

REAVES PLLC

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*Proposed Counsel to Marla Rosoff Eskin,
Future Claimants' Representative*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION**

In re:

HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)

**FUTURE CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVE'S APPLICATION FOR ENTRY
OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF
REAVES PLLC AS COUNSEL EFFECTIVE AS OF MAY 15, 2025**

COMES NOW Marla Rosoff Eskin, Esq. ("Attorney Eskin"), solely in her capacity as the court-appointed representative for potential future asbestos claimants in the above-captioned matter (the "FCR"), by her undersigned proposed counsel, and respectfully states as follows in support of this Application:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia*, dated July 10, 1984.

2. Venue in this Court is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409.



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3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105, 327 and 1107 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rules 2014 and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (the “Local Bankruptcy Rules”).

II. BACKGROUND

4. On June 30, 2024 (the “Petition Date”), Hopeman Brothers, Inc., the above-captioned debtor (the “Debtor”), filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

5. The Debtor continues to manage its business as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

6. On July 22, 2024, the United States Trustee appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Creditors’ Committee”), pursuant to Section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. On April 29, 2025, the Debtor and the Creditors’ Committee filed a *Joint Application for an Order Appointing Marla Rosoff Eskin, Esq., as the Future Claimants’ Representative* [D.I. 688] (the “FCR Application”).

8. By Order dated May 14, 2025, this Court appointed Attorney Eskin as the Future Claimants’ Representative. *See* Docket Item 732.

9. By this Application, Attorney Eskin in her capacity as the FCR requests this Court enter an Order authorizing her to engage Reaves PLLC (the “Firm”) as her local counsel in this case *nunc pro tunc* to May 15, 2025.

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

10. The FCR seeks entry of an order (the “Order”), substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A: (a) approving the employment and retention of the Reaves Firm as her local counsel, effective as of May 15, 2025; and (b) granting related relief. In support of this Application, the FCR relies upon and incorporates by reference the declaration of Michael G. Wilson (“Mr. Wilson”), an attorney with the Reaves Firm (the “Wilson Declaration”), attached hereto as Exhibit B.

11. The FCR seeks to retain the Reaves Firm because of its experience in, among other areas, financial restructuring, corporate governance, litigation, and corporate finance and related transactions, in particular before this Court. Specifically, Mr. Wilson, who is of counsel to the Reaves Firm, has twenty-five years’ experience representing and advising a wide variety of constituents in chapter 11 proceedings, including debtors, committees, secured and unsecured creditors, independent or disinterested directors, special committees and others, as well as providing advice with respect to fiduciary duties in connection with chapter 11 proceedings.

12. In preparing to represent the FCR in this chapter 11 case, the Reaves Firm has become familiar with the FCR’s specific duties to potential future claimants, the background of the Debtor’s business and this case, and many of the potential legal issues that may arise in the context of this chapter 11 case. Moreover, the Reaves Firm will work to ensure that it is not duplicating the services that other professionals will be providing to the FCR in this chapter 11 case, including the FCR’s primary counsel, Campbell & Levine, LLC (“Campbell & Levine”). The FCR will coordinate with the Reaves Firm, Campbell & Levine and the other professionals retained in this case to minimize unnecessary duplication of efforts among those professionals.

13. Accordingly, the FCR believes that the Reaves Firm is both well-qualified and uniquely able to represent her as local counsel in these chapter 11 cases in an efficient and timely manner.

Services to be Provided

14. Subject to further order of the Court, the FCR desires to retain and employ the Reaves Firm to render the following legal services:

- advising the FCR with respect to her powers and duties in this chapter 11 case;
- attending meetings and negotiating with representatives of the Debtor, creditors and other parties in interest;
- taking all necessary actions to protect, preserve and maximize the Debtor's estate for the benefit of future claimants;
- preparing pleadings in connection with this chapter 11 case, including motions, applications, answers, orders, reports, and papers necessary or otherwise beneficial to the fulfillment of the FCR's duties;
- appearing before the Court and any appellate courts to represent the FCR and the interests of future claimants; and
- performing all other necessary legal services for the FCR in connection with her duties in this chapter 11 case.

15. The Reaves Firm intends to apply for compensation for professional services rendered on an hourly basis and for reimbursement of the actual, necessary expenses incurred in connection with this chapter 11 case, in each case subject to the Court's approval and in compliance with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy Rules, and any other applicable procedures established by the Court. The hourly rates that will be charged by the Reaves Firm are the standard hourly rates charged for services in other, non-bankruptcy matters.

16. In general, the hourly rates for attorneys at the firm that are expected to render services to the FCR range from \$325-\$525 per hour, and the hourly rate for paraprofessionals

range from \$245-\$295 per hour. The Reaves Firm's hourly rates are set at a level designed to compensate the Reaves Firm fairly for the work of its attorneys and paraprofessionals and to cover fixed and routine expenses. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b), the Reaves Firm has neither shared nor agreed to share (a) any compensation it has received or may receive with another party or person, other than with the attorneys or employees associated with the Reaves Firm or (b) any compensation another person or party has received or may receive.

17. The FCR believes the rates charged by the Reaves Firm are consistent with market rates for comparable services, and she has been informed that the Reaves Firm sets its hourly rates on an annual basis. The hourly rates of the Reaves Firm's professionals and paraprofessionals are subject to periodic adjustments (typically on January 1 of each year) to reflect economic and other conditions. The Reaves Firm will provide not less than ten (10) business days' notice of any rate increases to the FCR, the U.S. Trustee, and the Committee. In addition, the Reaves Firm will maintain detailed records of actual and necessary costs and expenses incurred in connection with the legal services it provides to the FCR, and the FCR understands that the Reaves Firm is customarily reimbursed for all expenses incurred in connection with the representation of a client in a given matter.

18. To the best of the FCRs' knowledge, and as disclosed herein and in the Wilson Declaration, (a) the Reaves Firm is a "disinterested person" within the meaning of section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code and does not hold or represent an interest adverse to the FCR or the Debtor's estate and (b) the Reaves Firm has no connection to the Debtor, its creditors, or other parties in interest, except as may be disclosed in the Wilson Declaration.

19. The Reaves Firm will review its files periodically during the pendency of this chapter 11 case to ensure that no conflicts or other disqualifying circumstances exist or arise. If

any new relevant facts or relationships are discovered or arise, the Reaves Firm will use reasonable efforts to identify such further developments and will promptly file a supplemental declaration, as required by Bankruptcy Rule 2014(a).

IV. WAIVER OF MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

20. Given that the factual and legal bases supporting this Application are set forth herein, the FCR respectfully requests that the Court waive any requirement that this Application be accompanied by a separate written memorandum of points and authorities as described in Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-1(G).

[REMAINDER INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

V. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the FCR respectfully requests that the Court (i) enter an Order granting the relief requested herein, and (ii) granting to the FCR such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: May 20, 2025

By: Marla Rosoff Eskin
Future Claimants' Representative

Submitted by:

REAVES PLLC

/s/ Michael G. Wilson
Michael G. Wilson (VSB No. 48927)
555 Belaire Avenue, Suite 300
Chesapeake, VA 23320
Telephone: (804) 614-8301
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-and-

CAMPBELL & LEVINE, LLC

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*Proposed Counsel to the Future Claimants'
Representative*

EXHIBIT A
Proposed Order

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION**

In re:

HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT
OF REAVES PLLC AS COUNSEL TO THE FUTURE CLAIMANTS'
REPRESENTATIVE NUNC PRO TUNC AS OF MAY 15, 2025**

Upon the *Application of the Future Claimants' Representative to Retain and Employ Reaves PLLC Nunc Pro Tunc to May 15, 2025* (the "Application")¹; and the Court having considered the Declaration of Michael Wilson, Esq., in support of the Application, any responsive pleadings and arguments of counsel, if any; and, the Court having determined that it has jurisdiction to consider the Application, that notice of the Application was appropriate, and that the relief sought therein is just and proper; and, after due opportunity for a hearing on the Application, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The Application is GRANTED.
2. The Future Claimants' Representative is authorized to retain and employ Reaves PLLC under the terms and conditions set forth in the Application as of May 15, 2025.
3. The terms and conditions set forth in the Application are reasonable, and the Reaves Firm shall be compensated in accordance with Sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, any applicable Bankruptcy Rule, Local Bankruptcy Rule, and Orders of this Court.

¹ Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed them in the Application.

4. The Future Claimants' Representative is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the relief granted by this Court.

5. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from the implementation of this Order.

6. This Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon entry, notwithstanding any provision on the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rule to the contrary.

Dated:

Honorable Keith L. Phillips
United States Bankruptcy Judge

WE ASK FOR THIS:

/s/ Michael Wilson
REAVES PLLC
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kharrison@camlev.com

*Proposed Counsel to the Future Claimants’
Representative*

SEEN AND _____:

Kathryn R. Montgomery, Esq.
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701 East Broad Street, Suite 4304
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Telephone: (804) 771-2319

Office of the United States Trustee

CERTIFICATION UNDER LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 9022-1(C)

Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9022-1(C), I hereby certify that the foregoing proposed order has been endorsed by or served upon all necessary parties.

/s/ Michael Wilson

EXHIBIT B
Wilson Declaration

REAVES PLLC

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*Proposed Counsel to Marla Rosoff Eskin,
Future Claimants' Representative*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND DIVISION**

In re:

HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL WILSON, ESQ.
IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUTURE
CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVE TO RETAIN AND EMPLOY
REAVES PLLC AS COUNSEL NUNC PRO TUNC TO MAY 15, 2025**

Pursuant to Rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), Michael Wilson declares:

1. I am of counsel with the law firm of Reaves PLLC (the "Reaves Firm") and am duly authorized to make this declaration on behalf of it. I am an attorney at law admitted and in good standing to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I make this declaration in support of the *Application of the Future Claimants' Representative to Retain and Employ Reaves PLLC, as Counsel Nunc Pro Tunc to May 15, 2025* (the "Application"). Unless otherwise defined, all capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Application.

2. Neither I, nor the Reaves Firm, nor any of its professionals, as far as I have been able to ascertain, has any connection with the Debtor, its creditors, the United States Trustee, or any other party or their respective attorneys or accountants.

3. Subject to the Court's approval, the Reaves Firm will charge for its legal services on an hourly basis in accordance with its ordinary and customary hourly rates in effect on the date services are rendered. As of the date of this Declaration, the hourly rates for attorneys at the Reaves Firm that are expected to render services to the Future Claimants' Representative range from \$325-\$525 per hour, and the hourly rate for paraprofessionals range from \$245-\$295 per hour. These rates may change from time to time in accordance with the Reaves Firm's established billing practices and procedures. The Reaves Firm will maintain detailed, contemporaneous time records related to services rendered, as well as any actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the rendering of the legal services described above by category and nature of the services rendered.

4. In addition to the Application to retain the Reaves Firm, the Future Claimants' Representative also has filed an application seeking to engage the firm of Campbell & Levine, LLC ("Campbell & Levine"), as counsel. The Reaves Firm and Campbell & Levine will work together to ensure that they are not duplicating legal services being provided to the Future Claimants' Representative by each of them.

5. To the best of my knowledge, the proposed employment of the Reaves Firm is not prohibited by or improper under Bankruptcy Rule 5002, and the professionals the Reaves Firm employs are qualified to represent the Future Claimants' Representative in the matters for which the firm is proposed to be employed.

6. The Reaves Firm intends to apply to the Court for compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules of this Court, and pursuant to any additional procedures that may be established by the Court in this case.

7. No promises have been received by the Reaves Firm, or any member of the firm, related to compensation in connection with this case. The Reaves Firm has no agreement with any other entity to share any compensation received by the Reaves Firm in connection with this case with such entity. The Reaves Firm is a “disinterested person” as that term is defined in § 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, and does not hold or represent any interest adverse to the Debtor, the creditors, or any party in interest in the matters for which it is proposed to be employed.

8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: May 20, 2025

/s/ Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson