IT IS ORDERED as set forth below:

Date: October 6, 2026

Sage M. Sigler
U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

In re: **WELLMADE FLOOR COVERINGS INTERNATIONAL, INC., et. al.,**[1] Debtors.	Chapter 11 Case No. **25-58764-SMS** (Jointly Administered)

ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING MEDIATION

Wellmade Floor Coverings International, Inc., et.al., ("Debtors") and claimant Anthony Davis ("Davis") (together the "Parties") have jointly requested that they be authorized to participate in mediation to liquidate and resolve Davis' claims against Debtors and non-debtor defendants, including but not limited to Davis' proofs of claim in the bankruptcy case, Debtors' objection to Davis' claims (Doc. 531), and claims asserted in Civil Action No. 4:25-cv-0030 pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (the "Civil Action"). It

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, include: Wellmade Industries MFR. N.A. LLC (1058) and Wellmade Floor Coverings International, Inc. (8425). The mailing address for the Debtors for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 1 Wellmade Drive, Cartersville, GA 30121.

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appears that the most productive form of mediation is to designate an active or recall status judge with no assignment or responsibility for these proceedings as a settlement judge to serve as a neutral mediator and that **Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Justin Anand** ("Judge Anand or Settlement Judge") is qualified and suitable to serve in that capacity.

Judge Anand may issue additional instructions and materials related to the mediation in the Civil Action and the Parties should ensure that all necessary attorneys have filed appearances in the Civil Action so that they receive notices relating to the mediation.

It is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The parties to this proceeding shall mediate the issues and disputes described above. Judge Anand is designated as the Settlement Judge with regard to this matter for the purpose of conducting mediation proceedings as the neutral mediator. Such mediation shall be conducted at a time and place and in accordance with procedures mutually agreed upon by the parties and the Settlement Judge.
2. Because the Settlement Judge will be serving as the neutral mediator in this matter and because the nature of the mediation process requires *ex parte* contacts and communications between the neutral mediator and each of the sides, the prohibitions of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9003 do not apply to communications among the parties, their attorneys, and Judge Anand in connection with the mediation proceedings. The parties and their attorneys may, therefore, have *ex parte* communications with the Settlement Judge in his capacity as the neutral mediator in connection with the mediation proceedings.
3. All communications made by the parties or their attorneys to each other or to the Settlement Judge in connection with the mediation process, the conduct and demeanor of the parties and their counsel during the mediation, and any documents prepared or produced in connection with the

mediation process, including the Settlement Judge's notes or records, shall be confidential and shall not be admissible as evidence or the subject of any discovery in any proceeding (unless admissible or discoverable without regard to the mediation). The mediation sessions and any conferences or proceedings in connection therewith shall be treated as compromise negotiations for purposes of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the Georgia Rules of Evidence, or any rules of evidence of any other jurisdiction. No record will be made of the mediation proceedings. The Settlement Judge is disqualified from appearing as a witness in any matter, and shall not be called as a witness, with regard to the mediation or any matter arising out of or related thereto.

4. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7016, incorporating Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c)(2)(I), applies to all matters that are the subject of this Order. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014(c). The appointment of the Settlement Judge is an assignment of the subject matters by the assigned judge to the Settlement Judge solely for the purpose of convening "pretrial conferences" with a goal to reach a settlement. The Settlement Judge is appointed because of their judicial position as an active or recall status United States Magistrate Judge and acts in such capacity. By serving as a settlement judge, the Settlement Judge performs judicial duties. Accordingly, the Settlement Judge and all judiciary employees assisting the Settlement Judge have full, unqualified judicial immunity, as well as all other privileges, immunities, and protections accorded to a United States Magistrate Judge and to judiciary employees, regarding any matters arising from or related to the Settlement Judge's role as settlement judge.

5. By participating in the settlement process, all parties automatically:

    a) waive and are unable to assert against the Settlement Judge or any judiciary employees assisting with the settlement process any claims or causes of action that arise from or relate to the settlement process; and

    b) waive and are unable to seek to compel from the Settlement Judge or from any judiciary employees assisting with the settlement process any oral or written

testimony, document production (including, without limitation, regarding any records, reports, summaries, notes, communications, or other documents received or made by the Settlement Judge or any judiciary employees while serving in such capacity), or other participation whatsoever in any judicial, arbitral, or other proceeding of any kind.

The Settlement Judge may, in the Settlement Judge's sole discretion, require that the parties sign an agreement memorializing the above understandings, among other provisions, before agreeing to serve as a settlement judge.

END OF ORDER

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