

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

In re:

HRI HOLDING CORP., *et al.*¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 19-12415 ()

(Joint Administration Requested)

**DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EMPLOY AND
RETAIN KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS LLC AS CLAIMS AND
NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE**

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

RELIEF REQUESTED

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "Order") (a) authorizing the Debtors to employ and retain Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC ("KCC") as the claims and noticing agent (the "Claims and Noticing Agent") in the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases effective *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date; and (b) granting related relief. In support of this application, the Debtors submit the *Declaration of Evan Gershbein in Support of the Debtors' Application for Authorization to Employ and Retain*

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: HRI Holding Corp. (4677), Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc. (8489), HDJG Corp. (3479), Red Steer, Inc. (2214), Sam Wilson's/Kansas, Inc. (5739), Darryl's of St. Louis County, Inc. (7177), Darryl's of Overland Park, Inc. (3015), Houlihan's of Ohio, Inc. (6410), HRI O'Fallon, Inc. (4539), Algonquin Houlihan's Restaurant, L.L.C. (0449), Geneva Houlihan's Restaurant, L.L.C. (3156), Hanley Station Houlihan's Restaurant, LLC (4948), Houlihan's Texas Holdings, Inc. (5485), Houlihan's Restaurants of Texas, Inc. (4948), JGIL Mill OP LLC (0741), JGIL Millburn, LLC (6071), JGIL Milburn Op LLC (N/A), JGIL, LLC (5485), JGIL Holding Corp. (N/A), JGIL Omaha, LLC (5485), HOP NJ NY, LLC (1106), HOP Farmingdale LLC (7273), HOP Cherry Hill LLC (5012), HOP Paramus LLC (5154), HOP Lawrenceville LLC (5239), HOP Brick LLC (4416), HOP Secaucus LLC (5946), HOP Heights LLC (6017), HOP Bayonne LLC (7185), HOP Fairfield LLC (8068), HOP Ramsey LLC (8657), HOP Bridgewater LLC (1005), HOP Parsippany LLC (1520), HOP Westbury LLC (2352), HOP Weehawken LLC (2571), HOP New Brunswick LLC (2637), HOP Holmdel LLC (2638), HOP Woodbridge LLC (8965), and Houlihan's of Chesterfield, Inc. (5073). The Debtors' corporate headquarters and the mailing address is 8700 State Line Road, Suite 100, Leawood, Kansas 66206.



Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC as Claims and Noticing Agent Effective Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition Date (the “Gershbein Declaration”), attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

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. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012. The Debtors confirm their consent, pursuant to Rule 7008 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), to the entry of a final order by the Court in connection with this Application to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

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

4. The bases for the relief requested herein are section 156(c) of title 28 of the United States Code, sections 503 and 1107 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Bankruptcy Rules 2002(f), and rule 2002-1(f) of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”).

BACKGROUND

5. On the date hereof (the “Petition Date”), the Debtors commenced the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”) by filing voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with the Court.

6. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors-in-possession, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107(a) and 1108. As of the date of this Motion, no trustee, examiner or statutory committee has been appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases.

7. Additional information regarding the circumstances leading to the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases and information regarding the Debtors' businesses and capital structure is set forth in detail in the *Declaration of Matthew R. Manning in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings* (the "First Day Declaration"),² filed contemporaneously with this Motion and incorporated herein by reference.

KCC'S RETENTION

8. The terms of retention and employment of KCC are set forth in that certain services agreement (the "Services Agreement"), annexed as **Exhibit 1** to **Exhibit A**, attached hereto. Pursuant to this Application, the Debtors are seeking to retain and employ KCC as the Claims and Noticing Agent solely on the terms and provisions set forth in this Application and the proposed Order. The Debtors' selection of KCC to act as the Claims and Noticing Agent satisfies the Court's *Protocol for the Employment of Claims and Noticing Agents Under 28 U.S.C. § 156(c)* (the "Claims Agent Protocol"), in that the Debtors have obtained and reviewed engagement proposals from at least two (2) other Court-approved claims and noticing agents to ensure selection through a competitive process. Moreover, the Debtors submit, based on all engagement proposals obtained and reviewed, that KCC's rates are competitive and reasonable given KCC's quality of services and expertise.

9. Although the Services Agreement contemplates that KCC will provide services for the Debtors outside the scope of 28 U.S.C. § 156, the Debtors will seek authorization by separate application to retain and employ KCC as administrative advisor pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 327(a) for those services.

² Except where otherwise indicated, capitalized terms used but not defined in this Motion have the meanings ascribed to them in the First Day Declaration.

KCC'S QUALIFICATIONS

10. KCC is a leading chapter 11 administrator and comprises industry professionals with significant experience in both the legal and administrative aspects of large, complex chapter 11 cases. KCC has acted as the official claims and noticing agent in many large bankruptcy cases in this district and in other districts nationwide. KCC's cases in this district include: *In re Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 19-12239 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 16, 2019); *In re Bayou Steel BD Holdings, L.L.C.*, Case No. 19-12153 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 1, 2019); *In re Perkins & Marie Callender's, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 19-11743 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 5, 2019); *In re Emerge Energy Services LP, et al.*, Case No. 19-11563 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 15, 2019); *In re Fuse, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 19-10872 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 22, 2019); *In re Achaogen, Inc.*, Case No. 19-10844 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 15, 2019); *In re Southcross Energy Partners, L.P., et al.*, Case No. 19-10702 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 1, 2019); *In re Novum Pharma, LLC*, Case No. 19-10209 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 3, 2019); *In re Egalet Corp.*, Case No. 18-12439 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 1, 2018); *In re Welded Construction, L.P., et al.*, Case No. 18-12378 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 22, 2018); *In re ATD Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 18-12221 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 4, 2018); *In re RM Holdco LLC, et al.*, Case No. 18-11795 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 5, 2018); *In re Heritage Home Group LLC, et al.*, Case No. 18-11736 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 29, 2018); *In re Tintri, Inc.*, Case No. 18-11625 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 10, 2018); *In re The Walking Company Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 18-10474 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 8, 2018); *In re VER Technologies Holdco LLC*, Case No. 18-10834 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. April 6, 2018); *In re Rand Logistics, Inc.*, Case No. 18-10175 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 29, 2018); *In re ExGen Tex. Power, LLC*, Case No. 17-12377 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 7, 2017); *In re TerraVia Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 17-11655 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 2, 2017); *In re Prospector Offshore Drilling S.à r.l.*, Case No. 17-11572 (CSS) (Bankr. D.

Del. July 20, 2017); *In re Keystone Tube Co., LLC (A.M. Castle & Co.)*, Case No. 17-11330 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 18, 2017); *In re Sungevity, Inc.*, Case No. 17-10561 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 15, 2017); *In re Aquion Energy, Inc.*, Case No. 17-10500 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 8, 2017).

11. By appointing KCC as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these Chapter 11 Cases, the distribution of notices and the processing of claims will be expedited, and the Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Clerk”) will be relieved of the administrative burden of processing any such claims.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY KCC

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

13. Subject to the Court’s approval, at the request of the Debtors, and to the extent necessary, KCC will perform the following tasks in its role as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these Chapter 11 Cases (collectively, the “Claims and Noticing Services”), as well as all quality control relating thereto:

- (a) prepare and serve required notices and documents in these Chapter 11 Cases in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules in the form and manner directed by the Debtors or the Court, including, without limitation: (i) notice of the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases and the initial meeting of creditors under Bankruptcy Code section 341(a); (ii) notice of any claims bar date; (iii) notices of transfers of claims; (iv) notices of objections to claims and objections to transfers of claims; (v) notices of any hearings on a disclosure statement and

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

confirmation of the Debtors' chapter 11 plan or plans, including under Bankruptcy Rule 3017(d); (vi) notice of the effective date of any plan; and (vii) all other notices, orders, pleadings, publications, and other documents as the Debtors or Court may deem necessary or appropriate for an orderly administration of these Chapter 11 Cases;

- (b) maintain an official copy of the Debtors' schedules of assets and liabilities and statements of financial affairs (collectively, the "Schedules"), listing the Debtors' known creditors and the amounts owed thereto;
- (c) maintain a: (i) list of all potential creditors, equity holders, and other parties in interest and (ii) "core" service list consisting of all parties described in Bankruptcy Rule 2002(i), (j), and (k), and those parties that have filed a notice of appearance pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9010 and update said lists and make said lists available upon request by a party-in-interest or the Clerk;
- (d) furnish a notice to all potential creditors of the last date for filing proofs of claim and a form for filing a proof of claim, after such notice and form are approved by the Court, and notify such potential creditors of the existence, amount and classification of their respective claims as set forth in the Schedules, which may be effected by inclusion of such information (or the lack thereof, in cases where the Schedules indicate no debt due to the subject party) on a customized proof of claim form provided to potential creditors;
- (e) maintain a post office box or address for the purpose of receiving claims and returned mail, and process all mail received;
- (f) for all notices, motions, orders, or other pleadings or documents served, prepare and file, or cause to be filed, with the Clerk an affidavit or certificate of service within seven (7) business days of service which includes: (i) either a copy of the notice served or the docket number(s) and title(s) of the pleading(s) served; (ii) a list of persons to whom it was served (in alphabetical order) with their mailing or email addresses as appropriate; (iii) the manner of service; and (iv) the date served;
- (g) process all proofs of claim received, including those received by the Clerk, check said processing for accuracy, and maintain the original proofs of claim in a secure area;
- (h) maintain the official claims register for each Debtor (collectively, the "Claims Registers") on behalf of the Clerk, and, upon the Clerk's request, provide the Clerk with certified, duplicate unofficial Claims Registers;
- (i) specify in the Claims Registers the following information for each claim docketed: (i) the claim number assigned; (ii) the date received; (iii) the

name and address of the claimant and agent, if applicable, who filed the claim; (iv) the amount asserted; (v) the asserted classification(s) of the claim (*e.g.*, secured, unsecured, priority, etc.); (vi) the applicable Debtor; and (vii) any disposition of the claim;

- (j) implement necessary security measures to ensure the completeness and integrity of the Claims Registers and the safekeeping of the original claims;
- (k) record all transfers of claims and provide any notices of such transfers, as required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(e);
- (l) relocate, by messenger or overnight delivery, all of the court-filed proofs of claim to the offices of KCC, not less than weekly;
- (m) upon completion of the docketing process for all claims received to date for each case, turn over to the Clerk copies of the Claims Registers for the Clerk's review (upon the Clerk's request);
- (n) monitor the Court's docket for all notices of appearance, address changes, and claims-related pleadings and orders filed and make necessary notations on or changes to the Claims Registers and any service or mailing lists, including to identify and eliminate duplicative names and addresses from such lists;
- (o) assist in the dissemination of information to the public and respond to requests for administrative information regarding these Chapter 11 Cases as directed by the Debtors or the Court, including through the use of a case website or call center;
- (p) if these Chapter 11 Cases are converted to cases under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, contact the Clerk's office within three (3) days of KCC receiving notice to KCC of entry of the order converting the cases;
- (q) thirty (30) days prior to the close of these Chapter 11 Cases, to the extent practicable, request that the Debtors submit to the Court a proposed order dismissing KCC as Claims and Noticing Agent and terminating its services in such capacity upon completion of its duties and responsibilities and upon the closing of these Chapter 11 Cases;
- (r) within seven (7) days of notice to KCC of entry of an order closing these Chapter 11 Cases, provide to the Court the final version of the Claims Registers as of the date immediately before the close of the Chapter 11 Cases; and
- (s) at the close of these Chapter 11 Cases: (i) box and transport all original documents, in proper format, as provided by the Clerk, to (1) the Philadelphia Federal Records Center, located at 14700 Townsend Road,

Philadelphia, PA 19154, or (2) any other location requested by the Clerk; and (ii) docket a completed SF-135 Form indicating the accession and location numbers of the archived claims.

14. The Claims Registers shall be open to the public for examination without charge during regular business hours and on a case-specific website maintained by KCC.

KCC'S COMPENSATION

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

16. KCC agrees to maintain records of all services showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred. KCC further agrees to serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the "U.S. Trustee"), counsel for the Debtors, counsel for any official committee monitoring the expenses of the Debtors, and any party-in-interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices. If any dispute arises relating to the Services Agreement or the monthly invoices, the parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the dispute. If a resolution is not achieved, the parties may seek resolution of the matter from the Court.

17. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors provided KCC a retainer in the amount of \$10,000. KCC seeks to first apply the retainer to all prepetition invoices and, thereafter, to have the retainer replenished to the original retainer amount, and thereafter, to hold the retainer under the Services Agreement during the cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Services Agreement.

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

KCC'S DISINTERESTEDNESS

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

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

- (a) KCC is not a creditor of the Debtors;
- (b) KCC is a "disinterested person," as that term is defined in Bankruptcy Code section 101(14), as modified by Bankruptcy Code section 1107(b);
- (c) KCC will not consider itself employed by the United States government and will not seek any compensation from the United States government in its capacity as the Claims and Noticing Agent in these Chapter 11 Cases;

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

21. If any new facts or circumstances are discovered that require additional disclosure, KCC will supplement its disclosure to the Court.

BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

I. Retention and Employment of KCC as Notice Claims Agent is Permitted.

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

Any court may utilize facilities or services, either on or off the court's premises, which pertain to the provision of notices, dockets, calendars and other administrative information to parties in cases filed under the provisions of title 11, United States Code, where the costs of such facilities or services are paid for out of the assets of the estate and are not charged to the United States. The utilization of such facilities or services shall be subject to such conditions and limitations as the pertinent circuit council may prescribe.

28 U.S.C. § 156(c).

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

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

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

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

25. By separate application, the Debtors intend to seek authorization to retain and employ KCC as the administrative agent in these Chapter 11 Cases, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 327(a), because the administration of the Chapter 11 Cases will require KCC to perform duties outside the scope of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c).

II. Nunc Pro Tunc Relief Is Appropriate.

26. Pursuant to the Debtors' request, KCC has agreed to serve as the Claims and Noticing Agent on and after the Petition Date with assurances that the Debtors would seek approval of its employment and retention *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date, so that KCC may be compensated for its services prior to approval of this application. The Debtors believe that no party in interest will be prejudiced by the granting of the *nunc pro tunc* employment, as provided in this application, because KCC has provided and continues to provide valuable services to the Debtors' estates in the interim period. The Local Rules empower courts in this district to approve *nunc pro tunc* employment, and the Debtors submit that such approval is justified here. *See, e.g.*, Del. Bankr. L.R. 2014-1(b) ("If the retention application is granted, the retention shall be effective as of the date the application was filed, unless the Court orders otherwise.").

27. Courts in this jurisdiction have routinely approved *nunc pro tunc* employment, similar to that requested herein, in matters comparable to this matter. *See, e.g., In re VER Technologies Holdco LLC*, Case No. 18-10834 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. April 6, 2018); *In re Rand Logistics, Inc.*, Case No. 18-10175 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 31, 2018) (approving *nunc pro tunc* employment of a claims and noticing agent to perform claims and noticing services); *In re ExGen Tex. Power, LLC*, Case No. 17-12377 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 8, 2017) (same); *In re TerraVia Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 17-11655 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 3, 2017) (same); *In re Keystone Tube Co., LLC*, Case No. 17-11330 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 20, 2017) (same).

NOTICE AND NO PRIOR REQUEST

28. The Debtors will provide notice of this application to: (a) the Office of the U.S. Trustee for the District of Delaware; (b) each of the Debtors' creditors holding the thirty (30) largest unsecured claims as set forth in the consolidated list filed with the Debtors' petition; (c) the Lenders; (d) the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware; (e) the Internal Revenue Service; and (f) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

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

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WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Order granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Dated: November 14, 2019
Wilmington, Delaware



Matthew R. Manning
Chief Restructuring Officer
HRI Holding Corp.

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

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

In re:

HRI HOLDING CORP., *et al.*¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 19-12415 (___)

(Joint Administration Requested)

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO EMPLOY
AND RETAIN KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS LLC AS CLAIMS
AND NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE**

Upon the application (the “Application”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of an order (this “Order”) for authority to employ and retain Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC (“KCC”) as claims and noticing agent in the Debtors’ Chapter 11 Cases (the “Claims and Noticing Agent”) effective *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date, all as more fully set forth in the Application; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having 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 District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012; and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution;³ and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are: HRI Holding Corp. (4677), Houlihan’s Restaurants, Inc. (8489), HDJG Corp. (3479), Red Steer, Inc. (2214), Sam Wilson’s/Kansas, Inc. (5739), Darryl’s of St. Louis County, Inc. (7177), Darryl’s of Overland Park, Inc. (3015), Houlihan’s of Ohio, Inc. (6410), HRI O’Fallon, Inc. (4539), Algonquin Houlihan’s Restaurant, L.L.C. (0449), Geneva Houlihan’s Restaurant, L.L.C. (3156), Hanley Station Houlihan’s Restaurant, LLC (4948), Houlihan’s Texas Holdings, Inc. (5485), Houlihan’s Restaurants of Texas, Inc. (4948), JGIL Mill OP LLC (0741), JGIL Millburn, LLC (6071), JGIL Millburn Op LLC (N/A), JGIL, LLC (5485), JGIL Holding Corp. (N/A), JGIL Omaha, LLC (5485), HOP NJ NY, LLC (1106), HOP Farmingdale LLC (7273), HOP Cherry Hill LLC (5012), HOP Paramus LLC (5154), HOP Lawrenceville LLC (5239), HOP Brick LLC (4416), HOP Secaucus LLC (5946), HOP Heights LLC (6017), HOP Bayonne LLC (7185), HOP Fairfield LLC (8068), HOP Ramsey LLC (8657), HOP Bridgewater LLC (1005), HOP Parsippany LLC (1520), HOP Westbury LLC (2352), HOP Weehawken LLC (2571), HOP New Brunswick LLC (2637), HOP Holmdel LLC (2638), HOP Woodbridge LLC (8965), and Houlihan’s of Chesterfield, Inc. (5073). The Debtors’ corporate headquarters and the mailing address is 8700 State Line Road, Suite 100, Leawood, Kansas 66206.

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

³ Pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(f), the Debtors hereby confirm their consent to entry of a final order by this Court in connection with this Application if it is later determine that this Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

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

ORDERED that the Application is approved as set forth herein; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors are authorized, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 156(c) and Local Rule 2002-1(f), to retain KCC, and KCC is appointed as the Claims and Noticing Agent, *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date, under the terms and conditions of the Services Agreement, attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Notwithstanding any terms of the Services Agreement, the Application is approved solely as set forth in this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC, as the Claims and Noticing Agent, is directed to perform noticing services and to receive, maintain, record, and otherwise administer the proofs of claim filed in these cases (if any), and all related tasks, all as described in the Application (collectively, the "Claims and Noticing Services"); and it is further

ORDERED that KCC shall serve as the custodian of court records and shall be designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these Chapter 11 Cases (if any) and is authorized and directed to maintain official claims registers for each of the Debtors and to provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate thereof upon the request of the Clerk; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC is authorized and directed to provide an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim and to obtain a post office box or address for the receipt of proofs of claim

(if necessary) ; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC is authorized to take such other action to comply with all duties set forth in the Application; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors are authorized to compensate KCC for the Claims and Noticing Services in accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement upon the receipt of reasonably detailed invoices setting forth the services provided by KCC and the rates charged for each, and to reimburse KCC for all reasonable and necessary expenses it may incur, upon the presentation of appropriate documentation, without the need for KCC to file fee applications or otherwise seek this Court's approval for the compensation of its services and reimbursement of its expenses; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC shall maintain records of all services performed, showing dates, categories of services, fees charged, and expenses incurred, and shall serve monthly invoices on the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, counsel to the Debtors, counsel to any official committee monitoring the expenses of the Debtors, and any party-in-interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices; and it is further

ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any dispute which may arise relating to the Services Agreement or monthly invoices, and the parties may seek resolution of such matter from this Court if resolution is not achieved; and it is further

ORDERED that pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 503(b)(1)(A), the fees and expenses of KCC under this Order shall be an administrative expense of the Debtors' estates; and it is further

ORDERED that without further order of this Court, the Debtors are authorized to compensate and reimburse KCC in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Services Agreement upon KCC's submission to the Debtors of invoices summarizing, in reasonable detail, the services rendered and the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in connection therewith and without the necessity for KCC to file an application for compensation or reimbursement with this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC seeks to first apply its retainer to all prepetition invoices and, thereafter, to have the retainer replenished to the original retainer amount and, thereafter, to hold the retainer under the Services Agreement during the cases as security for the payment of fees and expenses incurred under the Services Agreement; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors shall indemnify KCC under the terms of the Services Agreement, as modified pursuant to this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC shall not be entitled to indemnification, contribution or reimbursement pursuant to the Services Agreement for services other than the Claims and Noticing Services, as provided under the Services Agreement, unless such services and the indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement therefore is approved by this Court; and it is further

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

ORDERED that before the earlier of: (a) the entry of an order confirming a chapter 11 plan in these Chapter 11 Cases (that order having become a final order no longer subject to appeal); and (b) the entry of an order closing these Chapter 11 Cases, should KCC believe that it is entitled to the payment of any amounts by the Debtors on account of the Debtors'

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

ORDERED that in the event KCC is unable to provide the Claims and Noticing Services, KCC will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' counsel and, upon approval of this Court, cause to have all original proofs of claim and computer information turned over to another claims and noticing agent with the advice and consent of the Clerk and the Debtors' counsel; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors may submit a separate retention application, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 327 or any applicable law, for work that is to be performed by KCC but is not specifically authorized by this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that notwithstanding any term in the Services Agreement to the contrary, during the Chapter 11 Cases, KCC's liability will not be limited to the amount paid or billed to the Debtors; and it is further

ORDERED that KCC shall not cease providing claims processing services during these Chapter 11 Cases for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors and KCC are authorized to take all steps necessary or appropriate to carry out this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that in the event of any inconsistency between the Services Agreement, the Application and this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern; and it is further

ORDERED that notice of the Application as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Application and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice; and it is further

ORDERED that the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry; and it is further

ORDERED that the Debtors are authorized and empowered to take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the terms of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that notwithstanding any term in the Services Agreement to the contrary, this Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

Dated: _____, 2019
Wilmington, Delaware

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Exhibit 1

Services Agreement



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

This Agreement is entered into as of the 11th day of September 2019, between Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc. (together with its affiliates and subsidiaries, the "Company"),¹ and Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC (together with its affiliates and subcontractors, "KCC"). In consideration of the premises set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Terms and Conditions

I. SERVICES

A. KCC agrees to provide the Company with a confidential virtual data room (the "VDR") and all services and support related thereto including, but not limited to, the publication of documents to such VDR (which publication shall not be deemed to violate the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement). KCC agrees to waive all reasonable and customary fees associated with the VDR and the services and support provided in connection therewith.

KCC agrees to provide the Company with consulting services regarding noticing, claims management and reconciliation, plan solicitation, balloting, disbursements and any other services agreed upon by the parties or otherwise required by applicable law, government regulations or court rules or orders in accordance with the fees outlined in the pricing schedule provided to the Company (the "KCC Fee Structure").

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

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

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

E. The Company acknowledges and agrees that KCC will often take direction from the Company's representatives, employees, agents and/or professionals (collectively, the "Company Parties") with respect to the services being provided under this Agreement. The parties agree that KCC may rely upon, and the Company agrees to be bound by, any requests, advice or

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



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

information provided by the Company Parties to the same extent as if such requests, advice or information were provided by the Company. The Company agrees and understands that KCC shall not provide the Company or any other party with any legal advice.

II. PRICES, CHARGES AND PAYMENT

A. KCC agrees to charge and the Company agrees to pay KCC for its services at the rates and prices set by KCC that are in effect as of the date of this Agreement and in accordance with the KCC Fee Structure. KCC's prices are generally adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the business and economic environment and are inclusive of all charges. KCC reserves the right to reasonably increase its prices, charges and rates; provided, however, that if any such increase exceeds 15%, KCC will give thirty (30) days written notice to the Company.

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

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

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

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

F. In the event that the Company files for protection pursuant to chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (a "Chapter 11 Filing"), the parties intend that KCC shall be employed



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

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

G. To the extent permitted by applicable law, at such time the Company requests that KCC begin providing services related to a Chapter 11 Filing (beyond any VDR related services and support), KCC shall receive a retainer in the amount of \$ 10,000 (the "Retainer") that may be held by KCC as security for the Company's payment obligations under the Agreement. KCC shall be entitled to hold the Retainer until the termination of the Agreement. Following termination of the Agreement, KCC shall return to the Company any amount of the Retainer that remains following application of the Retainer to the payment of unpaid invoices.

III. RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP

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

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

IV. NON-SOLICITATION

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

V. CONFIDENTIALITY

Each of KCC and the Company, on behalf of themselves and their respective employees, agents, professionals and representatives, agrees to keep confidential all non-public records, systems,



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

procedures, software and other information received from the other party in connection with the services provided under this Agreement; provided, however, that if either party reasonably believes that it is required to produce any such information by order of any governmental agency or other regulatory body it may, upon not less than five (5) business days' written notice to the other party, release the required information.

VI. SUSPENSION OF SERVICE AND TERMINATION

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

B. In the event that this contract is terminated, regardless of the reason for such termination, KCC shall coordinate with the Company and, to the extent applicable, the clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, to maintain an orderly transfer of record keeping functions and KCC shall provide all necessary staff, services and assistance required for an orderly transfer. The Company agrees to pay for such services in accordance with KCC's then existing prices for such services. If such termination occurs following entry of the Retention Order, the Company shall immediately seek entry of an order (in form and substance reasonably acceptable to KCC) that discharges KCC from service and responsibility in the Company's bankruptcy case.

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

VII. SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

KCC strives to provide continuous improvements in the quality of service to its clients. KCC, therefore, reserves the right to make changes in operating procedure, operating systems, programming languages, general purpose library programs, application programs, time period of accessibility, types of terminal and other equipment and the KCC data center serving the



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

Company, so long as any such changes do not materially interfere with ongoing services provided to the Company in connection with the Company's chapter 11 case.

VIII. BANK ACCOUNTS

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

IX. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

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

B. In no event shall KCC's liability to the Company for any Losses, whether direct or indirect, arising out of this Agreement exceed the greater of (i) total amount billed to the Company and actually paid to KCC for the services contemplated under the Agreement and (ii) \$500,000; provided, however, that this limitation shall not apply to the Company during any chapter 11 case in which the Company is a debtor. In no event shall KCC be liable for any indirect, special or consequential damages such as loss of anticipated profits or other economic loss in connection with or arising out of the services provided for in this Agreement.

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



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

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

X. FORCE MAJEURE

Whenever performance by KCC of any of its obligations hereunder is materially prevented or impacted by reason of any act of God, strike, lock-out or other industrial or transportation disturbance, fire, lack of materials, law, regulation or ordinance, war or war condition, or by reason of any other matter beyond KCC's reasonable control, then such performance shall be excused and this Agreement shall be deemed suspended during the continuation of such prevention and for a reasonable time thereafter.

XI. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

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

XII. NOTICES

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

Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC
222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd Floor
El Segundo, CA 90245
Attn: Drake D. Foster
Tel: (310) 823-9000
Fax: (310) 823-9133
E-Mail: dfoster@kccllc.com

Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc.
8700 State Line Rd. Suite 100 Leawood, KS 66206
Attn: Cynthia Dillard Parres, Esq.
Tel: (913) 901-2591

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

XIII. APPLICABLE LAW

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

XIV. ENTIRE AGREEMENT/ MODIFICATIONS

Each party acknowledges that it has read this Agreement, understands it, and agrees to be bound by its terms and further agrees that it is the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

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

XV. COUNTERPARTS; EFFECTIVENESS

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

XVI. ASSIGNMENT

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

XVII. ATTORNEYS' FEES

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

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]



KCC AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

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

Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Gershbein', written over a horizontal line.

BY: Evan Gershbein DATE: 09/13/19
TITLE: SVP, Corporate Restructuring

Houlihans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Parres', written over a horizontal line.

BY: Cindy Parres DATE: 09/13/19
TITLE: General Counsel

Exhibit B

Gershbein Declaration

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:

HRI HOLDING CORP., *et al.*¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 19-12415 ()

(Joint Administration Requested)

**DECLARATION OF EVAN GERSHBEIN IN SUPPORT OF DEBTORS’
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EMPLOY AND
RETAIN KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS LLC AS CLAIMS AND
NOTICING AGENT EFFECTIVE *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE**

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

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

2. This declaration (this “Declaration”) is made in support of the *Debtors’ Application for Authorization to Employ and Retain Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC as Claims and Noticing Agent Effective Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition Date* (the “Application”).²

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are: HRI Holding Corp. (4677), Houlihan’s Restaurants, Inc. (8489), HDJG Corp. (3479), Red Steer, Inc. (2214), Sam Wilson’s/Kansas, Inc. (5739), Darryl’s of St. Louis County, Inc. (7177), Darryl’s of Overland Park, Inc. (3015), Houlihan’s of Ohio, Inc. (6410), HRI O’Fallon, Inc. (4539), Algonquin Houlihan’s Restaurant, L.L.C. (0449), Geneva Houlihan’s Restaurant, L.L.C. (3156), Hanley Station Houlihan’s Restaurant, LLC (4948), Houlihan’s Texas Holdings, Inc. (5485), Houlihan’s Restaurants of Texas, Inc. (4948), JGIL Mill OP LLC (0741), JGIL Millburn, LLC (6071), JGIL Milburn Op LLC (N/A), JGIL, LLC (5485), JGIL Holding Corp. (N/A), JGIL Omaha, LLC (5485), HOP NJ NY, LLC (1106), HOP Farmingdale LLC (7273), HOP Cherry Hill LLC (5012), HOP Paramus LLC (5154), HOP Lawrenceville LLC (5239), HOP Brick LLC (4416), HOP Secaucus LLC (5946), HOP Heights LLC (6017), HOP Bayonne LLC (7185), HOP Fairfield LLC (8068), HOP Ramsey LLC (8657), HOP Bridgewater LLC (1005), HOP Parsippany LLC (1520), HOP Westbury LLC (2352), HOP Weehawken LLC (2571), HOP New Brunswick LLC (2637), HOP Holmdel LLC (2638), HOP Woodbridge LLC (8965), and Houlihan’s of Chesterfield, Inc. (5073). The Debtors’ corporate headquarters and the mailing address is 8700 State Line Road, Suite 100, Leawood, Kansas 66206.

3. KCC comprises leading industry professionals with significant experience in both the legal and administrative aspects of large, complex Chapter 11 Cases. KCC's professionals have experience in noticing, claims administration, solicitation, balloting and facilitating other administrative aspects of Chapter 11 Cases. KCC has acted as official claims and noticing agent in many large bankruptcy cases in this district and in other districts nationwide. KCC's cases include: *In re Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 19-12239 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 16, 2019); *In re Bayou Steel BD Holdings, L.L.C.*, Case No. 19-12153 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 1, 2019); *In re Perkins & Marie Callender's, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 19-11743 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 5, 2019); *In re Emerge Energy Services LP, et al.*, Case No. 19-11563 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 15, 2019); *In re Fuse, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 19-10872 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 22, 2019); *In re Achaogen, Inc.*, Case No. 19-10844 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 15, 2019); *In re Southcross Energy Partners, L.P., et al.*, Case No. 19-10702 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 1, 2019); *In re Novum Pharma, LLC*, Case No. 19-10209 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Feb. 3, 2019); *In re Egalet Corp.*, Case No. 18-12439 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 1, 2018); *In re Welded Construction, L.P., et al.*, Case No. 18-12378 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 22, 2018); *In re ATD Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 18-12221 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 4, 2018); *In re RM Holdco LLC, et al.*, Case No. 18-11795 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 5, 2018); *In re Heritage Home Group LLC, et al.*, Case No. 18-11736 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 29, 2018); *In re Tintri, Inc.*, Case No. 18-11625 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Jul. 10, 2018); *In re The Walking Company Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 18-10474 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 8, 2018); *In re VER Technologies Holdco LLC*, Case No. 18-10834 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. April 6, 2018); *In re Rand Logistics, Inc.*, Case No. 18-10175 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 29, 2018); *In re ExGen Tex. Power, LLC*, Case

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

No. 17-12377 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 7, 2017); *In re TerraVia Holdings, Inc.*, Case No. 17-11655 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 2, 2017); *In re Prospector Offshore Drilling S.à r.l.*, Case No. 17-11572 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 20, 2017); *In re Keystone Tube Co., LLC (A.M. Castle & Co.)*, Case No. 17-11330 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. June 18, 2017); *In re Sungevity, Inc.*, Case No. 17-10561 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 15, 2017); *In re Aquion Energy, Inc.*, Case No. 17-10500 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Mar. 8, 2017).

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

5. KCC represents, among other things, the following:

- (a) KCC is not a creditor of the Debtors;
- (b) KCC is a "disinterested person" within the meaning of Bankruptcy Code section 101(14), as modified by Bankruptcy Code section 1107(b);
- (c) KCC will not consider itself employed by the United States government and will not seek any compensation from the United States government in its capacity as the claims and noticing agent in these Chapter 11 Cases;
- (d) by accepting employment in these Chapter 11 Cases, KCC waives any rights to receive compensation from the United States government as claims and noticing agent;
- (e) in its capacity as the claims and noticing agent in these Chapter 11 Cases, KCC will not be an agent of the United States and will not act on behalf of the United States;
- (f) KCC will not employ any past or present employees of the Debtors in connection with its work as the claims and noticing agent in these Chapter 11 Cases;
- (g) in its capacity as claims and noticing agent in these Chapter 11 Cases, KCC will not intentionally misrepresent any fact to any person;

- (h) KCC will be under the supervision and control of the Clerk's office with respect to the receipt and recordation of claims and claim transfers;
- (i) KCC will comply with all requests of the Clerk's office and the guidelines promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States for the implementation of 28 U.S.C. § 156(c); and
- (j) none of the services provided by KCC as claims and noticing agent will be at the expense of the Clerk's office.

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

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

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

8. KCC is an indirect subsidiary of Computershare Limited (“Computershare”). Computershare is a financial services and technologies provider for the global securities industry. Within the Computershare corporate structure, KCC operates as a separate, segregated business unit. As such, any relationships that Computershare and its affiliates maintain do not create an interest of KCC that is materially adverse to the Debtors’ estates or any class of creditors or security holders.

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

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

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

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

Dated: November 13, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Gershbein', written over a horizontal line.

Evan Gershbein
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