Docket #0942 Date Filed: 09/10/2026

THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,[1]	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.	

FIRST INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF COHEN ZIFFER FRENCHMAN & MCKENNA LLP, AS CO-COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD MARCH 9, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Name of Applicant:	Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP
Authorized to Provide Professional Services to:	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee")
Date retention approved:	Order Entered May 12, 2026 [Docket No. 580]
Period for Which Compensation and Reimbursement is Sought:	March 9, 2026 through June 30, 2026
Amount of Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary:	$225,066.50
Amount of Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable and Necessary:	$0.00

This is a(n) X Interim ___ Monthly _____ Final Fee Application.

This is the First Interim Fee Application for Compensation and Reimbursement of Disbursements.

[1] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this chapter 11 case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06855.

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PRIOR MONTHLY FEE STATEMENTS SUBJECT TO INTERIM PERIOD

Date Filed	Period	Requested		CNO Date & Dkt. No.	Paid		Unpaid		Total Remaining to be Paid
		Fees	Expenses		Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses	
6/9/2026 Doc 728	March 9, 2026 - April 30, 2026	$139,045.50	$0.00	6/26/2026 Doc 769	$111,236.40	$0.00	$27,809.10	$0.00	$27,809.10
7/7/2026 Doc 789	May 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027	$45,002.00	$0.00	7/29/2026 Doc 838	$36,001.60	$0.00	$9,000.40	$0.00	$9,000.40
7/20/2026 Doc 814	June 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026	$41,019.00	$0.00	Pending	$32,815.20	$0.00	$8,203.80	$0.00	$8,203.80
Grand Total:		**$225,066.50**	**$0.00**		**$180,053.20**	**$0.00**	**$45,013.30**	**$0.00**	**$45,013.30**

SUMMARY OF TIME & COMPENSATION
MARCH 9, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Name of Professional	Position	Department	Year Admitted	Hourly Rate	Total Hours	Total Compensation
Cohen, Robin L.	Partner	Litigation	1989	$1,950	22.6	$44,070.00
Frenchman, Kenneth	Partner	Litigation	2000	$1,500	44.2	$66,300.00
Bourne, Andrew	Partner	Litigation	2003	$1,200	20.5	$24,600.00
Maxwell, Nicholas	Partner	Litigation	2012	$1,100	69.4	$76,340.00
Greene, Morgan	Associate	Litigation	2022	$815	3.0	$2,445.00
Total:					**159.7**	**$213,755.00**

The paraprofessional who rendered professional services during the Fee Period is:

Name of Paraprofessional	Position	Department	Hourly Rate	Total Hours	Total Compensation
Ozuna, Evelyn	Paralegal	Litigation	$390	9.4	$3,666.00
Shufro, Jacob	Paralegal	Litigation	$265	.3	$79.50
Kacuba, Nicholas	Paralegal	Litigation	$390	19.4	$7,566.00
Total:				**29.1**	**$11,311.50**

The total fees for the Fee Period are:

Professionals	Blended Rate	Total Hours	Total Compensation
Partners and Counsel	$1,348.50	156.7	$211,310.00
Associates	$815.00	3.0	$2,445.00
Paraprofessionals	$388.71	29.1	$11,311.50
Total:	$1,192.09	**188.8**	**$225,066.50**

EXPENSE SUMMARY
MARCH 9, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

EXPENSE CATEGORY	AMOUNT
N/A	$0
Total:	**$0**

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In re:	Chapter 11
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,[2]	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.	

FIRST INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF COHEN ZIFFER FRENCHMAN & MCKENNA LLP, AS CO-COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD MARCH 9, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Pursuant to sections 327, 330 and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code §§ 101-1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York (the "Local Rules"), Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP ("CZFM"), special counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee"), hereby submits its first interim application (the "Application") for compensation and reimbursement of expenses for the period from March 9, 2026 through and including June 30, 2026 (the "Application Period"). By this Application, CZFM seeks a interim allowance of compensation in the amount of $225,066.50 and actual expenses in the amount of $0.00, for an aggregate total of $225,066.50 in accordance with the Order *(I) Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of for Professionals and Members of Official Committees* [Docket No. 419] entered April 17, 2026 (the

[2] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this chapter 11 case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06855.

"Interim Compensation Order"). CZFM hereby seeks payment of $45,013.30 (20% of the allowed fees) and reimbursement of $0.00, for an aggregate total payment of $45,013.30 for the Application Period upon the filing of a certificate of no objection. In support thereof, CZFM respectfully represents as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. On February 16, 2026, ("Petition Date"), Debtor filed a voluntary petition with this Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtor is operating its businesses and managing its properties as debtor-in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. As of the date hereof, the Debtor continues as debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code, and no trustee or examiner has been appointed in this case.

3. On March 3, 2026, the Office of the United States Trustee (the "U.S. Trustee") filed the Appointment of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors [Docket No. 111] appointing seven eligible creditors to the Committee.

4. On April 6, 2026, the Committee filed its Application for Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP as Co-Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC, [Docket No. 287] (the "Retention Application").

5. On April 17, 2026, the Court entered the Interim Compensation Order. Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order, the Court established a procedure for payment of interim compensation and reimbursement of disbursements for professionals retained in this case. In particular, the Court authorized the filing and service to certain notice parties of monthly fee

applications by professionals retained in these cases (including professionals employed by the Committee) and payment by the Debtor of 80% of fees and 100% of expenses, in the absence of an objection made within fourteen (14) days of service of the pertinent application

6. On May 12, 2026, the Court entered the *Order Granting Application to Employ Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP as Special Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC* [Docket No. 580] (the "CZFM Retention Order").

PAYMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTED

7. CZFM submits this Application for (a) payment of reasonable compensation for actual, reasonable, and necessary professional services performed by it as co-counsel for the Committee during the Application Period, and (b) reimbursement of actual, reasonable, and necessary disbursements made to pay expenses incurred in representing the Committee during the Application Period. This Application is made pursuant to the provisions of Sections 328, 330, and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, the UST Guidelines, and the Interim Compensation Order. This is CZFM's first interim fee application.

8. During the Application Period, CZFM rendered legal services to the Committee having a value of $225,066.50 in fees, calculated at CZFM's usual customary hourly rates as more specifically set forth herein. CZFM had expenses in the amount of $0.00 for the Application Period. Thus, the total amount of fees (80% of the aggregate amount of fees for the Application Period) and disbursements for which CZFM seeks approval and payment on an interim basis for the Application Period is $45,013.30.

9. As confirmed by the statement included in Exhibit A, CZFM incurred out-of-pocket expenses during the Application Period in the amount of $0.00. All time entries and requested expenses are in compliance with Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules.[3]

LEGAL STANDARD

10. Section 330(a)(l) of the Bankruptcy Code allows the payment of:

a. Reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered by the trustee, examiner, professional person, or attorney and by any paraprofessional person employed by any such person; and

b. Reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses

11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1). Reasonableness of compensation is driven by the "market-driven approach" which considers the nature, extent and value of services provided by the professional and cost of comparable services in the non-bankruptcy contexts. See Zolfo Cooper & Co. v. Sunbeam-Oster Co., 50 F.3d 253, 258 (3d Cir. 1995); In re Busy Beaver Building Ctr., Inc., 19 F.3d 833, 849 (3d Cir. 1994). Thus, the "baseline rule is for firms to receive their customary rates." Zolfo Cooper, 50 F.3d at 259.

11. In accordance with its practices in non-bankruptcy matters, CZFM has calculated its compensation requested in this Application by applying its standard hourly rates. CZFM's calculation is based upon hourly rates that are well within the range of rates that are charged by comparable firms in similar bankruptcy cases. Accordingly, CZFM's rates should be determined to be reasonable under section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

[3] CZFM has also attempted to ensure that this Application complies with the Guidelines. To the extent that the Guidelines conflict with the Local Rules, in particular, Local Rule 2016-1, CZFM has chosen to comply with such Local Rule. CZFM will supplement this Application with additional detail or information upon request.

12. CZFM's fees during the Application Period are also reasonable under the prevailing legal standard and should be allowed. The amount of these fees is not unusual given the complexity, accelerated deadlines, and size of these Cases. CZFM's fees are commensurate with fees that other attorneys of comparable experience and expertise have charged and been awarded in similar chapter 11 cases. Accordingly, CZFM's fees are reasonable pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

13. Section 330(a)(1)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code permits reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses. As stated above, CZFM incurred out-of-pocket expenses during this Application Period in the amount of $0.00.

14. Except as permitted by Bankruptcy Rule 2016, no agreement or understanding exists between CZFM and/or any third person for the sharing or division of compensation. All the services for which compensation is requested in this Application were rendered at the request of and solely on behalf of the Committee.

15. Pursuant to the standards set forth in sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, CZFM submits that the compensation requested is for actual and necessary services and expenses, and is reasonable, based upon the nature, extent and value of such services, the time spent thereon, and the costs of comparable services in a case under the Bankruptcy Code.

16. The time records annexed to this Application constitute only a general statement of the services rendered and time expended without description of the pressure and constraints under which CZFM actually rendered these services. The considerable challenges of this case have been attended to and managed by CZFM at all levels, promptly, expertly, and often to the exclusion of the other matters in CZFM's office. CZFM submits, therefore, that its fees and expenses were actual, necessary, reasonable, and justified, and should be allowed in full.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

17. To the extent time or disbursement charges for services rendered or disbursements incurred relate to the Application Period but were not processed prior to the preparation of this Application, or CZFM has for any other reason not sought compensation or reimbursement of expenses herein with respect to any services rendered or expenses incurred during the Application Period, CZFM reserves the right to request additional compensation for such services and reimbursement of such expenses in a future application.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, CZFM respectfully requests (a) that it be allowed compensation in the amount of $225,066.50 for professional services rendered (20% or $45,013.30); (b) allowed expense reimbursement in the amount of $0.00 (which is to be paid upon the filing of a certificate of no objection) for the Application Period; and (c) that the Court authorize and direct the Debtors to pay CZFM the amounts due and owing hereunder in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order.

Dated: September 10, 2026
New York, New York

COHEN ZIFFER FRENCHMAN & MCKENN LLP

/s/ Nicholas R. Maxwell
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THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
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In re:	Chapter 11
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CERTIFICATION OF NICHOLAS MAXWELL

I, Nicholas Maxwell, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and after reasonable inquiry, hereby certify that:

1. I am a partner with the applicant firm, Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP ("CZFM"), CZFM was retained by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (the "Debtor"). I am an attorney-at-law, duly admitted and in good standing to practice in the State of New York. This certification is made in support of the *First Interim Fee Application of Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP, As Co-Counsel for The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Compensation and Reimbursement of Disbursements for The Interim Period March 9, 2026 Through June 30, 2026* (the "Application").

2. I have read the foregoing Application. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the statements contained in the Application are true and correct.

In addition, I believe that the Application complies with Local Rule 2016-1.

Dated: September 10, 2026
New York, New York

/s/ Nicholas Maxwell
Nicholas Maxwell

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