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6 7	Counsel to Radical Bunny, L.L.C. and Special Counsel to G. Grant Lyon, C Trustee of Radical Bunny, L.L.C.	hapter 11
8	IN THE UNITED STAT	TES BANKRUPTCY COURT
9	FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA	
10	In re:	Chapter 11
11	MORTGAGES LTD.,	Case No. 2:08-bk-07465-RJH
12		RADICAL BUNNY'S MEMORANDUM IN
13 14	Dobtor	SUPPORT OF APPLICATION PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) AND (4) FOR
15	Debtor.	ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM OF CREDITOR
16		RADICAL BUNNY ON REMAND AFTER APPEAL
17		Hearing Date: December 6, 2010
18		Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: 230 N. First Ave.,
19 20		6th FI. Courtroom 603, Phoenix, AZ
20 21		Related Docket Nos.: 1888, 2014, 2027,
22		2088, 2395, 2398 & 2407
23	Creditor RADICAL BUNNY, L.L.C. ("RBLLC"), by and through its duly authorized	
24	attorneys, hereby submits its memorandum ("Memorandum") to address the factual and	
25	legal support for this Court's prior approval of its "Application Pursuant To 11 U.S.C.	
26	§ 503(B)(3)(D) and (4) For Allowance And Payment Of Administrative Claim Of Creditor	
27	Radical Bunny" ("Application"), DE 1888, as directed in the status conference held on	
28	September 21, 2010. This Court already approved the Application on the basis of the	
Cas	U:\SLF\280685\Mortgages, Ltd BK Docs\Radical Bunny Pleadi e 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 1 Main Document	ngs\Sub Contrib Claim\Memo.4.Admin.Claim.Remand.05.doc 0/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Page 1 of 83

DEConcini McDonaLD YETwin & Lacy, P.C. 6909 East Main Street Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

1 record and the joint stipulated facts submitted by RBLLC and the objector, Kevin T. 2 O'Holloran, Trustee of the Liquidating Trust of Mortgages, Ltd. ("Liquidating Trust") and 3 awarded RBLLC an administrative claim in the amount of \$595,798.25. ("Substantial 4 Contribution Claim"). DE 2418 & 2521. The Court approved the Substantial Contribution 5 Claim as an administrative expense, on the grounds that the amounts sought were actual, 6 necessary expenses incurred by RBLLC. The Substantial Contribution Claim was 7 calculated on the basis of portions of the fees and costs for professional services rendered 8 by DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. ("DMYL") for professional services provided 9 by DMYL on behalf of RBLLC ("RBLLC/DMYL") in this case. RBLLC's request is based 10 upon the millions of dollars of direct financial benefits it provided to this Chapter 11 case. 11 which alone support the Substantial Contribution Claim under section 503(b)(3)(D); it is 12 also based on the additional benefits provided by RBLLC/DMYL through RBLLC/DMYL's 13 efforts that made a substantial contribution to this Chapter 11 bankruptcy case by guiding 14 the plan process, significant involvement in asset preservation and settlement issues, 15 which provided an independent and valuable benefit to this case and an independent 16 basis under section 503(D)(3) to approve the Substantial Contribution Claim; and 17 additionally, having demonstrated a clear substantial contribution, RBLLC is entitled to an 18 award of the, reasonable compensation for DMYL's services under section 503(b)(4). 19

The Liquidating Trust appealed and the Court ordered it to post the sum of \$59,579.83 to cover the interest that would accrue on the Substantial Contribution Claim pending the final outcome of the claim. DE 2595.

After oral argument on the appeal, The United States Bankruptcy Panel of the Ninth Circuit issued a memorandum decision in BAP NO. AZ-09-1412-KiJuMk ("BAP Decision") that remanded the matter back to the bankruptcy court to make detailed findings to support its award of the Substantial Contribution Claim to RBLLC.

As demonstrated below, the record amply supports the award to RBLLC under both 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) and 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(4). This Memorandum addresses:

(1) the legal tests to be applied on remand based on the Memorandum decision issued by the United States Bankruptcy Panel of the Ninth Circuit in BAP No. AZ-09-1412-KiJuMk ("BAP Decision") after the appeal by Kevin T. O'Halloran, Trustee of the Liquidating Trust of Mortgages, Ltd. ("Liquidating Trust");

the evidence of the direct benefit provided by RBLLC to the bankruptcy (2) estate ("Estate") in this case, in excess of the benefit to RBLLC, based on (1) RBLLC's expense in providing financial benefit to the estate; (2) additional benefit to the estate based on three activities: preservation of Estate assets, formulation of a plan of reorganization, and settlements with the Debtor's borrowers; and (3) reasonable compensation for professional services; and

RBLLC's requested findings of fact and conclusions of law in the form (3)attached as Exhibit 1.

This Memorandum is supported by:

(1) a "Joint Statement of Material Facts of Radical Bunny and Liquidating Trust for 16 Application Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) and (4) for Allowance and Payment of 17 Administrative Claim of Creditor Radical Bunny", DE 2395 ("JTS, ¶ _"), and the evidence 18 referenced therein, including the evidence supporting the Application; capitalized terms 19 defined in the JTS are used herein; 20

(2)a "Supplement to Joint Statement of Material Facts of Radical Bunny and 21 Liquidating Trust for Application Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) and (4) for 22 Allowance and Payment of Administrative Claim of Creditor Radical Bunny", DE 2407 23 ("SJTS, ¶ _"), and the evidence referenced therein; and 24

(3)the relevant evidence in the record of this Chapter 11 case, including the 25 26 docket entries cited in the JTS, SJTS and RBLLC's filings in support of the Application.

I. LEGAL STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO CLAIM

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Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC must satisfy two tests to be entitled to allowance of an administrative claim. First, RBLLC must be a creditor of the Debtor's Estate. It is undisputed that RBLLC is a creditor of the Debtor. See JTS, ¶ 14. Second, RBLLC must have made a "substantial contribution" to the bankruptcy case. See Cellular 101, Inc. v. Channel Communications, Inc. (In re Cellular 101, Inc)., 377 F.3d 1092, 1096 (9th Cir. 2004)("In re Cellular 101, Inc.").

The principal legal test set by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for the measure of "substantial contribution" is "the extent of benefit to the estate." *In re Cellular 101, Inc.,* 377 F.3d at 1096. In the Ninth Circuit, a claimant's self-interest does not restrict an award of an administrative claim for substantial contribution. Instead, a substantial contribution claim may be awarded for efforts that benefit the claimant as long as the benefit to the claimant is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." *In re Cellular 101, Inc.,* 377 F.3d at 1097-1098. The fact that the creditor may also have benefit to the estate is not incidental or minimal. *See In re Cellular 101, Inc.,* 377 F.3d at 1097-1098 ("Any concern we have about evidence that Channel and Price benefitted from their own efforts is outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate.").

The BAP Decision determined that "the extent of benefit to the estate" test must be determined "independently" for each of an administrative claimant's activities to "then decide whether that activity benefitted the estate sufficiently to award the claimant expenses incurred for that activity." BAP Decision, p. 19, lines 25-27; p. 20 line 1. The BAP decision remanded this Court's grant of the requested relief in the Application for the purpose of making detailed findings of fact to support the award of substantial contribution for the activities for which an award was requested.

RBLLC's Substantial Contribution Claim is based on:

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(1) the direct financial benefits contributed to the Estate by RBLLC addressed in
 Section II below;

additional benefit contributed to the Estate through RBLLC/DMYL's efforts
 based on three separate activities: (1) preservation of Estate assets; (2) formulation of a
 plan of reorganization; and (3) settlements with the Debtor's borrowers, as addressed in
 Section III below; and

(3) reasonable compensation for professional services, as addressed in SectionIV below.

II. <u>Financial Substantial Contribution to the Estate By RBLLC</u>

Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC seeks payment of a portion of "the actual, necessary expenses" that RBLLC incurred in "making a substantial contribution" in this Chapter 11 case. RBLLC seeks an administrative claim for 4.005% of amounts RBLLC pledged, loaned or subordinated to, for the benefit of the Estate. These financial benefits were provided at the expense of RBLLC, as described in detail below.

The Substantial Contribution Claim is considered in light of the unique nature of this case. "The determination of substantial contribution must be made on a case by case basis." *In re Catalina Spa & R.V. Resort, Ltd.*, 97 B.R. 13, 18 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1989).

 $20 \|$ A.

The Unusual Nature of this Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case

This is a rare and unusual Chapter 11 bankruptcy case. First, the Debtor 21 Mortgages Ltd. is itself a mortgage lender. The total loans advanced by the Debtor ("ML 22 Loans") was initially estimated at \$970 Million, and later determined to be \$894 Million, as 23 of the Filing Date ("ML Loan Portfolio"). The most significant asset in the Estate was the 24 25 Debtor's retained interest in about \$162 Million of the ML Loans. The Debtor owned only a 26 fractional interest in the ML Loans, with more than 80% of the fractional interests in the ML 27 Loans actually being owned by investors. Despite owning only a fraction of the ML Loans, 28 Debtor and the Estate were responsible for managing the entire ML Loan Portfolio. See

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This case was initially filed as an involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy in June, 2008. It was prompted by the suicide of Scott M. Coles, the owner and long-time manager of Mortgages Ltd., during the most severe real estate downturn ever experienced in Arizona. The case was converted to a Chapter 11 by temporary replacement management and prepetition counsel for Mortgages Ltd., who were both replaced within a month due to asserted mismanagement and conflicts of interest. There were ongoing issues about the business judgment of the appointed replacement Chief Executive Officer, who also resigned during the case. *See* JTS ¶¶ 2-3; DE 1; DE 20, ¶ 11; DE 36; DE 315, ¶ 10; DE 572; DE 1531.

Mr. Coles' suicide left a Debtor with continually changing post-petition management with uncertain motivations. The replacement management had no economic stake in this case, in contrast to the most significant parties in interest: (1) RBLLC, (2) the Investors, and (3) the Debtor's borrowers.

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B. <u>Significant Parties in Interest in This Chapter 11 Case</u>

RBLLC was the largest creditor and the only major secured creditor of Mortgages 18 Ltd. at the inception of this case and during the proceedings. The Debtor admitted that the 19 almost \$200 million in outstanding loans advanced by RBLLC, as of the Filing Date, were 20liquidated and undisputed and were not contingent. Those loans were evidenced by 99 21 promissory notes and related loan and security documents, and secured by Mortgages 22 Ltd.'s assets. RBLLC filed a secured proof of claim in this case, with evidence of a 23 perfected security interest in the Debtor's assets, including the Debtor's retained interest in 24 about \$162 Million of the ML Loans, as reflected in UCC financing statements attached to 25 26 RBLLC's proof of claim. RBLLC had a substantial basis to claim its secured status. See 27 JTS ¶¶ 4-14; RBLLC POC No. 33; DE 198, pp. 4, 11; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 1298, Ex. B. 28

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RBLLC was formed to make loans to Mortgages Ltd. using funds from various individuals seeking a favorable rate of return. More than 900 loan participants provided funds to RBLLC that were loaned to Mortgages Ltd. Mortgages Ltd. then used funds 4 advanced by RBLLC to make ML Loans. RBLLC's sole source of income was from loan payments made by Mortgages Ltd. Prior to the death of Scott Coles, Mortgages Ltd. had 6 been paying RBLLC more than \$2 million dollars a month in non-default interest payments. Mortgages Ltd. defaulted on its obligations to RBLLC shortly before the Filing Date. See JTS ¶¶ 4-12; RBLLC POC No. 33

This case also involved the related interests of approximately 2,700 investors 10 ("Investors") in the ML Loans. Mortgages Ltd. also raised money from these Investors to 11 make ML Loans. Mortgages Ltd. transferred a fractional interest in the ML Loans to 12 Investors, either: (1) directly to Investors who held a direct fractional or participating 13 interest in the ML Loans ("Pass-Through Investors"); or (2) indirectly to Investors who 14 purchased and owned membership interests in limited liability companies ("MP Funds") 15 controlled by Mortgages Ltd., as Manager directly to individual Investors or to limited 16 liability companies owned by Investors and managed by Mortgages Ltd. under various 17 Even though Debtor was responsible for servicing and management agreements. 18 managing the ML Loan Portfolio, the Investors asserted that their loan interests were not 19 part of the Estate of the Debtor. Although the Investors were not direct creditors of 20Mortgages Ltd. and sought to exclude their interests from the Estate, two committees were 21 appointed to represent the interests of the Investors in this case: (1) the Official 22 Committee of Investors ("OIC") and (2) the Committee of Investors in the Value-To-Loan 23 Opportunity Fund I L.L.C. ("VTLC"). See JTS ¶¶ 15-20, 27 & 62; DE 20, ¶¶ 6-9, DE 198, 24 p. 11; DE 258; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 310; DE 315; DE 352; DE 577; DE 1298, Ex. B; Plan. 25 26 As of the Filing Date, the Investors and MP Funds owned approximately \$732

27 million of the approximately \$894 million dollars of outstanding ML Loans. The Debtor 28 also held an interest in several MP Funds. In addition to RBLLC's loans to Mortgages Ltd.

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evidenced by RBLLC POC No. 33, RBLLC was also a Pass-Through Investor holding \$3,748,000 in direct pass-through investments in two loans made by Mortgages Ltd. See JTS ¶¶ 17-18; DE 198, p. 4; DE 315, ¶¶ 5-6; DE 1298, Ex. B; RBLLC POC No. 1005. The 4 OIC acknowledged in joint pleadings filed with RBLLC that "RBLLC and/or the Investors constitute the entire economic base for every loan of ML to a borrower and bear the risk of 6 adjustment to those loans." DE 572, p. 4, lns 17-19.

The other significant parties in interest were the Debtor's borrowers. Several borrowers filed the involuntary case because Mortgages Ltd. stopped advancing funds to those borrowers. The value of the major asset of the Estate, the Debtor's fractional interest in the ML Loans, depended on management of the entire ML Loan Portfolio and securing recovery from the Debtor's borrowers and the related real property collateral securing the ML Loans. A reasonable resolution of borrower claims was a key factor in preserving both the value of the Estate and the entire ML Loan Portfolio. See JTS ¶ 3; DE 1; DE 2; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 1298, Ex. B. Had management of the ML Loan Portfolio ceased, it would have caused significant harm to the Estate, as well as the Investors due to the intertwined fractional interests in the ML Loans.

An Official Unsecured Creditors Committee ("OCC") was appointed to represent 18 general unsecured creditors, who held about \$4 Million in unsecured debt, about 2% of 19 undisputed claims. See DE 129; DE 225; DE 1531, p. 19. 20

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C. Benefits Provided To the Estate That Exceeded Benefit to RBLLC

Unlike any other party to this case, RBLLC/DMYL deferred its own interests for the 22 benefit of all creditors and the Estate, including to pay the administrative expenses of the 23 professionals for the Debtor, and all committees. Although RBLLC was by no means the 24 only creditor with a stake in the outcome of this case, RBLLC was the only creditor to step 25 26 up and act by subordinating its interests to:

allow the Debtor to obtain \$5,000,000 in post-petition working capital, which
 would not have been forthcoming but for the subordination of RBLLC's priority interest in
 collateral; and

(3) allow the Debtor to obtain a \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of a specific borrower project (the Centerpoint project).

See JTS ¶¶ 55-58, 67-72, 76-78; DE 53; DE 155; DE 165; DE 197; DE 203; DE 206, DE 262; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 310; DE 323; DE 376, Exhibits 1 and 2; DE 458; DE 459; DE 483; DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595.

RBLLC was the only creditor to subordinate its own interests to allow the Debtor to 13 use more than \$3,000,000 of RBLLC's cash collateral to fund the Debtor's operations. 14 RBLLC benefited the Estate by no less than \$3,000,000 due to this funding, which 15 significantly preserved the value of all of the assets of the Estate and the Estate's interest 16 in the entire ML Loan Portfolio. If the Debtor had not continued to operate, the value of the 17 entire ML Loan Portfolio, would have substantially and rapidly declined in value. While 18 RBLLC's subordination helped preserve the Estate's interest in the ML Loan Portfolio 19 (including RBLLC's interest), RBLLC received no direct benefit from allowing use of cash 20collateral because it received no payments from those funds. See JTS ¶¶ 55-60; DE 155; 21 DE 203; DE 310, DE 458; DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 22 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595. 23

24 RBLLC was the only creditor to subordinate its collateral to allow the Debtor to 25 obtain \$5,000,000 in post-petition working capital to fund the Debtor's operations. This

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 ¹ Income is conservatively based on the Debtor's actual Servicing Income, Fee Income and Interest Income as reported in the monthly operating reports filed for the months July 2008—March 2009, as \$3,073,990.60. No monthly operating reports were filed after March 2009.

1 financing would not have been forthcoming but for the subordination of RBLLC's priority 2 interest in more than \$13 Million Dollars of RBLLC's collateral, which benefitted the Estate 3 and the Estate's interest in the ML Loan Portfolio. A large portion of the DIP financing was 4 paid to professionals of the Estate, as well as other lenders to Mortgages Ltd., but only 5 \$50,000.00 of the \$5,000,000.00 went to RBLLC. This was RBLLC's only payment from 6 the Debtor in this case from the Filing Date through the entry of the Confirmation Order. 7 RBLLC benefitted the Estate by no less than \$4,950,000 due to this funding, which 8 significantly preserved the value of all of the assets of the Estate and the entire ML Loan 9 Portfolio. See JTS ¶¶ 67-72; DE 53; DE 165; DE 197; DE 206, DE 262; DE 323; DE 459; 10 DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595.

Every creditor and the Investors benefitted by RBLLC's funding of the Debtor's 12 post-petition operations. No other Estate creditor or Investor contributed any funds for the 13 operation of the Debtor during the pendency of this case. No other creditors' lien or 14 security interest was subordinated. The Investors' interests in the ML Loans were never 15 subordinated to operate the Debtor or preserve assets of the Estate, despite the fact that 16 80% of the loan portfolio managed by the Debtor was held by those Investor interests. 17 See JTS ¶¶ 56, 59-60, 68-72; DE 53; DE 155; DE 203; DE 262; DE 310; DE 323; DE 458; 18 DE 459; DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 19 1595; RBLLC POC No. 33. 20

The Debtor did not pay RBLLC more than \$23 million dollars in non-default interest payments due RBLLC from the Filing Date through entry of the Confirmation Order on May 20, 2009. In contrast, the Investors did not allow interest payments on their pass-through investments to be used to fund operations of the Debtor. Instead the Investors demanded, and were granted the right to receive interest from the ML Loans in which they held an interest from the Filing Date. See JTS ¶¶ 6-7, 59; DE 310; DE 458; DE 1011; RBLLC POC No. 33.

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Allowing RBLLC's cash collateral to be used so the Debtor could continue operating benefited the Estate and the subordination of RBLLC's collateral interest for funding of post-petition operations provided a direct, and not an incidental or minimal, benefit to the Estate that outweighed the benefit that RBLLC received. That funding was essential to allow Debtor's continued operation pending a reorganization, which substantially benefited all the creditors of the Estate, not just RBLLC, because it preserved the value of the Estate and the Estate's interest in the ML Loan Portfolio. Despite the fact that the Estate only held a twenty (20%) percent stake in the ML Loans, RBLLC's collateral was burdened with the entire cost of Debtors' operational expenses through use of cash collateral (\$3 million) and subordination for working capital loans (\$5 million).

RBLLC was the only party to subordinate its first priority security interest in the 12 Debtor's interest in more than \$94 million in the Centerpoint ML Loans to provide collateral 13 for a \$2,800,000 emergency interim loan that the Debtor represented was essential for 14 preservation of the Centerpoint property. In contrast, the Investors in Centerpoint refused 15 to subordinate their interests. This benefitted the Estate by at least \$2,800,000, based on 16 the representations of the Debtor regarding the damage to the Centerpoint property if that 17 interim loan was not made. See JTS ¶¶ 76-78; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 376, Exs. A & B; DE 18 408; DE 1298, Ex. B. 19

RBLLC also pledged its interest in ML Loans, under the Plan, to secure \$20 Million 20in exit financing ("Exit Financing") that is the source of payment of all post-confirmation 21 expenses, including final applications of administrative claimants, under the confirmed 22 Plan. Without the pledge of RBLLC's interests in the ML Loans, that Exit Financing would 23 not have been available without a ruling that RBLLC was unsecured. Based on its 24 proportionate share of the ML Loans, RBLLC provided at least \$4,000,000 in direct 25 26 benefit, in addition to other collateral under RBLLC's proof of claim which was released 27 under the terms of the Plan to fund the Liquidating Trust. See JTS ¶ 41; Plan; RBLLC 28 POC No. 33. RBLLC has received little benefit from its subordination to the Exit Financing

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of \$20 million. About one-half of it was used to pay all of the other professionals in this case. See Plan, §3.2; DE 2056; DE 2057; DE 2077; DE 2078; DE 2101; DE 2102; DE 2103; DE 2130; DE 2131; DE 2132; DE 2133; DE 2134; DE 2139; DE 2147; DE 2151; DE 4 2164; DE 2183; DE 2185; DE 2193; DE 2470; DE 2775; DE 2865. Another \$4.8 million was used to pay off the DIP Loans. See DE 1531, p. 20; DE 1532, p. 20. Accordingly, at 6 least seventy-five (75%) percent (\$15 million) of the Exit Financing was used to pay other professionals and DIP Loans. Another portion, albeit undisclosed, has been used to fund the litigation efforts by the Liquidating Trust. That leaves a small percentage of funds that have likely been used for management of the Loan LLC's formed under the Plan in which RBLLC holds fractional interests.

Based on the record of this case, RBLLC's financial contributions to the Estate 12 conservatively provided no less than \$14,750,000 in direct benefit to the Estate and the 13 ML Loan Portfolio. RBLLC did not receive any preferred treatment under the Plan based 14 on RBLLC's existing rights prior to the Filing Date. RBLLC would have been entitled to the 15 same treatment under the Plan without providing \$14,750,000 in benefit to the Estate. 16 RBLLC did not receive any additional financial benefit under the Plan based on RBLLC's 17 funding of the entire reorganization of the Debtor. The benefit to the Estate from RBLLC's 18 contributing \$14,750,000 to the Estate substantially exceeded the benefit to RBLLC from 19 making those financial contributions. Additionally, RBLLC's contributions provided 20substantial benefit to the Investors, who did not bear the ongoing costs of the 21 reorganization of the Debtor, but who benefitted significantly from RBLLC's contributions 22 and whose professionals were paid from the Estate. 23

The requested amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim (\$595,798.25) is just 24 four percent (4.0%) of the \$14,750,000 in benefit that RBLLC provided to the Estate. On 25 26 the foregoing facts alone, RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the 27 entire Substantial Contribution Claim. The Substantial Contribution Claim is reasonable 28 and is substantially less that the financial benefits provided by RBLLC to the Estate.

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The Liquidating Trust has claimed that the Estate incurred costs due to legal positions taken later in this case by the RBLLC Trustee. RBLLC provided evidence from the applications for attorneys fees filed by the OIC and the Debtor that such cost was approximately \$70,300. See DE 2088, pp. 7-9. Even if the \$14,750,000 in benefit is reduced by \$70,300, RBLLC would still have provided \$14,679,700 in benefit. The requested amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim (\$595,798.25) is still about four percent (4.0%) of that \$14,679,700 amount. Based on the \$14,750,000 in costs imposed on RBLLC for the benefit of the Estate, the minimal costs imposed on the Estate by the RBLLC Trustee should not affect RBLLC's right to recover the entire Substantial Contribution Claim.

The benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's providing financial benefits to the Estate is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate in the total requested amount of \$595,798.25 based on this benefit.

III. <u>Substantial Contribution to the Estate Related to RBLLC/DMYL Efforts</u>

18 Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC also provided 19 "substantial benefit" to the Estate through RBLLC's efforts and DMYL's related legal 20 services in three activities: (1) preservation of estate assets; (2) formulation of plan of 21 reorganization; and (3) objecting to and reaching settlements with the Debtor's borrowers. 22 RBLLC/DMYL took positions that benefitted all creditors of the Estate. DMYL's services 23 include those provided to negotiate and document RBLLC's direct financial benefits to the 24 Estate described in Section II above, applicable to each of the three activities. Based 25 upon having provided a substantial contribution, RBLLC is also entitled to payment of 26 reasonable compensation for professional services rendered by DMYL under Section 27 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

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A. Benefit Provided Through Preservation of Estate Assets

In addition to RBLLC's significant direct financial benefits, RBLLC/DMYL provided substantial benefits to the Estate and the ML Loan Portfolio based upon services provided for the benefit of all creditors of the Estate and the Investors. RBLLC/DMYL took positions that benefitted all creditors in preserving assets of the Estate. RBLLC's collateral was the only asset available to sustain the Debtor since the Investors refused to encumber their interests. RBLLC was burdened with all of the Debtor's post-petition debt, including Estate and Investor professionals. Neither the Investors nor any other creditor were ever subjected to subordination or made a monetary contribution during this case. *See* JTS ¶¶ 52-57; 61-80; Application Exhibit B; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 11; DE 53; DE 75; DE 79; DE 155; DE 165; DE 197; DE 203; DE 206; DE 262; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 323; DE 376, Exhibits 1 and 2; DE 459; DE 483.

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1. <u>Benefit Provided by Use of RBLLC's Cash Collateral</u>

Initially, the Debtor had no source of funds to continue operations, and perform the 15 management of the ML Loan Portfolio. RBLLC agreed to allow the Debtor to use RBLLC's 16 cash collateral with no adequate protection payments in an effort to preserve the 17 operations. During this case, the Debtor used over \$3,000,000 of RBLLC's cash collateral 18 to operate, supplemented by DIP financing. By structuring those operational funds, 19 RBLLC/DMYL allowed this case to avoid collapse, keep the Debtor's employees paid and 20 keep the Debtor and Estate's interest in the ML Loan Portfolio intact, all to RBLLC's (and 21 its professionals) detriment. See JTS ¶¶55-56; DE 155; DE 203; DE 310; DE 868; DE 22 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595. 23

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2. <u>Benefits Provided in Connection With Post-Petition Financing</u>

RBLLC/DMYL benefitted the Estate through objections to initial proposed
 noncompetitive financing that would have prevented a successful reorganization. In
 addition to opposing the burdensome financing proposed by the replacement Debtor

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 14 of 83 management and professionals, and ferreting out the conflicts that existed amongst those parties, RBLLC/DMYL also played a vital role in the financing that was put in place.

3 During the gap period, the Debtor obtained a \$500,000 loan from Southwest Value Partners Fund XIV, LP ("Gap Lender"), due and payable on July 23, 2008. (DE 165, ¶6). Before any committees were appointed in this case, on June 27, 2008, Debtor's new 6 management sought to push through a \$5,000,000 working capital loan tied to an additional (DE 53). \$120,000,000 construction loan from the Gap Lender. The Debtor sought approval for this loan before it had even filed its Bankruptcy Schedules and Statement of Affairs. By July 14, 2008, further disclosures revealed that the requested construction loan had increased to \$124,100,000, and the scope of the required security for the loans had expanded to all assets of the Debtor. (DE 165). The terms of the proposed loans were unfavorable, with interest and points on the working capital loan at fifteen percent (15%). The proposed working capital loan would mature on October 31, 2008, if the construction loan was not timely approved by the bankruptcy court. Half of the proceeds from the working capital loan would not be used for the operation of the Debtor, but would repay the GAP Loan and another loan to the Debtor. These loans were to be secured by a super-priority lien on all assets of Debtor, subject only to valid, perfected, enforceable and nonavoidable liens and security interests existing as of the Filing Date. See JTS ¶ 61.

RBLLC/DMYL, along with other creditors and individual investors (including an 20"unofficial" committee of investors), objected to the Debtor's attempt to encumber virtually 21 all assets of its Estate and raised objections on behalf of all the creditors of the Debtor's 22 Estate as to whether the proposed financing would benefit the Estate. RBLLC/DMYL 23 discovered that the Debtor's financial expert had denied access to the financial records of 24 the Debtor to any lender other than the proposed lender, virtually eliminating competitive 25 26 financing alternatives. See JTS $\P\P$ 61-64; DE 53; DE 75; DE 79; DE 165; Freeman 27 Declaration, ¶ 11.

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RBLLC/DMYL benefitted the Estate by locating alternative post-petition financing on more favorable terms, and by urging the Debtor to consider other financing alternatives. RBLLC/DMYL located a lender willing to provide funding without requiring a lien on all assets of the Estate, and that lender appeared, with a check, at an early financing hearing. See JTS ¶ 63; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 11. Arranging for alternative DIP financing, whether or not it is used, provides actual benefit and a substantial contribution. See In re *FF Holdings Corp.*, 343 B.R. 84. 85 & 87 (D. Del. 2006).

In this case, the availability of competitive financing actually ensured that the Debtor abandoned the proposed financing and obtained more favorable DIP loan terms, even though the Debtor elected not to use any lenders located by RBLLC/DMYL. By July 18, 2008, due in part to the strenuous objections of RBLLC, the Debtor withdrew the requested Gap Lender DIP financing. By that time, the interest of other lenders in competing to provide financing was evident, and all hearings on the requested financing were vacated on July 21, 2008 to allow the Debtor to consider financing alternatives. *See* JTS ¶¶ 63-67; DE 53; DE 165; DE 197; DE 206; DE 262; DE 459; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 11.

RBLLC/DMYL was involved in extensive negotiations with the prospective lenders 17 to structure a loan that provided the Debtor and Estate with much needed working capital 18 to keep the lights on and the employees paid current. RBLLC/DMYL's efforts provided 19 significant benefit, by ensuring that the interests of the Estate were protected from 20financing that could have removed all value from the Estate while still allowing the Debtor 21 to continue operations to preserve the value of the Debtor's assets. RBLLC/DMYL's 22 continued objections and alternative financing efforts for DIP financing ultimately led to the 23 Debtor's obtaining more favorable DIP financing terms to the actual benefit of the Estate. 24 The Debtor withdrew its emergency financing attempts to consider competing financing 25 26 proposals.

The Debtor then sought approval for a \$5,000,000 initial DIP loan with more [28] favorable terms, and without a lien on all Estate assets. On August 1, 2008, the Debtor

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1 again sought a hearing on emergency financing, but the proposed terms were limited to a 2 \$5,000,000 initial DIP loan, which no longer included a lien on all estate assets. The interest 3 rate (and points) for that loan were reduced to 13%, and the new loan terms were for a one 4 year maturity date that would not be accelerated if construction financing was not approved. 5 RBLLC's first priority security interest in \$13,072,830 of ML Loans was subordinated for 6 that \$5,000,000 working capital loan. See JTS ¶¶ 66-72; DE 53; DE 165; DE 197; DE 7 206; DE 262; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 323; DE 459; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 11. 8

All of RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in connection with DIP funding provided benefit to the 9 Estate. If the initial proposed financing had been approved, the Estate could have 10 incurred up to \$124,100,000 in debt that would have primed payment of all claims of the Estate due to the preferred returns that would be paid to the Gap Lender. For the 12 construction loan, the Gap Lender would be guaranteed interest plus excessive preferred 13 returns; the Gap Lender would have been repaid before the Debtor's creditors received one 14 dime. Instead, the Debtor used RBLLC's cash collateral and incurred only \$5,000,000 in 15 working capital to fund the Debtor's operations, subordinating only RBLLC's collateral 16 interest. RBLLC's efforts provided as much as \$119,100,000 in benefit to the Estate. The 17 benefit to the Estate from RBLLC/DMYL's actions exceeded the benefit to RBLLC. See 18 JTS ¶¶ 74-75; DE 53; DE 75; DE 165; Plan. 19

This key benefit provided by RBLLC occurred prior to official committee appearances. 20On August 5, 2008, counsel for the OIC filed a notice of appearance, DE 290. On August 6, 21 2008, counsel for the OCC filed a notice of appearance, DE 313. Thus, this benefit was not 22 duplicative with other Estate professionals. 23

After the appointment of the OIC and the OCC, RBLLC/DMYL continued to work 24 with those Committees to prevent the Debtor from entering into financing that was 25 26 unreasonably burdensome to RBLLC and the other creditors of the Debtor's Estate. 27 RBLLC objected on behalf of all creditors of the Estate and reduced the expenses of the 28 Estate by providing detailed objections. For example, RBLLC filed a 12 page objection to

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1 unacceptable DIP financing terms in DE 376. The OCC filed a 2 page objection joining in 2 filed objections, DE 380.

3 DMYL's services were necessary for RBLLC to subordinate RBLLC's collateral 4 interest in certain ML Loans to provide the \$500,000 Interim Working Capital DIP Loan to fund the Debtor's operations (subject to use of RBLLC's cash collateral, as available). No 6 other creditors' lien or security interest was subordinated for the Interim Working Capital DIP Loan. See JTS ¶¶ 68-69; DE 323.

DMYL's services also were provided in connection with RBLLC's subordination of RBLLC's collateral interest in \$13,072,830 of ML Loans for the \$5,000,000 Final Working Capital DIP Loan to fund the Debtor's operations. No other creditors' lien or security interest was subordinated for the Final Working Capital DIP Loan. See JTS ¶¶ 70-72; DE 459.

RBLLC/DMYL helped structure agreements on financing, cash collateral, and the 14 Plan that ensured the cash flow to allow the Debtor to continue operations. The 15 negotiation and documentation of these agreements played a vital role in this Chapter 11 16 case. RBLLC's primary attorney, Shelton L. Freeman, was routinely requested to 17 participate in meetings with the OIC, which sometimes requested that RBLLC lead the 18 charge on issues that would have adversely affected the Estate if the Debtor's acts went 19 unchallenged. DMYL and the counsel for the OIC divided work based upon strength and 20resources in dealing with these financing issues. This division of labor was particularly 21 effective given the repeated "emergency" filings by the Debtor which required extensive 22 analysis and short deadlines for objections. See JTS ¶¶ 53-54. 23

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3. Benefit to the Estate For Ongoing Administrative Expenses

25 RBLLC/DMYL's efforts did not just ensure operation of the Debtor, it also ensured 26 payment of professionals of the Estate. During this case interim payments of at least 27 \$1,350,000.00, including post-petition retainers, were made to Jennings, Strouss & 28 Salmon, Greenberg Traurig, Fennemore Craig, and Nussbaum & Gillis, from RBLLC's

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cash collateral. See OIC's Approved Amended Disclosure Statement at DE 1531-12, Exhibit F. These payments were made for the benefit of the Estate at the expense of RBLLC/DMYL.

It is undisputed that RBLLC has no source of payment for DMYL's attorneys fees since the Debtor made no interest payments to RBLLC. See JTS ¶ 6. Any recovery for RBLLC under the confirmed Plan is subordinate to repayment of the Exit Financing. If DMYL does not receive compensation from the Estate, the only source of payment will be plan distributions to RBLLC, which will only occur after repayment of the Exit Financing. *See* JTS ¶ 25. To date, no Plan distributions have been made to RBLLC. To deny the Application would effectively subordinate RBLLC's 900 participants once again to the interests of the other professionals and other parties receiving the benefit of the use of their cash collateral.

4. Benefit Provided to Preserve Debtor's Collateral and Funds

The Centerpoint Loans are another clear example where RBLLC provided significant benefit to others in this case at RBLLC's cost. RBLLC/DMYL objected to initial proposals for post-petition financing related to the Tempe Land Company's Centerpoint that would have been unreasonably burdensome to RBLLC and other creditors of the Estate. Up to \$75,000,000 of the proposed construction loan from the Gap Lender was to be used for Tempe Land Company's Centerpoint project. See JTS ¶¶ 74-75; DE 53; DE 75.

Then, the Tempe Land Company parties ("TLC Parties") convinced the Debtor that 21 they needed funds to protect their buildings. The Debtor filed emergency pleadings 22 seeking a \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of the Centerpoint project, and also 23 seeking to subordinate all the interests in the Centerpoint Loans to that new financing. On 24 shortened notice, objections were filed and the Debtor and TLC Parties pled its dire 25 26 position to the Court. Consistent with its prior objections, the OIC contended that the 27 Investors' interests could not be subordinated to a post-petition loan because they were 28 not part of the Mortgages Ltd. bankruptcy estate. The TLC Parties and the Debtor alleged

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 19 of 83 millions of dollars in damage were imminent if immediate steps were not taken to seal the building from the monsoon storms and for air conditioning to prevent warping of the interior finishes. In light of the dire circumstances presented, an agreement was eventually structured where an approved budget for emergency items would be approved subordinating only RBLLC's collateral, not the Investors' interest. The efforts involved to structure that transaction took intense legal efforts and numerous negotiations with the alternate lenders that were involved. See JTS ¶¶ 73-77; DE 53; DE 75; DE 165; DE 483.

RBLLC also objected on behalf of all creditors of the Estate and reduced the expenses of the Estate by providing detailed objections to Centerpoint financing requests. For example, RBLLC filed detailed objections to Centerpoint DIP financing, DE 435, 987 and 1008. The OCC filed a one page objection joining in RBLLC's objections, DE 975. In contrast to RBLLC's efforts on behalf of the Estate, the OIC filed a detailed objection of reasons that ML could not pledge or subordinate the Investors' interest in the Centerpoint loans, DE 984. Debtor and its professionals proposed the Centerpoint financing and the OIC's objection was limited to the pledging or subordination of the Investor interests; RBLLC/DMYL was the only creditor seeking to protect the Estate's interest; there was no duplication of effort in preserving the Estate's interest.

DMYL's services were necessary for RBLLC to subordinate RBLLC's first priority security interest in the Centerpoint ML Loans as collateral for a \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of Centerpoint. None of the Investors' interest in the Centerpoint Loans was subordinated to the \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of Centerpoint. See JTS ¶¶ 77-78; DE 483.

The Debtor then failed to properly advance or manage the emergency funds and allowed the TLC Parties to squander the loan funds and divert a significant portion of those funds from the Centerpoint project. DMYL's services also include those incurred in the preservation of funds wrongfully disbursed to an affiliate of Tempe Land Company. RBLLC was the first creditor to: (1) raise concerns about the Debtor's failure to properly

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monitor advances of that initial \$2,800,000 interim loan; and (2) request replacement of improperly used funds. Although the Debtor never recovered \$568,706 in funds wrongfully disbursed to an affiliate of Tempe Land Company, RBLLC/DMYL's actions ensured that 4 the Debtor did not continue to advance funds to Tempe Land Company that were not used to preserve the Debtor's collateral, again ensuring preservation of Estate assets and providing tangible benefit to this Estate. Although the Debtor had sought a \$4,800,000 loan for Centerpoint, the Debtor never sought approval for the additional \$2,000,000 after the improper use of proceeds was raised. The interim loan was paid off by the Exit Financing under the Plan, which further subordinated the RBLLC interests to pay liens to which RBLLC had already subordinated. See JTS ¶¶ 79-80; DE 468; DE 987; DE 1078; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 11; Plan.

5. Summary of Benefits to Estate of Preservation of Assets

RBLLC/DMYL provided unique and tangible benefits to the Estate that were not 14 provided by any creditor, and that substantially exceeded any benefits to RBLLC. RBLLC 15 was burdened with all of the Debtor's post-petition debt, including payment of Estate and 16 Investor professionals. No other creditor ensured that funds were available for continued 17 operations while non-competitive financing was threatening the interests of all creditors of 18 the Estate. RBLLC's interests were sacrificed for the benefit of all the creditors of the 19 Estate and the Investors. 20

The benefit to the Estate from RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in preserving the assets of 21 the Estate substantially exceeded the benefit to RBLLC from those efforts. RBLLC/DMYL's 22 efforts were necessary to provide: (1) \$3,000,000 in cash collateral for the Debtor's 23 operations; (2) \$5,000,000 in working capital for the Debtor's operations at more favorable 24 rates; and (3) \$2,800,000 in financing to preserve the assets of Centerpoint. The 25 26 negotiation, documentation and financial benefits combined to provide a substantial 27 contribution to the Estate. RBLLC/DMYL's efforts also ensured: (1) that the Estate was 28 not subjected to more than \$100 million in debt that could have prevented any payment to

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creditors of the Estate; and (2) that at least \$2,000,000 in debt was never incurred for Centerpoint for improper purposes. RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for preserving assets of the Estate provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess of any benefit provided to RBLLC.

For RBLLC/DMYL's services in preserving assets of the Estate, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an amount measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred. RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated on services provided for preserving the assets of the Estate of \$356,253. The claim amount requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by RBLLC.

Any benefit that RBLLC received from its efforts in preserving the assets of the Estate in this case is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D), RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate of \$356,253 based on this benefit. Additionally, pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to "payment of reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL.

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B. Benefit Through DMYL Services For Plan of Reorganization

Services that substantially contribute to a case include formulating, negotiating and 19 drafting a plan of reorganization that is eventually confirmed. See, e.g., In re Cellular 101, 20Inc., 377 F.3d at 1097. RBLLC/DMYL contributed substantially to the reorganization 21 through its consideration of the needs of all creditors in formulating, negotiating and 22 drafting a plan of reorganization in cooperation with the OIC. RBLLC/DMYL did not 23 contribute "incidentally" or "minimally" but rather made a substantial contribution in 24 providing specified services that led to a confirmable plan in this case which are 25 26 reimbursable as an administrative expense in this case. See In re Cellular 101, Inc., 377 27 F.3d at 1098.

From the beginning of this case, RBLLC/DMYL worked extensively with all the interested parties toward the goal of a consensual, confirmable plan of reorganization. RBLLC/DMYL raised plan issues early and consistently sought to bring the parties together. Meanwhile, the OIC and other Investors repeatedly argued that their interests were not part of the Mortgages Ltd. bankruptcy case and opposed every motion that sought to impact their interest. Recognizing these challenges led RBLLC/DMYL to develop a proposed plan structure that:

(1) tracked the real financial picture—RBLLC and the Investors had put up more than \$900 million for the ML Loans to the Debtor's borrowers; and

(2) overcame the Investors' objections that their ownership interests were not part of the Estate, and meshed their investments in the ML Loans with the RBLLC collateral for the benefit of all of the people who had put money into Mortgages Ltd.

RBLLC/DMYL met with the OIC and discussed different aspects of a reorganization
plan. The meetings then expanded to include other parties, including the OCC. On
September 29, 2008, RBLLC/DMYL and the OIC filed a Joint Objection to Exclusivity and
Joint Cross Motion to Limit Exclusivity. DE 572. In that pleading, prepared on DMYL
pleading paper, RBLLC and the Investors state that:

- RBLLC and the Investors hold all economic interests in all borrower loans; p. 9
- There was a need to provide a mechanism whereby the real parties in interest in the loans can make business decisions regarding their investments; p. 9 and
 - RBLLC and the Investors were prepared to file a plan by November 1, 2008 (30 days later). p. 2.

About ten days later, on October 9, 2008, DMYL created the original outline for a plan based on those meetings and e-mailed that outline to the counsel for the OIC. See SJTS, [28] ¶ 2, Ex. A; DE 2398, Ex. 1.

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1	The major concepts in the Plan Outline are exactly the concepts contained in the	
2	confirmed Plan of Reorganization:	
3	Form Loan LLCs	
4	$_{\odot}$ Exchange Investor Interests and RBLLC collateral interests for	
5	fractional membership in each loan LLC	
6 7	 Any shortfall in value treated as unsecured claim 	
7 8	Trust for Unsecured Claims	
o 9	 Pursuit of avoidance claims 	
9	 Value in Debtor's real property 	
10	Treatment for Value to Loan	
12	Payment of Administrative Claims	
13	 Debtor, all committees and RBLLC 	
14	Treatment of RBLIC	
15	 Payment from identified real property 	
16	 Exchange secured claims for loan LLC membership interests 	
17	 Deemed secured 	
18	 Administrative claim for fees 	
19	 Avoidance actions against RBLLC settled 	
20	Treatment of Investors	
21	 Exchange interests for loan LLC membership interests 	
22	 Ownership in notes validated 	
23	 Avoidance actions against Investors settled 	
24	The Plan Outline, like the confirmed Plan, was not solely for the benefit of RBLLC. It	
25	provided a mechanism to consolidate the fractional interests in the ML Loans, resolved	
26	$\frac{1}{2}$ thousands of potential avoidance claims, eliminated the concerns about the ability to	
27	manage each loan and provided a mechanism for all creditors to share in the recoveries	
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1 by a Trust formed to collect assets and pursue third party claims. See SJTS, ¶ 2, Ex. A; 2 DE 2398, Ex. 1; Plan.

3 DMYL then refined the Plan Outline based on input from, and meetings with, the OIC and other parties in interest, and developed acceptable plan terms from that revised plan proposal. The interests of all the creditors of the Estate and the Investors in the ML 6 Loan Portfolio were considered in formulating that plan. The first draft of the Plan ("DMYL Plan") was sent by DMYL by e-mail on November 4, 2008, to counsel for the OIC. See JTS, ¶ 34; SJTS, ¶ 3, Ex. B; DE 2398, Ex. 2; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 9.

A comparison of the initial draft of the DMYL Plan and the confirmed Plan shows 10 only minor adjustments. In light of the appointment of the RBLLC Trustee and the subsequent withdrawal of support, the OIC removed RBLLC as a co-proponent of the Plan 12 and adjusted provisions, but the basic structure of Loan LLCs, resolving avoidance claims 13 and forming a Trust to pursue avoidance claims remained intact. The contribution by 14 RBLLC/DMYL is self-evident in the confirmed Plan—even after the RBLLC Trustee 15 withdrew its support, the OIC went forward with the substantially identical terms because 16 of the benefits provided to all parties by the DMYL Plan. Despite various objections at 17 confirmation, this same structure eventually received almost unanimous support of all 18 parties and was confirmed. See SJTS, ¶ 3, Ex. B; DE 2398, Ex. 2; Plan. Without the 19 efforts of RBLLC/DMYL in the Plan formulation process, confirmation of a plan would have 20been unlikely and certainly would have required greater expense by other parties.

On December 23, 2008, the Debtor, RBLLC and the OIC stipulated to extend the 22 Debtor's exclusivity to January 6, 2009. By December 23, 2008, many of the terms of the 23 plan of reorganization that RBLLC/DMYL and the OIC had negotiated with numerous other 24 constituencies for five months were finalized with two significant issues remaining: the 25 26 management of the reorganized debtor and the allocation of default fees. See JTS \P 39; 27 DE 1138.

RBLLC/DMYL's work toward a confirmable plan of reorganization was successful because (1) RBLLC/DMYL provided the framework for the plan that was ultimately confirmed in this case; and (2) RBLLC/DMYL's draft plan included significant portions of the plan that was ultimately confirmed in this case. See JTS ¶ 34; SJTS ¶ 3 & Ex. B; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶¶ 9-10; DE 1297; Plan; DE 2398, Ex. 2.

One significant reason that DMYL worked closely with the OIC to develop a confirmable plan of reorganization was because the post-Coles management of the Debtor ignored the interests of the creditors of this Estate. Despite a clear lack of equity, the Debtor took an antagonistic approach to the real parties in interest in this case. DE 572. Even the Liquidating Trust recognized the futility of the Debtor's efforts. In its objection to the fees incurred by the Debtor's bankruptcy counsel, the Liquidating Trust recognized that "no good faith effort was made to create a consensual plan with the Official Committee of Investors." See DE 1937, p. 11, lines 24-25.

Without the contribution made by DMYL to the creation, negotiation and revision of the plan, the OIC and other constituents would have had to perform additional work at the expense of the Debtor's Estate. Additionally, RBLLC/DMYL's contributions toward a feasible plan of reorganization could not be duplicated by the Debtor, the OIC and VTLC because RBLLC was the only party with a significant economic stake aligned with the interests of the Estate. See JTS ¶¶ 9, 17; SJTS ¶ 3, Ex. B; DE 310; DE 2398, Ex. 2; Plan.

The amounts requested include DMYL fees incurred in objecting to the Debtor's 21 requested extensions of exclusivity. RBLLC/DMYL worked with the OIC to file a joint 22 objection to extending that exclusivity because of the Debtor's continued failure to provide 23 a feasible plan of reorganization. That joint objection was also joined by the OCC. DMYL 24 worked tirelessly to meet with constituent parties, including the Debtor, the Committees 25 26 appointed in this case, investor groups, lenders and asset managers to develop 27 acceptable plan terms. RBLLC/DMYL was an integral part of the development of both the 28 structure and the substance of the plan that was eventually confirmed by the Court. See

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¹ JTS ¶¶ 33-35 & 40; SJTS ¶ 3 & Ex. B; DE 572; DE 688; DE 1297; DE 2398, Ex. 2 ² Freeman Declaration, ¶¶9-10; Plan.

The BAP Decision, p. 21, states that "we see nothing in the record" where RBLLC explained how objecting to the Debtor's requested extensions of exclusivity benefitted the Estate and other creditors. The joint objection filed by RBLLC and the OIC on September 29, 2008 (DE 572 and cited in the JTS) answers that very question. That joint objection recognized that the Debtor had already incurred almost \$1 million dollars in professional fees through the end of August, 2008, and that the Debtor was going to exhaust its \$5 million dollar working capital line by December, 2008. "Extension of the exclusivity will only increase the cost and delay of this case to the detriment of the unsecured creditors, the Investors and Radical Bunny." DE 572, p. 6. It also sought an end to the period of exclusivity so that RBLLC and the Investors could file their own plan, and expedite a resolution of the case. See DE 572, p. 2.

While RBLLC/DMYL was developing the DMYL Plan and working with the OIC for a 15 consensual plan for the benefit of all creditors, increasing administrative expenses were 16 incurred by the Debtor without regard to the burden on the Estate and without regard to 17 the creditor constituencies that held the economic stake in this case. Debtor's 18 professionals sought payment of almost \$9 million in administrative expenses. EX. 4. If 19 RBLLC/DMYL had not worked to end the Debtor's exclusivity, those administrative 20expenses would have been even higher because the Debtor was unwilling or unable to 21 propose a feasible plan of reorganization. Although RBLLC was funding the Debtor's 22 growing administrative expenses with RBLLC's cash collateral (and the working capital 23 line obtained by subordinating RBLLC's collateral interest), it was to the benefit of all 24 creditors of the Estate to: (1) limit the Debtor's ongoing administrative expenses; and (2) 25 26 develop a feasible plan of reorganization that was confirmable with the support of the 27 creditor constituencies. Thus, the efforts of RBLLC/DMYL provided benefit to the Estate in 28

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excess of the benefit provided to RBLLC and its 900 participants. See JTS ¶¶ 32-35; DE 572; DE 688; Freeman Declaration, ¶¶ 9-10.

DMYL services related to the proposed plan included (1) drafting a form operating agreement necessary for the submission and ultimate implementation of the plan; and (2) clarification of other asset management and financing documents essential to the proposed plan. Although the OIC later proposed a revised plan and supporting documents after DMYL no longer represented RBLLC in connection with the Debtors' reorganization, DMYL's services still contributed to a successful reorganization in this case. Even the professionals for the OIC initially made revisions to the DMYL documents as well as preparing additional and alternative operating agreements to support the plan filed by the OIC, as part of actual and necessary services provided by the OIC's professionals in this case. See **Exhibit 2** hereto (pages from DE 1879, with emphasis added).

Since the Debtor stopped making interest payments to RBLLC and did not repay 14 matured loans, RBLLC had no source of income after June 2008. On October 8, 2008, 15 certain RBLLC loan participants filed an involuntary bankruptcy petition against RBLLC 16 under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, Case No. 2-08-bk-13884-CGC ("RBLLC Case"), 17 which was converted to a Chapter 11. RBLLC was authorized to employ DMYL to serve 18 as special counsel to represent RBLLC on specific matters, including representation in this 19 case. Pursuant to a stipulation, at the end of December, 2008, G. Grant Lyon ("RBLLC 20Trustee") was appointed as Chapter 11 Trustee in the RBLLC Case. As of that date, 21 RBLLC Trustee became the representative of RBLLC's bankruptcy estate under 11 U.S.C. 22 § 323(a), and RBLLC no longer had authority to act as debtor-in-possession of the estate. 23 RBLLC Trustee retained separate counsel to represent the RBLLC Trustee in this case. 24 See JTS ¶¶ 42-43. 25

The OIC filed the revised plan that the OIC and RBLLC/DMYL had worked on in January, 2009, before the terms of financing of the plan had been finalized. On April 6, 28 2009, the OIC filed an amended plan that was confirmed and that amended plan included

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the terms of the Exit Financing. Under the Plan RBLLC pledged its interest in ML Loans to secure the \$20 Million in Exit Financing. Based on its proportionate share of the ML Loans, this provided at least \$4,000,000 in benefit, in addition to other collateral under RBLLC's proof of claim which is released under the terms of the Plan to fund the Liquidating Trust. *See* JTS ¶ 46; DE 1297; Plan.

RBLLC/DMYL's efforts resulted in a plan that paid over \$9.5 million in administrative claims in an otherwise administratively insolvent case, addressed almost a billion dollars in interests in the ML Loan Portfolio, and provided a priority payout to general unsecured creditors. The Plan could not have been confirmed but for the support and efforts of RBLLC/DMYL. See Plan; DE 2056; DE 2057; DE 2077; DE 2078; DE 2101; DE 2102; DE 2103; DE 2130; DE 2131; DE 2132; DE 2133; DE 2134; DE 2139; DE 2147; DE 2151; DE 2164; DE 2183; DE 2185; DE 2193; DE 2470; DE 2656; DE 2775; DE 2865.

RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for formulating and working on a plan of reorganization provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess of any benefit provided to RBLLC. For RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in formulating and working on a plan of reorganization, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an amount measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred. RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated on services provided in connection with the confirmed Plan of \$118,810. The claim amount requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by RBLLC.

After December 30, 2008, when the RBLLC Trustee was appointed, RBLLC/DMYL took no further role in the plan process in this case. The Substantial Contribution Claim is limited to services provided by DMYL to RBLLC prior to RBLLC's bankruptcy and services provided while DMYL represented RBLLC as debtor and debtor in possession in RBLLC's subsequent bankruptcy. No services provided to the RBLLC Trustee are included in the Substantial Contribution Claim. After a trustee was appointed in the RBLLC Case, the

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RBLLC Trustee objected to the OIC's initial and amended Plan. The Liquidating Trustee claims that RBLLC/DMYL provided no net benefit to the Estate based on those objections. RBLLC provided evidence from the applications for attorneys fees filed by the OIC and the 4 Debtor that such objections cost the Estate no more than \$70,300. See JTS ¶¶ 44-45 & 51; DE 2088, pp. 7-9.

If RBLLC/DMYL had not created the Plan Outline and the DMYL Plan, there would have been higher administrative expenses of the OIC and the Estate regardless of positions later taken by the RBLLC Trustee. It is undeniable that RBLLC/DMYL provided services that, along with the services of others, eventually led to the confirmed Plan. The RBLLC Trustee is not an agent of RBLLC but is the representative of the RBLLC estate under 11 U.S.C. §323. Later actions taken by the RBLLC Trustee cannot offset the substantial benefit to the Mortgages Ltd. Estate provided by RBLLC/DMYL.

In that same regard, the payment of the fees for the OIC and the VTL were directly 14 contrary to RBLLC's interest. These parties were not direct creditors of the Debtor and 15 refused to subordinate their interests in the Debtor's loans for the benefit of the bankruptcy 16 estate and the creditors. Instead, they placed that entire burden of financing the Estate on 17 RBLLC. Proposing the payment of these professionals in the Plan Outline and DMYL Plan 18 provides significant benefit to those respective parties. These benefits, along with the 19 benefit of funding the Plan through the Exit Financing, provided benefit to the Estate of 20millions of dollars, which greatly exceeded administrative costs incurred based on the 21 actions of RBLLC Trustee. 22

Further, the Liquidating Trust would not exist today but for the terms of the DMYL 23 Plan. Its professionals would have no source of payment for their fees. Under the 24 25 Confirmed Plan, the Loan LLC's were pledged as collateral for the Exit Financing that 26 provided funding for the Liquidating Trust. RBLLC has again subordinated its secured 27 claims [now membership interests] for \$20,000,000.00 to pay professionals and operate 28 ML Manager and the Liquidating Trust. It is offensive to suggest that the 900 participants

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of RBLLC should be further subordinated by denying its professionals compensation from the very funds established to pay for all such claims, while the counsel for various Investor Committees were paid from those same funds.

Even factoring in the objections by the RBLLC Trustee, DMYL/RBLLC's efforts in formulating and working on a consensual plan, along with the benefit of funding the Plan through the Exit Financing (as well as funding the operations of the Debtor) provided benefit to the Estate of millions of dollars, which greatly exceeded the minimal administrative costs incurred due to the actions of RBLLC Trustee and the entire Substantial Contribution Claim.

The benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's efforts toward the plan of reorganization confirmed in this case is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate of \$118,810 based on this benefit. Additionally, pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to "payment of reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL.

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C. <u>Benefit Provided Through Settlement Objections and Negotiations</u>

The final activity included in the Substantial Contribution Claim is for RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in connection with negotiations and settlements with the Debtor's borrowers. The services provided in connection with borrower settlements both assisted with the reorganization process and preserved assets of the Estate for the benefit of all creditors. See JTS ¶ 82; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 12.

Throughout the case, the Debtor's new management and counsel negotiated numerous settlements with borrowers without any consultation of the real parties in interest, RBLLC and the Investors. Many of the settlements would have significantly impaired the value of the interest in the ML Loans. That resulted in numerous motions to approve settlements that required objections and significant efforts to address the

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 31 of 83 respective issues of a given borrower, the collateral and impact of the proposed resolution. The objections to the Debtor's proposed settlements had reached the point that extensive discovery was scheduled (32 depositions and document production). See DE 558; DE 559; DE 560; DE 561; DE 565; DE 569; DE 570; DE 685.

In an effort to resolve these ongoing disputes and bring the real parties in interest into the initial settlement discussions, just two days after filing the joint motion opposing an extension of exclusivity on September 29, 2008, RBLLC/DMYL scheduled a meeting on October 2, 2008 with the Debtor, its Board Members and the OIC to discuss a protocol for decision-making. As a result of a lengthy meeting, a Letter Agreement was prepared by DMYL whereby the Debtor, RBLLC and OIC agreed to coordinate all future settlements and minimize the need for future objections to settlements by requiring that RBLLC and the OIC had to approve any 9019 motions filed by the Debtor. See Letter Agreement dated October 1, 2008 attached as <u>Exhibit 3</u>, and filed at DE 685-1.

As identified in **Exhibit 3**, the Letter Agreement addressed settlements on loans for 15 almost one-half of the entire ML Loan Portfolio. The Letter Agreement was intended to 16 reduce additional administrative expenses that would have been incurred by the Estate 17 and allow the parties to concentrate on a consensual plan of reorganization. See DE 685. 18 DMYL circulated the Plan Outline just one week later. See SJTS ¶ 2. It is plain from the 19 Letter Agreement that RBLLC/DMYL was significantly involved in the most important 20settlements being proposed by the Debtor and was the only true creditor watching out for 21 the interests of the Estate in that process. 22

In some instances, modifications to proposed settlements were able to be negotiated that lessened the impact of the Debtor's attempt to give away assets of the Estate. One example of this was on the Rightpath loans. The settlement proposed by the Debtor involved a significant modification of those loans to the detriment of the Estate. Both RBLLC/DMYL and the OIC met with Rightpath and DMYL was an integral part of achieving the eventual settlement that was approved, DE 912. Under the proposed

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 32 of 83 Settlement Agreement that Debtor had signed with the Rightpath parties (DE 560, Exhibit A), the Debtor obligated the Estate to fund additional loans of \$14 million and \$10 million respectively as well as subordinate the existing loans to other financing. As a result of RBLLC/DMYL's efforts along with the OIC, the subordination obligation was limited and Rightpath agreed that the Debtor's failure to fund future loans would not be an offset against Rightpath's obligation to pay its current loans of \$108 million. The benefits achieved by these efforts alone exceed the amount requested. See DE 560 and exhibits thereto; DE 724; DE 912.

In other instances, the Debtor did not pursue final court approval for unfavorable 10 settlements due to RBLLC/DMYL's actions, in conjunction with the OIC and other estate professionals. For example, after RBLLC/DMYL's objections, the Debtor abandoned its efforts to get approval of an unfavorable settlement with Tempe Land Company that would have given away assets of the Estate, including a proposed release of \$38,500,000 in principal, a proposed 42 month extension of the maturity date with no payments and no accrual of interest, a proposed release of a lien on 2.76 acres of excess land in downtown 16 Tempe valued at more than \$10 million dollars, and a subordination of the first lien on the remainder of the property to a \$75,000,000 lien, as well as a release of all guarantors. See JTS ¶ 85; DE 561.

RBLLC/DMYL substantially contributed to this process for the benefit of the Estate 20and is entitled to compensation for its efforts. RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for 21 resolving claims of borrowers provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess 22 of any benefit provided to RBLLC. For RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in resolving borrower 23 claims, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an amount 24 measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred. RBLLC has 25 26 met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated on services 27 provided in connection with borrower settlements of \$97,882.50. The claim amount 28 requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by RBLLC.

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Although the Liquidating Trustee argues that such efforts were duplicative with Estate professionals, RBLLC/DMYL focused on the loans with the most significant effect on the Estate, and coordinated objections to unsatisfactory settlements with the OIC. As stipulated, no fewer than eight professionals in the Debtor's bankruptcy also sought compensation for their work negotiating with the Debtor's borrowers, but that included approximately 50 different borrowers. See JTS ¶ 83. Further, the Debtor and its professionals actually proposed the settlements that would significantly impair the ML Loan Portfolio; accordingly their efforts were not duplicative of RBLLC/DMYL's work in objecting to the significant impairment. The OIC objected to settlements on the basis that the Investors interests were not property of the Estate- an entirely different basis from RBLLC. No other creditor or its professionals took steps to protect assets of the Estate that duplicated RBLLC/DMYL's efforts.

In contrast, as evidenced by the Letter Agreement, RBLLC/DMYL's efforts focused on the largest ML Loans, with a total outstanding principal amount of almost \$443 million. The services provided by DMYL in connection with settlements were also necessary to move the reorganization process forward and to preserve assets of the Estate. These services benefitted all creditors of the Estate, and also reduced unnecessary 18 administrative expenses. RBLLC/DMYL's contributions toward resolution of borrower 19 claims could not be duplicated by the Debtor, the OIC and VTLC because RBLLC was the 20only party with a significant economic stake aligned with the interests of the Estate. See 21 JTS ¶¶ 9, 17; DE 685 & Ex. 3; Freeman Declaration, ¶ 12; Plan. 22

The benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's efforts in achieving a reasonable resolution of 23 borrower claims in this case is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts 24 conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, 25 26 RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate of \$97,882.50 27 based on this benefit. Additionally, pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, 28

Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 RBLLC is entitled to "payment of reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL.

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Equity Compels Payment of Substantial Contribution Claim

Unlike any other party to this case, RBLLC/DMYL deferred its own interests for the benefit of all creditors, the Investors and the professionals for the Debtor and all committees. No other party contributed any funds to the Debtor and the Investors specifically objected to use of their funds and sought and obtained an order from this Court that interest payments were to be turned over to Investors. The 900 participants in RBLLC did not receive almost \$24 million in interest payments during this case. However, RBLLC's collateral was used to operate the Debtor during the entire post-petition period and its interest in the Loan LLC's have been pledged to pay all other professionals in this case and finance post-confirmation expenses.

The only clear and direct benefit that RBLLC received during this case was a \$50,000 adequate protection payment. Any other benefit it may have received was only incidental and such benefit was received by all creditors in the Estate. The Liquidating Trust is trying to prevent RBLLC from being paid from a loan secured by its own collateral to recover a portion of its expenses. To now deny this Application would effectively subordinate RBLLC/DMYL once again to the interests of the other professionals and other parties receiving the benefit of the use of their cash collateral. *See* JTS ¶¶ 7 & 55-60.

It is undisputed that RBLLC has no other source of payment for DMYL's attorneys 21 fees (JTS, ¶ 6). If DMYL does not receive compensation from the Mortgages Ltd. Estate, 22 the only source of payment will be plan distributions to RBLLC, which will only occur after 23 repayment of the Exit Financing. See JTS ¶¶ 25 & 56-57. In contrast, the Investors have 24 had \$2.2 million in their attorneys fees and expenses paid from the Estate to take positions 25 26 contrary to the interests of the Estate. The attorneys for the Liquidating Trust are being 27 compensated from the Exit Financing borrowed from RBLLC's interest in the Loan LLC's. 28 RBLLC/DMYL (and its 900 participants) should not be subordinated yet again by denying

payment of its professionals, particularly after it has funded millions of dollars for payment
 of the other professionals in this case.

Based on the terms of the Plan that provides that the only source of payment will be plan distributions which will only occur after repayment of the Exit Financing, RBLLC is further entitled to its requested award for substantial contribution as a general matter of equity so that RBLLC's 900 participants are not subordinated again for the benefit of the Investors and other creditors of the Estate.

IV. <u>Reasonable Compensation is Sought for Benefits to the Estate</u>

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A. <u>Compensation is Limited to Services Benefitting the Estate</u>

Pursuant to section 503(b)(4), based upon the substantial contribution provided by RBLLC, it is entitled to an award of the amounts sought as reasonable compensation for professional services rendered by DMYL on behalf of RBLLC. As of the filing of the Application, approximately \$1,000,000 of services were provided by DMYL as attorneys to RBLLC, from the beginning of this case in June, 2008 through December 31, 2008. No part of the Substantial Contribution Claim involves professional services for RBLLC after December 31, 2008, in connection with this case. DMYL has been paid \$108,000 for the services provided to RBLLC to date. See JTS ¶¶ 22-24.

Services provided only for RBLLC's separate benefit in 2008 are not included in the services supporting the calculation of the amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim, as described in Mr. Freeman's Declaration supporting the Application. Recovery of slightly over fifty percent of the attorneys fees for services provided by DMYL are requested. No services provided in 2009 are included, as evidenced by the detailed time entries supporting the Application. RBLLC is only seeking recovery for fees that did indeed foster reorganization.

The Application sets forth in detail that the "lodestar" approach, which has been approved by the United States Supreme Court as the primary basis for evaluating compensation requests, applies to the determination of reasonableness of DMYL's services. As described therein, the professionals' invoices and pre-bills, on which the

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 36 of 83 amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim was calculated, were redacted to exclude services that were performed solely for RBLLC's benefit. See DE 1888, pp. 10-11.

3 The Liquidating Trust did not object to the reasonableness of any of DMYL's time 4 entries evidencing attorneys fees incurred by RBLLC and did not provide any evidence 5 that any of the tasks were not reasonable. The Application is supported by Counsel's 6 declaration who was specifically responsible for the representation of RBLLC. That 7 Declaration provides: (1) the requested compensation was limited to the three principal 8 activities for additional benefits provided by DMYL services on which the Substantial 9 Contribution Claim was based, and that those services conferred a substantial benefit on 10 the Estate; (2) the detailed time entries provided were based upon billings to RBLLC that were redacted to exclude legal services provided for the benefit of only RBLLC; (3) those 12 detailed time entries were reviewed and the nature of the services provided required 13 complex and sophisticated legal analysis involving bankruptcy and lending, the 14 professional services provided were performed by attorneys and paraprofessionals with 15 the requisite expertise and skill in the areas in which they rendered services, and were 16 actual and necessary; and (4) based on experience for billings in bankruptcy cases, and 17 knowledge of the fees and charges customarily charged by attorneys in this community, 18 the requested fees are reasonable in light of the compensation paid for comparable 19 services in reorganization cases, and consistent with the cost of other comparable 20services in Arizona. See JTS ¶¶ 22-25; Freeman Declaration, ¶¶ 2-8; 14-17.

The total amount of administrative claims sought on behalf of the Debtor's 22 professionals exceeded \$9 million and the total administrative expenses paid or requested 23 to be paid in this case (including substantial contribution claims) total in excess of \$13 24 million. The amount of such administrative claims, by professional, versus the amount 25 26 sought in the Substantial Contribution Claim is illustrated in Exhibit 4 hereto. See JTS ¶ 27 30; DE 1800; DE 1810; DE 1814; DE 1823; DE 1836; DE 1838 (& DE 1974); DE 1868; DE 28

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1871; DE 1873; DE 1874; DE 1875; DE 1876; DE 1879; DE 1880; DE 1883; DE 1885; DE 1886; DE 1887; DE 1889; DE 1894; DE 1900; DE 1904; DE 1953; DE 1993.

3 RBLLC is entitled to an award of the Substantial Contribution Claim under section 4 503(b)(4).

B. Fees Incurred In Connection With Application Are Recoverable

Fees and costs incurred in preparing and litigating RBLLC's Application are also recoverable in connection with the Substantial Contribution Claim. In North Sports, Inc. v. Knupfer (In re Wind N' Wave), 509 F.3d 938, 943-944 (9th Cir. 2007), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that where a creditor receives attorney's fees under Section 503(b)(4), the time and expenses devoted to securing the attorney's fee award are also compensable. The decision relied upon Ninth Circuit precedent, including In re Nucorp Energy, 764 F.2d 655, 657 (9th Cir.1985). See also In re Catalina Spa & R.V. Resort, Ltd., 97 B.R. 13, 21 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1989) ("As an attorney seeking fees under § 503(b) must apply to the court in the same manner as an attorney under § 330, this court cannot reasonably justify a different treatment for purposes of compensation for fee applications"). RBLLC/DMYL requests the authorization to supplement the amount of fees incurred upon this Court's entry of its findings supporting the determination that RBLLC provided a substantial contribution in this case.

V. 20

Conclusion and Requested Relief

For all of the foregoing reasons, RBLLC requests that this Court enter the proposed 21 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Amended Order Granting Radical Bunny's 22 Administrative Claim for Substantial Contribution in the form attached as Exhibit 1. 23 RBLLC also requests that the Court direction a distribution from the escrow account 24 established on this matter for the Substantial Contribution Claim and all accrued amounts 25 26 thereon as well as authorize the filing of a fee application by RBLLC/DMYL. RBLLC 27 further requests such additional and other relief as is just and proper under the 28 circumstances of this Chapter 11 case.

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1	DATED this 18 th day of October, 2010.
2	DECONCINI MCDONALD YETWIN & LACY, P.C.
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5	BY <u>/S/ SHELTON L. FREEMAN</u> Shelton L. Freeman
6	Counsel to Radical Bunny, L.L.C. and Special Counsel to G. Grant Lyon, Chapter
7	11 Trustee of Radical Bunny, L.L.C.
8	
9	COPY sent via the U.S. Bankruptcy Court's ECF noticing system this
10	18th day of October, 2010.
11	COPY served via electronic mail this
12	18th day of October, 2010, to:
12	Sharon B. Shively, Esq.
	Sacks Tierney P.A. sharon.shively@sackstierney.com
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24	of Radical Bunny, LLC
25	William Scott Jenkins, Esq.
26	Myers & Jenkins, P.C. wsj@mjlegal.com
27	Attorneys for ML Liquidating Trust
28	By <u>/s/ Kara Gibson Schrader</u>
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EXHIBIT 1

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1	SHELTON L. FREEMAN (AZ #009687)								
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6 7	Counsel to Radical Bunny, L.L.C. and Special Counsel to G. Grant Lyon, C Trustee of Radical Bunny, L.L.C.	hapter 11							
8	IN THE UNITED STAT	TES BANKRUPTCY COURT							
9	FOR THE DIS	TRICT OF ARIZONA							
10	In re:	Chapter 11							
11	MORTGAGES LTD.,	Case No. 2:08-bk-07465-RJH							
12		FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS							
13		OF LAW							
14	Debtor.	AND							
15 16		AMENDED ORDER GRANTING RADICAL							
17		BUNNY'S ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM FOR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION							
18									
19	Creditor RADICAL BUNNY, L.L.C.	("RBLLC"), seeks an award of \$595,798.25 for a							
20	substantial contribution administrative cla	im ("Substantial Contribution Claim") pursuant to							
21	Bankruptcy Code § 502(b)(3)(D). RBLL	C incurred expenses in providing a substantial							
22	contribution to the bankruptcy estate ("	Estate") in this case. The claim sought as an							
23	administrative expense is calculated on	the basis of professional services provided by							
24	DMYL on behalf of RBLLC (hereinafter, "I	RBLLC/DMYL"), in the amount of \$572,945.50 in							
25	attorneys' fees, and \$22,852.75 in costs,	and is further requested pursuant to Bankruptcy							
26	Code § 503(b)(4). The Liquidating Trust a	and others objected.							
27	These detailed Findings of Fact a	nd Conclusions of Law are entered on remand							
28	from the United States Bankruptcy Panel	of the Ninth Circuit.							
	U:\SLF\280685\Mortgages. Ltd BK Docs\Radical Bunny Pleadi	ngs\Sub Contrib Claim\Exhibit.FOF.COL.4.Subst.Contr.05.doc							

Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 41 of 83 1 This Court has considered the memoranda filed in support of the Application and in 2 support of objections to the Application and the following evidence:

(1) a "Joint Statement of Material Facts of Radical Bunny and Liquidating Trust for Application Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) and (4) for Allowance and Payment of Administrative Claim of Creditor Radical Bunny", DE 2395 ("JTS");

(2)a "Supplement to Joint Statement of Material Facts of Radical Bunny and Liquidating Trust for Application Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(3)(D) and (4) for Allowance and Payment of Administrative Claim of Creditor Radical Bunny", DE 2407 ("SJTS"); and

(3)the evidence supporting RBLLC's Application, including the docket entries cited in the JTS, SJTS and RBLLC's filings in support of the Application and the record in 12 this Chapter 11 proceeding.

FINDINGS OF FACT I.

Based on the foregoing, this Court's experience in the conduct of this case and the 15 negotiation and ultimate confirmation of the plan of reorganization ("Plan") in this case, 16 and the entire record of this case, this Court finds as follows: 17

> Α. General Findings of Fact

1. Mortgages Ltd. ("Mortgages Ltd." or "Debtor") was a private lender that made 19 loans secured by real estate located in Arizona. Real estate loans advanced by Mortgages 20 Ltd. are referred to herein as the "ML Loans". See JTS ¶ 1; DE 20, ¶ 5; DE 315, ¶ 4. 21

2. Prior to taking his own life on June 2, 2008, Scott M. Coles was the chairman 22 and Chief Executive Officer of Mortgages Ltd., and served in those roles since November, 23 1992. A trust created by Mr. Coles was the sole shareholder of Mortgages Ltd., an 24 25 Arizona corporation. See JTS ¶ 2; DE 20, ¶ 11; DE 315, ¶ 10.

3. 26 On Friday June 20, 2008, an involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition was 27 filed against Mortgages Ltd. by two of its borrowers and a contractor. On Tuesday June 28

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24, 2008 ("Filing Date"), the involuntary case was converted to a Chapter 11 case when an order for relief was entered. See JTS ¶ 3; DE 1; DE 36.

4. This is an unusual Chapter 11 bankruptcy case because the Debtor, Mortgages Ltd., was itself a mortgage lender, and because this case was prompted by the suicide of Scott M. Coles, the owner and long-time manager of Mortgages Ltd. As of the Filing Date, the Debtor had advanced approximately \$894 Million of ML Loans. See JTS ¶ 17; DE 315, ¶ 5.

5. The most significant asset in the Estate was the Debtor's retained interest in 9 about \$162 Million of the ML Loans. The value of this asset of the Estate depended on 10 securing recovery from the Debtor's borrowers and the related real property collateral securing the ML Loans. See JTS ¶ 12; DE 198, p. 4; DE 1298, Ex. B. 12

6. This case was also unusual because the Debtor owned only a fractional 13 interest in the ML Loans, with more than 80% of the fractional interests in the ML Loans actually being owned by approximately 2,700 investors ("Investors"), and managed by the Debtor. See JTS ¶ 17; DE 315, ¶ 5; DE 1298, Ex. B.

7. RBLLC was the largest creditor and the only major secured creditor of 17 Mortgages Ltd. at the inception of this case and during the proceedings. The Debtor 18 admitted that the almost \$200 million in outstanding loans had been advanced by RBLLC 19 to Mortgages Ltd., and those loans were liquidated and undisputed and were not 20contingent. RBLLC filed a secured proof of claim in this case, with evidence of a perfected 21 security interest in the Debtor's assets, including the Debtor's retained interest in about 22 \$162 Million of the ML Loans, as reflected in UCC financing statements attached to 23 RBLLC's proof of claim. RBLLC had a substantial basis to claim its secured status. See 24 JTS ¶¶ 5-14; RBLLC's Proof of Claim No. 33, as amended, including the Declaration and 25 26 other attachments thereto ("RBLLC POC No. 33"); DE 198, pp. 4, 11; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 27 1298, Ex. B.

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8. RBLLC was formed to make loans to Mortgages Ltd. using funds from 2 various individuals seeking a favorable rate of return. More than 900 loan participants 3 provided funds to RBLLC that were loaned to Mortgages Ltd. Mortgages Ltd. then used 4 funds advanced by RBLLC to make ML Loans. RBLLC's sole source of income was from loan payments made by Mortgages Ltd. Prior to the death of Scott Coles, Mortgages Ltd. 6 had been paying RBLLC more than \$2 million dollars a month in non-default interest payments. Mortgages Ltd. defaulted on its obligations to RBLLC shortly before the Filing Date. See JTS ¶¶ 4-12; RBLLC POC No. 33.

9. In addition to using funds loaned by RBLLC to make loans secured by 10 Arizona real estate, Mortgages Ltd. used money raised from the Investors. The Investors included (1) Investors who held a direct fractional or participating interest in the ML Loans ("Pass-Through Investors"); and (2) Investors who purchased and own membership 13 interests in limited liability companies ("MP Funds") controlled by Mortgages Ltd., as Manager. As of the Filing Date, the Investors and MP Funds owned approximately \$732. million of the approximately \$894 million dollars of outstanding ML Loans. The Debtor also held an interest in several MP Funds. See JTS ¶¶ 15-20; DE 20, ¶¶ 6-9, DE 198, pp. 4-5 & 11; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 315, ¶¶ 5-8; DE 1298, Ex. B; Plan.

10. In addition to RBLLC's loans to Mortgages Ltd. evidenced by RBLLC POC 19 No. 33, RBLLC also held \$3,748,000 in direct pass-through investments in two loans 20made by Mortgages Ltd. See JTS ¶ 18; RBLLC POC No. 1005; DE 1298, Ex. B. 21

11. Since the Debtor stopped making interest payments to RBLLC and did not 22 repay matured loans, RBLLC had no source of income after June 2008. On October 8, 23 2008, certain RBLLC loan participants filed an involuntary bankruptcy petition against 24 RBLLC under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, Case No. 2-08-bk-13884-CGC ("RBLLC 25 26 Case"), which was converted to a Chapter 11. RBLLC was authorized to employ DMYL to 27 serve as special counsel to represent RBLLC on specific matters, including representation 28 in this case. Pursuant to a stipulation, at the end of December, 2008, G. Grant Lyon

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("RBLLC Trustee") was appointed as Chapter 11 Trustee in the RBLLC Case. As of that
 date, RBLLC Trustee became the representative of RBLLC's bankruptcy estate under 11
 U.S.C. § 323(a), and RBLLC no longer had authority to act as debtor-in-possession of the
 estate. RBLLC Trustee retained separate counsel to represent the RBLLC Trustee in this
 case. See JTS ¶¶ 42-43.

12. The Investors asserted that their loan interests were not part of the Estate of the Debtor. Two committees were appointed to represent the interests of the Investors in this case: (1) the Official Committee of Investors ("OIC") and (2) the Committee of Investors in the Value-To-Loan Opportunity Fund I L.L.C. ("VTLC"). <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 27; DE 258; DE 310; DE 352; DE 577.

13. An Official Unsecured Creditors Committee ("OCC") was appointed to represent general unsecured creditors, who held about \$4 Million in unsecured debt, about 2% of undisputed claims. <u>See</u> DE 129; DE 225; DE 1531, p. 19.

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B. <u>RBLLC's Financial Benefit to the Estate for Operation of the Debtor</u>

14. RBLLC was the only creditor to subordinate its own interests to allow the 16 Debtor to use more than \$3,000,000 of RBLLC's cash collateral to fund the Debtor's 17 operations, which benefitted the Estate. RBLLC benefitted the Estate by no less than 18 \$3,000,000 due to this funding, which significantly preserved the value of all of the assets 19 of the Estate. If the Debtor had not continued to operate, the value of the ML Loans, 20including the Investor's fractional interests in the ML Loans, would have substantially and 21 rapidly declined in value. See JTS ¶¶ 55-60; DE 155; DE 203; DE 310, DE 458; DE 868; 22 DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595. 23

RBLLC was the only creditor to subordinate its collateral to allow the Debtor
to obtain \$5,000,000 in post-petition working capital to fund the Debtor's operations. This
financing would not have been forthcoming but for the subordination of RBLLC's priority
interest in more than \$13 Million Dollars of RBLLC's collateral, which benefitted the Estate.
RBLLC received a \$50,000 payment from this loan representing RBLLC's only payment

from the Debtor in this case from the Filing Date through the entry of the Confirmation Order. This was the only payment made to RBLLC from the Estate. RBLLC benefitted the Estate by no less than \$4,950,000 due to this funding, which significantly preserved the value of all of the assets of the Estate. See JTS ¶¶ 67-72; DE 53; DE 165; DE 197; DE 206, DE 262; DE 323; DE 459; DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595.

16. Every creditor and the Investors benefitted by RBLLC's funding of the Debtor's post-petition operations. No other Estate creditor or Investor contributed any funds for the operation of the Debtor during the pendency of this case. The Investors' interests in the ML Loans were never subordinated to operate the Debtor or preserve assets of the Estate, despite the fact that 80% of the loan portfolio managed by the Debtor was held by those Investor interests. <u>See</u> JTS ¶¶ 56, 59-60, 68-72; DE 53; DE 155; DE 203; DE 262; DE 310; DE 323; DE 458; DE 459; DE 868; DE 919; DE 933; DE 1075; DE 1229; DE 1296; DE 1375; DE 1500; DE 1595; RBLLC POC No. 33.

17. The Debtor did not pay RBLLC more than \$23 million dollars in non-default interest payments due RBLLC from June, 2008 through entry of the order confirming the plan of reorganization in this Case ("Confirmation Order") on May 20, 2009. In contrast, the Investors did not allow interest payments on their pass-through investments to be used to fund operations of the Debtor. Instead the Investors demanded, and were granted the right to receive interest from the ML Loans in which they held an interest from the Filing Date. See JTS ¶¶ 6-7, 59; DE 310; DE 458; DE 1011.

18. RBLLC subordinated its first priority security interest in the Debtor's interest
in more than \$94 million in the Centerpoint ML Loans to provide collateral for a \$2,800,000
interim loan that the Debtor represented was essential for preservation of the Centerpoint
property. In contrast, none of the Investors' interests in Centerpoint were subordinated.
This benefitted the Estate by at least \$2,800,000, based on the representations of the

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Debtor regarding the damage to the Centerpoint property if that interim loan was not made. See JTS ¶¶ 76-78; DE 293-2, Ex. B; DE 376, Exs. A & B; DE 408; DE 1298, Ex. B.

19. RBLLC pledged its interest in ML Loans, under the Plan, to secure \$20 Million in exit financing ("Exit Financing") that is the source of payment of all postconfirmation expenses, including final applications of administrative claimants, under the confirmed Plan. Without the pledge of RBLLC's interests in the ML Loans, that Exit Financing would not have been available without a ruling that RBLLC was unsecured. Based on its proportionate share of the ML Loans, this provided at least \$4,000,000 in benefit, in addition to other collateral under RBLLC's proof of claim which was released under the terms of the Plan to fund the Liquidating Trust. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 41; Plan; RBLLC POC No. 33.

20. Based on the record of this case, RBLLC's financial contributions to the 13 Estate provided no less than \$14,750,000 in benefit to the Estate. RBLLC did not receive 14 any preferred treatment under the Plan based on RBLLC's existing rights prior to the Filing 15 Date. RBLLC would have been entitled to the same treatment under the Plan without 16 providing \$14,750,000 in benefit to the Estate. RBLLC did not receive any additional 17 financial benefit under the Plan based on RBLLC's funding of the entire reorganization of 18 the Debtor. The benefit to the Estate from RBLLC's contributing \$14,750,000 to the Estate 19 substantially exceeded the benefit to RBLLC from making those financial contributions. 20Additionally, RBLLC's contributions provided substantial benefit to the Investors, who did 21 not bear the ongoing costs of the reorganization of the Debtor, but who benefitted from 22 those operations and whose professionals were paid from the Estate. 23

24 21. The requested amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim (\$595,798.25) is
25 just four percent (4.0%) of the \$14,750,000 in benefit that RBLLC provided to the Estate.
26 It is reasonable for RBLLC to seek the Substantial Contribution Claim in an amount
27 measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred (excluding
28 attorneys fees and costs incurred only for the benefit of RBLLC). On the foregoing facts

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Desc Main Document Page 47 of 83 alone, RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the entire Substantial Contribution Claim. The Substantial Contribution Claim is reasonable and is substantially less than the financial benefits provided by RBLLC to the Estate.

22. The Liquidating Trust has claimed that the Estate incurred costs due to legal positions taken later in this case by the RBLLC Trustee. RBLLC provided evidence from the applications for attorneys fees filed by the OIC and the Debtor that such cost was approximately \$70,300. <u>See</u> DE 2088, pp. 7-9. Even if the \$14,750,000 in benefit is reduced by \$70,300, RBLLC would still have provided \$14,679,700 in benefit. The requested amount of the Substantial Contribution Claim (\$595,798.25) is still about four percent (4.0%) of that \$14,679,700 amount. The costs imposed in this case on the Estate by the RBLLC Trustee does not affect RBLLC's right to recover the entire Substantial Contribution Claim.

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Benefit Provided by RBLLC and Its Counsel to the Estate for Preserving Assets of the Estate

23. In addition to RBLLC's significant direct financial benefits, RBLLC/DMYL provided substantial benefits to the Estate based upon services provided for the benefit of all creditors of the Estate. RBLLC/DMYL took positions that benefitted all creditors in preserving assets of the Estate.

19 24. During the gap period, the Debtor obtained a \$500,000 loan from Southwest 20 Value Partners Fund XIV, LP ("Gap Lender"), due and payable on July 23, 2008. (DE 165, 21 (6). Prior to the appointment of any committees in this case, on June 27, 2008, the Debtor 22 sought approval for a \$5,000,000 working capital loan tied to an additional \$120,000,000 23 construction loan from the Gap Lender. (DE 53). By July 14, 2008, further disclosures 24 revealed that the requested construction loan had increased to \$124,100,000, and the scope 25 of the required security for the loans had expanded to all assets of the Debtor. (DE 165). 26Interest and points on the working capital loan were fifteen percent (15%). The proposed 27 working capital loan would mature on October 31, 2008, if the construction loan was not 28

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entere Main Document Page 48 of 83 timely approved by the bankruptcy court. Half of the proceeds from the working capital loan would not be used for the operation of the Debtor, but would repay the GAP Loan and another loan to the Debtor. These loans were to be secured by a super-priority lien on all assets of Debtor, subject only to valid, perfected, enforceable and nonavoidable liens and security interests existing as of the Filing Date. See JTS [61.

25. RBLLC/DMYL, along with other creditors and individual investors (including an "unofficial" committee of investors), objected to the Debtor's attempt to encumber virtually all assets of its Estate, and raised objections on behalf of all the creditors of the Debtor's Estate as to whether the proposed financing would benefit the Estate. See JTS ¶¶ 62-64; DE 53; DE 75; DE 79; DE 165; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶ 11.

26. RBLLC/DMYL also identified alternative providers of post-petition financing on more favorable terms, and urged the Debtor to consider other financing alternatives. RBLLC/DMYL located a lender willing to provide funding without requiring a lien on all assets of the Estate, and that lender appeared, with a check, at an early financing hearing. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 63; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶ 11.

27. By July 18, 2008, due in part to the strenuous objections of RBLLC, the Debtor 17 withdrew the requested Gap Lender DIP financing. By that time, the interest of other lenders 18 in competing to provide financing was evident, and all hearings on the requested financing 19 were vacated on July 21, 2008 to allow the Debtor to consider financing alternatives. See 20JTS ¶ 64; DE 197; DE 206. 21

28. On August 1, 2008, the Debtor again sought a hearing on emergency 22 financing, but the proposed terms were limited to a \$5,000,000 initial DIP loan, which no 23 longer included a lien on all estate assets. The interest rate (and points) for that loan were 24 reduced to 13%, and the new loan terms were for a one year maturity date that would not be 25 26 accelerated if construction financing was not approved. See JTS ¶ 67; DE 53; DE 165; DE 27 197; DE 206; DE 262; DE 459.

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DECONCINI MCDONALD YETWIN & LACY, P.C. 6909 East Main Street Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

1 29. RBLLC/DMYL's efforts provided incalculable benefit, by ensuring that the 2 interests of the Estate were protected from financing that could have removed all value 3 from the Estate. If the initial proposed financing had been approved, the Estate could 4 have incurred up to \$124,100,000 in debt that would have primed payment of all claims of 5 the Estate due to the preferred returns that would be paid to the Gap Lender. For the 6 construction loan, the Gap Lender would be guaranteed interest plus excessive preferred 7 returns; the Gap Lender would have been repaid before the Debtor's creditors received one 8 dime. Instead, the Debtor used RBLLC's cash collateral and incurred only \$5,000,000 in 9 working capital to fund the Debtor's operations, subordinating only RBLLC's collateral 10 interest. RBLLC's efforts provided as much as \$119,100,000 in benefit to the Estate, and 11 the benefit to the Estate from RBLLC/DMYL's actions exceeded the benefit to RBLLC. See 12 JTS ¶¶ 74-75; DE 53; DE 75; DE 165; Plan. 13

30. This key benefit provided by RBLLC occurred prior to official committee
appearances. On August 5, 2008, counsel for the OIC filed a notice of appearance, DE 290.
On August 6, 2008, counsel for the OCC filed a notice of appearance, DE 313. Thus, this
benefit was not duplicative with other Estate professionals.

After the appointment of the OIC and the OCC, RBLLC/DMYL continued to
work with those Committees to prevent the Debtor from entering into financing that was
unreasonably burdensome to RBLLC and the other creditors of the Debtor's Estate.
RBLLC objected on behalf of all creditors of the Estate and reduced the expenses of the
Estate by providing detailed objections. For example, RBLLC filed a 12 page objection to
unacceptable DIP financing terms in DE 376. The OCC filed a 2 page objection joining in
filed objections, DE 380.

32. DMYL's services were necessary for RBLLC to subordinate RBLLC's
 collateral interest in certain ML Loans to provide a \$500,000 Interim Working Capital DIP
 Loan to fund the Debtor's operations (subject to use of RBLLC's cash collateral, as

available). No other creditors' lien or security interest was subordinated for the Interim Working Capital DIP Loan. See JTS ¶¶ 68-69; DE 323.

33. DMYL's services also were provided in connection with RBLLC's subordination of RBLLC's collateral interest in certain ML Loans for the \$5,000,000 Final
 Working Capital DIP Loan to fund the Debtor's operations. No other creditors' lien or security interest was subordinated for the Final Working Capital DIP Loan. See JTS ¶¶ 70-72; DE 459.

34. RBLLC helped structure agreements on financing, cash collateral, and the Plan that ensured the cash flow to allow the Debtor to continue operations. DMYL and the counsel for the OIC divided work based upon strength and resources in dealing with these financing issues. This division of labor was particularly effective given the repeated "emergency" filings by the Debtor which required extensive analysis and short deadlines for objections. See JTS ¶ 53.

35. RBLLC's primary attorney, Shelton L. Freeman, was routinely requested to
 participate in meetings with the OIC, which sometimes requested that RBLLC lead the
 charge on issues that would have adversely affected the Estate if the Debtor's acts went
 unchallenged. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 54.

36. RBLLC/DMYL objected to initial proposals for post-petition financing related
to the Tempe Land Company's Centerpoint that would have been unreasonably
burdensome to RBLLC and other creditors of the Estate. Up to \$75,000,000 of the
proposed construction loan from the Gap Lender was to be used for Tempe Land Company's
Centerpoint project. See JTS ¶¶ 74-75; DE 53; DE 75.

37. RBLLC also objected on behalf of all creditors of the Estate and reduced the
expenses of the Estate by providing detailed objections to Centerpoint financing requests.
For example, RBLLC filed detailed objections to Centerpoint DIP financing, DE 435, 987
and 1008. The OCC filed a one page objection joining in RBLLC's objections, DE 975. In
contrast to RBLLC's efforts on behalf of the Estate, the OIC filed a detailed objection of

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reasons that ML could not pledge or subordinate the Investors' interest in the Centerpoint loans, DE 984.

3 38. DMYL's services were necessary for RBLLC to subordinate RBLLC's first 4 priority security interest in the Centerpoint ML Loans as collateral for a \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of Centerpoint. None of the Investors' interest in the Centerpoint 6 Loans was subordinated to the \$2,800,000 interim loan for preservation of Centerpoint. See JTS ¶¶ 77-78; DE 483.

39. DMYL's services also include those incurred in the preservation of funds 9 wrongfully disbursed to an affiliate of Tempe Land Company. RBLLC was the first creditor 10 to: (1) raise concerns about the improper use of proceeds of the initial \$2,800,000 interim loan to Tempe Land Company and the Debtor's failure to properly monitor such funding 12 and (2) request replacement of the improperly used funds. Although the Debtor never 13 recovered \$568,706 in funds wrongfully disbursed to an affiliate of Tempe Land Company, 14 RBLLC/DMYL's actions ensured that the Debtor did not continue to advance funds to 15 Tempe Land Company that were not used to preserve the Debtor's collateral, again 16 ensuring preservation of Estate assets and providing tangible benefit to this Estate. 17 Although the Debtor had sought a \$4,800,000 loan for Centerpoint, the Debtor never 18 sought approval for the additional \$2,000,000 after the improper use of proceeds was 19 raised. See JTS ¶¶ 79-80; DE 468; DE 1078; DE 1888, Ex. F ¶ 11. 20

40. The benefit to the Estate from RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in preserving the 21 assets of the Estate substantially exceeded the benefit to RBLLC from those efforts. 22 RBLLC/DMYL's efforts were necessary to provide: (1) \$3,000,000 in cash collateral for the 23 Debtor's operations; (2) \$5,000,000 in working capital for the Debtor's operations at more 24 favorable rates; and (3) \$2,800,000 in financing to preserves the assets of Centerpoint. 25 26 RBLLC/DMYL's efforts also ensured: (1) that the Estate was not subjected to more than 27 \$100 million in debt that could have prevented any payment to creditors of the Estate; and 28 (2) that at least \$2,000,000 in debt was never incurred for Centerpoint for improper

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purposes. RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for preserving assets of the Estate provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess of any benefit provided to RBLLC.

41. For RBLLC/DMYL's services in preserving assets of the Estate, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an amount measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred. RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated on services provided for preserving the assets of the Estate of \$356,253. The claim amount requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by RBLLC.

D. <u>Benefit Provided by RBLLC and Its Counsel to the Estate for Formulating the</u> <u>Plan and Working on a Consensual Reorganization</u>

42. For the first six months of this case, RBLLC/DMYL worked cooperatively with the OIC and numerous other constituents to formulate, draft and negotiate a plan of reorganization. See JTS ¶ 32.

¹⁵
 43. DMYL created the original outline for a plan and the major concepts in that
 ¹⁶
 ¹⁷
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 <u>See</u> SJTS ¶ 2 & Ex. A; DE 2398, Ex. 1.

18 44. DMYL prepared an initial plan of reorganization, and RBLLC/DMYL 19 considered the interests of all the creditors of the Estate in formulating that plan. DMYL 20worked with the Committees appointed in this case and the Debtor to revise that plan to 21 create a consensual, confirmable plan of reorganization. Most of the key terms that DMYL 22 worked on were decided by the end of December, 2008, and the same plan structure 23 developed by DMYL was reflected in the initial plan filed by the OIC and the amended plan 24 filed by the OIC that was confirmed. . <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 34; SJTS ¶ 3 & Ex. B; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶¶ 25 9-10; DE 1297; Plan; DE 2398, Ex. 2. 26

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to provide a feasible plan of reorganization in this case. That joint objection was also 2 joined by the OCC. RBLLC/DMYL's work to end the Debtor's period of exclusivity was necessary for the creditor constituencies to file a competing plan to reduce the Debtor's 4 mounting administrative expenses. See JTS ¶ 33; DE 572; DE 688; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶¶ 9-10.

6 46. The Debtor made no good faith effort to create a consensual plan with the 7 OIC. See DE 1937, p. 11, lines 24-25. 8

47. RBLLC/DMYL's work toward a confirmable plan of reorganization was successful because (1) RBLLC/DMYL provided the framework for the plan that was ultimately confirmed in this case; and (2) RBLLC/DMYL's draft plan included significant portions of the plan that was ultimately confirmed in this case. See JTS ¶ 34; SJTS ¶ 3 & Ex. B; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶¶ 9-10; DE 1297; Plan; DE 2398, Ex. 2.

48. Without the contribution made by DMYL to the creation, negotiation and 14 revision of the plan, the OIC and other constituents would have had to perform additional 15 work at the expense of the Debtor's Estate. Additionally, RBLLC/DMYL's contributions 16 toward a feasible plan of reorganization could not be duplicated by the Debtor, the OIC 17 and VTLC because RBLLC was the only party with a significant economic stake aligned 18 with the interests of the Estate. See JTS ¶¶ 9, 17; SJTS ¶ 3, Ex. B; DE 310; DE 2398, Ex. 19 2: Plan. 20

49. DMYL services related to the proposed plan included: (1) drafting a form 21 operating agreement necessary for the submission and ultimate implementation of the 22 plan; and (2) clarification of other asset management and financing documents essential to 23 the proposed plan. Although the OIC later proposed the plan and supporting documents 24 25 on its own (after DMYL no longer represented RBLLC in connection with the Debtors' 26 reorganization), DMYL's services still contributed to a successful reorganization in this 27 case. Even the professionals for the OIC initially made revisions to the DMYL documents 28 and prepared alternative and additional operating agreements to support the plan filed by

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the OIC, as part of actual and necessary services provided by the OIC's professionals in this case. See SJTS ¶ 4, Ex. C; DE 2398, Ex. 3; DE 1879.

3 50. After December 30, 2008, when the RBLLC Trustee was appointed, 4 RBLLC/DMYL took no further role in the plan process in this case. The RBLLC Trustee withdrew RBLLC's support for the plan RBLLC/DMYL had been working on with the OIC 6 and other creditors and investors. See JTS ¶ 45.

51. The OIC filed the revised plan that the OIC and RBLLC/DMYL had worked on in January, 2009, before the terms of financing of the plan had been finalized. See JTS ¶ 46; DE 1297.

52. On April 6, 2009, the OIC filed an amended plan that was confirmed and that amended plan included the terms of the Exit Financing. Under the Plan RBLLC pledged its interest in ML Loans to secure \$20 Million in exit financing ("Exit Financing"). Based on its proportionate share of the ML Loans, this provided at least \$4,000,000 in benefit, in 14 addition to other collateral under RBLLC's proof of claim which is released under the terms of the Plan to fund the Liquidating Trust. See Plan.

53. RBLLC/DMYL's efforts resulted in a plan that paid over \$9.5 million in 17 administrative claims in an otherwise administratively insolvent case, addressed almost a 18 billion dollars in interests in the ML Loan portfolio, and provided a priority payout to general 19 unsecured creditors. The Plan could not have been confirmed but for the support and 20 efforts of RBLLC/DMYL. See Plan; DE 2056; DE 2057; DE 2077; DE 2078; DE 2101; DE 21 2102: DE 2103: DE 2130: DE 2131: DE 2132: DE 2133: DE 2134: DE 2139: DE 2147: DE 22 2151; DE 2164; DE 2183; DE 2185; DE 2193; DE 2470; DE 2775; DE 2865. 23

54. RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for formulating and working on a plan of 24 reorganization provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess of any benefit 25 provided to RBLLC. 26

27 55. For RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in formulating and working on a plan of 28 reorganization, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an

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amount measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred.
 RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated
 on services provided in connection with the confirmed Plan of \$118,810. The claim
 amount requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by
 RBLLC.

56. The Liquidating Trust objected to RBLLC/DMYL's recovery related to the formulation of a plan of reorganization in this case because the RBLLC Trustee objected to the amended plan filed by the OIC in April, 2009, and the OIC and the Debtor incurred no more than \$70,300 in total attorney's fees in connection with the RBLLC Trustee's representation as Chapter 11 Trustee for RBLLC. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 51; DE 1810; DE 1879; DE 2088, pp. 7-9.

57. Even factoring in the objections by the RBLLC Trustee, DMYL/RBLLC's efforts in formulating and working on a consensual plan, along with the benefit of funding the Plan through the Exit Financing (as well as funding the operations of the Debtor) provided benefit to the Estate of millions of dollars, which greatly exceeded the minimal administrative costs incurred due to the actions of RBLLC Trustee and the entire Substantial Contribution Claim.

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E. <u>Benefit Provided by RBLLC and Its Counsel to the Estate in Resolving</u> Borrower Claims

58. RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in connection with borrower settlements both assisted with the reorganization process and preserved assets of the Estate for the benefit of all creditors. RBLLC/DMYL, along with the OIC and other Committees, challenged, both in court and out of court, unreasonable settlements proposed by the Debtor that would have significantly impaired the value of the Debtor's interest in the ML Loans. <u>See</u> JTS ¶¶ 82 & 84; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶ 12.

 $\begin{bmatrix} 27\\28 \end{bmatrix}$ 59. Debtor's new management and counsel negotiated numerous settlements with borrowers without any consultation of the real parties in interest, RBLLC and the

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Case 2:08-bk-07465-RJH Doc 2982 Filed 10/18/10 Entered 10/18/10 16:36:40 Main Document Page 56 of 83 Investors. Many of the settlements would have significantly impaired the value of the interest in the ML Loans. That resulted in numerous motions to approve settlements that required objections and significant efforts to address the respective issues of a given borrower, the collateral and impact of the proposed resolution. The objections to the Debtor's proposed settlements had reached the point that extensive discovery was scheduled (32 depositions and document production). <u>See</u> DE 558; DE 559; DE 560; DE 561; DE 565; DE 569; DE 570; DE 685.

60. In an effort to resolve these ongoing disputes and bring the real parties in interest into the initial settlement discussions, RBLLC/DMYL scheduled a meeting with the Debtor, its Board Members and the OIC to discuss a protocol for decision-making. As a result of a lengthy meeting, a Letter Agreement was prepared by DMYL whereby the Debtor, RBLLC and OIC agreed to coordinate future settlements and minimize the need for future objections to settlements by requiring that RBLLC and the OIC had to approve any 9019 motions filed by the Debtor. The Letter Agreement resolved the scheduled discovery, reducing administrative costs of the Estate. <u>See</u> DE 685 & Ex. 3.

RBLLC/DMYL, along with other parties compensated by the Estate, actively
 participated in settlement negotiations with the Debtor's borrowers to ensure appropriate
 resolution of their claims.

62. In some instances, modifications to proposed settlements were able to be 20negotiated that lessened the impact of the Debtor's attempt to give away assets of the 21 Estate. One example of this was on the Rightpath loans. The settlement proposed by the 22 Debtor involved a significant modification of those loans to the detriment of the Estate. 23 Both RBLLC/DMYL and the OIC met with Rightpath and DMYL was an integral part of 24 achieving the eventual settlement that was approved. The benefits achieved by these 25 26 efforts alone exceed the amount requested. See DE 560; DE 724; DE 912. Under the 27 proposed settlement Agreement that the Debtor had signed with Rightpath parties (DE 28 560, Exhibit A), the Debtor obligated the Estate to fund additional loans of \$14 million and

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\$10 million as well as subordinate the existing loans to other financing. As a result of RBLLC/DMYL's efforts along with the OIC, the subordination obligation was limited and Rightpath agreed that the Debtor's failure to fund future loans would not be an offset against Rightpath's obligation to pay its current loans of \$108 million.

63. In other instances, the Debtor did not pursue final court approval for unfavorable settlements due to RBLLC/DMYL's actions, in conjunction with the OIC and other estate professionals. For example, the Debtor did not pursue an unfavorable settlement with Tempe Land Company that would have given away assets of the Estate, including a proposed release of \$38,500,000 in principal, a proposed 42 month extension of the maturity date with no payments and no accrual of interest, a proposed release of a lien on 2.76 acres of excess land in downtown Tempe valued at more than \$10 million dollars, and a subordination of the first lien on the remainder of the property to a \$75,000,000 lien, as well as a release of all guarantors. See JTS ¶ 85; DE 561.

RBLLC's contributions to the Estate for resolving claims of borrowers
 provided millions of dollars in benefit to the Estate in excess of any benefit provided to
 RBLLC.

65. For RBLLC/DMYL's efforts in resolving borrower claims, it is reasonable for RBLLC to seek a claim for substantial contribution in an amount measured by the amount of attorneys fees and costs that RBLLC incurred. RBLLC has met its burden to establish its right to recover the requested amount calculated on services provided in connection with borrower settlements of \$97,882.50. The claim amount requested is millions of dollars less than the benefit to the Estate provided by RBLLC.

66. The Liquidating Trust objected to RBLLC/DMYL's recovery related to the resolution of borrower claims on the grounds that no fewer than eight professional's in the Debtor's bankruptcy also sought compensation for their work negotiating with the Debtor's approximately 50 different borrowers. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 83.

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67. The record in this case evidences that RBLLC/DMYL's efforts focused on the largest ML Loans, with a total outstanding principal amount of almost \$443 million. The services provided by DMYL in connection with settlements were also necessary to move the reorganization process forward and to preserve assets of the Estate. These services benefitted all creditors of the Estate, and also reduced unnecessary administrative expenses. Additionally, RBLLC/DMYL's contributions toward resolution of borrower claims could not be duplicated by the Debtor, the OIC and VTLC because RBLLC was the only party with a significant economic stake aligned with the interests of the Estate. <u>See</u> JTS ¶¶ 9, 17; DE 685 & Ex. 3; DE 1888, Ex. F, ¶ 12; Plan.

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E. <u>Reasonable Compensation is Sought for Benefits to the Estate</u>

68. As of the filing of the Application, approximately \$1,000,000 of services were provided by DMYL as attorneys to RBLLC, from the beginning of this case in June, 2008 through December 31, 2008. DMYL has been paid \$108,000 for the services provided to RBLLC to date. See JTS ¶¶ 22-24.

1669. No part of the Substantial Contribution Claim involves professional services17for RBLLC after December 31, 2008, in connection with this case. See JTS ¶ 23.

70. The Liquidating Trust did not object to the reasonableness of DMYL's time 18 entries evidencing attorneys fees incurred by RBLLC. The Application is supported by 19 Counsel's declaration who was specifically responsible for the representation of RBLLC. 20 That Declaration provides: (1) the requested compensation was limited to the three 21 principal activities for additional benefits provided by DMYL services on which the 22 Substantial Contribution Claim was based, and that those services conferred a substantial 23 benefit on the Estate; (2) the detailed time entries provided were based upon billings to 24 25 RBLLC that were redacted to exclude legal services provided for the benefit of only RBLLC; (3) those detailed time entries were reviewed and the nature of the services 26 27 provided required complex and sophisticated legal analysis involving bankruptcy and 28 lending. the professional services provided were performed by attorneys and

paraprofessionals with the requisite expertise and skill in the areas in which they rendered services, and were actual and necessary; and (4) based on experience for billings in bankruptcy cases, and knowledge of the fees and charges customarily charged by attorneys in this community, the requested fees are reasonable in light of the compensation paid for comparable services in reorganization cases, and consistent with 6 the cost of other comparable services in Arizona. See JTS ¶¶ 22-25; DE 1888, Ex. F., ¶¶ 2-8; 14-17.

71. If DMYL does not receive compensation from the Mortgages Ltd. Estate, the 9 only source of payment will be plan distributions to RBLLC, which will only occur after 10 repayment of the Exit Financing. See JTS ¶ 25. 11

72. The total amount of administrative claims sought on behalf of the Debtor's professionals exceeded \$9 million and the total administrative expenses paid or requested to be paid in this case (including substantial contribution claims) total in excess of \$13 million. <u>See</u> JTS ¶ 30.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW II.

Based upon the foregoing facts and the legal standards set forth in Cellular 101, 17 Inc. v. Channel Communications, Inc. (In re Cellular 101, Inc)., 377 F.3d 1092, 1096 (9th 18 Cir. 2004)("In re Cellular 101, Inc."), this Court concludes: 19

73. RBLLC is a creditor of the Estate of the Debtor in this case. RBLLC was a 20legally presumed secured creditor in the Debtor's assets, although RBLLC's security 21 interest in the Debtor's assets was not specifically determined by this Court prior to the 22 confirmation of the Plan. 23

74. RBLLC provided direct financial benefits to the bankruptcy estate of the 24 Debtor in this case of not less than \$14,750,000. RBLLC's direct benefit to the Estate was 25 26 not incidental or minimal, and RBLLC was the only creditor in this case to contribute 27 financial benefits to the Estate that funded the Debtor's post-petition operations. The 28 benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's providing such financial benefits to the Estate is

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"outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate in the total requested amount of \$595,798.25 based on this benefit.

75. RBLLC provided additional benefit to the Estate that was not incidental or minimal, in its additional contribution toward preserving the assets of the Estate in this case. The benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's efforts in preserving the assets of the Estate in this case is "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D), RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate of \$356,253 based on this benefit. Additionally, pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to "payment of reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL in the amount of \$356,253.

76. RBLLC provided additional benefit to the Estate that was not incidental or 14 minimal, in its contribution toward a feasible plan of reorganization in this case. The benefit 15 to RBLLC from RBLLC's efforts toward the plan of reorganization confirmed in this case is 16 "outweighed by the extent of the benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to 17 Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to an award for 18 "substantial contribution" to the Estate of \$118,810 based on this benefit. Additionally, 19 pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to "payment of 20reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL in the amount of 21 \$118,810. 22

77. RBLLC provided a direct benefit to the Estate that was not incidental or
minimal, in its contribution toward objecting to and reaching settlements with the Debtor's
borrowers in this case. The benefit to RBLLC from RBLLC's efforts in achieving a
reasonable resolution of borrower claims in this case is "outweighed by the extent of the
benefit those efforts conferred on the estate." Pursuant to Section 503(b)(3)(D) of the
Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to an award for "substantial contribution" to the Estate

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of \$97,882.50 based on this benefit. Additionally, pursuant to Section 503(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code, RBLLC is entitled to "payment of reasonable compensation for professional services rendered" by DMYL in the amount of \$97,882.50.

78. Based on the terms of the Plan that provides that the only source of payment will be plan distributions which will only occur after repayment of the Exit Financing, RBLLC is further entitled to its requested award for substantial contribution as a general matter of equity so that RBLLC's 900 participants are not subordinated again for the benefit of the Investors and other creditors of the Estate.

79. RBLLC is entitled to an additional award for attorneys fees that RBLLC incurred in preparing and litigating RBLLC's Application pursuant to *North Sports, Inc. v. Knupfer (In re Wind N' Wave)*, 509 F.3d 938, 943-944 (9th Cir. 2007).

80. RBLLC's total requested award for substantial contribution is \$595,798.25
(plus attorneys fees that RBLLC incurred in preparing and litigating RBLLC's Application).
RBLLC is not entitled to duplicative recovery based on the independent and substantial
benefits provided to the Estate by RBLLC/DMYL, but RBLLC/DMYL has proven that
RBLLC is entitled to an award of its total Substantial Contribution Claim based on the total
benefits to the Estate provided by RBLLC in excess of the benefit to RBLLC.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Application, which seeks an award in the amount calculated on
 \$572,945.50 in attorneys' fees and \$22,852.75 in costs incurred by DeConcini McDonald
 Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. as a substantial contribution administrative claim is approved in its
 entirety.

(2) Directing the immediate payment in the amount of \$595,798.25 to DeConcini
 McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. as Counsel for Radical Bunny, L.L.C. as provided in the
 Confirmation Order.

(3) Directing the distribution of the payment from the escrow account
 established by the Liquidating Trust and RBLLC/DMYL pursuant to this Court's order of

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January 13, 2010, DE 2595, along with all accrued interest through the date of distribution.

(4) Directing DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. to file its supplemental application for attorneys fees that RBLLC incurred in preparing and litigating RBLLC's Application within ten days of entry of this Order.

ORDERED, SIGNED & DATED ABOVE.

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EXHIBIT 2

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December 5, 2008 Invoice# 629073 - 639530

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES with D. Dinner and others (2.3); telephone conference with employees attorney about plan issues (.4).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
10/10/08	Evaluate claim estimation issues in connection with the plan to be proposed by the committee (.4).	DGLA	0.40	102.60
10/13/08	Meet with party about plan issues (3.5).	CLR	3.50	1,559.25
10/13/08	Conduct legal research regarding the procedural and substantive requirements to obtain claim estimation (2.9).	DGLA	2.90	743.85
10/14/08	Continue legal research regarding the claim estimation process (2.7).	DGLA	2.70	692.55
10/15/08	Attend conference call on Plan (2.3).	CLR	2.30	1,024.65
<mark>10/15/08</mark>	Telephone conference with H. Gaines regarding formation and organizational structure of LLC's proposed to be formed under plan (.2).	SAG	0.20	81.00
10/16/08	Analysis regarding plan issues (.2).	DGLA	0.20	51.30
10/17/08	E-mail memoranda to and from H. Gaines regarding issues related to structure of proposed loan-ownership LLCs (.3).	SAG	0.30	121.50
10/21/08	Meeting with major constituency group about plan (2.2).	CLR	2.20	980.10
10/21/08	Draft detailed memorandum regarding plan confirmation issues and claim estimation in connection with same (4.1).	DGLA	4.10	1,051.65

December 29, 2008 Invoice# 629073 - 642706

Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

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DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
11/15/08	Work on preparation of evidentiary hearing on University and Ash settlement (4.4); work on supplement to objections (.8); work on exhibits (1.2).	KLH	6.40	2,304.00
11/16/08	Work on preparation for hearing on University and Ash and authority issues and work on witness outlines and summary of depositions (4.3).	KLH	4.30	1,548.00
11/16/08	Review pretrial and new pleadings (1.7).	CLR	1.70	757.35
11/17/08	Prepare for evidentiary hearing (4.4); outline testimony for Feldheim and Johnson (4.2); work on exhibit notebooks (3.8); prepare for deposition of M. Tucker (2.0); telephone conference with opposing counsel regarding various issues (.8).	KLH	15.20	5,472.00
11/17/08	Review pleadings and prepare for hearing (5.).	CLR	5.00	2,227.50
11/18/08	Prepare for and attend hearing on U&A settlement (10.2).	CLR	10.20	4,544.10
11/18/08	Prepare for first day of evidentiary hearing on authority and University and Ash settlement and attend hearing (15.9).	KLH	15.90	5,724.00
11/18/08	Prepare exhibits for hearing (.9).	NHOS	0.90	222.75
<mark>11/18/0</mark> 8	Review University & Ash, Roosevelt Gateway and Roosevelt Gateway II draft loan documents for cross default and cross collateralization provisions (.8); e-mail	RPR	2.70	1,202.85

December 29, 2008 Invoice# 629073 - 642706

Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	CON OF SERVICES to C. Reece with answers (.7); brief conference with C Reece about review of draft of proposed limited liability company agreement to be used for each loan and its investors (.2); upon requests of C. Reece from Bankruptcy Court, review original University & Ash and Roosevelt Gateway and Roosevelt Gateway II legals and compare to legals on new documents proposed by debtor (.4); review and make comments on draft of limited liability company operating agreement which might be used for each loan group (.6).		HOURS	AMOUNT
11/19/08	Prepare for second day of evidentiary hearing (5.7); prepare additional exhibits (3.2); prepare witness outlines and attend second day of hearing (5.3).		14.20	5,112.00
11/19/08	Prepare for and attend hearing (5.3).	CLR	5.30	2,361.15
11/19/08	Draft objection to administrative claim (2.2).	NHOS	2.20	544.50
11/20/08	Work on Grace settlement (1.3); prepare for next day of hearing (2.2); work on exhibits, and witness outlines (1.8); analyze issues from prior days of hearing (.4); work on authority issues (.6).	KLH	6.30	2,268.00
11/20/08	Review legal issues raised by judge and B. Stevens' email (1.2).	CLR	1.20	534.60
11/20/08	Research and analysis regarding Section 363(h) issues and Court's ability to approve settlement proposed by debtor as	DDF	3.70	1,248.75

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES issues (.4).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
11/07/08	Conduct extensive legal research regarding the statutory exemption from securities laws for interests transferred to creditors in connection with plan confirmation (4.0); telephone call to C. Reece regarding factual background necessary to the research (.2).	DGLA	4.20	1,077.30
11/10/08	Prepare for plan meeting with Debtor (1.6).	CLR	1.60	712.80
11/10/08	Conduct legal research regarding plan confirmation issues (.8).	DGLA	0.80	205.20
11/11/08	Telephone conference with T. Freeman (.6); prepare for and attend plan meeting (5.5).		6.10	2,717.55
11/11/08	Finalize research regarding plan confirmation issues and draft brief memo regarding same (3.1).	DGLA	3.10	795.15
11/11/08	Work on form of Operating Agreement for LLCs proposed to be formed for purposes of holding notes (2.2).	SAG	2.20	891.00
11/12/08	Conduct research regarding the classification of claims for purposes of plan confirmation (1.2).	DGLA	1.20	307.80
<mark>11/12/08</mark>	Work on form of Operating Agreement for LLCs proposed to be formed to hold notes (1.3); send clean and redlined drafts of the document to Heather Gaines via e-mail with explanatory cover memorandum (.2).	SAG	1.50	607.50

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
12/11/08	Conference with R. Robinson regarding structure of entities and various associated management and tax issues (.6).	GH	0.60	267.30
12/11/08	Conference with C. Reece on issues concerning exclusivity period (.3); revision of existing operating agreement for the ML MP funds (5.6).	RPR	5.90	2,628.45
12/12/08	Prepare for and attend meeting on plan issues (7.4).	CLR	7.40	3,296.70
<mark>12/12/08</mark>	Review and revise form of amended and restated operating agreement for Funds (1.2).	GH	1.20	534.60
<mark>12/12/08</mark>	Revision of Pool draft operating agreement (3.2); draft holding company operating agreement and analysis of related issues (6.0).	RPR	9.20	4,098.60
12/13/08	Prepare for and attend conference call with parties about plan issues and review information (4.7).	CLR	4.70	2,093.85
<mark>12/13/08</mark>	Finish revision of proposed holding company limited liability company agreement template (2.1).	RPR	2.10	935.55
12/14/08	Review drafts of plan documents and edit same (6.8).	CLR	6.80	3,029.40
<mark>12/14/08</mark>	Draft limited liability company operating agreement for proposed manager of the holding companies (2.4); send drafts of	RPR	2.80	1,247.40

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES all three agreements for review and distribution (.4).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
12/15/08	Prepare for and attend Committee meeting with constituent groups (8.8); draft emails to parties about plan (1.2).	CLR	10.00	4,455.00
12/15/08	Conduct extensive legal research regarding third-party discharge issues under section 524 (4.8); study the plan provisions regarding tax exemption and the channeling injunction (1.0); review statute regarding third-party injunctive relief and draft detailed correspondence to C. Reece regarding same (.8).		6.60	1,692.90
12/15/08	Extended meeting with all creditor groups to go over proposed creditor plan and structure and respond to questions and suggestions (5.2); revise three operating agreements to be attached to Plan (2.0).	RPR	7.20	3,207.60
12/16/08	Work on plan issues (6.6).	CLR	6.60	2,940.30
12/16/08	Conduct follow up research regarding the lender exemption from third party liability described in section 524 (2.0); draft detailed correspondence to C. Reece regarding the relevant provisions of the code and arguments in favor of discharging the note holders from liability outside of bankruptcy (1.0).	DGLA	3.00	769.50
12/17/08	Draft email to Committee (.6); meeting with parties on plan (7.3).	CLR	7.90	3,519.45

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

	ON OF SERVICES Conference with R. Robinson and C. Reece to discuss various tax and plan-related provisions (.7).	ATTY GH	HOURS 0.70	AMOUNT 311.85
12/23/08	Conference to discuss open issues on the proposed plan with the debtor and to discuss structure documents (.5); conference with C. Reece and G. Hanks to discuss tax effects (.7).	RPR	1.20	534.60
12/24/08	Conference call on plan issues and respond to emails (1.6).	CLR	1.60	712.80
12/28/08	Review plan and prepare for meeting (4.8).	CLR	4.80	2,138.40
12/29/08	Work on Coles proof of claim (1.2); confer with parties on plan (.8); telephone conference with Debtor (.8).	CLR	2.80	1,247.40
12/29/08	Review tax issues for plan (.6).	SAG	0.60	243.00
12/29/08	Extended telephone conference with G. Hanks about tax issues in structure to investors and liquidating trustee (.4); revise operating agreements for the new manager, the loan LLCs and the mortgage pool LLCs (3.2).	RPR	3.60	1,603.80
12/29/08	Telephone conference with C. Reece regarding presenting claims against the Estate of Scott M. Coles on behalf of the Official Committee of Investors (.5); review Estate claim of Radical Bunny, LLC (.3); draft Official Committee of Investors' Claims Against Estate (.2).	JPRO	1.00	279.00

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001				
DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES provisions of the plan and potential challenges (.3).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
<mark>01/16/09</mark>	Extended conference with C. Reece to discuss current status of draft plan and positions of various parties preparatory to revising drafts of operating agreements for all three entitles (1.3).	RPR	1.30	579.15
01/17/09	Work on draft of disclosure statement and exhibits (6.4).	CLR	6.40	2,851.20
01/17/09	Review draft of plan and make notes of required changes (1.4).	RPR	1.40	623.70
01/18/09	Work on disclosure statement and review and edit exhibits (5.6).	CLR	5.60	2,494.80
01/18/09	Review comments from Investors Committee members on draft of three operating agreements to be attached to Plan of Reorganization (1.4); discussion with C. Reece as to needed changes based upon comments (.2).	RPR.	1.60	712.80
01/19/09	Edit draft of disclosure statement and review and revise exhibits (7.3).	CLR	7.30	3,252.15
01/19/09	Telephone call to C. Reece to discuss the provisions of the plan (.4).	DGLA	0.40	102.60
<mark>01/19/09</mark>	Revisions of three draft operating agreement to be attached to Plan of Reorganization and redline and send redlines for Investors Committee to review (3.5).	RPR	3.50	1,559.25

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
01/20/09	Work on plan and disclosure statement issues (1.2).	KLH	1.20	432.00
01/20/09	Edit and revise final drafts of disclosure statement and exhibits (8.3); telephone conference with committee members about drafts (1.9).	CLR	10.20	4,544.10
01/20/09	Telephone conference with B. Robinson regarding issues related to definition of "non-United States person" used in LLC operating agreement (.1).	SAG	0.10	40.50
<mark>01/20/09</mark>	Review additional comments from committee member on three operating agreements (.4); revise all three operating agreements to be attached to Plan in light of comments (.4); separate telephone conference with committee members Joe Baldino and Bob Facciola to answer questions on draft operating agreements (.4).	RPR	1.20	534.60
01/21/09	Office conference with C. Reece regarding plan and work on disclosure statment (3.6); telephone conference with committee members regarding same (.3); telephone conference with counsel for Grace about plan and related issues (.9).		4.80	1,728.00
01/21/09	Finalize exhibits and disclosure statement for filing (5.3); telephone calls with committee members (.8).	CLR	6.10	2,717.55
01/21/09	(Paralegal): Office conference with C. Reece regarding voluminous Master Mailing	CML	0.60	81.00

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	ges Ltd. Bankruptcy 5831-001			Page: 21
DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES (2.8).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
02/23/09	Telephone conferences with representative of the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions regarding licenses required for loan servicing (.4); review and respond to message from investor Mr. Schoonover (.1).	DAHO	0.50	110.25
02/23/09	Work on various plan issues (1.8).	DGLA	1.80	461.70
02/23/09	Conduct research on securities law issues (4.2).	CWRO	4.20	926.10
02/23/09	Research securities law issues (2.4).	JPAR	2.40	756.00
02/24/09	(Paralegal): Review Claims Register (.9).	CML	0.90	121.50
02/24/09	Conference with committee (2.7); draft emails and call candidates (2.2); meeting with possible lender (2.3); telephone conference with creditors about disclosure issues (1.2).	CLR	8.40	3,742.20
<mark>02/24/09</mark>	Continued revision of Loan LLC operating agreement (2.6); extended discussion with C Reece about SEC issues with plan and alternatives (.3); analysis of modifications to Loan LLC (1.2).	RPR	4.10	1,826.55
02/24/09	Study the plan and disclosure statement in connection with securities issues (1.0); review SEC no action letters and other authority pertaining to 1145 issues (2.1).	DGLA	3.10	795.15
02/24/09	Conduct research regarding securities	CWRO	4.70	1,036.35

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES issues and prepare memorandum regarding the same (4.7).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
02/24/09	Review legal authority on securities issues (3.1).	JPAR	3.10	976.50
02/25/09	(Paralegal): Work on obtaining bids (.7).	CML	0.70	94.50
02/25/09	Meeting with possible lender (2.7); meeting with lender (2.3); draft emails about interviews and telephone calls with candidates (1.5).	CLR	6.50	2,895.75
<mark>02/25/09</mark>	Continued revision of draft of Loan LLC operating agreement (1.8); revise draft of Pool Fund operating agreement (2.2); begin revision of Manager operating agreement (.6).		4.60	2,049.30
02/25/09	Conferences with C. Reece regarding licenses (.1); calls to the Arizona Department of Real Estate regarding same (.4).	DAHO	0.50	110.25
02/25/09	Research law regarding federal tax issues (1.2).	COLS	1.20	226.80
02/25/09	Telephone conference with R. Robinson regarding accounting provisions for note allocation among multiple borrowers with joint and several liability (.2).	GH	0.20	89.10
02/25/09	Analysis of balloting issues, approval of the notice process and other matters to be addressed in connection with the upcoming hearing (.3); continue legal research	DGLA	1.90	487.35

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Mortgages Ltd. Bankruptcy I.D. 25831-001

DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES regarding plan issues (1.6).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
<mark>02/25/09</mark>	Revise Loan LLC operating agreement (2.1).	CWRO	2.10	463.05
02/25/09	Analysis of research regarding Securities issues (2.1).	JPAR	2.10	661.50
02/26/09	Prepare for meeting with Rev Op attorneys (1.8); long telephone conference with possible lender (1.2); meeting with possible lender (1.3); work on and prepare for meeting with committee (2.2).	CLR	6.50	2,895.75
<mark>02/26/09</mark>	Continued revision of Manager LLC operating agreement to incorporate new features (3.2); conference with C Reece regarding solution to SEC issues (.3); further revision to the Loan LLC operating agreement (1.8).	RPR	5.30	2,361.15
02/26/09	Follow up calls to Department of Real Estate regarding licensing issues (.2).	DAHO	0.20	44.10
02/26/09	Research law regarding federal tax issues (4.3).	COLS	4.30	812.70
02/26/09	Complete legal research on plan issues (1.2) conduct preliminary research regarding the ballot format (.8); begin reviewing the disclosure statement in connection with same (.6).	DGLA	2.60	666.90
02/26/09	Analysis and research of tenants-in-common interests (.5).	CWRO	0.50	110.25
02/27/09	(Paralegal): Review Master Mailing List	CML	1.10	148.50

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DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES creditors about plan issues (.6); prepare for committee meeting (1.8).	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
03/01/09	Conduct research concerning disclosure statement hearing (1.7).	NHOS	1.70	420.75
03/01/09	Draft the initial response to Debtor's objection to the disclosure statement and transmit same to C. Reece for review (4.0); finish drafting the Class 8 ballot and transmit same to C. Reece for review (1.0); begin reviewing the plan and disclosure statement in connection with the other ballots (.8).	DGLA	5.80	1,487.70
<mark>03/01/09</mark>	Revise Loan LLC draft operating agreement based upon comments from various groups (1.1); draft new potential Servicing agreement to use (1.1).	RPR	2.20	980.10
03/02/09	Prepare for meeting (1.3); attend day-long committee meeting (8.2); work on Plan issues after meeting (2.2).	CLR	11.70	5,212.35
03/02/09	Continue research concerning dislosure issues (4.3).	NHOS	4.30	1,064.25
03/02/09	Analysis to determine what changes need to be made to Plan and exhibits (.4); locate copies of various documents for review for potential causes of action (.6); begin review of documents for possible names of potential defendants (.6).		1.60	712.80
03/02/09	Review tax research (.9).	JPAR	0.90	283.50

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DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES	ATTY	HOURS	AMOUNT
03/06/09	Long telephone conference with servicer (1.2); review information and servicing proposal (1.8); telephone conference with D. Dinner and G. Lyon regarding plan issues (1.2); telephone conference with R. Zahn about background check on K. O'Halloran (.4); draft emails to file (1.4).	CLR	6.00	2,673.00
03/07/09	Work on exhibits and plan issues (2.6); edit and revise plan (1.6); review and respond to emails (.8).	CLR	5.00	2,227.50
03/09/09	Review debtor list of claims not being waived (.1).	RPR	0.10	44.55
03/10/09	Work on plan revisions (3.4); review proposals and edit same (2.2).	CLR	5.60	2,494.80
03/11/09	Address issues regarding vesting of property of the estate and discharge regarding tax implications (1.1); investigate possible structures of postpetition entities and advise R. Robinson of results of investigations (.8); review additional information regarding same (.4).	BAA	2.30	828.00
03/11/09	Prepare for an attend committee meeting (8.4); work on edits to plan and exhibits (2.6).	CLR	11.00	4,900.50
<mark>03/11/09</mark>	Further revision of master servicing agreement to disclosure statment (1.4); extended meeting regarding possible tax	RPR	3.80	1,692.90

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DESCRIPTI	ON OF SERVICES consequences and review tax materials (1.0); draft new ML Master operating agreement if no Loan LLCs are to be used (1.4).	АТТҮ	HOURS	AMOUNT
03/11/09	Research re plan taxation issues (1.5).	JPAR	1.50	472.50
03/12/09	Continue analysis regarding liquidating trusts and other post-confirmation entities (.8).	BAA	0.80	288.00
03/12/09	Edit and revise exhibits for Disclosure Statement (2.9); telephone conference with E. McDonough about exhibits (.8); revise exhibits (1.3); edit and revise Plan (4.7); edit and revise Disclosure Statement (5.3).	CLR	15.00	6,682.50
<mark>03/12/09</mark>	Review materials on tax issues and extended conference with tax attorneys concerning issues (3.9); finish revision of the alternative ML Manager operating agreement (1.2); revise master servicing agreement (1.1); telephone conference with Ed McDonough (.4); conference regarding changes in plan (.6); make changes to plan and disclosure statement (1.4).		8.60	3,831.30
03/12/09	Research tax issue (.9).	COLS	0.90	170.10
03/12/09	Analysis of tax issues associated with capitalization of liquidating trust (1.3); office conference with R. Robinson regarding structure (.2).	SAG	1.50	607.50
03/12/09	Analysus regarding discharge of	GH	1.30	579.15

EXHIBIT 3

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Settlements Specifically Discussed in Global Letter Agreement

DE	Borrower	Loan Balance
570	University & Ash and Roosevelt Gateway	\$43,400,000.00
561	Tempe Land Company (Centerpoint)	\$133,500,000.00
569	Grace Communities Borrowers	\$120,000,000.00
558	MK Custom	\$11,245,000.00
559	Bisontown	\$1,500,000.00
565	SOJAC	\$23,970,000.00
560	Rightpath & Maryland Way	\$109,336,287.00
	TOTAL	\$442,951,287.00

Letter Agreement

 Review 9019 motions for University & Ash and Centerpoint (Tempe Land Company, LLC) and Vento and if no agreement is made by Monday, October 6, 2008 then, Mortgages Ltd. will withdraw the 9019 motion;

2) Review MK, Bison Communities, and SOJAC settlements and if Mortgages Ltd., Investor Committee and Radical Bunny, LLC cannot agree by Monday, October 6, 2008, all will be continued for 2 weeks and if no agreement is reached, the motions will be withdrawn;

 Review Rightpath settlements and if Mortgages Ltd., Investor Committee and Radical Bunny, LLC cannot agree by Monday, October 6, 2008, then Mortgages Ltd. will decide whether to proceed after consultation with relevant parties;

 Review Centerpoint financing and if Radical Bunny, LLC and the Investors Committee agree, hearing goes forward as planned; otherwise continue financing motion on Centerpoint for two (2) weeks;

5) Agree that no new 9019 motions will be filed unless Mortgages Ltd., Investor Committee and Radical Bunny, LLC approve of settlement;

 Mortgages Ltd., Radical Bunny, LLC, Mortgages Ltd. and Investor Com mittee will cooperate in formulating plan of reorganization;

7) The hearing on October 21st, 200 8 shall remain on the calendar pending further agreement; and

8) Nothing in this agreement prevents Mortgages Ltd. from making presentations to other parties regarding the above deal points.

Dated this 1th of October, 2008.

DYETWIN & LACY, P.C. SONA CINI MC DE60 SHE TON L. FREEMAN

ATTORNEYS FOR RADICAL BUNNY, LLC

JENNINGS, STROUSS & SALMON, P.L.C.

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CAROLYN JOHNSEN ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEBTOR, MORTGAGES LTD.

MORTGAGES, LTD. CHRIS OLS CEO

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FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C.

BY CATHY L. RECE (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL INVESTOR COMMITTEE) ATTORNEYS FOR OFFICIAL INVESTORS COMMITTEE

GAGES, LTD. MO BY RICHARD FELDHEIM

RICHARD FELDHEIM PRESIDENT AND CEO

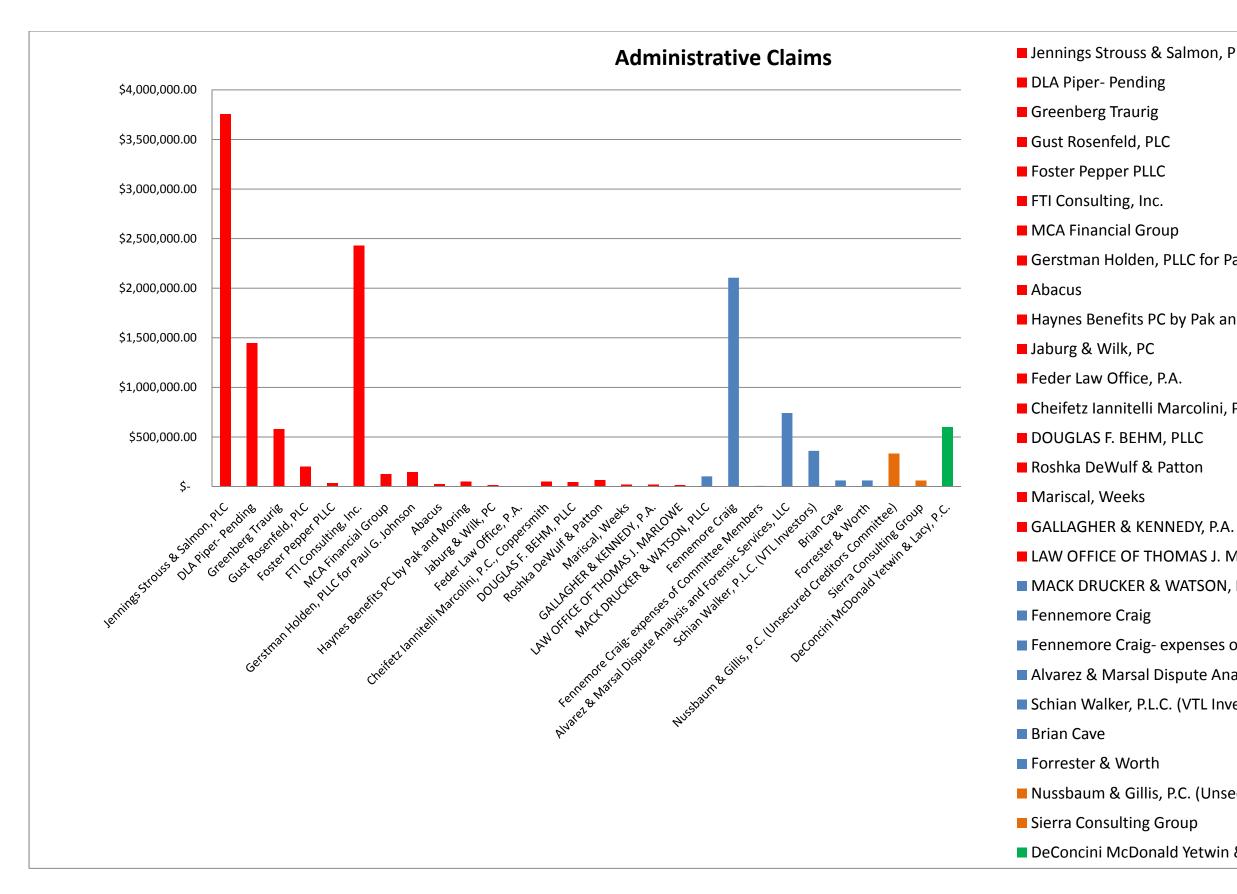
MORTGAGES, LTD GEORGE EVERETTE VICE PRESIDENT & CIO

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EXHIBIT 4

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Debtor Professionals--\$8,994,672.02 Investor Professionals--\$3,441,355.53 Unsecured Creditor Professionals--\$389,240.02 Secured Creditor Professionals--\$595,798.25

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Jennings Strouss & Salmon, PLC Gerstman Holden, PLLC for Paul G. Johnson Haynes Benefits PC by Pak and Moring Cheifetz Iannitelli Marcolini, P.C., Coppersmith LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS J. MARLOWE MACK DRUCKER & WATSON, PLLC Fennemore Craig- expenses of Committee Members Alvarez & Marsal Dispute Analysis and Forensic Services, LLC Schian Walker, P.L.C. (VTL Investors) Nussbaum & Gillis, P.C. (Unsecured Creditors Committee) DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C.