeting and there was a woman there for the first maybe minute who introduced herself and then left, I believe, with
- 8 Q Who asked you to travel to Dubai?
- 9 A Byju.

Mr. Vellapalath.

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- 10 Q I want to talk about the substance of that meeting. At the meeting among Byju Ravindran, Mr. Vellapalath and you, what discussion was there about the acquisition of Epic!'s assets?
- 14 A Deep, you know --
 - MR. MOZAL: Objection on hearsay grounds, Your Honor. I think this is some of the stuff that we have highlighted.
 - MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, two responses. The first is that one of the respondents to this motion is Think and Learn. Byju Ravindran is the CEO and principal, and the named founder of the BYJU's enterprise. So, its admission against party opponent vis-à-vis Think and Learn. Second, Your Honor, is that these are coconspirator statements vis-à-vis the Voizzit entity.
 - Mr. Hailer will testify regarding the relationship

between Byju Ravindran and Rajendran Vellapalath about the closest of ties that those gentlemen have. Mr. Grall will testify with respect to the timeline of events here and other circumstances corroborating that the Byju's organization and the Voizzit organization were acting together to deprive these debtors of assets.

THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

8 BY MR. SHANKAR:

- Q I will re-ask the question.
- 10 | A Thank you.
 - Q At the meeting among Byju Ravindran, Mr. Vellapalath and you, what discussion was there about the acquisition of Epic!'s assets?
 - A I think it's important to note as I walked into the meeting Byju indicated to me that this was our partner. In fact, he started the meeting, all three of us in the room.

 This is our partner, this is -- I believe he used the term this is my brother about Mr. Vellapalath that they had worked on several business entities before and in the future and that we were all partners so we could have an open and honest conversation about everything that has, sort of, happened.

There was an update component where I was supposed to give an update on our efforts to acquire term loan B, the conversation surrounding it. But I think the most important thing during that conversation was a, sort of, disclosure on

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- my side of my personal interest in Epic!, the work that our firm had done back in 2023 to do an acquisition of Epic! and the work that we had done over the last several months to acquire term loan B and what we were hoping to do with Epic! which was additional, sort of, global expansion of the asset into more schools.
- 7 On the topic of Epic! during this meeting what did Mr. Vellapalath say? 8
- Very little which given where we are at today is quite 10 odd. Three business partners were discussing how to acquire 11 the assets. If there was an ownership stake that Voizzit already had in the assets it seemed like that would have been 12 an appropriate time to interject. In fact, given the volume 13 14 of conversations around actions to take, what we were doing 15 to acquire term loan B and why we had to acquire term loan B 16 that the company was in bankruptcy it would have been a 17 perfect conversation to have and would have expedited the 18 goal of the three individuals there that day to put the assets under Think and Learn. 19
 - I just want to be clear about one piece of that. did Mr. Vellapalath say, if anything, about Voizzit's ownership of Epic! at that meeting?
 - MR. MOZAL: Objection. Hearsay grounds, Your Honor. If you prefer just request a standing objection, I am happy to do that as opposed to continuing to make the same

objections.

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THE COURT: I will give you a standing objection.

3 | Its overruled.

MR. MOZAL: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Could you ask it again?

6 BY MR. SHANKAR:

- Q What did Mr. Vellapalath say at the meeting about
- 8 | Voizzit's ownership of Epic!?
- 9 A Nothing.
- 10 Q Once the meeting ended, Mr. Hailer, did you have any
- 11 | more conversations with Byju Ravindran that day about Epic!?
- 12 | A Yes.
- 13 ||Q Tell us about those conversations?
- 14 A The conversation was just Byju and I. We were at the
- 15 | same location, his home office, and, again, the conversation
- 16 came up of actions that we could take to get the assets. One
- 17 | of those actions, again, creating documents that showed that
- 18 | Rose Lake already owned the assets. Unlike previous times,
- 19 | this time I sort of said it may make sense for us to do that
- 20 | with Osmo and Tinker but not with Epic! because, first, we
- 21 were part of a process back in 2023 to acquire the asset and,
- 22 | second, when we approached the lenders to acquire term loan B
- 23 | our main justification was around Epic!, so it would feel
- 24 | certainly weird, but fraudulent if were to say, hey, we now
- 25 own these assets. They are ours. And I believe that is why

- 1 | after that conversation we have seen actions.
- 2 | Q Across all of your conversations with Byju Ravindran
- 3 since July of 2024 what has he ever told you about Voizzit
- 4 | owning Epic!?
- 5 | A He has never once, in hundreds of conversations,
- 6 | brought up Voizzit.
- 7 \mathbb{Q} In those hundreds of conversations did you ever get the
- 8 | impression that Voizzit owned Epic!?
- 9 | A No.
- 10 Q Why was that?
- 11 A Because the rightful owner, according to Byju and the
- 12 process were Think and Learn and then the debtors in the
- 13 | process. That is why we were looking to acquire term loan B.
- 14 | Q If Voizzit had, in fact, owned Epic! how would that
- 15 | have changed the nature of the conversations you were having
- 16 | with Mr. Ravindran since July?
- 17 A We would have saved many, many weeks. You know, if they
- 18 | already had a legitimate claim to the assets there would have
- 19 | been no need to attempt to acquire term loan B, there
- 20 | wouldn't have been conversations around other components of
- 21 the assets of having backups about trying to buy through the
- 22 | trustee process. It would have been a much simpler, cleaner
- 23 process.
- 24 Q I want to switch gears with you. Are you aware of a
- 25 | Court hearing in this case last Tuesday?

- 2 | Q And just generally what did you learn about that
- 3 | hearing?
- 4 A I learned that Voizzit is making a claim to rightful
- 5 | ownership of the assets.
- 6 | Q This past weekend what conversations did you have with
- 7 | Mr. Ravindran about last week's hearing?
- 8 | A I had multiple conversations with him over the weekend,
- 9 | most strikingly on Friday the 15th and Sunday the 17th.
- 10 | During those conversations the Sunday the 17th conversation
- 11 \parallel he said that the goal was ultimately to decrease the value of
- 12 the assets to where the trustee would have a harder time
- 13 | selling the assets. That it would be more likely that the
- 14 | lenders would either agree to sell term loan B to Rose Lake
- 15 or agree to a lower price for the assets. Additionally, he
- 16 | said that this wasn't going to be the first action that
- 17 | Voizzit was going to take.
- 18 \parallel Q What was the next action that Byju Ravindran mentioned?
- 19 A He claimed that Voizzit would, through a lower Delaware
- 20 | Court, a Chancerry Court, I believe, look to continue to
- 21 | muddle the water of the overall bankruptcy hearings and their
- 22 | rightful ownership of the assets.
- 23 | Q What did Byju Ravindran tell you on the calls over the
- 24 | past week regarding new strategies?
- 25 A You know, probably the most interesting was around the

- 1 | Chancery Court opinion or trying to bring that up in the
- 2 | Chancery Court. The goal still was to attempt to acquire
- 3 | term loan B, but in the conversations around Voizzit at a
- 4 | couple times I tried to play dumb asking I don't know who
- 5 | Voizzit is. And having looked to find out what Voizzit was
- 6 | after the hearing it was, sort of, shocking to me that he
- 7 | never brought up the founder of Voizzit was the gentleman
- 8 that we spent an hour with at his home in Dubai.
- 9 Q Based on all of your conversations with Byju Ravindran
- 10 | since July, based on the October 12th week meeting, what is
- 11 | your own understanding of the relationship between Byju
- 12 | Ravindran and Voizzit?
- 13 | A They are incredibly close. That they are strategic and
- 14 | business partners. They have done work together in the past,
- 15 | they will continue to do work. In fact, part of the
- 16 | conversation the week of the 12th was over new travel
- 17 | technology that the two wanted to build using AI tools and
- 18 | that we would have many more opportunities to work and
- 19 | partner together.
- 20 Q You understand you were disclosed as a witness for
- 21 | today's hearing?
- 22 | A That's right.
- 23 \mathbb{Q} Do you know when in the week you were disclosed?
- 24 || A I believe Tuesday evening, early evening.
- 25 | Q How many times did Byju Ravindran call you on Tuesday

- 1 | after the early evening?
- 2 | A Around the time he normally wakes up I received what
- 3 | felt like four very frantic calls all within three or four
- 4 | minutes of each other. We eventually spoke after that fourth
- 5 | missed call.
- 6 | Q Tell us about -- so you spoke conversation number five,
- 7 || is it?
- 8 | A Yeah, five or six. You know, he had called at least
- 9 | four times before we spoke.
- 10 $\|Q\|$ So tell us about that conversation?
- 11 | A He was very concerned, seeing my name in the filing.
- 12 He asked if I was intended to be a witness, whether I was
- 13 | being forced to come here, whether I had, in his words, cut a
- 14 | deal with the lenders, if I was volunteering, whether or not
- 15 || I would issue a declaration. At that time suggested that if
- 16 | it made sense, I could go somewhere else, I could come to
- 17 | Dubai until the hearing is over.
- 18 \parallel Q What did Mr. Ravindran say to you about whether you
- 19 | should or should not testify today?
- 20 | A He encouraged me not to testify.
- 21 0 How so?
- 22 | A Well, the next morning I received a phone call from
- 23 | him, again, concerned about whether or not I was testifying,
- 24 | whether I would give a declaration, the extent to which I
- 25 | would testify. You know, during that conversation, again, I

sort of opened up a window for him to talk about who Voizzit was. I said I don't know even know Voizzit and he, again, did not mention the fact that we had sat with our business partner who is the founder of Voizzit.

During that conversation though, more importantly he said I should come to Dubai, he would get me a plane ticket. The holidays are coming up, but more importantly then that we could start our work. The salary could start on day one, whether it was an employee or contract money could start. He would work on fulfilling promises he had made previously about moving my family there, setting up a golden visa, and ensuring that we had a great life in Dubai while working on behalf of the company.

- Q What did you understand about the job you were being offered?
- A My understanding of the job was I was going to be a partner with him. He had always talked about there were five or six sort of core partners, but I would come in on, sort of, a partnership level. He would -- he offered me several times equity arrangement where I would have 4 percent of equity in anything and everything he has done and will do. I was asked several times to put an agreement together for us to sign to that extent. And I would begin taking the tools that were already built and tools that are in the works to start executing. In fact, part of the -- what he sort of said

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   was the urgency in addition to, oh, you don't have to go to
   the trial, there is no -- you know, even if they subpoena
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   you, you can -- you don't have to go, you can be here, you
    can use an excuse. It was also he has been working on, you
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   know, rollout strategies in new countries and needs me to
   come and take them and we will work on them together.
 6
 7
          This was yesterday?
8
          That's correct.
   Α
9
          Jose, if we can pull up GLAS Exhibit 1.
10
          Mr. Hailer, I have a hard copy if you prefer.
          This should be fine.
11
12
          Mr. Hailer, what is the document you see on the screen?
          Actually, it's a little blurry. Oh, perfect. This is
13
   a plane ticket for myself departing yesterday evening from
14
15
   Chicago to Dubai.
          Who sent you this plane ticket?
16
17
          Byju did.
18
               MR. SHANKAR: Your Honor, I would move GLAS
   Exhibit 1 into evidence.
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               THE COURT: Any objection?
               MR. MOZAL: No, Your Honor.
21
22
               THE COURT: Its admitted without objection.
23
          (GLAS Exhibit 1 received into evidence)
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How did Mr. Ravindran send you this ticket?

BY MR. SHANKAR:

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- 1 A Through Signal.
- 2 Q What is Signal?
- 3 A It's a messaging app where we conducted all of our
- 4 | correspondence.
- $5 \parallel Q$ So, you have this on your phone right now?
- 6 | A I do.
- 7 ||Q| If we could flip to the second page, Jose. And if we
- 8 | could blow up the top row.
- 9 Mr. Hailer, do you see the highlighted total fair?
- 10 || A I do.
- 11 | Q What is the total fair for this ticket to Dubai?
- 12 | A \$10,698.91.
- 13 ||Q I take it you didn't board a flight to Dubai yesterday?
- 14 A I did not.
- 15 | Q Did you spend over \$10,000 for a ticket you did not
- 16 | take?
- 17 | A I did not.
- 18 Q Jose, we can take down the exhibit.
- 19 Mr. Hailer, after everything you have been through why
- 20 did you choose to board a flight yesterday to Philadelphia to
- 21 | come to Delaware and not go to Dubai?
- 22 | A Sometimes it's better to do the right then the easy
- 23 | thing.
- 24 MR. SHANKAR: Thank you, Mr. Hailer.
- 25 MR. MOZAL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Nick

1 | Mozal of Potter Anderson & Corroon on behalf of Voizzit.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 | BY MR. MOZAL:

- Q Good afternoon, Mr. Hailer.
- 5 A Good afternoon.
- 6 Q Why did you play dumb about not knowing about Voizzit
- 7 || in your recent conversation?
- 8 A I was curious to see whether or not Byju would provide
- 9 any truthful statements about Voizzit.
- 10 | Q Why were you having conversations with Byju last
- 11 | weekend at all?
- 12 A Yeah, I have been speaking with since July of 2024. So,
- 13 | when I saw the Voizzit information come out, you know, we
- 14 | have still drew many conversations, been looking at avenues
- 15 | around term loan B and attempting to acquire term loan B.
- 16 | Something that would only be possible if Byju (A), I think
- 17 was clean about business dealings, and (B) if there was a
- 18 | legitimate investor interested.
- 19 || Q So it's fair to say you were interested in doing a deal
- 20 | with Byju through last weekend, is that fair?
- 21 | A I wouldn't say it's fair to say I wanted to do a deal
- 22 | with Byju, that I necessarily was looking to do a deal with
- 23 | Byju, but I do believe that through everything that we have
- 24 | learned through the process that there is just so much that
- 25 | Byju has, sort of, offered to me in conversation that I think

- 1 | would be helpful.
- 2 ||Q| And that is as of recent you still think it would be
- 3 | helpful, correct?
- 4 | A Certainly, I do not believe I am on speaking terms with
- 5 | Byju and I have zero interest in carrying on conversations.
- 6 Q Who are Rose Lake's partners?
- 7 | A I have two co-partners that I started the company with,
- 8 | two individuals that I worked with in politics, and then two
- 9 | additional partners who have joined since we founded, and
- 10 then a handful of advisers and board members.
- 11 || Q Does Rose Lake have assets under management?
- 12 A Under a legal term of art, I think the answer is no,
- 13 | yeah.
- 14 | Q Does Rose Lake have capital?
- 15 A Rose Lake has a small set of equity positions in a
- 16 | handful of companies, but nothing that are assets that we
- 17 | control through management.
- 18 || Q What's the approximate total value of those
- 19 || investments?
- 20 A It would be -- most of them are sort of venturesque
- 21 | in -- so it would be hard to say without sort of fair market
- 22 | value, but I would say de minimis in sort of ownership
- 23 || controls or investments.
- 24 0 Under one million dollars?
- 25 A Yeah.

- 1 | Q Under \$500,000?
- 2 A I couldn't tell you without kind of seeing updated
- 3 | information on companies.
- 4 | Q What's the largest investment that Rose Lake ever made?
- 5 | A Well, we don't -- we haven't made financial investments
- 6 | with our own capital, so the answer would be zero.
- 7 | Q What's the largest deal Rose Lake has ever helped
- 8 | complete?
- 9 A Less than \$10 million.
- 10 | Q And what was the approximate value of the deals that
- 11 | you were discussing here?
- 12 A This would be a 150 million term loan. Acquisition was
- 13 | sort of the goal of the investor, but probably not realistic
- 14 | for where term loan B was.
- 15 Q Are you the CEO or managing member of any other
- 16 | entities other than Rose Lake?
- 17 | A I am -- we have Rose Lake Capital, which is an LLC
- 18 | underneath Rose Lake, Inc. And then I'm a managing member of
- 19 | East Street Crew, which is a wine company that is in the
- 20 process of being shut down.
- 21 | Q Did Rose Lake conduct diligence during the process that
- 22 | you discussed in your testimony earlier that you worked on
- 23 | with Byju this fall?
- 24 || A We actually started our diligence on the company back
- 25 | in 2023. We learned of the process -- we learned that Epiq!

- 1 was sort of available for sale, that the term loan B lenders
- 2 | had asked Byju to sell the asset, and so we started doing due
- 3 diligence on Epiq! back in 2023.
- 4 Q Did anyone else from Rose Lake participate in those
- 5 efforts other than yourself?
- 6 A On numerous conversations, I'm assuming that at least
- 7 | two of my partners were on conversations that Byju or Steven
- 8 | Jewell or Anita Kashur (phonetic) at the company was on.
- 9 | Q Do you have any relationship with GLAS?
- 10 A I know of GLAS, but I have no relationship with GLAS.
- 11 || Q How do you know of GLAS?
- 12 A I knew that GLAS was the trustee in the bankruptcy
- 13 process and earlier this summer we reached out to GLAS, as
- 14 | well as two of the lenders, to look to acquire term loan B.
- 15 | Q Have you communicated with anyone at GLAS?
- 16 | A Yes.
- 17 | Q When was the first time you communicated with somebody
- 18 ||at GLAS?
- 19 | An email, early part of this summer, June or July, I
- 20 | think.
- 21 ||Q Who was the person you communicated with?
- 22 A I think the original email went to Dan, who I think is
- 23 one of the cofounders, and then we were introduced on that --
- 24 | Dan didn't respond. We communicated then to Irena Goldstein,
- 25 and who put us in touch with two of the lenders.

- 1 | Q Did you reach out to GLAS first or did they reach out 2 | to you?
 - A We reached out to GLAS.
- 4 ||Q Did Byju know that you were reaching out to GLAS?
- $5 \parallel A$ Yes.

- 6 | Q Did you do it at his direction?
- 7 | A Yes.
- 8 || Q What was his direction specifically for you to do?
- 9 A Well, Byju and I had had in the month of June, as early
- 10 | as June conversations about looking to acquire term loan B.
- 11 | Byju said that he had an investor that was sort of willing to
- 12 | partner with us, that investor was a gentleman named Ranjan
- 13 | Pai (phonetic), that Ranjan was going to be an investor in
- 14 | Rose Lake to acquire the asset, and that Ranjan was a very
- 15 | close friend of Byju. And in that conversation, when Byju
- 16 | talked about Ranjan, he also said, but if you look the guy
- 17 | up, he sued me, but that's sort of a distraction and we're
- 18 using that to help our case in India, but you should talk to
- 19 | Ranjan and his guy.
- 20 Q When you contacted GLAS, was your intent to relay back
- 21 | what you heard to Byju?
- 22 | A No, I reached out to GLAS to -- based upon what Byju
- 23 | had said -- and it wasn't just Byju, he had brought an
- 24 | individual named Hori on several calls. Hori was told to me
- 25 to be sort of the right hand for Ranjan, his chief of staff,

- and the two said that Ranjan wanted to invest in Rose Lake to acquire term loan B.
 - Q Have you ever signed an agreement with GLAS?
- 4 || A I have not signed an agreement with GLAS.
- 5 Q So take me through your communications. You mentioned 6 some of them started in June and July?
- $7 \parallel A$ Yes.

- ||Q When was the next time that you communicated with them?
- 9 A We would have only had communications through July. At
- 10 one point, there was a conversation where Ranjan Pai had
- 11 | reached -- actually, the way the story was told to me, one of
- 12 the lenders had reached out to an intermediary of Ranjan Pai
- 13 | to see if Rose Lake had approached the lenders to acquire
- 14 | term loan B. Ranjan Pai, in the first conversation, as
- 15 | reported to me, said I don't know who Rose Lake is, and in
- 16 the second conversation -- called back and in the second
- 17 | conversation said, oh, yeah, they're working with the
- 18 | company.
- 19 At that point, our ability to attempt to acquire term
- 20 | loan B, without providing substantial evidence of who the LP
- 21 | would be, would have been eliminated.
- 22 \parallel Q So I just want to clarify one thing. When you say you
- 23 were working with the company, does that mean that you,
- 24 | Mr. Hailer, were working with Byju, is that what you mean?
- 25 | A Ranjan had -- again, the way that it was referred -- I

- 1 | wasn't a part of that conversation -- the way it was referred 2 | to me was that Ranjan was intimating to the lenders that we
- 3 were doing the work on behalf of Byju.
- 4 | Q And is that something that you communicated to GLAS?
- 5 A We did not communicate that to GLAS, they -- one of the
- 6 | lenders had approached my counsel about hearing that
- 7 | information.
- 8 || Q Did your counsel communicate with GLAS's counsel?
- 9 A I don't know.
- 10 Q So going forward to, say, September, have you had
- 11 | further conversations with anyone at GLAS?
- 12 | A I have not.
- 13 | Q So how about October, did you have any communications
- 14 | with anyone at GLAS?
- 15 A At some point, whether it was September or October,
- 16 | maybe October, I notified GLAS that I believed Byju was
- 17 | attempting to defraud the term loan B lenders.
- 18 | Q Do you know approximately when that was?
- 19 A I don't offhand.
- 20 | Q Have you spoken with lawyers for Kirkland & Ellis prior
- 21 | to today?
- 22 | A There was one call when I was talking to the lenders
- 23 | back in June or July that an associate with Kirkland was on,
- 24 | and then I spoke with counsel yesterday when I arrived to
- 25 | Delaware.

- 1 Q In October, did you communicate -- you had your
- 2 | meetings in Dubai with Byju and others, correct?
- 3 | A Yep, that's correct.
- 4 | Q Did you relay what happened at those meetings and what
- 5 was discussed at those meetings to anyone at GLAS in October?
- 6 | A I don't know offhand if I relayed in October or
- 7 | November and the extent to what was relayed.
- 8 | Q Would it have been email that you communicated it
- 9 | through?
- 10 A There was -- there was a -- when I sort of realized the
- 11 | extent by which both Byju was conducting the fraud and asking
- 12 | me to be a part of it, there was a telephone conversation
- 13 | that included an individual from Kirkland & Ellis, one of the
- 14 | lenders, and Irena at GLAS.
- 15 | Q And did you agree in that communication with the
- 16 attorney and Irena that you would relay back to them future
- 17 | communications that you have with Byju?
- 18 | A No.
- 19 | Q Did you in fact relay your future communications with
- 20 Byju to the people you had spoken with?
- 21 | A I have since relayed information on conversations with
- 22 | Byju. You know, to the extent that it's been relayed was in
- 23 | the statement that I provided, the declaration.
- 24 | Q You mentioned earlier in your testimony that there was
- 25 | a hearing last Tuesday that you heard about. How did you

- 1 | hear about that hearing?
- 2 A I have Byju Google alerts that I get on a daily basis
- 3 | and immediately saw Voizzit.
- 4 \parallel Q And who did you reach out to when you saw that alert?
- 5 A The very first conversation I had was with Byju. I
- 6 | said, what's going on in the U.S., you know, is this
- 7 something that we should be concerned -- this was even before
- 8 | I googled Voizzit -- I said is this something that we should
- 9 | be concerned about. And Byju said it's no -- nothing to be
- 10 | concerned about, it's all a part of the strategy, he said
- 11 | this is exactly what we've talked about.
- 12 | Q Did you reach out to GLAS after that conversation?
- 13 A No, I did not talk to GLAS.
- 14 | Q So you have not spoken to anyone at GLAS since last
- 15 | Tuesday, is that your testimony?
- 16 A Yeah. I think the last time I spoke with someone at
- 17 | GLAS was that conversation that I mentioned that included
- 18 | someone from Kirkland & Ellis, one of the lenders, and Irena
- 19 | at GLAS, just my knowledge of the case. I had reached out to
- 20 them. I was scared, I was scared of what I had learned, I
- 21 was scared of what I had been a part of, and I felt like I
- 22 was sort of stuck in this sort of position where I was being
- 23 asked to do things that I wasn't entirely comfortable with
- 24 | that I had eventually learned were -- you know, as I got
- 25 || further and further into the trust circle, the pure

- misinformation, disinformation, and fraud that was being
 done. And I was scared that I had been a part of this, and I
 had gone to the term loan B lenders previously and said I was
 a sort of legitimate actor in this space who, you know,
 - Q So, in the last week, did you communicate with Kirkland & Ellis about offering an affidavit?

clearly had been lied to.

- 8 When I learned -- when I saw the attempt, when I saw Byju basically doing the thing that he said he would always 9 10 do, which was the backup to the backup, it drew incredible concerns to me about what he was doing. And when I saw the 11 case, when I saw the information about Voizzit come out, like 12 13 I said, I did two things: I talked to Byju, and then I 14 started looking to see who Voizzit was. And the fact that 15 Byju didn't bring up that the guy who founded Voizzit was the guy we sat with for an hour in the conversation, that was 16 17 shocking to me, and then when I went -- I went on my computer 18 to the Apple store and I saw that Voizzit was the name in the 19 Apple store of the owner of this, I knew more than I ever had 20 before that all of the red flags that I had about Byju and what he was doing were a hundred percent true. 21
 - Q When did you first communicate with Kirkland & Ellis about your affidavit?
- 24 A Sunday or Monday.

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25 | Q Is that after your weekend conversation with Byju?

- $1 \parallel A$ Yes.
- 2 | Q Who did you email directly?
- 3 A I had -- I don't know if I emailed someone or if I had
- 4 sent a text message or email to one of the individuals that I
- 5 | spoke with on that previous call that I mentioned with GLAS
- 6 and with one of the lenders.
- 7 \mathbb{Q} And was that with somebody with GLAS or somebody at the
- 8 || law firm?
- 9 $\|$ A No, that was someone at the law firm, it was Mike
- 10 || Gallo.
- 11 ||Q Did they revise the affidavit --
- 12 | A No.
- 13 ||Q -- that you drafted?
- 14 || A No.
- 15 | Q We've heard Signal mentioned a couple of times that you
- 16 used that for your communications here; is that right?
- 17 | A Yeah, that's correct.
- 18 | Q Signal has an auto-delete function, doesn't it?
- 19 | A Yes.
- 20 ||Q| Is that why you use it?
- 21 A I use it because when I started at the Democratic
- 22 | National Committee they had been hacked by the Russian
- 23 government, and it was generally used as a way to protect
- 24 | information and ensure that communications were private from
- 25 | hacks. At my company, I've had a business partner who's been

- 1 | attempted to be hacked multiple times. So it was -- I think
- 2 | it's a communication tool a lot of people use and, most
- 3 | importantly, it's the only way Byju communicates.
- 4 | Q It protects it by deleting the information, correct?
- 5 A I believe that's in part correct, in addition to peer-
- 6 | to-peer encryption.
- 7 ||Q| And that means it can't be recovered by anyone else,
- 8 | correct?
- 9 | A I'm not a technical expert, I believe the answer is
- 10 yes, but I don't know for sure.
- 11 | Q How long does it take for your Signal app to auto
- 12 | delete messages?
- 13 A Byju set a Signal deletion on a daily basis. So any
- 14 message that I have with Byju deletes on a daily basis.
- 15 \mathbb{Q} So, earlier you testified that the ticket is still on
- 16 | your phone, correct?
- 17 | A Well, the ticket is definitely on my phone because I
- 18 | saved a copy --
- 19 Q You saved it?
- 20 A -- of the ticket, yeah. So I have it saved in my Apple
- 21 | files.
- 22 | Q But the Signal apps thought the message had been
- 23 | deleted; is that right?
- 24 | A I'd have to look at my -- I'm assuming it has been
- 25 | because he sent it to me early yesterday morning.

- 1 | Q Did you preserve those Signal messages and turn them 2 | over to anyone at any point?
- 3 | A I have taken some screen shots of some of the Signal 4 | messages that I had with Byju over time.
- 5 Q Did you share them with anyone involved in this 6 proceeding?
- 7 A I have shared them -- I've shared a few Signal messages 8 previously with Kirkland & Ellis.
- 9 Q When was that?
- 10 A I don't recall offhand.
- 11 ||Q In the last six weeks?
- 12 | A Yes.
- 13 Q How did you determine that the unnamed man you claim
 14 was Rajendran Vellapalath was Rajendran Vellapalath?
- 15 A Well, I'm not claiming it. Number one, he was
- 16 | introduced to me at the time, I just didn't hear the name
- 17 | correctly -- not correctly, I didn't hear the name in full --
- 18 and, secondly, when I saw the court case last week that
- 19 Voizzit was claiming ownership, I was sort of like who -- who
- 20 | is this? I've never heard this name before. As I said, I
- 21 asked Byju who it was, he didn't say this was the gentleman
- 22 | that we met with, and I did a Google search and found that
- 23 the founder was in fact the gentleman I spent an hour with in
- 24 | Dubai.
- 25 | Q So you don't recall hearing his name specifically in

the meeting, is that your testimony?

- 2 A When I was in the meeting, I do not recall -- I did not
- 3 | recall walking out of that meeting and knowing this is Mr.
- 4 | Vellapalath, who founded Voizzit. What I knew was he was an
- 5 | entrepreneur in Dubai, Indian heritage, 20-plus years in the
- 6 | tech -- he walked through his entire bio, of which, as you go
- 7 | to LinkedIn and see his name and his photo, it is the
- 8 gentleman that I sat with for an hour in that room.
- 9 Q And in that hour you didn't discuss this bankruptcy
- 10 | proceeding at all, correct?
- 11 | A No, we talked about acquiring term loan B; we talked
- 12 | about the fact that the assets were in bankruptcy. We didn't
- 13 | talk about Voizzit's claim in that conversation, and at no
- 14 | point did Mr. Vellapalath say I own a company called Voizzit
- 15 | that I have given money to Byju that has a legitimate claim
- 16 over the assets. That information would have been incredibly
- 17 | helpful to three people strategizing how to take control over
- 18 | the assets because that would have seemed to be the fastest
- 19 | way rather than trying to buy term loan B and continue to
- 20 | negotiate with the lenders.
- 21 ||Q You mentioned a number of red flags a couple minutes
- 22 | ago; do you recall that?
- 23 | A Yes.
- 24 || Q What was the first red flag?
- 25 | (Pause)

- 1 A There's been so many it's hard to clarify what was sort 2 of the first red flag.
 - Q It was relatively early on, is that fair to say?
- 4 A Yeah, I would say as, you know, far back as 2023 when
- 5 | we were having conversations around Epiq!. I think to a
- 6 | large extent, though, having met Byju virtually a couple
- 7 | times last year, in 2023, I had a distinct hope that his goal
- 8 of ultimately educating the masses was truly who he was
- 9 | about.

- 10 Q Despite those red flags, you communicated with Byju for
- 11 | months about a potential deal, correct?
- 12 | A That's correct.
- 13 Q And that was because you were interested in making
- 14 | money on that deal, correct?
- 15 A I certainly was not uninterested in making money on the
- 16 deal; I also was very interested in the technology. What I
- 17 | was -- the initial conversation that we had about Ranjan Pai
- 18 | coming in was that Ranjan was ultimately using this to take
- 19 \parallel control of a cache. If we were able to acquire term loan B,
- 20 Rose Lake could then take Epiq! and help it grow in the
- 21 United States and abroad.
- 22 Back in 2023, we had put together a full sort of
- 23 | advisory team, a strategy of countries that we would want to
- 24 || enter into in a U.S. B2G distribution strategy. So it
- 25 | certainly was something I was very passionate about.

- 1 | Q You ignored the red flags and went forward with the 2 | possibility of doing a deal, correct?
 - A I wouldn't say I ignored the red flags --

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- 4 Q You were comfortable doing the deal despite the red 5 | flags, right?
 - A I would say I was always very guarded about Byju, how he operated, what he was looking to do, and very suspicious.
 - Q Why did you fly to the Middle East for a meeting in October if you were that suspicious and there were so many red flags?
- 11 A Well, the very first meeting was actually in September,
 12 it was to meet with Ranjan Pai, who, again, we were sort of
 13 told was interested in being the investor. And this was
 14 after, you know, sort of the conversation where Ranjan said,
 15 no, he's working with the company. So I was interested to
 16 see whether or not Ranjan would actually invest in such an
 17 acquisition and what the sort of motives behind it would be.
- 18 Q There was a demonstration of AI at some point in one of 19 these meetings, correct?
- 20 A Yes, Byju was showing me how to use ChatGPT.
- 21 | Q And one of the ChatGPT searches was something about 22 | corporate fraud, correct?
- 23 A Yeah, he -- there was a -- this was in the moment where
 24 Byju was -- within a ten-minute moment where Byju was asking
 25 me to rent a truck to go to Mexico to take Osmo inventory and

- 1 | bring it to the U.S. so we could sell it, he was showing me
- 2 | how easy that would be, and on ChatGPT one of the searches
- 3 that he had was defending against corporate fraud.
- 4 | Q Was that search about defending against corporate fraud
- 5 have anything to do with you?
- 6 A I don't -- I have no idea what the -- like why he put
- 7 | that search into it.
- 8 | Q Was he searching whether you had ever been accused of
- 9 | corporate fraud?
- 10 A Oh, no, it was a ChatGPT prompt asking questions about
- 11 | like responses, what would ChatGPT say.
- 12 | Q If he had asked ChatGPT if Mr. Mailer had ever been
- 13 | accused of corporate fraud, what would ChatGPT have told him?
- 14 | A It's Hailer and --
- 15 | Q I'm sorry, Mr. Hailer, I apologize.
- 16 A No, totally fine, and it would have said I have been
- 17 | accused of fraud, whether it's corporate fraud or not fraud.
- 18 | Q And those were fraudulent misrepresentations, correct?
- 19 | The accusations were of fraudulent misrepresentations,
- 20 | correct?
- 21 A Yes, alleged.
- 22 | Q Related to Rose Lake's investment in a CBD company,
- 23 | correct?
- 24 A It was a separate entity. It was East Street Ventures,
- 25 | which is a company that is dissolved.

- 1 ||Q That's the entity that you referenced earlier, correct?
- 2 | A Yep -- no, sorry, separate. I mentioned East Street
- 3 | Crew, which was a wine company that is in the process of
- 4 | being dissolved, East Street Ventures is dissolved, and that
- 5 was a case brought against us by several investors in a
- 6 cannabis venture capital investment, which has been dismissed
- 7 | with prejudice.
- 8 | Q And it was dismissed with prejudice because you settled
- 9 || it, correct?
- 10 | A That's correct.
- 11 | Q And that those are public reports that would come up in
- 12 | the search, right?
- 13 | A Yes, yep.
- 14 | Q Did that ever come up in your conversations --
- 15 A No. Byju never once asked about any other work that we
- 16 | had done before.
- 17 | Q So in the discussions -- or in the searches about
- 18 | fraudulent misrepresentations, you had some understanding of
- 19 | what that was based on your personal experience, is that
- 20 || fair?
- 21 A Sure.
- 22 \parallel Q Oh, briefly, when we were talking earlier about the
- 23 discussion in the October meeting, I think it was, about that
- 24 | there was bankruptcy --
- 25 | A Yep.

- 1 Q -- was that a discussion of the Indian bankruptcy
- 2 | proceeding?
- 3 A Oh, it was discussion of all, but it mainly focused on
- 4 the U.S.-based assets because that was directly related both
- 5 | to the attempt to acquire term loan B, as well as Epiq! and
- 6 Osmo.
- 7 $\|Q\|$ On the ticket that you were shown that was put up on
- 8 | the screen --
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 | Q -- you didn't discuss that with anyone at Voizzit,
- 11 | correct?
- 12 A At Voizzit? No.
- 13 | Q You didn't discuss it with Mr. Vellapalath, right?
- 14 || A No.
- 15 | Q You've testified about a number of conversations or
- 16 | Signal messages sent in the last week, none of those were
- 17 | with Mr. Vellapalath, right?
- 18 \parallel A No, the last conversation that I had with him was that
- 19 | in-person conversation in Dubai.
- 20 Q You've never had a phone conversation with
- 21 Mr. Vellapalath, right?
- 22 | A Unless he was on a phone conversation that I was not
- 23 | aware he was on, I think the answer is no, although that was
- 24 | fairly common for Byju to do.
- 25 | Q And you've never emailed anyone at Voizzit, correct?

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1 | A I don't believe so.
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- Q Meaning you have not emailed them, correct?
- 3 || A Yeah, I -- yes.
- 4 | Q In the declaration that you provided you didn't mention
- 5 | that bankruptcy was discussed in the October conversations,
- 6 | correct?

- 7 | A I don't have it right in front of me, but I think I
- 8 | mentioned that we discussed term loan B and Epiq!, and in
- 9 those conversations we would have no doubt been talking about
- 10 | bankruptcy.
- 11 | Q But the affidavit doesn't make that connection,
- 12 | correct?
- 13 A I don't have it right in front of me for clarity. If I
- 14 | could see it, I could answer, but I will take your word that
- 15 | I didn't put the two and two together.
- 16 MR. MOZAL: No further questions, Your Honor.
- 17 | THE COURT: Thank you.
- 18 | Redirect?
- 19 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. SHANKAR:
- 22 | A Yes.
- 23 | Q -- at the October 2024 meeting with Byju Ravindran and
- 24 | Mr. Vellapalath, that's in your mind?
- 25 | A Yes.

- Q What specifically was discussed about the bankruptcy proceeding occurring today in this court?

 A There was no conversation about the Voizzit claim to
- the assets at all in that conversation. 4 5 What was the conversation about the Epiq! bankruptcy? 6 On Epiq!, twofold. Number one, that we were in the 7 process of attempting to acquire term loan B, which would 8 give us access to Epiq!, we were looking to do that at a \$150 million valuation, we had arranged potentially multiple 9 10 investors to do that, and that the sole purpose of that was two things: Number one, Epiq! and Epiq! largely because of 11 the financial returns that Epiq! provides, and number two, 12 13 Osmo, because Osmo provides a level of IP that Byju needs on
- 15 | Q Thank you, Mr. Hailer.

new technology.

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- THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Hailer. You may step down.
 - THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 19 MS. ROOT: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
- 20 Melissa Root on behalf of the Chapter 11 Trustee.
- Your Honor, with regard to the trustee's evidence in support of the trustee's sale motion or stay motion, she previously moved and this Court admitted into evidence the declaration of Jacob Grall that's at Docket 256 and Exhibits

 A through I, thereto, which are Exhibits 1 through 3 and 5

through 9, and the declaration incorporates Exhibit 4 on the trustee's witness and exhibit list that she filed, first at Docket 305.

And then apologies to Your Honor for the late-breaking events this morning at Docket 324 and 325. Your Honor, I do apologize for the timing of that, but as you'll hear there Mr. Grall, the trustee was only just able to get to the Cloudflare tech platform today around noon and those were the additional exhibits that were offered there.

We also filed this morning, the supplemental declaration of Mr. Grall at Docket 318, which incorporates Exhibits 21, 24, 37, and 38 through 42. Mr. Grall is here in the courtroom today and available for cross-examination.

The trustee would move his supplemental declaration and those exhibits into evidence.

The Voizzit entities indicated this morning that they did not have an objection to that admission, subject to their right to cross Mr. Grall.

MR. MOZAL: That's right, Your Honor.

And I think, obviously, depending on how they're used, I you may have an objection based on relevance or -- because we received them pretty late -- so I'm not exactly sure how they might be brought up in argument, but that's the only correction.

THE COURT: Okay. It's admitted, without

objection.

(Grall Declaration received in evidence)

MS. ROOT: And, Your Honor, we also have Mr. Craig Martin, here in the courtroom and available for cross-examination. He submitted the sworn declaration of Mr. Martin as the custodian of records of DLA Piper and that's -- attached to that are Exhibits 13 through 15.

In that declaration, Mr. Martin swore that the records that are Exhibits 13 through 15 were made at or near the time of their creation by or from information transmitted by someone with knowledge of the facts or kept by DLA Piper in the course of its regularly conducted activity related to the representation of the companies in the Chapter 11 cases and were made as part of the regular practice of that activity.

So the trustee would move both, Mr. Martin's declaration and Exhibits 13 through 16 into evidence; although, as noted in our exhibit list, Exhibits 13 through 14 are not admitted for the truth of the matter asserted.

Again, I don't think there's any objection here, pending the ability to cross.

MR. MOZAL: Exactly, pending the ability to cross.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

They're admitted, without objection.

(Martin Declaration received in evidence)

(Trustee's Exhibits 13, 14, 15 and 16 received into 1 evidence) 2 MS. ROOT: And, finally, Your Honor, the trustee 3 would move for the admission of Exhibits 10 through 12, 23, 4 5 25 through 27, 28 through 37, and 43 through 47 on the exhibit list into evidence, noting that Exhibit 11, as 6 7 reflected on our list, is not offered for the truth of the 8 matter asserted. 9 Again, I understand that's subject to cross-10 examination of the witnesses, Voizzit has no objection to 11 this. MR. MOZAL: Agreed, Your Honor. 12 13 THE COURT: Okay. They're admitted, without 14 objection. 15 (Trustee's Exhibits 10, 11, 12, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 received 16 17 into evidence) 18 MS. ROOT: All right. Your Honor, and with 19 respect to Mr. Grall's declaration, as we've seen in this 20 case today, there are daily developments. So even after the 21 time that we filed his supplemental declaration this morning, 22 we've identified new evidence relevant to the day's hearing 23 and the trustee would call Mr. Grall to the stand. 24 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Grall, please come forward.

Please take the stand and remain standing for the oath.

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THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.
1
2
               Please state your full name and spell your last
 3
   name for the record.
 4
               THE WITNESS: Jacob Grall, G-r-a-l-l.
 5
               JACOB GRALL, TRUSTEE'S WITNESS, SWORN
               THE WITNESS: I do.
 6
7
               THE CLERK: You may be seated.
8
                          DIRECT EXAMINATION
9
   BY MS. ROOT:
10
   Q
          Good afternoon, Mr. Grall.
         Good afternoon.
11
12
         Who is your employer?
13
   lΑ
         Novo Advisors.
14
         And, Mr. Grall, what does Novo Advisors do?
          Novo Advisors is a turnaround and restructuring
15
16
   consulting practice.
17
          What is your title at Novo Advisors, Mr. Grall?
18
         Managing director.
19
          And could you provide just a brief overview of our
20
   educational background?
21
          Yes, I have a bachelor's in accounting from the
22
   University of Illinois and I'm a registered CPA in the state
   of Illinois.
23
          Mr. Grall, is Novo Advisors providing services to the
24
25
   Chapter 11 Trustee in this case?
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- 1 | A Yes, we serve as financial advisor to the trustee.
- 2 | Q And as managing director of Novo Advisors, are you, Mr.
- 3 ||Grall, providing services to the Chapter 11 Trustee in this
- 4 | case?
- 5 | A Yes, I am serving as lead financial advisor.
- 6 | Q Do you -- are you responsible for overseeing the
- 7 | operations of the businesses?
- $8 \parallel A$ Yes.
- 9 Q Are you responsible for overseeing the financials for
- 10 | the business?
- 11 || A Yes.
- 12 | Q Mr. Grall, are you familiar with a business called
- 13 | Cloudflare?
- 14 || A Yes.
- 15 \parallel Q What is the?
- 16 A Cloudflare is a content delivery service and domain
- 17 | network system.
- 18 | Q Does Cloudflare provide services to the debtors, do you
- 19 | know?
- 20 \mathbb{A} Yes, they do.
- 21 | Q Okay. What does Cloudflare do for the debtors'
- 22 | business?
- 23 A It essentially allows the debtors to host their
- 24 | websites and deliver that content to internet browsers and
- 25 | mobile devices.

- 1 Q And do each of the debtors, and by that I mean Epic!,
- 2 | Neuron Fuel, and Tangible Play, have accounts at Cloudflare?
- $3 \parallel A$ Yes.
- $4 \parallel Q$ Are all of the debtors' domains, and by that, again, I
- 5 | mean the domains for Epic!, Neuron Fuel, and Tangible Play,
- 6 | presently in the debtors' respective accounts at Cloudflare?
- 7 A No, Tangible Play's domain is not.
- 8 ||Q When, Mr. Grall, did you first learn that the Tangible
- 9 | Play domain was not in the Tangible Play account at
- 10 | Cloudflare?
- 11 | A That was on this Tuesday.
- 12 | Q This Tuesday, November --
- 13 | A November 19th, yes.
- 14 \parallel Q Okay. And how did you learn that, Mr. Grall?
- 15 | A When recognizing that the website was down, I went to
- 16 | the desk chat at Cloudflare and they advised that the domain
- 17 | had been moved.
- 18 | Q And on November 19th, when you learned that the
- 19 | Tangible Play domain had been moved out of the Tangible Play
- 20 | account at Cloudflare, did you know who transferred the
- 21 | domain?
- 22 | A No.
- 23 \parallel Q Did you know where it was transferred to?
- 24 | A No.
- 25 | Q Sitting here today on November 21st, do you know who

- 1 | transferred the Tangible Play domain?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 | Q Who?
- 4 | A It was a user by the name of Kavitha@IndiaFirst.com.
- 5 | Q And do you know where the Tangible Play domain was
- 6 | transferred to?
- $7 \parallel A$ Yes.
- 8 0 Where?
- 9 A It is in a Cloudflare account that goes by the name of
- 10 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com.
- 11 | Q And when did your first learn that the Tangible Play
- 12 | domain has been transferred to Kavitha@Voizzit.com?
- 13 | A Today around 12:30 p.m.
- 14 \parallel Q How were you able to discover that, Mr. Grall?
- 15 A Cloudflare granted myself and the trustee super-
- 16 | administrator privileges over the debtors' accounts, as well
- 17 | as the account for Kavitha@Voizzit.com.
- 18 | Q So, Mr. Grall, you would now have access to the
- 19 | debtors' accounts, including the Tangible Play and the
- 20 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com account at Cloudflare?
- 21 A That's correct.
- 22 | Q And are you able to look at historical records and
- 23 | transactions?
- 24 | A That's correct.
- 25 | Q And you testified that the Tangible Play domain was

- 1 | transferred to Kavitha@Voizzit.com on November 17th; is that
- 2 | correct?
- 3 | A Correct.
- 4 | Q How were you able to confirm that?
- 5 A By reviewing audit logs of both the Kavitha@Voizzit.com
- 6 | Cloudflare account and the Tangible Play Cloudflare account.
- 7 \mathbb{Q} All right. Let's look at some documents.
- 8 THE COURT: I'm sorry, can I -- what was the date?
- 9 | I missed the date of the transfer.
- 10 | THE WITNESS: November 17th.
- 11 | THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
- 12 BY MS. ROOT:
- 13 | Q Let's look at some documents, Mr. Grall.
- 14 | I'm going to first show Trustee's Exhibit 44. There's
- 15 | a binder in front of you, but I think it'll be on the screen
- 16 | in front of you, too. Tell me when you have that in from
- 17 | you.
- 18 | A I'm ready.
- 19 | Q What is this document, do you know?
- 20 A This is the account homepage of the Cloudflare account
- 21 | for Kavitha@Voizzit.com.
- 22 | Q And, Mr. Grall, how did you obtain this?
- 23 A Through my access as super admin to this account.
- 24 | Q And when did you obtain this?
- 25 A Around 12:30 this afternoon.

- 1 ||Q Okay. And just to be clear, this is the
- 2 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com account, right?
- 3 || A Correct.
- 4 \parallel Q This isn't the Tangible Play account, correct?
- 5 | A That's correct.
- 6 Q What does this show, Mr. Grall?
- 7 | A It shows that the domain, PlayOsmo.com, which is the
- 8 | main website for Tangible Play, is active within the
- 9 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com account.
- 10 | Q Mr. Grall, could you turn to Exhibit 45, please.
- 11 || A Yes.
- 12 | Q What is this document, do you know?
- 13 $\|A\|$ This is the last record of the audit log for
- 14 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com's account and it shows that on
- 15 | November 17th, the account was created by a user,
- 16 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com.
- 17 | Q Okay. So let's break this down.
- 18 | First of all, how did you obtain this document?
- 19 $\|A\|$ Through my super admin privileges access to the site.
- 20 Q And when, Mr. Grall, were you first able to access that
- 21 and see this document?
- 22 | A Around 12:30 today.
- 23 Q Okay. So if I'm looking at the top line of this
- 24 | document where it says, "November 17th, 2024. Action:
- 25 | Create user Kavitha@Voizzit.com, " what does that mean?

- 1 A I believe that shows that that's when this account was 2 created.
- 3 Q Mr. Grall, I'm going to ask you to turn to Trustee's
- 4 Exhibit 43.
- $5 \parallel A$ Yes.
- 6 | Q What is this document, do you know, Mr. Grall?
- 7 A This is a screenshot of an audit log for the Tangible
- 8 | Play account, which is titled as "Osmo," as you can see in
- 9 the upper-corner. And it shows that on November 17th, the
- 10 | zone was moved. Zone is how Cloudflare calls the contents,
- 11 | or the domain contents of the Cloudflare account.
- 12 Q Okay. I know we're moving quickly, Mr. Grall, so I
- 13 | just want to make sure I understand this.
- 14 The first exhibits we looked at were for the
- 15 | Kavitha@Voizzit.com account; is that right?
- 16 A That's correct.
- 17 | Q And we're now looking, for the first time, at the
- 18 | Tangible Play Cloudflare account documents, correct?
- 19 A That's correct.
- 20 | Q And we're now looking, for the first time, at the
- 21 | Tangible Play Cloudflare account documents, correct?
- 22 | A That's correct.
- 23 | Q And they're showing on November 17th, that there was a
- 24 | transfer out of the Tangible Play Cloudflare account; is that
- 25 | your testimony?

- 1 | A That's correct.
- 2 | Q Mr. Grall, were you able to determine today when you
- 3 | logged in who the users were of the Tangible Play account?
- $4 \parallel A$ Yes, they included numerous users with email extensions
- 5 | at Byjus.com. Two notable individuals were at
- 6 | Vinay@Byjus.com and JennyFittle@Byjus.com (phonetic).
- $7 \parallel Q$ Well, those are some familiar names, Mr. Grall.
- 8 Have you been able to remove them as users?
- $9 \parallel A$ Yes.
- 10 Q Mr. Grall, I'm going to ask you now to look at
- 11 | Trustee's Exhibit 47.
- 12 | What is this document, do you know, Mr. Grall?
- 13 A This is another image of the audit log for the Tangible
- 14 | Play account, titled "Osmo" on the upper-left corner. It
- 15 | shows that on November 15th, a user, Vinay@Byjus.com, added a
- 16 | user, Kavitha@IndiaFirst.com.
- 17 | Q And how did you obtain this document, Mr. Grall?
- 18 A Through my access as super admin.
- 19 | Q And was that, again, today, around noon?
- 20 | A Yes.
- 21 | Q Mr. Grall, do you know what IndiaFirst is?
- 22 | A IndiaFirst is a Voizzit entity.
- 23 Q And how do you know that?
- 24 | A An internet search of the words IndiaFirst and Voizzit
- 25 | show that Rajendran Vellapalath was the founder of IndiaFirst

- 1 | and IndiaFirst is also listed on Voizzit's homepage.
- 2 Q So I just want to, again, make sure I'm understanding
- $3 \parallel \text{this correctly.}$
- 4 This document shows that on October 15th, Vinay
- 5 | Ravindra made Kavitha@IndiaFirst a user with authority to
- 6 make transfers out of the Tangible Play account; is that
- 7 || right?
- 8 A No. A correction on November 15th.
- 9 Q November 15th, thank you.
- 10 Mr. Grall, do you recall the date on which this Court
- 11 | entered the stay order?
- 12 | A On Tuesday, November 12th.
- 13 | Q Okay. And then just one more time, what was the date
- 14 on which Vinay Ravindra made Kavitha@IndiaFirst.com, a user
- 15 | who was authorized to transfer this out of the debtors'
- 16 | account?
- 17 | A On November 15th.
- 18 | Q And what was the date on which Kavitha@IndiaFirst
- 19 | transferred the Tangible Play out of Tangible Play, out of
- 20 | the debtors' account to Kavitha@Voizzit.com?
- 21 A November 17th.
- 22 MS. ROOT: I have no further questions for you,
- 23 Mr. Grall.
- 24 | THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 25 THE COURT: Any other direct?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, Your Honor. 1 2 THE COURT: Cross? 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MOZAL: 4 5 Good afternoon, Your Honor. Mr. Grall, when was the first time you heard of 6 7 Voizzit? On October 8th. 8 Α 9 What were the circumstances? 10 We had been informed by an employee that the Stripe account was renamed to Voizzit and money had left that 11 12 account. 13 Do you know whether, before October 8th, anybody had 14 reached out to anyone at Voizzit to give them notice of this 15 bankruptcy proceeding? We were not aware of Voizzit prior to that date. 16 17 THE COURT: Can you both keep your voices up? I'm 18 having sort of a difficulty hearing. 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, apologies, Your Honor. 20 Okay. We were not aware of Voizzit prior to 21 October 8th. 22 BY MR. MOZAL: 23 And on October 8th when that was discovered, did anybody say, Hey, we should reach out to Voizzit and ask them 24 25 about this?

```
We had no contact information for the people at
 1
   Voizzit.
 2
          You had no email addresses whatsoever?
 3
 4
   Α
         No.
 5
          So, to be clear, you didn't give anyone at Voizzit, at
   that time in early October, you didn't give anybody at
 6
   Voizzit notice of these proceedings, correct?
 7
 8
          Correct.
   Α
 9
          And you're not aware of anybody else doing so, correct?
10
   lΑ
          Correct.
               MR. MOZAL: No further questions, Your Honor.
11
12
               THE COURT: Okay. Any redirect?
13
               MS. ROOT: We have nothing further for Mr. Grall,
14
   Your Honor.
15
               THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
               Thank you, Mr. Grall. You can step down.
16
17
               THE WITNESS: Thank you.
18
          (Witness excused)
19
               MS. ROOT: Your Honor, you have admitted into
20
    evidence Mr. Martin's certification and declaration. I just
21
   had a few questions for him. He is in the courtroom, so the
22
    trustee would call Mr. Martin to the stand.
23
               THE COURT: All right. Mr. Martin, please come
24
    forward.
25
               Mr. Martin is a member of the Delaware Bar, so I
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don't see a need to issue the oath to him. I know he is --
1
   understands his obligation to testify truthfully to this
2
   Court.
 3
               MR. MARTIN: Yes, I will confirm that, Your Honor.
 4
 5
               I intend to have candor with the tribunal in
   accordance with the Delaware Rules of Professional
 6
7
   Responsibility.
8
               THE COURT: Thank you.
9
               MS. ROOT: Thank you, Your Honor.
10
               And thank you, Mr. Martin.
         R. CRAIG MARTIN, TRUSTEE'S WITNESS, PREVIOUSLY SWORN
11
12
                          DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MS. ROOT:
13
14
          For the record, could you please state your employer?
15
          DLA Piper, LLP (US).
   Α
16
          And Mr. Martin, what is your job title?
17
          I'm a partner and I'm also the office managing partner
18
   of the Delaware office and the global co-chair of our
19
   restructuring practice.
20
          And Mr. Martin, you offered the declaration of document
21
    custodian that was previously admitted into evidence today;
22
   is that correct?
23
   Α
          Yes.
          Mr. Martin, I'm going to direct your attention, please,
24
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to Exhibit 15. There's a book there, but I think we can put

- 1 | it up on the screen. And I'll represent to you, Mr. Martin,
- 2 and to the Court that Exhibit 15 is a document that was
- 3 | attached to your certification of records.
- 4 | A Yes, I'm familiar with it.
- $5 \parallel Q$ All right. What is this document, Mr. Martin?
- 6 A It's the engagement letter with the, at the time,
- 7 | putative debtors that were subject of an involuntary
- 8 | proceeding to engage our firm to provide legal services in
- 9 | that matter.
- 10 | Q And who were the prospective clients, Mr. Martin?
- 11 A The clients were Epic! Creations, Tangible Play, and
- 12 | Neuron Technologies.
- 13 | Q And do you know if those clients ultimately retained
- 14 | DLA Piper, Mr. Martin?
- 15 | A Yes.
- 16 | Q And did you work on that matter?
- 17 | A I did.
- 18 \parallel Q Mr. Martin, I would direct your attention to the first
- 19 | paragraph of Exhibit 15, in which it states that the
- 20 | representation is, and I quote:
- 21 | "In connection with involuntary Chapter 11
- 22 proceedings in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the
- 23 | District of Delaware."
- 24 Do you see that?
- 25 | A Yes.

- 1 ||Q Is that an accurate description of the matter?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 ||Q Who was this letter sent to, Mr. Martin?
- 4 A Vinay Ravindra.
- 5 ||Q| And turning to page 6, do you see Mr. Ravindra's
- 6 | signature on page 6?
- 7 A I see a DocuSign signature for Vinay, chief content
- 8 | officer.
- 9 Q And did you understand that Vinay Ravindra was signing
- 10 | this engagement letter on behalf of the clients?
- 11 || A I take that to be the case, since he signed the
- 12 | engagement letter. I was not the attorney specifically
- 13 | involved in soliciting that signature.
- 14 \parallel Q Okay. I see next to the signature a date that's listed
- 15 | 12/06/2024.
- 16 Do you understand that Mr. Ravindra signed this on or
- 17 | around June 6th, 2024?
- 18 | A Yes, people outside the United States frequently put
- 19 the date before the month and then a different convention
- 20 | that we use. So that's the way I read it, yes.
- 21 ||Q All right. Thank you, Mr. Martin.
- 22 MS. ROOT: The trustee has no further questions.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Ms. Root.
- 24 | THE COURT: Cross?
- 25 | /

CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. MOZAL:

- 3 | Q Good afternoon, Mr. Martin.
- 4 | The engagement letter we were just looking at, was that
- 5 | labeled privileged or confidential?
- 6 A Yes, attorney-client privilege.
- 7 \mathbb{Q} And when was the first time you heard of Voizzit?
- 8 A I'm not sure of the exact first time, but it would have
- 9 been in a phone call with Ms. Root in the last week or two.
- 10 Q Voizzit was not one of the clients within the attorney-
- 11 | client privilege referenced on the engagement letter,
- 12 | correct?
- 13 || A Correct.
- 14 | Q You had no communications with Voizzit about the
- 15 | bankruptcy proceedings in this court, correct?
- 16 | A Correct.
- 17 | Q And you didn't give anyone at Voizzit notice of these
- 18 | proceedings, correct?
- 19 \parallel A I don't know that I had any obligation to do so, but I
- 20 did not on behalf of these three clients, no.
- 21 || Q Fair enough.
- 22 You looked at your previous communications and provided
- 23 | some of them in your declaration, correct?
- 24 | A Correct.
- 25 | Q Did you look for communications with anyone at Voizzit;

- was that something that you did?
- 2 | A I did not.

7

16

17

18

- When the trustee was appointed, we received a request to turn over all of our records to the trustee. Someone in my office and General Counsel's Office worked to accomplish that task.
 - Q So this -- the documents weren't necessarily handselected; they were turned over and used by the trustee.
- 9 | Is that what happened?
- 10 A We have someone in our General Counsel's Office that
 11 handles any requests for information from the firm, and that
 12 person handled searching our systems and making sure that the
 13 client file was turned over to the trustee.
- 14 Q Do you know whether that person looked for anything 15 relating to Voizzit in that search?
 - A I don't know for certain, no.
 - Q You would agree with me that you did not provide any communications as part of your declaration that indicates anything was communicated to Voizzit, correct?
- A I have -- it's been represented to me that Mr. Vinay
 Ravindra has some association with Voizzit, so I hesitate to
 say "no" to that question because to the extent that that's
 accurate, then this communication would reflect communication
 with someone at Voizzit, but I don't know that fact to be
 true, so I can't really answer that question yes or no.

MR. MOZAL: No further questions, Your Honor. 1 2 Thank you, Mr. Martin. THE COURT: Thank you. 3 Redirect? 4 5 MS. ROOT: Nothing, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Martin. 7 You can step down. 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Judge Dorsey. 9 (Witness excused) 10 MR. MARTIN: Your Honor, I was under subpoena to be here today. I assume I'm released from that? 11 12 THE COURT: Yes, you're excused. Thank you. 13 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. MS. STEEGE: Your Honor, we have no further 14 15 witnesses. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Any other documentary evidence? 17 MS. STEEGE: No, Your Honor. I think all of our 18 exhibits have been admitted that we seek to submit. 19 THE COURT: Okay. Any evidence from the 20 Defendants? 21 MR. MOZAL: Your Honor, Mr. Samis raised the point 22 earlier about our affidavit and the proposed exhibits, and 23 I'm not trying to re-argue it, but I was just noting that that was the evidence that we had offered that we understand 24 25 is not being accepted today.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. 1 2 Well, I only have 10 minutes before I have this 4:30 hearing, so let's take a break before we do argument. 3 And I do want to consider the question of whether or not I'm 4 5 going to allow Voizzit the opportunity to come back and 6 present its own evidence in the case. 7 So let's take a recess for now. I don't know 8 how -- I'm hoping this hearing doesn't take more than 20 9 or 30 minutes, but we shall see. 10 Mr. Fox? MR. FOX: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 11 12 May I please the Court? I was just going to ask 13 the Court's indulgence to remain in the courtroom for the 14 purposes of the 4:30 hearing so I don't have to go and join 15 Zoom to then be on that hearing, as well. THE COURT: That's fine, thank you. 16 17 MR. FOX: Thank you, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: And everybody else is, you're welcome 19 to sit in the courtroom; it's a public hearing. I imagine 20 you'll probably be bored to death --21 (Laughter) 22 THE COURT: -- but you can either stay here or go. 23 I'm trying to figure out when I should tell you to come back 24 if you want to leave.

Let's try to come back at 10 till 5:00, how about

1 that, and we'll see where we are. 2 Recess until 10 till 5:00. 3 (Recess taken at 4:20 p.m.) (Proceedings resumed at 5:31 p.m.) 4 5 THE CLERK: All rise. 6 Thank you, be seated. 7 Well, obviously, that other hearing took longer 8 than I expected. We're now at 5:30 and I thought about the issues regarding additional evidence to be allowed by the 9 10 Defendants. So I am going to continue the hearing at this 11 12 point, but I will say on the record that I am gravely 13 disturbed by the testimony that I heard today both, about 14 witness tampering and about actions being taken to take 15 assets from these debtors after I entered my order saying 16 that that should not happen. I think I am to a point where I 17 am going to have to make a reference to the U.S. Attorney's 18 Office, especially about the witness tampering. That's a 19 major issue. 20 But I will give Voizzit and any other Defendants 21 who want the opportunity, to put on what evidence they think 22 they have that contradicts what the debtors put on today. 23 I'm going to leave the record open so if the debtors have any

additional evidence that they want to put on after them --

I'm sure there'll be some discovery in between here -- any

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1
    additional evidence, I'll leave the record open so that the
    debtors can put on evidence, as well, and then we'll do
 2
    closings.
 3
               I don't know when this hearing is going to happen.
 4
 5
   Next week is not possible. The week after, December 5th,
    might be a possibility if that works for the parties, and
 6
    December 6th.
 7
 8
               Witnesses have to be live, if you're going to have
    someone testify. So if anyone from Voizzit wants to come
 9
10
    testify, they're going to have to be here in court.
               Anything else I'm missing? Any questions?
11
   Concerns? Comments?
12
13
               MS. SLEEGE: Your Honor, the preliminary
    injunction hearing you set for December 3rd.
14
15
               THE COURT: Oh, that's one of the things on my
16
    list. Why don't we continue this hearing then, we'll just do
17
    December 3rd.
18
               MS. SLEEGE: Yeah, that might make sense, since
   we'd be here on December 3rd anyway --
19
20
               THE COURT: Yeah.
21
               MS. SLEEGE: -- if there's time for it?
22
               THE COURT: Yeah. So I have three other hearings
23
    that day, but maybe some of those will come off, or we can
    try to move some of those. One of them I can't, because I've
24
25
    already moved it once, so I need to -- I have a 1 o'clock
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hearing that I can't move. Some of the others we'll see. 1 One of them, I know I could move. 2 So, we'll start -- I think we're starting at 9:00, 3 4 right, on the 3rd? 5 THE CLERK: Correct. THE COURT: So we'll start at 9:00. This will 6 7 continue at that time and we'll go from there. 8 MS. SLEEGE: Your Honor, the other thing is we did serve discovery and we never got any answers to of it and we 9 10 did ask for depositions. If counsel is actually going to put 11 on and bring some witnesses here, we would ask that they 12 respond to our discovery and not say, Well, we don't have 13 time, so we're not going to do it. 14 THE COURT: Mr. Samis? 15 MR. SAMIS: Your Honor, we'll confer with the 16 clients, but our discussions with them to date was that they 17 were willing to commit to sit for depositions, they just 18 wanted to do it on a time frame that they didn't think would, like, was completely jamming them. 19 20 So, with what we've got now, we'll re-double our 21 efforts and we'll try to make that happen. 22 THE COURT: Well, if they don't cooperate in the 23 discovery process -- I mean, this is bankruptcy: things move

fast. I've tried billion-dollar cases in practice on three

weeks' notice. So you need to move it along and get the

24

discovery done.

If it's not done, there'll be consequences.

MR. SAMIS: We do understand, Your Honor. We'll be in contact. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SAMIS: And thank you for your time.

THE COURT: Ms. Sleege?

MS. SLEEGE: The other point that we were going to make, Your Honor, was --

THE COURT: I don't think a mic might not be picking you up. You might want to stand at the podium.

MS. SLEEGE: Sorry.

The other point we were going to make is that by tomorrow, close of business, they are supposed to do certain things under the TRO you entered on Tuesday and there's been no effort to do any of those things. And I think that they haven't returned the funds that were supposed to be returned under the prior order, I would think that a prerequisite to putting on evidence might be that they comply with the two prior orders in advance of the hearing on December 3rd. That would be the other thing that we would request.

MR. SAMIS: Your Honor, the Court orders, we've been told by the client that they're planning on doing all of those things, especially with respect to the TRO order and they're just trying to get the analysis done on the funds

1 returned. I don't know exactly where that sits. We did send 2 another email advising them that the deadlines were, you 3 know, approaching, and they are aware of them. 4 5 So, some -- two of the deadlines haven't passed 6 yet. One of them is set to pass today, but we're rushing 7 them to be compliant. 8 THE COURT: Okay. Well, there are consequences if 9 they don't comply with the order. 10 MR. SAMIS: I do understand. THE COURT: Okay. 11 12 MR. SAMIS: Thank you. 13 THE COURT: All right. Anything else? 14 MS. SLEEGE: That's it from us, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: All right. Anything from (indiscernible)? 16 17 MR. SAMIS: Nothing else, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: Okay. All right. 19 Well, then, I guess I'll see everybody on 20 December 3rd. Thank you all very much. Have a happy 21 holiday, Thanksgiving; hopefully, you can enjoy some time 22 with your family. I know you all are going to have a lot of 23 work to do, but hopefully, you'll get to spend some time with your family. 24

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Thank you.

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COUNSEL: Thank you, Your Honor.
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          (Proceedings concluded at 5:37 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATION We certify that the foregoing is a correct 2 3 transcript from the electronic sound recording of the 4 proceedings in the above-entitled matter to the best of our 5 knowledge and ability. 6 7 /s/ William J. Garling November 22, 2024 William J. Garling, CET-543 9 Certified Court Transcriptionist For Reliable 10 11 12 /s/ Tracey J. Williams November 22, 2024 13 Tracey J. Williams, CET-914 14 Certified Court Transcriptionist 15 For Reliable 16 17 /s/ Mary Zajaczkowski November 22, 2024 18 Mary Zajaczkowski, CET-531 Certified Court Transcriptionist 19 For Reliable 20 21 22 /s/ Coleen Rand November 22, 2024 23 Coleen Rand, CET-341 24 Certified Court Transcriptionist 25 For Reliable

Exhibit D

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)

Claudia Z. Springer, Chapter 11 Trustee,

Adv. Pro. No. 24-50233 (JTD)

Plaintiff,

(Jointly Administered)

VS.

Google LLC, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, Rajendran Vellapalath,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF JACOB GRALL IN SUPPORT OF THE CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S EMERGENCY MOTION TO HOLD THE VOIZZIT DEFENDANTS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR THEIR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE COURT'S NOVEMBER 19 ORDER

I, Jacob Grall, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

1. I am a Managing Director in the Chicago office of Novo Advisors, a restructuring-focused consulting firm. My areas of expertise include liquidity and working capital management, financial planning, financial process improvement, and project management. With an expertise

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).

grounded in accounting, financial modeling, and corporate finance, I have helped numerous businesses achieve their operational and financial goals. I hold a B.S. of Accounting from the University of Illinois and am a certified public accountant in Illinois and an active member of the local chapter of the Turnaround Management Association and Secured Finance Network.

- 2. Since September 23, 2024, Novo Advisors has served as the financial advisor to Claudia Z. Springer, in her capacity as the duly appointed Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") of the estates (the "<u>Estates</u>") of Epic! Creations, Inc. ("<u>Epic</u>"), Neuron Fuel, Inc. ("<u>Neuron Fuel</u>"), and Tangible Play, Inc. ("<u>Tangible Play</u>," together with Epic and Neuron Fuel, collectively the "<u>Debtors</u>") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>"). I personally have been the primary person (under the direction of the Trustee) responsible for overseeing the finances and operations of the Estates. Since the Trustee's appointment, I have been focused on working to stabilize the businesses, construct the Debtors' books and records, and locate and secure the Debtors' assets.
- 3. I am duly authorized to make this supplemental declaration in support of the Chapter 11 Trustee's Emergency Motion to Hold the Voizzit Defendants in Contempt of Court for Their Failure to Comply With the Court's November 19 Order.
- 4. On November 19, 2024, the Trustee obtained a temporary injunction (the "TRO") against Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Voizzit Technology Private Ltd., Rajendran Vellapalath, Vinay Ravindra (collectively, the "Voizzit Defendants"), and Google LLC ("Google") in connection with the Voizzit Defendants' post-order for relief attempts to take over control of the Debtors' Google Workspace, Google Cloud, and Google Play Store accounts. In particular, the Debtors' Google Cloud accounts hosts the Debtors' corporate records, emails, data, and software code, including code that directs the payments from the Debtors' websites and

applications to various payment processors. Thus, by virtue of their control over the code contained in the Debtors' Google Cloud accounts, the Voizzit Defendants may have the ability to redirect payments made through the Debtors' websites to different payment processor accounts beyond the Trustee's reach.

5. The TRO directs the Voizzit Defendants to do the following:

On or before 5:00 p.m. E.T. on November 22, 2024, Defendants Voizzit Technology Private Ltd, Voizzit Information Technology LLC, Vinay Ravindra, and Rajendran Vellapalath (the "Voizzit Defendants") shall provide the Trustee and Google with a complete list of all accounts, assets, email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials relating in any way to the Google Accounts that were transferred by or to one or more of the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities working in concert with them from June 4, 2024 to present, and shall facilitate the transfer of any such email extensions, projects, entity names, or other credentials from the Voizzit Defendants or individuals or entities under their control and to the Trustee.

(TRO, ¶ 3.)

Paragraph 5 of the TRO states:

Defendant Voizzit Information Technology LLC is directed to transfer to the Trustee at instructions provided by the Trustee the Debtors' applications, data, project, funds, or any other information or property of the Debtors; given that any such transfer to Voizzit Information Technology LLC was void *ab initio* and a legal nullity, such that the technical return transfer to the Trustee maintains the status quo.

(TRO, ¶ 5.)

- 6. Following the entry of the TRO, along with counsel, I immediately engaged in discussions with Google regarding the steps necessary for Google to take (in addition to the steps the TRO ordered the Voizzit Defendants to take) to comply with the TRO.
- 7. The Voizzit Defendants, however, have not done any of things they were required to do by ordering paragraphs 3 and 5 of the TRO.

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8. Although Google, through its counsel, has represented to me that it is working to

restore the various intellectual property and other information that the Voizzit Defendants

wrongfully transferred, Google has advised that—without the cooperation of the Voizzit

Defendants that is mandated by the TRO—it could take several weeks to do so.

9. As a result of the actions of the Voizzit Defendants, my team and I have been

required to spend a considerable amount of time working to resolve the issues with the many

Google platforms. I estimate that I personally spent over sixty (60) hours over the last nearly eight

weeks on Voizzit-related matters.

10. Every day the Trustee does not have complete control over the Debtors' businesses

harms the estates, not only because of the time and attention she and her counsel and advisors are

required to spend addressing the operational and legal harm (including the business disruption

caused by lack of access to emails and key company data), but also because the Trustee is bound

by tight milestones established by the lenders in the financing order to prepare the Debtors'

businesses for a sale.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the United States of America that the

foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: November 26, 2024

/s/ Jacob Grall

Jacob Grall