

BIELLI & KLAUDER, LLC

David M. Klauder, Esq.
 1204 N. King Street
 Wilmington, Delaware 19801
 Telephone: (302) 803-4600
 Email: dklauder@bk-legal.com

Fee Examiner

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 OAKLAND DIVISION**

In re:

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF
 OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,

 Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 23-40523 (WJL)
 (Jointly Administered)

**FEE EXAMINER'S CONSOLIDATED FINAL REPORT
 PERTAINING TO THE INTERIM FEE APPLICATIONS
OF CERTAIN RETAINED PROFESSIONALS**

David M. Klauder (the "Fee Examiner"), the Fee Examiner for the bankruptcy estate (the "Bankruptcy Estate") of The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland (the "Debtor"), hereby submits this Final Report (the "Final Report") pursuant to the Court's *Order Appointing Fee Examiner and Establishing Related Procedures for the Review of Fee Applications of Retained Professionals* [D.I. 1122] (the "Fee Examiner Order") in connection with applications for the allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses for the interim fee periods (the "Interim Fee Applications") of certain professionals retained in the above-referenced case (the "Retained Professionals") as listed on **Exhibit A**. In support of this Final Report, the Fee Examiner respectfully represents as follows:



BACKGROUND

1. On May 8, 2023 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) in this Court.

2. On May 10, 2024, David M. Klauder was appointed as the Fee Examiner for this case.

3. As noted, and set out in detail in the Fee Examiner Order, the Fee Examiner is tasked with reviewing the various fee applications filed by retained professionals in the case and recommending any reductions in fees or expenses sought in the fee applications. The Fee Examiner Order also sets out in detail the process for the Fee Examiner’s review, including issuance of initial reports, a consultation period with retained professionals, and the filing of this Final Report, which contains the Fee Examiner final recommendations to this Court with respect to the Interim Fee Applications.

4. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Interim Fee Applications for compliance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the “Local Bankruptcy Rules”), the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensations and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals*, dated June 23, 2023 [D.I. 170] (the “Interim Compensation Order”), and the Appendix B Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation & Reimbursement of Expenses filed under United States Code by Attorneys in Large Chapter 11 Cases (78 Fed. Reg. No. 116, page 36248 (June 17, 2013)) (the “UST Guidelines”).

1 5. Following that review, the Fee Examiner issued Interim Reports to the Retained
2 Professionals regarding the Interim Fee Applications. The Interim Reports set forth the legal and
3 other standards governing the review and raised questions as to certain designated time entries or
4 expenses. The Retained Professionals were invited to respond to the Interim Report, and they did
5 so through email exchange and/or discussions with the Fee Examiner. Resolution was then
6 reached between the Fee Examiner and each of the Retained Professionals as described below.
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9 **THE FEE EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS**
10 **TO THE INTERIM FEE APPLICATIONS**

11 6. The Fee Examiner makes the following recommendations for the Interim Fee
12 Applications. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is the chart summarizing the fees and expenses
13 sought by the Retained Professionals in the Interim Fee Applications along with the agreed-upon
14 reductions between the Fee Examiner and the Retained Professionals.

15 **Professionals Retained by Debtor**

16 **Alvarez & Marsal North America LLC**

17 *Seventh Interim Fee Application*

18 7. Alvarez & Marsal North America, LLC ("Alvarez & Marsal") provides
19 restructuring advisory to the Debtor. On October 15, 2025, Alvarez & Marsal filed its *Seventh*
20 *Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2400] (the "Alvarez & Marsal Fee Application"). In the Alvarez &
21 Marsal Fee Application, Alvarez & Marsal requests approval of compensation in the amount of
22 \$166,500.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$26.59 for the period of May 1,
23 2025 through August 31, 2025.
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25 8. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Alvarez & Marsal Fee Application to ensure
26 compliance with the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee
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1 Examiner generated an interim report that identified the following general issue with the Alvarez
2 & Marsal Fee Application:

3 a. Transitory timekeepers.

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5 9. In response to the Fee Examiner's interim report, Alvarez & Marsal and the Fee
6 Examiner discussed the issues raised by the interim report. Those discussions resolved the
7 concerns raised by the Fee Examiner and he has no objection to Alvarez & Marsal's request and
8 to this Court's approval of the Alvarez & Marsal Fee Application.

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10 **Foley & Lardner LLP**

11 *Seventh Interim Fee Application*

12 10. Foley & Lardner LLP ("Foley") is general bankruptcy counsel to the Debtor. On
13 October 15, 2025, Foley filed its *Seventh Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2398] (the "Foley Fee
14 Application"). In the Foley Fee Application, Foley requests approval of compensation in the
15 amount of \$2,741,636.25 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$61,501.03 for the
16 period of May 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

17 11. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Foley Fee Application to ensure compliance with
18 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee Examiner generated an
19 interim report that identified the following general issues with the Foley Fee Application:

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21 a. Staffing Mix;
22 b. Multi-Staffed Attended at Hearings and Meetings;
23 c. Excessive Internal Communications;
24 d. Administrative Time;
25 e. Meal Expenses; and
26 f. Duplicate Expense Entries.

27 12. In response to the Fee Examiner's interim report, Foley and the Fee Examiner
28 discussed the issues raised by the interim report. As a result, Foley and the Fee Examiner have
agreed to a recommended reduction of **\$21,500.00** in compensation and **\$138.66** in expenses.

1 The Fee Examiner has no objection to this Court's approval of the Foley Fee Application as
2 modified herein.

3 **Breall & Breall LLP**

4 *Sixth Interim Fee Application*

5 13. Breall & Breall LLP ("Breall") is Special Counsel to the Debtor. On October 15,
6 2025, Breall filed its *Sixth Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2385] (the "Breall Fee Application").
7 In the Breall Fee Application, Breall requests approval of compensation in the amount of
8 \$12,525.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$0.00 for the period of May 1, 2025
9 through August 31, 2025.
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11 14. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Breall Fee Application to ensure compliance with
12 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines and no issues were noted. As such, the Fee Examiner
13 has no objection to the requested compensation for Breall.
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15 **Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global**

16 *Second Interim Fee Application*

17 15. Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global ("KCC") are
18 administrative advisors to the Debtor. On October 15, 2025, KCC filed its *Second Interim Fee*
19 *Application* [D.I. 2404] (the "KCC Fee Application"). In the KCC Fee Application, KCC
20 requests approval of compensation in the amount of \$27,294.49 for the period of May 1, 2025
21 through August 31, 2025.
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23 16. The Fee Examiner reviewed the KCC Fee Application to ensure compliance with
24 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines and no issues were noted. As such, the Fee Examiner
25 has no objection to the requested compensation for KCC.
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Professionals Retained by Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

Lowenstein Sandler LLP

Seventh Interim Fee Application

17. Lowenstein Sandler LLP (“Lowenstein”) is counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”). On October 15, 2025, Lowenstein filed its *Seventh Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2386] (the “Lowenstein Fee Application”). In the Lowenstein Fee Application, Lowenstein requests approval of compensation in the amount of \$4,112,758.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$148,307.78 for the period of May 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

18. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Lowenstein Fee Application to ensure compliance with the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee Examiner generated an interim report that identified the following general issues with the Lowenstein Fee Application:

- a. Transient Timekeepers;
- b. Block Billing;
- c. Vague Time Entries;
- d. Administrative Tasks;
- e. Multi-Staffed Meetings/Hearings/Calls;
- f. Excessive Internal Communications;
- g. Inadvertent Overbilled Time;
- h. Airfare Expenses;
- i. Parking Expenses;
- j. Meal Expenses; and
- k. Hotel Expenses.

19. In response to the Fee Examiner’s interim report, Lowenstein and the Fee Examiner engaged in a dialogue to address and resolve the issues raised by the interim report. As a result of that dialogue, Lowenstein and the Fee Examiner have agreed to a recommended reduction of **\$25,203.70** in compensation and **\$1,025.90** in expenses. The Fee Examiner has no

1 objection to Lowenstein’s modified request and to this Court’s approval of the Lowenstein Fee
2 Application, as modified.

3 **Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP**

4 *Seventh Interim Fee Application*

5 20. Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP (“KBK”) is counsel to the Committee. On October
6 15, 2025, KBK filed its *Seventh Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2378] (the “KBK Fee
7 Application”). In the KBK Fee Application, KBK requests approval of compensation in the
8 amount of \$83,611.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$7,249.56 for the period
9 of May 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.
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11 21. The Fee Examiner reviewed the KBK Fee Application to ensure compliance with
12 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee Examiner generated an
13 interim report that identified the following general issues with the KBK Fee Application:
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- 15 a. Administrative Tasks; and
- 16 b. Potentially Excessive Internal Communications.

17 22. In response to the Fee Examiner’s interim report, KBK and the Fee Examiner
18 discussed the issues raised by the interim report. Those discussions resolved the concerns raised
19 by the Fee Examiner and he has no objection to KBK’s request and to this Court’s approval of
20 the KBK Fee Application.

21 **Berkeley Research Group, LLC**

22 *Sixth Interim Fee Application*

23 23. Berkeley Research Group, LLC (“BRG”) are financial advisors to the Committee.
24 On October 15, 2025, BRG filed its *Sixth Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2381] (the “BRG Fee
25 Application”). In the BRG Fee Application, BRG requests approval of compensation in the
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1 amount of \$1,175,720.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$500.00 for the period
2 of May 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

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4 24. The Fee Examiner reviewed the BRG Fee Application to ensure compliance with
5 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee Examiner generated an
6 interim report that identified the following general issues with the BRG Fee Application:

- 7 a. Transient Timekeepers; and
8 b. Excessive Internal Communications.

9 25. In response to the Fee Examiner's interim report, BRG and the Fee Examiner
10 engaged in discussion to address the issues raised by the interim report. As a result of that
11 discussion, BRG and the Fee Examiner have agreed to a recommended reduction of **\$10,000.00**
12 in compensation. The Fee Examiner has no objection to BRG's modified request and to this
13 Court's approval of the BRG Fee Application, as modified.

14 **Stout Risius Ross, LLC**

15 *Sixth Interim Fee Application*

16 26. Stout Risius Ross, LLC ("Stout") is the expert consultant on valuation of sexual
17 abuse claims to the Committee. On October 15, 2025, Stout filed its *Sixth Interim Fee*
18 *Application* [D.I. 2383] (the "Stout Fee Application"). In the Stout Fee Application, Stout
19 requests approval of compensation in the amount of \$346,268.70 for the period of May 1, 2025
20 through August 31, 2025.

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22 27. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Stout Fee Application to ensure compliance with
23 the applicable rules, orders and guidelines. Based on that review, the Fee Examiner generated an
24 interim report that identified the following general issues with the Stout Fee Application:

- 25 a. Block Billing; and
26 b. Excessive Internal Communications.

1 28. In response to the Fee Examiner’s interim report, Stout and the Fee Examiner
2 engaged in discussion to address the issues raised by the interim report. As a result of that
3 discussion, Stout and the Fee Examiner have agreed to a recommended reduction of \$5,082.30 in
4 compensation. The Fee Examiner has no objection to Stout’s modified request and to this
5 Court’s approval of the Stout Fee Application, as modified.
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7 **Burns Bair LLP**

8 *Sixth Interim Fee Application*

9 29. Burns Bair LLP (“Burns Bair”) is special insurance counsel to the Committee.
10 On October 15, 2025, Burns Bair filed its *Sixth Interim Fee Application* [D.I. 2391] (the “Burns
11 Bair Fee Application”). In the Burns Bair Fee Application, Burns Bair requests approval of
12 compensation in the amount of \$193,962.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of
13 \$1,618.72 for the period of May 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.
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15 30. The Fee Examiner reviewed the Burns Bair Fee Application to ensure compliance
16 with the applicable rules, orders and guidelines and no issues were noted. As such, the Fee
17 Examiner has no objection to the requested compensation for Burns Bair.
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Dated: December 1, 2025

/s/ David M. Klauder
1204 N. King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Phone: 302-803-4600
Email: dklauder@bk-legal.com

Fee Examiner

Exhibit A

In re: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland

Case No. 23-40523 (WJL)

Summary of Fees and Expenses Reviewed by Fee Examiner for the Second, Sixth or Seventh Interim Fee Period

Professional	Docket Entry #	Fee Application	Fees Requested	Fee Reduction Agreed to	Expenses Requested	Expense Reduction Agreed to
Alvarez & Marsal North America LLC	2400	Seventh Interim	\$166,500.00	\$0.00	\$26.59	\$0.00
Berkeley Research Group, LLC	2381	Sixth Interim	\$1,175,720.00	\$10,000.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP	2378	Seventh Interim	\$83,611.00	\$0.00	\$7,249.56	\$0.00
Lowenstein Sandler LLP	2386	Seventh Interim	\$4,112,758.00	\$25,203.70	\$148,307.78	\$1,025.90
Burns Bair LLP	2391	Sixth Interim	\$193,962.00	\$0.00	\$1,618.72	\$0.00
Stout Risius Ross, LLC	2389	Sixth Interim	\$342,814.50	\$5,082.30	\$2,573.59	\$0.00
Foley & Lardner LLP	2398	Seventh Interim	\$2,741,636.25	\$21,500.00	\$61,501.03	\$138.66
Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC	2404	Second Interim	\$27,294.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Breall & Breall, LLP	2385	Sixth Interim	\$12,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL:			\$8,860,275.44	\$61,786.00	\$219,203.68	\$1,164.56