

SILVERMANACAMPORA LLP
Counsel to Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq.,
Chapter 7 Trustee
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(516) 479-6300
Anthony C. Acampora, Esq.
David J. Mahoney, Esq.
Randy J. Schaefer, Esq.

Hearing Date: April 25, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Objections Due: April 18, 2013
Time: 5:00 p.m.

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

-----X
In re:

Chapter 7
Case No.: 09-70660 (DTE)
Substantively Consolidated

AGAPE WORLD, INC.,
AGAPE MERCHANT ADVANCE LLC,
AGAPE COMMUNITY LLC, AGAPE
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT LLC,
AGAPE WORLD BRIDGES LLC, AND
114 PARKWAY DRIVE SOUTH LLC,

Debtors.

-----X
KENNETH P. SILVERMAN, ESQ., as
Chapter 7 Trustee of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*,

Plaintiff,

Adv. Pro. No.: 10-08401 (DTE)

-against-

DAVID NOYES,

Defendant.

-----X

**NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF BANKRUPTCY
PROCEDURE 9019 FOR AN ORDER APPROVING THE STIPULATION
RESOLVING CLAIMS AGAINST DEFENDANT AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED RELIEF**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that upon the application (the "Application") of Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., the chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") for the substantively consolidated estate of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*, by his counsel, SilvermanAcampora LLP, the Trustee will move before the Honorable Dorothy T. Eisenberg, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, located at Long Island Federal Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, New York 11722 on **April 25, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.**, seeking approval of the Stipulation

Settling Trustee's Claims against David Noyes. A copy of the proposed Order is annexed hereto.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that objections, if any, to the relief requested in the Application or the proposed Order must be (i) made in writing; (ii) electronically filed with the Bankruptcy Court; (iii) delivered to Chambers of the Honorable Dorothy T. Eisenberg, United States Bankruptcy Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, Long Island Federal Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, New York 11722; (iv) mailed to SilvermanAcampora LLP, 100 Jericho Quadrangle, Suite 300, Jericho, New York 11753, Attn: Randy J. Schaefer, Esq.; and (v) mailed to the Office of the United States Trustee, 560 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, New York 11722, no later than **April 18, 2013**.

Dated: Jericho, New York
March 20, 2013

SILVERMANACAMPORA LLP
Attorneys for Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq.,
the chapter 7 trustee

By: s/ Randy J. Schaefer
Randy J. Schaefer
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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re:

AGAPE WORLD, INC.,
AGAPE MERCHANT ADVANCE LLC,
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KENNETH P. SILVERMAN, ESQ., as
Chapter 7 Trustee of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*,

Plaintiff,

Chapter 7
Case No. 09-70660 (DTE)
Substantively Consolidated

Adv. Pro. No. 10-08401 (DTE)

-against -

DAVID NOYES,

Defendant.

-----X

**TRUSTEE'S MOTION UNDER BANKRUPTCY RULE
9019(a) SEEKING THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER APPROVING A STIPULATION
SETTLING THE TRUSTEE'S PREFERENCE CLAIM AGAINST DAVID NOYES**

Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., the chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") of the substantively consolidated estate of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*, by his attorneys SilvermanAcampora LLP, respectfully submits this motion (the "Motion") under 11 U.S.C. §105 and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019 for entry of an Order approving the proposed settlement of the Trustee's claims under 11 U.S.C. §§547(b) and 550 against David Noyes (attached as **Exhibit A**) as memorialized in the Stipulation Settling the Trustee's Preference Claim Against David

Noyes (the “Stipulation”), which is attached as **Exhibit B**. All parties are encouraged to review the annexed Stipulation in its entirety for the specific terms of the proposed settlement.

Background

1. On February 5, 2009 (the “Petition Date”), an involuntary chapter 7 petition was filed by four petitioning creditors (“the Petitioning Creditors”) pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §303(b), against Agape World, Inc. (“AWI”), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York.

2. On February 9, 2008, the Petitioning Creditors filed a motion to appoint an interim chapter 7 trustee under 11 U.S.C. §303(g).

3. On February 12, 2009, the Court granted the Petitioning Creditors’ motion and entered an order directing the United States Trustee’s Office to immediately appoint an interim chapter 7 trustee in the AWI case.

4. On February 12, 2009, Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., was appointed the interim trustee in the AWI case, and has since duly qualified and is now the permanent Trustee in the Debtors’ substantively consolidated case.

5. On March 4, 2009, the Court issued an Order for relief in the AWI chapter 7 case.

6. On April 14, 2009, the Court issued an Order substantively consolidating AWI, Agape Merchant Advance LLC, Agape Community LLC, Agape Construction Management, LLC, Agape World Bridges LLC, and 114 Parkway Drive South LLC (collectively, “Agape” or the “Debtors”).

7. Thereafter, pursuant to an Order of this Court dated April 21, 2009 (Dkt. No. 106), the Trustee retained Navigant Consulting Inc. (“Navigant”) to, among other things, conduct a forensic account of Agape’s books and records.

8. Based upon Navigant’s analysis, the Trustee determined that within ninety (90) days before the Petition Date, Agape transferred \$53,065.76 (the “Transfers”) to David Noyes (“Defendant”).

9. On June 11, 2010, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding by filing a complaint against Defendant which was assigned adversary proceeding number 10-08401 (the "Adversary Proceeding") seeking to, *inter alia*, avoid the Transfers totaling \$53,065.76.

10. The Trustee and Defendant engaged in settlement discussions seeking to consensually resolve the Adversary Proceeding. In an effort to avoid the costs, expenses and uncertainty of continued litigation, the parties have now agreed to resolve the Preference Claim upon the terms and conditions contained in the Stipulation.

11. For all of the reasons set forth herein, the Trustee submits that accepting Defendant's offer to voluntarily remit \$23,000.00 (the "Settlement Sum") in full and final settlement of the Preference Claim is a reasonable exercise of his business judgment and in the best interests of the Debtors' estate.

Settlement

12. The Trustee has determined that settling this matter for the Settlement Sum is the most economical and efficient way to realize a meaningful and beneficial recovery for the benefit of creditors without the need to incur legal fees and risks inherent with the prosecution of the Adversary Proceeding and any resulting judgment efforts.

13. Indeed, after consultation with his retained professionals and in the exercise of his business judgment, the Trustee has determined that the voluntary return of the Settlement Sum outweighs the potential net recovery to the estate if the Trustee elected to prosecute the Adversary Proceeding through trial and enforce a resulting judgment against the Defendant.

14. In light of the foregoing and mindful of the costs and risks of litigating the Adversary Proceeding, the Trustee has agreed to accept the Settlement Sum.

Basis for Relief Requested

15. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019(a), which governs the approval of compromises and settlement, provides:

(a) Compromise. On motion by the trustee and after notice and hearing, the court may approve a compromise or settlement. Notice shall be given to creditors, the United States trustee, the debtor, and indenture trustees as provided in Rule 2002 and to any other entity as the court may direct.

16. In approving a compromise and settlement, the Bankruptcy Court is required to make an "informed and independent judgment" as to whether the compromise and settlement is fair and equitable based on an:

[e]ducated estimate of the complexity, expense and likely duration of [any] litigation, the possible difficulties of collecting on any judgment which might be obtained, and all other factors relevant to a full and fair assessment of the wisdom of the proposed compromise. Basic to this process, in every instance, of course, is the need to compare the terms of the compromise with the likely rewards of litigation.

Protective Committee for Independent Stockholders of TMT Trailer Ferry, Inc. v. Anderson, 390 U.S. 414, 424-425, *reh'g denied*, 391 U.S. 909 (1968). See *American Can Co. v. Herpel (In re Jackson Brewing Co.)*, 624 F.2d 605, 607 (5th Cir. 1980); *Chopin Assoc. v. Smith (In re Holywell Corp.)*, 93 B.R. 291, 294 (Bankr.S.D.Fla. 1988); *In re Arrow Air, Inc.*, 85 B.R. 886, 891 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1988); *In re Bell & Beckwith*, 77 B.R. 628, 611 (Bankr.N.D.Ohio), *aff'd*, 87 B.R. 472 (N.D.Ohio 1987); *Cf. Magill v. Springfield Marine Bank (In re Heissinger Resources Ltd.)*, 67 B.R. 378, 383 (C.D. Ill. 1986) ("the law favors compromise").

17. In making its determination, the Court should consider whether the proposed compromise is in the "best interest of the estate". *Depo v. Chase Lincoln First Bank, N.A. (In re Depo)*, 77 B.R. 381, 383 (N.D.N.Y. 1987), *aff'd*, 863 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1988). As stated in *Arrow Air*, the "approval of [a] proposed compromise and settlement is a matter of this Court's sound discretion." *Arrow Air*, 85 B.R. at 891. In passing upon a proposed settlement, "the bankruptcy court does not substitute its judgment for that of the Trustee [or debtor in possession]". *Depo*, 77 B.R. at 384 (citations omitted). The bankruptcy court is not required "to decide the numerous

questions of law and fact raised by [objectors].... [R]ather [the Court should] canvass the issues and see whether the settlement falls below the lowest point in the range of reasonableness." *Cosoff v. Rodman (In re W.T. Grant Co.)*, 699 F.2d 599, 608 (2d Cir.), *cert denied*, 464 U.S. 822 (1983) (*quoting Newman v. Stein*, 464 F.2d 689, 693 (2d Cir.), *cert denied*, 409 U.S. 1039 (1972)). See *Holywell* 93 B.R. at 294. ("In order to exercise this discretion properly, the Court must consider all the relevant facts and evaluate whether the compromise suggested falls below the 'lowest point in the range of reasonableness'") (*quoting In re Teltronics Services, Inc.*, 762 F.2d 185, 189 (2d Cir. 1985)). In passing upon the reasonableness of a proposed compromise, the Court "may give weight to the opinions of the Trustee [or debtor in possession], the parties and their counsel." *Bell & Beckwith*, 77 B.R. at 512.

18. The factors to be considered by the Court in determining whether to approve a compromise or settlement include (a) probability of success in the litigation, with due consideration for the uncertainty in fact and law, (b) the complexity and likely duration of the litigation and any attendant expense, inconvenience and delay, and (c) all other factors bearing on the wisdom of the compromise. *Arrow Air*, 85 B.R. at 891 (*citing TMT Trailer Ferry*, 390 U.S. at 424-25). See *Jackson Brewing Co.*, 624 F.2d at 507; *Holywell Corp.*, 93 B.R. at 294-95 (citations omitted).

19. Here, Defendant has offered to voluntarily remit 45% of the Transfers in satisfaction of the Preference Claim without causing the Debtors' estate to incur significant fees or expenses. The Trustee submits that based upon the Certified Financial Disclosures submitted by the Defendant, the costs and uncertainties associated with trial and adversarial judgment enforcement, it would be mere speculation to believe that further litigation of the Preference Claims and Defendant's 11 U.S.C. §547(c) defenses, as well as the enforcement of a potential judgment would result in a "net benefit" to the Debtors' estate that exceeds the Settlement Sum. In the sound business judgment of the Trustee, the proposed settlement is

both appropriate and warranted. The Trustee believes that the Settlement is fair and equitable and in the best interest of the estate.

Notice of Motion

20. The Trustee has served the Notice of Motion, proposed Order, and Motion in support with Exhibit upon: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee; (ii) Nicholas Cosmo, the former principal of the Debtor, (iii) Defendant, (iii) the taxing authorities, and (iv) pursuant to the Court's July 8, 2009 Order Establishing Noticing Procedures, all parties having filed a Notice of Appearance in this case, and copies have been posted on the Trustee's website located at www.agapeworldbankruptcy.com.

21. No previous application for the relief requested herein has been made to this or any other Court.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests that this Court grant this application authorizing and approving the Stipulation and grant such other further and different relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Jericho, New York
March 20, 2013

SILVERMANACAMPORA LLP
Attorneys for Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq.,
the chapter 7 trustee

By: s/ Randy J. Schaefer
Randy J. Schaefer
Counsel to the Firm
100 Jericho Quadrangle, Suite 300
Jericho, New York 11753
(516) 479-6300

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
In re:

AGAPE WORLD, INC.,
AGAPE MERCHANT ADVANCE LLC,
AGAPE COMMUNITY LLC, AGAPE
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT LLC,
AGAPE WORLD BRIDGES LLC,
AND 114 PARKWAY DRIVE SOUTH LLC,

Debtors.

-----X
KENNETH P. SILVERMAN, ESQ., as
Chapter 7 Trustee of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*,

Plaintiff,

-against-

DAVID NOYES,

Defendant.
-----X

Chapter 7
Case No.: 09-70660 (DTE)
Substantively Consolidated

Adv. Pro. No.: 10-08401 (DTE)

**ORDER UNDER BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019(a) APPROVING A STIPULATION
SETTLING THE TRUSTEE'S PREFERENCE CLAIM AGAINST DAVID NOYES**

Upon the Notice of Motion (the "Notice"), dated March 20, 2013, and related motion (collectively, the "Motion") of Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., the chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") of the substantively consolidated estate of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*, by his counsel, SilvermanAcampora LLP, seeking the entry of an Order approving a Stipulation (the "Stipulation") Settling the Trustee's Preference Claim against David Noyes (the "Defendant"); and upon the Affidavit of Service filed with the Court; and no objections to the Motion or the proposed Order having been filed; and the Court having found that the settlement of the Trustee's claims pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§547(b) and 550(a) (the "Preference Claim") against Defendant to be fair, reasonable and in the best interest of the Debtors' estate; and the Court having found that service of the Notice, Motion with exhibit and proposed Order is sufficient cause having been shown therefore; and no additional notice being necessary or required:

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the Notice and Motion of the Trustee and pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019(a) and other applicable law, it is hereby

ORDERED, that service of the Notice and Motion and proposed Order, having been provided to: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee; (ii) Nicholas Cosmo, former principal of the Debtors, (iii) Defendant's counsel, (iv) the appropriate taxing authorities, and (v) all parties having filed a Notice of Appearance in this case, and copies have been posted on the Trustee's website located at www.agapeworldbankruptcy.com complies with this Court's Order Establishing Noticing Procedures entered on July 8, 2009 and is otherwise sufficient; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Motion is granted, and it is further

ORDERED, that the settlement of the Preference Claim against Defendant as memorialized in the Stipulation is approved; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Trustee be, and hereby is authorized and directed to take such steps, execute such documents and expend such funds as may be reasonably necessary to effectuate and implement the terms and conditions of this Order.

EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
In re:

AGAPE WORLD, INC.,
AGAPE MERCHANT ADVANCE LLC,
AGAPE COMMUNITY LLC, AGAPE
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT LLC,
AGAPE WORLD BRIDGES LLC, AND
114 PARKWAY DRIVE SOUTH LLC,

Debtors.

Chapter 7
Case No.: 09-70660 (DTE)
Substantively Consolidated

-----X
KENNETH P. SILVERMAN, ESQ., as
Chapter 7 Trustee of Agape World, Inc., *et al.*,

Plaintiff,

Adv. Pro. No.: 10-08401 (DTE)

-against-

DAVID NOYES,

Defendant.
-----X

**STIPULATION SETTLING THE
TRUSTEE'S CLAIMS AGAINST DAVID NOYES**

I. On February 5, 2009 (the "Petition Date"), an involuntary chapter 7 petition was filed by four petitioning creditors (the "Petitioning Creditors") pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §303(b), against Agape World, Inc. ("AWI"), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York.

II. On February 9, 2009, the Petitioning Creditors filed a motion to appoint an interim chapter 7 trustee under 11 U.S.C. §303(g).

III. On February 12, 2009, the Court granted the Petitioning Creditors' motion and entered an order directing the United States Trustee's Office to immediately appoint an interim chapter 7 trustee in the AWI case.

IV. On February 12, 2009, Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., was appointed the interim trustee in the AWI case, and has since duly qualified and is now the permanent Trustee in the Debtors' substantively consolidated case.

V. On March 4, 2009, the Court issued an Order for relief in the AWI chapter 7 case.

VI. On April 14, 2009, the Court issued an Order substantively consolidating AWI, Agape Merchant Advance LLC, Agape Community LLC, Agape Construction Management, LLC, Agape World Bridges LLC, and 114 Parkway Drive South LLC (collectively, the "Debtors").

VII. The Trustee and his counsel have investigated the financial affairs of the Debtors, including a detailed analysis of the extent and validity of certain transfers made by the Debtors to David Noyes ("Defendant") prior to the Filing Date.

VIII. On June 11, 2010, the Trustee commenced this adversary proceeding against Defendant by the filing of a complaint, wherein the Trustee asserted that one \$53,065.76 ("Transfer") transfer made by the Debtors to Defendant is avoidable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§547 and 550.

IX. The parties engaged in informal discovery related to the Trustee's Claims and the defenses asserted by Defendant, including Defendant's submission of a certified financial statement whereby it was determined that Defendant does not have the financial wherewithal to pay the Transfer in full.

X. In the spirit of compromise and without any admission of liability, Defendant has offered to remit the sum of \$23,000.00 (the "Settlement Sum") to the Trustee in full and final settlement of the Trustee's Claims.

XI. Based upon his review of all documentation related to the Transfers and his investigation of all attendant factors, the Trustee has, in his business judgment, agreed to settle the Trustee's Claims upon the following terms and conditions, which the Trustee believes are fair and reasonable, especially in light of the costs and uncertainty associated with litigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and among the parties hereto, that the Trustee's Claims be resolved upon the terms and conditions set forth herein as follows:

Defendant's Obligation to Pay the Settlement Sum

1. This Stipulation (the "Stipulation") is subject to the approval of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York (the "Approval Order").

2. The Trustee has authorized Defendant to pay the Settlement Sum in five (5) installments. The first installment, in the amount of \$11,500 is due on the signing of this Stipulation. The second installment, in the amount of \$2,875 is due on or before March 15, 2013. The third installment, in the amount of \$2,875 is due on or before April 15, 2013. The fourth installment, in the amount of \$2,875 is due on or before May 15, 2013. The final installment, in the amount of \$2,875 is due on or before June 15, 2013.

3. All installments shall be remitted to "Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq., as Chapter 7 Trustee," by delivering a check to Trustee's counsel at SilvermanAcampora LLP, 100 Jericho Quadrangle, Suite 300, Jericho, New York, 11753, Attention: Randy J. Schaefer, Esq. Nothing contained herein shall preclude or penalize Defendant from pre-paying any installment or portion of any installment.

4. If Defendant fails to make timely payment of any installment of the Settlement Sum in accordance with paragraph 2, above, or if Defendant's payment is dishonored for any reason whatsoever and Defendant does not cure such default within five (5) business days after written notice sent by Federal Express or other reputable overnight courier to Defendant's undersigned counsel at the address set forth below, then the Trustee shall be entitled to move before the Bankruptcy Court, without further notice and upon the affidavit by the Trustee attesting to the default (a) for the entry of a judgment against Defendant for \$53,065.76, plus costs, less any sums previously paid as provided herein, and (b) for any further relief necessary to enforce his rights under this Stipulation.

5. The Settlement Sum shall be held in the Trustee's earnest money account until the Approval Order becomes final and non-appealable under 28 U.S.C. §158(c)(2) and Bankruptcy Rule 8002.

6. Upon the Approval Order becoming final and non-appealable the Trustee's counsel will transfer the Settlement Sum (or any installment received) into the Debtors' estate account. If the Bankruptcy Court denies the entry of the Approval Order, Trustee's counsel will return the Settlement Sum to Defendant's counsel without undue delay.

7. If the Court does not enter the Approval Order, this Stipulation will be null and void and none of the terms herein shall be usable as evidence by either party.

Releases

8. Upon the entry of the Approval Order, and the Trustee's receipt and clearance of each installment of the Settlement Sum, the Trustee and the estate release and forever discharge Defendant, his affiliated entities, agents, representatives, attorneys, assigns and successors-in-interest from any and all claims, claims for relief, demands, costs, expenses, damages, liabilities, and obligations of any nature arising out of or relating to the Trustee's Claims. For purposes of clarification, nothing contained herein shall be construed to be a release by the Trustee of any claims that the Trustee may have or subsequently discover under 11 U.S.C. §550(a)(2) and the Trustee is specifically not releasing any claims under 11 U.S.C. §550(a)(2).

9. Upon the entry of the Approval Order, Defendant releases, discharges and waives any and all claims against the Debtor's Estate, the Trustee and the Trustee's agents, attorneys, assigns and successors-in-interest from any and all claims, claims for relief, demands, costs, expenses, damages, liabilities, and obligations of any nature.

10. Nothing contained in this Stipulation can be construed as a waiver of the Trustee's right to object to any proof of claim.

No Admission

11. It is understood and agreed that this Stipulation is entered into to avoid costly and protracted litigation. Neither the execution of this Stipulation, nor the payment of the Settlement Sum shall be construed as an admission on Defendant's part. For clarification, this paragraph is not intended and shall not be deemed to affect Defendant's obligation to make timely payment of the Settlement Sum or adversely affect the Trustee's rights and remedies under paragraph 2 in the event that Defendant fails to make timely payment of the Settlement Sum.

Miscellaneous

12. This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts, with each part being deemed a part of the original document, and facsimile or other electronic signatures shall be deemed an original signature.

13. The person executing this Stipulation on behalf of each respective party warrants and represents that she or he is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver this Stipulation on behalf of such party.

14. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Stipulation, including but not limited to its enforcement and the implementation and interpretation of its terms and conditions.

15. This Stipulation shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York, except with respect to matters as to which federal law is applicable without regard to any conflicts of law principles.

16. This Stipulation may not be altered, modified, or changed unless in writing, signed by the parties or their counsel.

17. The Trustee and Defendant are each responsible for their own costs and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this proceeding.

Dated: Jericho, New York
February 16, 2013

SILVERMANACAMPORA LLP
Attorneys for Kenneth P. Silverman, Esq.,
The Chapter 7 Trustee

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Randy J. Schaefer
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Dated: New York, New York
February 14, 2013

LAX & NEVILLE, LLP
Attorney for David Noyes

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