Docket #0054 Date Filed: 04/12/2026
United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
April 10, 2026
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

In re:	Chapter 11
ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC., *et al.*,[1]	Case No. 26-90440 (CML)
Debtors.	(Jointly Administered)

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS, LLC DBA VERITA GLOBAL AS CLAIMS, NOTICING, AND SOLICITATION AGENT

The Court has considered the Debtors' application (the "Application")[2] to employ Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC *dba* Verita Global (together with its affiliates and subcontractors, "Verita," or the "Agent") as their claims, noticing, and solicitation agent in these cases. The Court finds that *ex parte* relief is appropriate. The Court orders that:

1. The Debtors are authorized to employ the Agent under the terms of the Engagement Letter attached to the Application as modified by this order (the "Order").

2. The Agent is authorized and directed to perform the Services as described in the Application, the Engagement Letter, and this Order. If a conflict exists, this Order controls.

3. The Clerk shall provide the Agent with Electronic Case Filing ("ECF") credentials that allow the Agent to receive ECF notifications and file certificates and/or affidavits of service.

4. The Agent is a custodian of court records and is designated as the authorized repository for all proofs of claim filed in these cases. The Agent shall maintain the official claims

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Ascend Elements, Inc. (2893) and Ascend Elements US, LLC (8309). The location of the Debtors' service address is: 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

[2] Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application or First Day Declaration.

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register(s) in these cases. The Agent must make complete copies of all proofs of claims available to the public electronically without charge. Proofs of Claims and all attachments may be redacted only as ordered by the Court.

5. The Agent must not transmit or utilize the data obtained by the Agent from the Debtors in connection with these bankruptcy cases in exchange for direct or indirect compensation from any person other than the Debtors.

6. The Agent shall provide the Clerk with a certified duplicate of the official Claims Register(s) upon request.

7. The Agent shall provide (i) an electronic interface for filing proofs of claim in these cases; and (ii) a post office box or street mailing address for the receipt of proofs of claim sent by United States Mail or overnight delivery.

8. The Agent is authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to comply with all duties and provide the Services set forth in the Application and the Engagement Letter.

9. The Agent shall provide detailed invoices setting forth the services provided and the rates charged on a monthly basis to the Debtors, their counsel, the Office of the United States Trustee, counsel for any official committee, counsel to DIP Lender, and any party in interest who specifically requests service of the monthly invoices in writing.

10. The Agent shall not be required to file fee applications. Upon receipt of the Agent's invoices, the Debtors are authorized to compensate and reimburse the Agent for all undisputed amounts in the ordinary course in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Letter. All amounts due to the Agent will be treated as § 503(b) administrative expenses. The Agent may apply its advance in accordance with the Engagement Letter and the terms of this Order.

11. The Debtors shall indemnify the Agent under the terms of the Engagement Letter, as modified and limited by this Order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Agent is not indemnified for, and may not receive any contribution or reimbursement with respect to:

- For matters or services arising before this case is closed, any matter or service not approved by an order of this Court.
- Any matter that is determined by a final order of a Court of competent jurisdiction that arises from (i) the Agent's gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, bad faith, self-dealing, or breach of fiduciary duty (ii) a contractual dispute if the court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible under applicable law; or (iii) any situation in which the Court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *In re Thermadyne Holdings Corp.*, 283 B.R. 749, 756 (B.A.P. 8th Cir. 2002). No matter governed by this paragraph may be settled without this Court's approval.
- This paragraph does not preclude the Agent from seeking an order from this Court requiring the advancement of indemnity, contribution, or reimbursement obligations in accordance with applicable law.

12. The Agent shall not cease providing services during these chapter 11 cases for any reason, including nonpayment, without an order of the Court. In the event the Agent is unable to provide the Services set out in this Order and/or the Engagement Letter, the Agent will immediately notify the Clerk and the Debtors' attorneys and cause all original proofs of claim and data turned over to such persons as directed by the Court.

13. After entry of an order terminating the Agent's services, the Agent shall deliver to the Clerk an electronic copy in pdf format of all proofs of claim. Once the electronic copy has been received by the Clerk, the Agent may destroy all proofs of claim in its possession sixty days after filing a Notice of Intent to Destroy on the Court's docket.

14. The terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

15. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order. The scope of the Agent's services may be altered only on further order of this Court.

Signed: April 10, 2026

Christopher Lopez
United States Bankruptcy Judge

United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas

In re:
Ascend Elements, Inc.
Debtor

Case No. 26-90440-cml
Chapter 11

CERTIFICATE OF NOTICE

District/off: 0541-4 User: ADIuser
Date Rcvd: Apr 10, 2026 Form ID: pdf002 Total Noticed: 1

The following symbols are used throughout this certificate:

Symbol	Definition
+	Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP, adding the last four digits to complete the zip +4, or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

Notice by first class mail was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center on Apr 12, 2026:

Recip ID		Recipient Name and Address
db	+	Ascend Elements, Inc., 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581-1031

TOTAL: 1

Notice by electronic transmission was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.
Electronic transmission includes sending notices via email (Email/text and Email/PDF), and electronic data interchange (EDI).

NONE

BYPASSED RECIPIENTS

The following addresses were not sent this bankruptcy notice due to an undeliverable address, *duplicate of an address listed above, *P duplicate of a preferred address, or ## out of date forwarding orders with USPS.

Recip ID	Bypass Reason	Name and Address
intp		Certain CLN Holders

TOTAL: 1 Undeliverable, 0 Duplicate, 0 Out of date forwarding address

NOTICE CERTIFICATION

I, Gustava Winters, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have sent the attached document to the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Notice and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 309): Pursuant to Fed .R. Bank. P.2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Apr 12, 2026 Signature: /s/Gustava Winters

CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The following persons/entities were sent notice through the court's CM/ECF electronic mail (Email) system on April 10, 2026 at the address(es) listed below:

Name	Email Address
Maria Barbara Mokrzycka	on behalf of Debtor Ascend Elements Inc. maria.mokrzycka@nortonrosefulbright.com
Ryan E Manns	on behalf of Debtor Ascend Elements US LLC ryan.manns@nortonrosefulbright.com
Ryan E Manns	on behalf of Debtor Ascend Elements Inc. ryan.manns@nortonrosefulbright.com
Stephanie Nicole Morrison	on behalf of Interested Party Certain CLN Holders stephanie.morrison@weil.com rene.olvera@weil.com;christopher.jalomo@weil.com;rene-olvera-0535@ecf.pacerpro.com
US Trustee	

USTPRegion07.HU.ECF@USDOJ.GOV

TOTAL: 5