Docket #1295 Date Filed: 11/04/2026

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:	Chapter 11
Apple Tree Life Sciences, Inc., *et al,*[1]	Case No. 25-12177 (LSS) (Jointly Administered)
Debtors.	**Ref. Docket No. 1239**

FEE EXAMINER'S FINAL REPORT REGARDING FIRST AND FINAL APPLICATION OF VERNON FLYNN KC, AKASH SONECHA, AND ANSON CHEUNG

Rucki Fee Review, LLC ("Rucki Fee Review"), the fee examiner appointed in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases and acting in its capacity as such (the "Fee Examiner"), hereby submits its final report (this "Final Report") regarding the *First and Final Application of Vernon Flynn KC, Akash Sonecha, and Anson Cheung for Compensation for Services Rendered and for Reimbursement of Expenses as Supplemental Cayman Islands Counsel to the Debtors for the Period May 14, 2026 Through August 4, 2026* (the "Final Fee Application") [Docket No. 1239] whereby Vernon Flynn KC, Akash Sonecha, and Anson Cheung (collectively, the "Barristers") seek final bankruptcy court approval of fees in the aggregate amount of $3,019,500.00 and the reimbursement of expenses in the amount of $6,827.81.

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number include: Apple Tree Life Sciences, Inc. (4506); ATP Life Science Ventures, L.P. (8224); ATP III GP, Ltd. (6091); Apertor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (3161); Initial Therapeutics, Inc. (2453); Marlinspike Therapeutics, Inc. (4757); Red Queen Therapeutics, Inc. (8563); Evercrisp Biosciences, Inc. (4437); Nine Square Therapeutics, Inc. (4503); and Nereid Therapeutics Incorporated (8493). The location of the Debtors' service address in these chapter 11 cases is 230 Park Avenue, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10169.

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BACKGROUND

1. In performance of its fee and expense review procedures and in preparation of this Final Report designed to quantify and present factual data relevant to the requested fees, disbursements and expenses for which approval is sought in the Final Fee Application consistent with its appointment order, Rucki Fee Review the Final Fee Application, including the billing and expense entries listed in the exhibits thereto, for compliance with the Barristers' retention order (the "Barrister Retention Order") [Docket No. 1084] and sections 328 and 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2016 and Local Rule 2016-1, and the *U.S. Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330—Appendix A* and the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases Effective as of November 1, 2013*, all as modified or waived by the Barristers Retention Order, and as explained herein.

DISCUSSION

2. In accordance with their engagement agreements and the Barristers Retention Order, the Barristers seek final bankruptcy court approval of the following fees: (i) a fixed fee of £1,500,000.00 ($1,980,000.00) for Vernon Flynn, KC (the "Flynn Fee")'[2] (ii) a fixed fee of £337,500.00 ($445,500.00) for Akash Sonecha (the "Sonecha Fee"); and (iii) a fixed fee of £450,000.00 ($594,000.00) for Anson Cheung (the "Cheung Fee," and, collectively with

[2] The Flynn Fee was structured so as to be paid £450,000.00 upon engagement, £300,000.00 if still engaged on June 4, £300,000.00 if still engaged on June 18, £300,000.00 if still engaged on July 2, and £150,000.00 if still engaged on July 16, 2026. Each of these milestones had passed prior to the Court's August 25, 2026 hearing on the Barrister Retention Order and its subsequent entry by the Court the following day, and it was understood during the hearing that the full fee had become payable under its terms because the parties did not agree on terms to cancel the second trial phase for which the Barristers had been engaged until after the July 16, 2026 milestone, though the various parties appear to disagree on fault for not reaching an earlier agreement.

the Flynn Fee and Sonecha Fee, the "Barrister Fees"). Barrister Vernon Flynn KC also seeks expense reimbursement of $6,827.81 (the "Flynn Expenses").

3. The Barrister Retention Order, which was entered after a contested hearing, provides that the Barristers shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of section 328 of the Bankruptcy Code, rather than the standards of section 330, but reserves the rights of the Office of the United States Trustee to object to the Barrister Fees as unreasonable under section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, which provision was extended to the Fee Examiner by paragraph 3 of the order appointing the Fee Examiner (the "Fee Examiner Order") [Docket No. 527]. Paragraph 6 of the Barrister Retention Order also provides that "the Barristers shall be excused from: (i) any requirement to maintain or provide detailed time records in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 2016(a), Local Rule 2016-1, and the United States Trustee Fee Guidelines; and (ii) conforming with a schedule of hourly rates for its professionals. Instead, notwithstanding that the Barristers are not charging for their services on an hourly basis, the Barristers will nonetheless maintain time records in fifteen (15) minute increments setting forth, in summary format and without using project categories, a reasonably detailed description of the services rendered by each and the amount of time spent on each date by each such individual in rendering services on behalf of the Debtors."

4. The time records submitted with the Final Fee Application set forth an aggregated total of 1,164 hours and 24 minutes of time entries.[3] These consist of 682 hours and 39 minutes

[3] Paragraph 13 of the Final Fee Application states a slightly different number of 1,170 hours and 9 minutes, a non-material difference of 5 hours and 45 minutes from the figure stated herein likely owing to variances in the time increments used by the Barristers, some of which were billed in one-minute increments and others in blocks of 15-minute increments.

by Vernon Flynn KC, which yields a blended hourly rate of £2,197.32 per hour for the Flynn Fee;[4] 232.75 hours by Anson Cheung, which yields a blended hourly rate of £1,933.40 per hour for the Cheung Fee; and 249.0 hours by Akash Sonecha, which yields a blended hourly rate of £1,355.42 per hour for the Sonecha Fee.

5. Rucki Fee Review notes that the Barrister Fees were originally priced in Great British Pound Sterling, but must be converted to United States Dollars to become an allowed claim in the Bankruptcy Court. The Barristers' retention application referenced this fee as $3,060,946.00 in United States Dollars, but due to subsequent appreciation in the United States Dollar relative to the Great British Pound Sterling, in United States Dollar terms the Barrister Fees subsequently decreased to the $3,019,500.00 sought in the Final Fee Application (while remaining constant in Great British Pound Sterling terms).

6. After consideration of the foregoing and for the reasons set forth on the record by the Court at the August 25, 2026 hearing on the Barrister Retention Order, including the market test performed for the Barrister Fees, Rucki Fee Review does not object to the Barrister Fees as unreasonable under section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. With respect to the Flynn Expenses, Rucki Fee Review notes that certain of the requested expenses are for reimbursement of business class airfare totaling $6,337.44 for round trip-airfare from London to the Cayman Islands (with a stopover in Miami on the inbound travel). Rucki Fee Review informally requested a reduction of $4,807.99 on account of these charges to reduce the charges to the approximate cost of a coach fare ($1,529.45),

[4] Certain of these entries would be considered objectionable in whole or part by Rucki Fee Review in an hourly fee analysis, and some of this time relates to approval of Barrister Fees through the Barrister Retention Order. The entirety of both sets of these entries total 82 hours and 28 minutes. If these entries were completely excluded, the resulting 600 hours and 11 minutes would still carry a blended rate slightly under £2,500.00 per hour (£2,499.24).

which Vernon Flynn KC agreed to in compromise of Rucki Fee Review's request. Rucki Fee Review recommends approval of the balance of the Flynn Expenses.

8. Rucki Fee Review believes that a determination of allocation of fees and expenses among Debtors, including but not limited to a determination of reasonable indemnity from one Debtor to another – or whether any indemnity is appropriate in any amount – are beyond the scope of its mandate under the Fee Examiner Order. Accordingly, no such determinations are made herein.

CONCLUSION

9. Rucki Fee Review does not object to the approval of the Final Fee Application in the aggregate amount of $3,019,500.00 sought in the Final Fee Application with respect to the Barrister Fees and recommends the reimbursement of the Flynn Expenses in the amount of $2,019.82, with no recommendation made as to the allocation of these fees and expenses among the Debtors.

Dated: November 4, 2026
Wilmington, Delaware

Respectfully submitted,

RUCKI FEE REVIEW, LLC
FEE EXAMINER

By: */s/ Justin H. Rucki*
Justin H. Rucki
President of Rucki Fee Review, LLC