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

In re:	)	Chapter 11
STAGE STORES, INC., *et al.*,[1]	)	Case No. 20-32564 (CML)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)

AMENDED NOTICE OF THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR'S
SIXTEENTH OMNIBUS CLAIMS OBJECTION

THIS OBJECTION SEEKS AN ORDER THAT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT YOU. IF YOU OPPOSE THE OBJECTION, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE MOVING PARTY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. IF YOU AND THE MOVING PARTY CANNOT AGREE, YOU MUST FILE A RESPONSE AND SEND A COPY TO THE MOVING PARTY. YOU MUST FILE AND SERVE YOUR RESPONSE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE THIS WAS SERVED ON YOU. YOUR RESPONSE MUST STATE WHY THE OBJECTION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED. IF YOU DO NOT FILE A TIMELY RESPONSE, THE RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU. IF YOU OPPOSE THE OBJECTION AND HAVE NOT REACHED AN AGREEMENT, YOU MUST ATTEND THE HEARING. UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREE OTHERWISE, THE COURT MAY CONSIDER EVIDENCE AT THE HEARING AND MAY DECIDE THE OBJECTION AT THE HEARING.

REPRESENTED PARTIES SHOULD ACT THROUGH THEIR ATTORNEY.

Important Information Regarding the Objection

Grounds for the Objection. By the Objection, the Plan Administrator is seeking to disallow and expunge your claim(s) listed in the schedules attached hereto on the grounds that your claim(s) (i) provides insufficient documentation or (ii) was filed after the applicable Bar Date. The claims(s) subject to the Objection may also be found on the schedules attached to the Objection, a copy of which has been provided with this notice.

Objection Procedures. On July 29, 2022, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the "Court") entered an order [Docket No. 1161] approving procedures for filing and resolving objections to claims asserted against the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases (the

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Stage Stores, Inc. (6900) and Specialty Retailers, Inc. (1900).

20325642605190000000000012

"Objection Procedures"). A copy of the Objection Procedures is included with this notice.

Please review the Objection Procedures to ensure your response to the Objection, if any, is timely and correctly filed and served.

Resolving the Objection

Parties Required to File a Response. If you disagree with the Objection filed with respect to your claim, you must file a response (each, a "Response") with the Court in accordance with the procedures described below and appear at the Hearing (as defined herein).

Response Contents. Each Response must contain the following (at a minimum):

(a) a caption with the name of the Court, the name of the Debtors, the case number, and the title of the Objection to which the Response is directed, and, if applicable, the Proof of Claim number(s) related thereto from the Claims Register;

(b) a concise statement setting forth the reasons why the Court should not grant the Objection with respect to your claim, including the specific factual and legal bases upon which you rely in opposing the Objection;

(c) copies of documentation or other evidence of your claim not previously filed with proof of such claim on which your Response is based (excluding confidential, proprietary, or other protected information, copies of which **must** be provided to the counsel to the Plan Administrator, subject to appropriate confidentiality constraints, if any);

(d) a declaration or other statement of a person with personal knowledge of the relevant facts that support the Response; and

(e) the following contact information for the responding party:

i. the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the responding claimant or the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the claimant's attorney or designated representative to whom the attorneys for the Plan Administrator should serve a reply to the Response, if any; or

ii. the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the party with authority to reconcile, settle, or resolve the Objection your behalf.

Notice and Service. Your Response must be filed with the Court and served so as to be **actually received** by **5:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) on June 22, 2026** (the "Response Deadline") by the following parties (the "Notice Parties"):

Counsel to the Plan Administrator
Daniel F.X. Geoghan **COLE SCHOTZ P.C.** 901 Main Street, Suite 4120 Dallas, TX 75202 dgeoghan@coleschotz.com - and – Seth Van Aalten Sarah A. Carnes, Esq. Amanda A. Tersigni, Esq. **COLE SCHOTZ P.C.** 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor New York, NY 10019 svanaalten@coleschotz.com scarnes@coleschotz.com atersigni@coleschotz.com
U.S. Trustee
Jayson B. Ruff, Esq. **Office of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of Texas** 515 Rusk Street, Suite 3516 Houston, Texas 77002 jayson.b.ruff@usdoj.gov

Failure to Respond. A Response that is not filed and served in accordance with the procedures set forth herein may not be considered by the Court at the Hearing. **Absent an agreement with the Plan Administrator resolving the Objection to a claim, failure to timely file and serve a Response as set forth herein and appear at the Hearing may result in the Court granting the Objection without further notice or hearing.** Upon entry of an order, affected creditors will be served with a notice of entry, and a copy, of the order.

Hearing on the Objection

Date, Time, and Location. A hearing (the "Hearing") on the Objection will be held on **July 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. (prevailing Central Time)**, before the Honorable Christopher M. Lopez, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in Courtroom 402, 515 Rusk, Houston, Texas 77002. You may participate in the Hearing either in person or via audio/video connection with the instructions included at the top of this Notice. The Hearing may be adjourned to a subsequent date in these chapter 11 cases in the Plan Administrator's sole discretion. **You must attend the Hearing if you disagree with the Objection and have filed a Response.** Contested claims for which (a) a Response is filed in accordance with the proposed response procedures, but such Response is not resolved prior to the Hearing and (b) an appearance is made at the Hearing may be heard at the Hearing or adjourned to a subsequent hearing in the Plan Administrator's sole discretion. If a subsequent hearing is determined to be necessary, the Plan Administrator shall file with the Court and serve on the affected claimants a notice of the hearing (the date of which shall be determined in consultation with the affected

claimant(s)).

Discovery. If the Plan Administrator determines that discovery is necessary in advance of a hearing on an Objection, the Plan Administrator will serve notice on the affected claimant and its counsel of record that the scheduled hearing will be treated as a status conference during which the parties will request that the Court issue a scheduling order to facilitate dismissal or resolution of the litigation. Any such notice may be incorporated into the initial agenda letter for the hearing or may be provided by separate notice.

Additional Information

Questions or Information. Copies of the Objection Procedures and any other pleadings (collectively, the "Pleadings") filed in these chapter 11 cases are available at no cost at the Debtors' restricting website https://www.veritaglobal.net/stagestores. You may also obtain copies of any of the Pleadings filed in these chapter 11 cases for a fee at the Court's website at http://www.txs.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy. A login identification and password to the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records ("PACER") are required to access this information and can be obtained through the PACER Service Center at http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov. Please do not contact the Court to discuss the merits of any claim or any Objection filed with respect thereto.

Reservation of Rights

NOTHING IN ANY OMNIBUS OBJECTION OR OBJECTION NOTICE IS INTENDED OR SHALL BE DEEMED TO CONSTITUTE (A) AN ADMISSION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF ANY PREPETITION CLAIM AGAINST A DEBTOR ENTITY; (B) A WAIVER OF ANY RIGHT OF ANY DEBTOR OR THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR TO DISPUTE ANY PREPETITION CLAIM ON ANY GROUNDS, ASSERT COUNTERCLAIMS, RIGHTS OF OFFSET OR RECOUPMENT, DEFENSES, OBJECT TO CLAIMS (OR OTHER CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION OF A CLAIMANT) ON ANY GROUNDS NOT PREVIOUSLY RAISED IN AN OBJECTION, UNLESS THE COURT HAS ALLOWED A CLAIM OR ORDERED OTHERWISE, OR SEEK TO ESTIMATE ANY CLAIM AT A LATER DATE; (C) A PROMISE OR REQUIREMENT TO PAY ANY PREPETITION CLAIM; (D) AN IMPLICATION OR ADMISSION THAT ANY PARTICULAR CLAIM IS OF A TYPE SPECIFIED OR DEFINED IN THIS OBJECTION OR ANY ORDER GRANTING THE RELIEF REQUESTED BY THIS OBJECTION; OR (E) A WAIVER OF ANY RIGHT OF ANY DEBTOR OR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY CODE OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE LAW.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Dated: May 19, 2026

/s/ *Daniel F.X. Geoghan*
Daniel F.X. Geoghan (Texas Bar No. 24126280)
COLE SCHOTZ P.C.
901 Main Street, Suite 4120
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: (469) 557-9390
Facsimile: (469) 533-1587
Email: dgeoghan@coleschotz.com

- and –

Sarah A. Carnes, Esq. (Admitted Pro Hac Vice)
Amanda A. Tersigni, Esq.
COLE SCHOTZ P.C.
1325 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (212) 752-8000
Facsimile: (212) 752-8393
Email: scarnes@coleschotz.com
atersigni@coleschotz.com

Counsel to Steven Balasiano, in his capacity as Plan Administrator of Stage Stores, Inc., et al.