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Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

In re:

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

Debtor.

Case No. 23-40523 WJL

Chapter 11

DECLARATION OF TOBIAS S. KELLER IN SUPPORT OF TENTH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP AS COUNSEL TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD OF MAY 1, 2026, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2026

Judge: Hon. William J. Lafferty

Date: December 2, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)
Place: United States Bankruptcy Court
1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 220
Oakland, CA 94612

Objection Deadline: November 20, 2026

I, Tobias S. Keller, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California. I am a partner of the law firm Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP, counsel for the Committee, and am authorized to make this Declaration in that capacity. Except as otherwise indicated, all statements in this Declaration are based on my personal knowledge, and, if called upon to do so, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I make this Declaration in support of the *Tenth Interim Fee Application of Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP as Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026* (the "**Interim Application**").[1] I am an attorney designated by the Applicant to sign the Interim Application on its behalf.

3. Pursuant to the Northern District Guidelines, I declare that:

a. I have read the Interim Application.

b. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the compensation and expense reimbursement sought in the Interim Application are in conformity with the Northern District Guidelines except as set forth herein.

c. The compensation requested in the Interim Application has been billed at rates and in accordance with practices no less favorable than those currently employed by the Applicant and generally accepted by the Applicant's clients.

4. There is no agreement or understanding between KBK and any other person other than the partners of KBK for the sharing of compensation to be received for services rendered in this case.

5. I certify that the Debtor and the U.S. Trustee are each being provided with a copy of the Interim Application in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order.

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[1] Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Interim Application.

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6. KBK responds to the questions identified in Paragraph C.5 of the U.S. Trustee Guidelines as follows:

(a) **Question:** Did you agree to any variations from, or alternatives to, your standard or customary billing rates, fees or terms for services pertaining to this engagement that were provided during the application period? If so, please explain.

Answer: No.

(b) **Question:** If the fees sought in this fee application as compared to the fees budgeted for the time period covered by this fee application are higher by 10% or more, did you discuss the reasons for the variation with the client?

Answer: N/A. The fees sought in this fee application do not exceed the fees budgeted for the time period covered.

(c) **Question:** Have any of the professionals included in this fee application varied their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the bankruptcy case?

Answer: No.

(d) **Question:** Does the fee application include time or fees related to reviewing or revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices? (This is limited to work involved in preparing and editing billing records that would not be compensable outside of bankruptcy and does not include reasonable fees for preparing a fee application.) If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Answer: No.

(e) **Question:** Does the fee application include time or fees for reviewing time records to redact any privileged or other confidential information? If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

Answer: No.

(f) **Question:** If the fee application includes any rate increases since retention: (i) Did your client review and approve those rates increases in advance? (ii) Did your client agree when retaining the law firm to accept all future rate increases? If not, did you inform your client that they need not agree to modified rates or terms in order to have you continue the representation, consistent with ABA Formal Ethics Opinion 11-458?

Answer: As disclosed in its *Application for Order Authorizing Retention of Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP as Local Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland Effective as of June 1, 2023* [Dkt. No. 184], in the normal course of its business, the Applicant may adjust its billing rates. The Applicant most recently notified the Committee of the increase in its rates effective January 1, 2026 [Dkt. No. 2523].

7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of a letter transmitting the Interim Application to Mr. Steve Woodall, Chairperson of the Committee. To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, this letter was transmitted to Mr. Woodall by electronic mail on October 29, 2026, which is more than 20 days prior to the hearing on the Interim Application.

Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 30th day of October, 2026.

/s/ Tobias S. Keller
Tobias S. Keller

EXHIBIT 1

October 29, 2026

By Electronic Mail

Mr. Steve Woodall, Committee Chairperson
Email: sjwoodall@gmail.com

Re: *In re The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland* (Bankr. N.D. Cal.)
Committee Professionals' Interim Fee Applications

Mr. Woodall:

Attached for the Committee's review are copies of the following interim fee applications:

- *Tenth Interim Fee Application of Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP as Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026,* and the Declaration of Tobias S. Keller in support thereof;

- *Ninth Interim Fee Application of Burns Bair LLP as Special Insurance Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026,* and the Declaration of Jesse J. Bair in support thereof;

- *Tenth Interim Fee Application of Lowenstein Sandler LLP as Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026;*

- *Ninth Interim Fee Application of Stout Risius Ross, LLC for Allowance and Payment of Fees for the Period from May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026,* and the Declaration of Katheryn McNally in support thereof;

- *Third Interim Fee Application of Stout Risius Ross, LLC for Allowance and Payment of Fees for the Period from May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026,* and the Declaration of Randi Rossen in support thereof; and

- *Ninth Interim Fee Application of Berkeley Research Group for Allowance and Payment of Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026,* and the Declaration of Matthew Babcock in support thereof.

The Court's Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees provide that a debtor in possession, a trustee or an official committee must exercise reasonable business judgment in monitoring the fees and expenses of the estate's professionals. We invite you to discuss any objections, concerns or questions you may have with us. The Office of the United States Trustee will also accept your comments. The Court will also consider timely filed objections by any party in interest at the time of the hearing on the application.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me.

With best regards,

Gabrielle L. Albert

Attachments
cc (via electronic mail, with attachments):
Jeffrey Prol, Esq. (jprol@lowenstein.com)
Brent Weisenberg, Esq. (bweisenberg@lowenstein.com)