Case 2	21-cv-02927-CAS-PD Document 41 #:95	9 Filed 04/10/25 Page 1 of 26 Page ID
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9	CENTRAL DIS	STRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE	Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD
11	COMMISSION,	NOTICE OF MOTION AND
12	Plaintiff,	UNOPPOSED MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR
13		ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER
14	ZACHARY J. HORWITZ and 1inN CAPITAL, LLC,	Date: May 12, 2025
15	Defendants.	Date: May 12, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m. PT Judge: Hon. Christina A. Snyder Courtroom: 8D
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		Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 525 W. MONROE ST. CHICAGO, IL 60661 (312) 902-5200

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on May 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Courtroom 8D, located at the United States Courthouse, 350 West First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, Michele Vives, not individually, but solely as the federal equity receiver of defendant linMM Capital, LLC and its subsidiaries, affiliates and over the assets more particularly described in the Order on Appointment of Permanent Receiver, dated January 14, 2022 [ECF #70], will and hereby does move the Court for entry of an order (the "Motion") clarifying the Order (1) Approving Procedures for the Administration of Claims Against the Receivership Estate, (2) Setting Bar Date and (3) Approving Claims Bar Date Notice and Proof of Claim Form, dated January 9, 2025 [ECF] #397] (the "Claims Procedures Order").

The Motion is based on the Memorandum of Points and Authorities below and is supported by the Declaration of Michele Vives, dated April 10, 2025 (the "Vives Decl."), copy attached as **Exhibit 1**.

This Motion is made following the Local Rule 7-3 conference of counsel which took place on April 2 and 9, 2025. No party requests a hearing on the Motion.

Dated: April 10, 2025	Respectfully submitted,
	KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
	By: /s/ <i>Terence G. Banich</i> Terence G. Banich
	Attorneys for the Receiver Michele Vives
	Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER
	CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Michele Vives, the duly appointed permanent receiver (the "Receiver") of linMM Capital, LLC and its subsidiaries and affiliates ("linMM"), and over assets that are attributable to funds derived from investors or clients of the above-captioned defendants or were fraudulently transferred by the defendants (collectively, the "Estate"), by and through her counsel, hereby respectfully moves this Court for an order clarifying the Claims Procedures Order, as follows:

Introduction

In the Claims Procedures Order, the Court approved the Receiver's proposed claims procedures, set a claims bar date and approved various forms associated therewith. In receivership cases with victim-investors, like this one, the claims process is a critical step to determine who may assert claims against the estate, in what amounts and for what reason. In her claims procedures motion, the Receiver proposed to send claims-related notices and claim forms to "prospective investor claimants," but did not define who is or is not a prospective claimant.

As the Receiver has explained previously in her quarterly reports and 16 settlement motions, 1inMM largely raised money indirectly, using intermediary feeder funds that the Receiver has referred to as "aggregators." The Receiver's 18 extensive forensic accounting work, as described herein, demonstrates that the aggregators themselves were not investors in the 1inMM Ponzi scheme, but rather 20 pass-throughs for their respective constituent investors. The Claims Procedures Order does not address how aggregators should be treated in the claims process. 22

Because the aggregators were mere conduits who transferred funds in and out 23 of the 1inMM Ponzi scheme for the benefit of their respective constituent investors, 24 the Receiver now asks the Court to clarify the Claims Procedures Order to authorize 25 the Receiver to disregard aggregators in calculating net losses and determining the 26 holders of allowed net loss claims. The Receiver bases this request principally on

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her forensic accounting work, her review of the aggregators' agreements with investors and 1inMM and her understanding of applicable legal principles.

Recognizing that some aggregators may not agree with this proposed treatment (or may assert that they are not aggregators at all), the Receiver is giving notice of this Motion to all known or potential aggregators and inviting them to raise their unique issues with the Receiver. The Receiver expects to resolve many—if not all—of those potential objections on a case-by-case basis. However, to the extent that an aggregator does not object by the Objection Deadline (as defined below) to the treatment the Receiver proposes by this Motion, the Receiver asks the Court to grant the Motion and authorize the Receiver to disregard that aggregator in determining who holds allowed net loss claims against the Estate.

Factual Background

A. The 1inMM Ponzi Scheme and appointment of the Receiver

On April 5, 2021, the SEC commenced this action against Zachary J. Horwitz 14 ("Horwitz") and 1inMM (together, the "Defendants"), alleging that they committed 15 an offering fraud and Ponzi scheme in violation of the federal securities laws (the 16 "1inMM Ponzi Scheme"). Specifically, the SEC alleged that, since at least March 17 2014 and continuing until at least December 2019, Defendants raised over \$690 18 million from investors by selling promissory notes issued by 1inMM using 19 fabricated agreements and fake emails with prominent third-party companies with 20 whom Defendants had no actual business relationship. 21

Defendants represented to potential investors that the purpose of the offering was to finance 1inMM's acquisition and licensing of distribution rights in specific movies to major media companies, such as Netflix and Home Box Office ("<u>HBO</u>"). To induce investors to purchase 1inMM's promissory notes, Horwitz made various false and misleading statements about his experience and the involvement of major media corporations like Netflix and HBO as his "Strategic Partner[s]," and showed potential investors falsified documents and communications to make his statements

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more believable. The reality, however, was that Defendants had no relationship with those corporations, and had never licensed any movie rights to any company.
Instead, Horwitz used investor funds to pay purported returns on previous investments, as well as to spend lavishly on his lifestyle.

On January 14, 2022, the Court appointed the Receiver pursuant to the *Order on Appointment of Permanent Receiver*, dated January 14, 2022 [ECF #70].

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B. The Receiver's forensic accounting work

In connection with her duties, the Receiver and her staff conducted a comprehensive forensic accounting analysis of the financial transactions involving 1 inMM, Horwitz, their respective insiders and affiliates, as well as third parties who received transfers from Defendants. (Vives Decl. \P 5.) The Receiver determined that, throughout the duration of the 1 inMM Ponzi Scheme, 1 inMM engaged in tens of thousands of transactions totaling over \$750 million. (*Id.*)

As there were no accounting records, the Receiver had no choice but to reconstruct 1inMM's transaction history from scratch. (*Id.* \P 6.) The forensic accounting analysis has been a fundamental element of maximizing the Estate's recovery, as it has enabled the Receiver to determine who may be liable to the Estate for receiving fraudulent transfers, identify previously unknown assets, and obtain information about 1inMM's investors. (*Id.*)

Obtaining information about 1inMM's investors—including the amounts each investor invested into and received from the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme—is particularly important, as this information serves as the basis for the Receiver's determined claim amount for each investor and will be an integral part of the claims process (discussed in more detail below). (*Id.* ¶ 7.) The forensic accounting, therefore, will be a foundational part of ensuring that accurate claim amounts are accepted on behalf of the Estate. (*Id.*)

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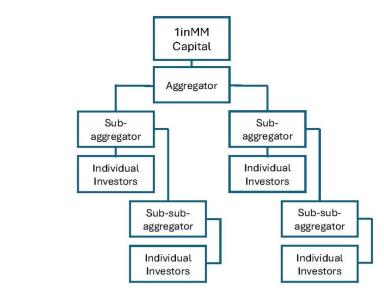
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C. The role of Aggregators in the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme

As the Receiver has reported previously, Horwitz generally operated the linMM Ponzi Scheme on a feeder fund model. (*Id.* ¶ 8.) In the context of a Ponzi scheme, the typical "feeder fund" is an investment vehicle that channels money from investors directly into the Ponzi scheme itself, essentially acting as a conduit to funnel funds to the fraudulent operator, allowing the operator to pay returns to earlier investors with money from new investors, thus perpetuating the scheme. (*Id.*) The Receiver has usually referred to such feeder funds as "aggregators." (*Id.*) Certain feeder funds in a Ponzi scheme can also channel money from investors into one or more aggregators higher up the "chain" for eventual upstream investment in the fraudulent operator. (*Id.*) Here, the Receiver has usually referred to such feeder funds as "sub-aggregators" or "sub-sub-aggregators," depending on how many levels removed they were from 1inMM. (*Id.*) In the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, the aggregator model can be illustrated as follows:



24 $\| (Id.) \|$

Here, the Receiver determined that the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme ultimately involved 38 aggregators, sub-aggregators and sub-sub-aggregators (collectively, the "<u>Aggregators</u>"). (*Id.* ¶ 9.) A list of the Aggregators is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> to the

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Vives Declaration.¹ The Receiver has analyzed each Aggregator's relationship with 1 inMM by, among other things, reviewing the applicable promissory notes, investor agreements and related documents and performing a detailed forensic accounting analysis of their financial transactions with 1 inMM and their constituent investors/lenders. (*Id.* ¶ 10.)

The Receiver's forensic accounting analysis indicated that the Aggregators, in fact, operated as pass-throughs (or "conduits") for their respective investors' investments in 1inMM. (*Id.* ¶ 11) Put differently, the Aggregators simply passed money they received (or aggregated) from their investors up the chain to 1inMM, and then returned money from 1inMM (i.e., returned capital and profits) down the chain to their constituent investors. (*Id.*) It does not appear to the Receiver that any Aggregators held back or retained any substantial amount of money at the aggregator level for trading on their own accounts or for any other discernible purpose. (*Id.*)

This analysis generally demonstrates that the Aggregators collected money 14 from their constituent lenders/investors, then loaned it to (or invested in) 1inMM in 15 bulk sums for supposed particular film projects. (Id. ¶ 12.) 1inMM later repaid the 16 loans with interest (or repaid the invested capital with a return) to the Aggregator, 17 which then distributed those funds in the appropriate individualized amounts to its 18 constituent lenders/investors. (Id.) The Receiver, therefore, concluded that the 19 Aggregators generally functioned purely as pass-throughs/conduits for the investors, 20 as opposed to functioning as investors themselves. (*Id.*) 21

The Receiver also observed that Aggregators (including the various sub-Aggregators) usually entered into some form of agreement, promissory note or other

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- ¹ In compiling this list of Aggregators, the Receiver excluded entities which she has confirmed served as vehicles for an individual to invest in (or loan to) 1inMM, but did not aggregate money on behalf of multiple investors. To the extent the Receiver could not determine whether an entity aggregated investments for multiple individuals, she included it in the list of Aggregators. (*Id.*)

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undertaking regulating various aspects of the investment/loan as to each supposed individual film project with (a) their constituent investors/lenders as well as (b) their 2 upstream Aggregator (or, in the case of the Aggregators in the highest position of 3 the "chain," with 1inMM). (*Id.* ¶ 13.) These agreements varied in form and content 4 from Aggregator to Aggregator. (Id.) The Receiver has not attempted to obtain 5 copies of all such agreements from every Aggregator, as she does not believe it 6 would be worthwhile to subpoena, review and analyze all such agreements. (Id.) For 7 one thing, given the sheer number of Aggregators, this would be an administratively 8 burdensome, time-consuming and costly endeavor. (Id.) But even more importantly, 9 the Receiver's forensic accounting work summarized above clearly indicates that the 10 Aggregators, in practice, functioned as pass-throughs no matter what the written agreements might have said. (*Id.*) 12

In any event, as Horwitz himself admitted in his plea agreement, 1inMM did 13 not use the investors' funds as promised pursuant to any agreement. [ECF #45 at 12] 14 And that was true regardless of whether that agreement was between (a) 1inMM and 15 an Aggregator, (b) an Aggregator and a sub-Aggregator or (c) an Aggregator (or 16 sub-Aggregator) and its constituent investors/lenders. (Vives Decl. ¶ 14.) Horwitz 17 further admitted that, rather than using the investors' funds to finance 1inMM's 18 acquisition and licensing of distribution rights in specific movies, 1inMM instead 19 used those funds to make payments to prior investors, maintain 1inMM's façade of 20 legitimate operations and otherwise finance Horwitz's lavish personal lifestyle. 21 [ECF #45 at 12] As a result, even if an individual investor did not have a direct 22 contractual relationship with 1inMM, any agreement the investor had with an 23 Aggregator or sub-Aggregator was part of a larger series of agreements feeding up 24 to 1inMM, which ultimately perpetuated the fraud and caused direct injury to the 25 investor. (Vives Decl. ¶ 14.) 26

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For purposes of the claims process, then, the Receiver believes that 1inMM's individual investors/lenders-and not the Aggregators-are the only persons and 28

entities who should be permitted to assert net loss claims against the Estate. (*Id.* ¶ 15.) However, disregarding the Aggregators for claims allowance purposes is not intended to impact any other aspect of the Estate or any claims pursued by the Receiver for avoidance of fraudulent transfers, particularly where the Aggregators may have paid and received funds from 1inMM on behalf of the individual investors. (*Id.*) The purpose of this Motion, instead, is to eliminate duplicate claims by the Aggregators against the Estate for funds they paid into the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme on behalf of their respective individual constituent investors. (*Id.*)

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D. The Claims Procedures Order

On December 20, 2024, the Receiver filed a motion to approve her proposed claims procedures, set a claims bar date and approve various forms associated therewith (the "<u>Claims Procedures Motion</u>"). [ECF #389] As the Receiver explained in the Claims Procedures Motion, the claims process is an integral step in determining and confirming the full scope of losses incurred by victims of the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, the ultimate goal of which is to reach an approved list of allowed claims as efficiently as possible, while also providing claimants an opportunity to be heard as to their respective claim amounts. [ECF #389 at 2]

Among other things, the Receiver proposed to send a Claims Notice Package (as defined in the Claims Procedure Motion) to "all prospective investor and noninvestor claimants via email and United States Mail." (*Id.* at 6.) At several points in the Claims Procedures Motion, the Receiver referred to the prospective claimants as the individual investors, not the Aggregators. (*Id.* at 2, 6.) The Receiver did not, however, expressly define who is or is not a prospective claimant, nor did she address how she intended to treat the Aggregators in the claims process.

On January 9, 2025, the Court entered an order granting the Claims
Procedures Motion (i.e., the Claims Procedures Order). [ECF #397] Like the Claims
Procedures Motion, the Claims Procedures Order did not define who is or is not a

prospective claimant, nor did it address how the Receiver should treat the Aggregators in the claims process.

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Proposed definitions of "Aggregator," "Investor," "Conduit," "Net Е. Losses" and "Net Loss Claim"

In light of the foregoing, the Receiver believes it is necessary and appropriate to clarify the Claims Procedures Order to address, using precise definitions, how she should treat Aggregators. (Vives Decl. ¶ 16.) The Receiver proposes that the Court use the following definitions in the order granting this Motion:² (*Id.*)

"Aggregator" 1.

The term "Aggregator" means: (i) the entities listed on Exhibit A to Exhibit 1 to the Motion; or (ii) any other person or entity that the Receiver determines (A) pooled or accumulated funds it received from multiple Investors or other Aggregators, irrespective of whether such transactions were characterized as loans or investments, and (B) functioned as a Conduit to funnel such funds, either directly or indirectly, to and from 1inMM.

2. "Conduit"

The term "Conduit" has the meaning ascribed to it in *In re Walldesign, Inc.*, 872 F.3d 954 (9th Cir. 2017), In re Incomnet, Inc., 463 F.3d 1064 (9th Cir. 2006), and similar decisions.³

recipient is a transferee or a mere conduit, which generally turns on whether the recipient had the ability "to freely appropriate the transferred funds." Walldesign, 872 F.3d at 963. Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER

² As used in this Motion, these capitalized terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this section. ³ As the Receiver has explained previously [See, e.g., ECF #301 at 10-11; ECF #235 at 10-11],

Walldesign and Incomnet are the leading decisions of the Ninth Circuit regarding the conduit issue. In these cases, the Ninth Circuit held that the "dominion test" applies to determine if a transfer

3. "Investor"

The term "Investor" means any person or entity that the Receiver determines sent funds to or received funds from 1inMM either directly or indirectly through one or more Aggregators but was not itself an Aggregator.

4. "Net Losses"

The term "Net Losses" means a debt resulting from a claimant paying more into the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme than 1inMM returned to the claimant, whether directly or indirectly through an Aggregator, as calculated by the Receiver using the net investment method.

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5. "Net Loss Claim"

The term "Net Loss Claim" means a claim asserted against the Estate for Net Losses.

Legal Standards

A. Clarification of prior orders

"The general purpose of a motion for clarification is to explain or clarify 15 something ambiguous or vague, not to alter or amend." Yellow Rose Prods., Inc. v. 16 Pandora Media, LLC, No. 2:22-CV-809-MCS-MAR, 2023 WL 6932560, at *2 17 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 29, 2023) (quoting United States v. All Assets Held at Bank Julius, 18 Baer & Co., 315 F. Supp. 3d 90, 99 (D.D.C. 2018)). "A court may interpret and 19 explain [an order] to guide the parties without express reliance on any particular 20 statute or rule." Yellow Rose Prods., 2023 WL 6932560, at *2 (quoting In re Fontem) 21 US, Inc. Consumer Class Action Litig., No. SACV 15-01026-JVS-RAOX, 2017 WL 22 10402988, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2017)). 23

A district court may, for example, exercise its discretion to clarify a prior order "to reflect the implications of the original order and to ensure that the purpose is fully implemented and executed." *Parker v. Alexander Marine Co. Ltd.*, No. SA CV 12-1994-DOC (JCGX), 2019 WL 13551512, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2019). One way courts provide such clarification is by defining the meaning of words used in a prior order. *See, e.g., 2ONE Labs Inc. v. ITG Brands, LLC*, No. CV 24-08124-MWF (Ex), 2025 WL 506314, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 16, 2025).

In any event, because the Claims Procedure Order is interlocutory in nature, the Court "possesses the inherent procedural power to reconsider, rescind, or modify [it] for cause seen by [the Court] to be sufficient." *City of Los Angeles, Harbor Div. v. Santa Monica Baykeeper*, 254 F.3d 882, 885 (9th Cir. 2001) (emphasis removed); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(b) (providing that interlocutory orders "may be revised at any time before the entry of a judgment"). So there is no question that the Court has the power to grant the relief the Receiver requests.

B. The Court's wide discretion and equitable power in receiverships 10 District courts have "extremely broad" power and "wide discretion" in 11 overseeing the administration of a receivership. Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Peterson, 12 129 F.4th 599, 608 (9th Cir. 2025); Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Hardy, 803 F.2d 1034, 13 1037 (9th Cir. 1986); Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., 848 F.3d 14 1339, 1343-44 (11th Cir. 2017). "The power of a district court to impose a 15 receivership or grant other forms of ancillary relief does not in the first instance 16 depend on a statutory grant of power from the securities laws. Rather, the authority 17 derives from the inherent power of a court of equity to fashion effective relief." Sec. 18 & Exch. Comm'n v. Wencke, 622 F.2d 1363, 1369 (9th Cir. 1980). These broad 19 powers include "the power to establish proof of claim procedures and set an effective 20 claims bar date." Wells Fargo Bank, 848 F.3d at 1344. 21

A court imposing a receivership assumes custody and control of all assets and property of the receivership, and it has broad equitable authority to issue all orders necessary for the proper administration of the receivership estate. *See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Credit Bancorp Ltd.*, 290 F.3d 80, 82-83 (2d Cir. 2002); *Liberte Cap Grp. v. Capwill*, 854 F. Supp. 2d 478, 483 (N.D. Ohio 2012). The Ninth Circuit in particular "affords broad deference to the [district] court's supervisory role" in receivership cases, and "generally uphold[s] reasonable procedures instituted by the

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district court that serve th[e] purpose of orderly and efficient administration of the receivership for the benefit of creditors." *Commodity Futures Trading Comm'n v. Topworth Int'l, Ltd.*, 205 F.3d 1107, 1115 (9th Cir. 1999) (cleaned up; quotations and citations omitted). Such procedures must be "practicable as well as equitable." *Hardy*, 803 F.2d at 1039 (citations omitted).

Accordingly, "[o]nce assets are placed in receivership, a district court's equitable purpose demands that the court be able to exercise control over claims brought against those assets." *See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Champion-Cain,* No. 19-CV-1628-LAB-AHG, 2023 WL 2215955, at *8 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 24, 2023) (quoting *Liberte v. Cap. Grp., LLC v. Capwill,* 462 F.3d 543, 551 (6th Cir. 2009)). "One of the primary purposes of equitable jurisdiction in the context of equity receiverships [is] to allow for the district court's orderly and efficient administration of an estate to which numerous creditors have competing claims for the benefit of creditors." *Champion-Cain,* 2023 WL 2215955, at *8 (citing *Hardy,* 803 F.2d at 1038) (cleaned up). A district court thus has broad discretion to control claims in an equity receivership involving "multiple parties and complex transactions." *Hardy,* 803 F.2d at 1037.

Finally, Local Rule 66-8 directs a receiver to "administer the estate as nearly as possible in accordance with the practice in the administration of estates in bankruptcy." Accordingly, district courts sitting in receivership may look to bankruptcy law for guidance about the administration of a receivership. See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Cap. Consultants, LLC, 397 F.3d 733, 745 (9th Cir. 2005) (bankruptcy law "analogous" and therefore persuasive in administration of receivership estates); Wells Fargo Bank, 848 F.3d at 1344 ("bankruptcy law is both analogous and instructive" with respect to receivership administration issues). This is largely because "the purpose of bankruptcy receiverships and equity receiverships is essentially the same—to marshal assets, preserve value, equally distribute to creditors, and, either reorganize, if possible, or orderly liquidate." Sec. & Exch.

Comm'n v. Stanford Int'l Bank, Ltd., 927 F.3d 830, 841 (5th Cir. 2019) (internal citation and quotations omitted).

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Appropriateness of summary proceedings С.

A district court overseeing a receivership has "the general power to use 4 summary procedure in allowing, disallowing, and subordinating claims of creditors" 5 and, more broadly, in "determin[ing] appropriate relief in equity receivership." 6 Hardy, 803 F.2d at 1040 (quoting United States v. Ariz. Fuel Corp., 739 F.2d 455, 7 458 (9th Cir. 1984)). Resolving claim disputes via summary proceedings is "a 8 reasonable and practicable attempt to administer the receivership" that "promotes 9 10 judicial efficiency and reduces litigation costs to the receivership." Hardy, 803 F.2d at 1040 (citations omitted); see also Ariz. Fuel Corp., 739 F.2d at 460 ("A summary proceeding reduces the time necessary to settle disputes, decreases litigation costs, 12 and prevents further dissipation of receivership assets."); Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. 13 Wencke, 783 F.2d 829, 836-38 (9th Cir. 1986) (approving summary proceedings to 14 adjudicate claims on receivership assets); Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Universal Fin., 15 760 F.2d 1034, 1037 (9th Cir. 1985) (same, and finding "distinction between 16 summary and plenary proceedings" to be "of no consequence" where "district court 17 offered [i]nvestors virtually all of the procedural protections which would have been 18 available in plenary proceedings"). 19

Relief Requested

Because the Aggregators functioned as pass-throughs, the Receiver believes 21 they did not themselves suffer Net Losses as a result of the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme. 22 (Vives Decl. ¶ 17.) Instead, the Receiver has concluded that the financial reality of 23 the matter is that Investors who sent their money to the Aggregators for eventual 24 upstream investment in/loans to 1inMM are the ones who actually incurred the Net 25 Losses. (Id.) The Receiver therefore respectfully submits that it is appropriate for the 26 Court to clarify the Claims Procedures Order as specified below. (Id.) 27

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In the exercise of its wide discretion, "district courts supervising receiverships have the power to classify claims sensibly[.]" Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Wealth Mgmt. 2 LLC, 628 F.3d 323, 333 (7th Cir. 2010) (internal citations and guotations omitted). 3 This includes defining what categories of persons or entities are eligible to file 4 claims. See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Titanium Blockchain Infrastructure 5 Servs., Inc., No. 18-CV-4315 DSF (JPRX), 2020 WL 13669017, at *1 (C.D. Cal. 6 Aug. 21, 2020) (granting receiver's motion to define classes of eligible claimants 7 and to divide them into several categories); U.S. Commodity Futures Trading 8 Comm'n v. AlphaMetrix, LLC, No. 13 C 7896, 2015 WL 13653006, at *3 (N.D. Ill. 9 Sept. 30, 2015) (approving receiver's proposal to distinguish between investors and 10 creditors for purposes of claims process); U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Comm'n *v. RFF GP, LLC*, No. 4:13-CV-382, 2014 WL 491639, at *2 (E.D. Tex. Feb. 4, 2014) 12 (similar), adopted, No. 4:13-CV-382, 2014 WL 994928 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 10, 2014); 13 Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Cobalt Multifamily Invs. I, Inc., No. 06 CIV. 2360 (KMW) 14 (MHD), 2007 WL 9810931, at *14 n.21 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 30, 2007) (similar), adopted, 542 F. Supp. 2d 277 (S.D.N.Y. 2008). 16

Here, the claims process is an integral step in developing a comprehensive 17 distribution plan for holders of Net Loss Claims and other creditors. (Vives Decl. ¶ 18 18.) The Receiver's forensic accounting analysis will determine the preliminary 19 value of prospective claims held by Investor claimants and any potential non-20 Investor claimants. (*Id.*) The streamlined claims process that the Court has approved 21 uses the Receiver's extensive accounting work as its foundation. (Id.) It will allow the Receiver and the Court to efficiently determine the appropriate claim amounts for all Investors and other prospective claimants, which is a key step towards being able to make a fair and equitable distribution of Estate funds. (*Id.*)

linMM's extensive use of Aggregators, however, could potentially complicate and even frustrate the claims process. (Id. ¶ 19.) As discussed above, the 27 Receiver's forensic accounting work clearly indicates that the Aggregators in fact

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functioned as pass-throughs for their constituent Investors. (*Id.*) But upon receiving the claims materials, Aggregator representatives are likely to file Net Loss Claims even though the Aggregator itself was literally just bundling other Investors' money and upstreaming it. (*Id.*) Such claims would be entirely duplicative of their constituent Investors' claims for the very same Net Losses. (*Id.*) Thus, dealing with Aggregator claims during the claims process will almost certainly result in an administrative burden on the Estate and a concomitant delay in the Receiver's completion of claims review and reconciliation. (*Id.*)

The Receiver, therefore, proposes that the Court adopt the definitions of "Aggregator," "Investors," "Conduit," "Net Losses" and "Net Loss Claim" set out above and clarify the Claims Procedures Order in two important respects:

<u>First</u>, by ordering that all references therein to "all prospective investor claimants" (and similar references) mean Investors, not Aggregators; and

<u>Second</u>, by authorizing the Receiver—in generally carrying out the Claims
Procedures Order and specifically when calculating Net Losses and determining who
holds Net Loss Claims, to disregard Aggregators (and any claim for Net Losses an
Aggregator may file) and treat each Investor as if he, she or it had sent/received
funds directly to/from 1inMM. Aggregators would, however, be permitted to assert
a claim against the Estate for debts other than Net Losses.

The Receiver submits that clarifying the Claims Procedures Order in these 20 ways is well within the Court's wide discretion and equitable power to supervise 21 receiverships generally and claims processes therein specifically, and that doing so 22 will "reflect the implications" of the Claims Procedures Order and "ensure that [its] 23 purpose is fully implemented and executed." Parker, 2019 WL 13551512, at *1. 24 (Vives Decl. ¶ 20.) To be clear, the Receiver's request to disregard the Aggregators 25 would apply to the claims process only and is not intended to impact any other aspect 26 of the Estate (such as, for example, claims pursued by the Receiver for avoidance of 27

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fraudulent transfers, particularly where the Aggregators may have paid and received funds from 1inMM on behalf of the individual investors). (Vives Decl. ¶ 20.)

Objection Procedures

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The Receiver recognizes that some Aggregators may disagree with her conclusion and wish to challenge it. (Vives Decl. ¶ 21.) The Receiver also understands and respects the importance of giving Aggregators reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard on this issue. (*Id.*)

"[T]he rights of creditors of a receivership must be balanced against the need 8 for expeditious administration of the receivership." Hardy, 803 F.2d at 1039; see also Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Torchia, 922 F.3d 1307, 1319 (11th Cir. 2019) ("the 10 need for expediency and a district court's authority to utilize summary proceedings in receivership do not outweigh an investor's right to due process"). To afford due 12 process, summary proceedings, at minimum, "must provide affected investors with 13 necessary information, a meaningful opportunity to argue the facts and their claims 14 and defenses, and an adjudication of their claims and defense." Torchia, 922 F.3d at 15 1319; see also Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Elliott, 953 F.2d 1560, 1567 (11th Cir. 1992) 16 (holding that "a district court does not generally abuse its discretion if its summary procedures permit parties to present evidence when the facts are in dispute and to 18 make arguments regarding those facts"). 19

The Receiver, therefore, proposes to proceed as follows: The Receiver will, 20 in addition to the usual notice parties, give notice of this Motion to all Aggregators 21 listed on Exhibit A to her declaration. (Vives Decl. ¶ 22.)⁴ An accompanying notice 22 will, among other things: 23

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26 ⁴ Exhibit A contains the names of the Aggregators but not their last-known addresses. Out of respect for their privacy, the Receiver does not think it appropriate to make the Aggregators' 27 addresses public. The Receiver maintains a list of the Aggregators' last-known mailing (and, if known, e-mail) addresses and will provide it to the Court upon request. (Vives Decl. $\P 22$ n.1.) 28

• Explain that the Motion asks the Court to declare that Aggregators are not permitted to assert Net Loss Claims, and the Receiver is authorized to disregard them (and any Net Loss Claims that they may file) for purposes of calculating Net Losses and determining who is entitled to hold a Net Loss Claim, but that they will still be permitted to file a claim for debts other than Net Losses;

• Instruct the Aggregators that, if they wish to challenge the Receiver's determination that they were pass-throughs (i.e., Conduits) as opposed to Investors themselves, they must file an objection to the Motion stating all factual and legal grounds therefor **no later than seven (7) days before the hearing date** (the "Objection Deadline");

• State that failing to file an objection by the Objection Deadline may result in the Court granting the Motion with respect to the applicable Aggregators without a hearing; and

Invite Aggregators to contact the Receiver's office to ask questions and/or to present documents, information and any arguments that they wish the Receiver to consider to avoid filing a formal objection. (Vives Decl. ¶ 22.)

The Receiver will, of course, work with any Aggregators who respond to avoid objections and reach individualized solutions. (*Id.* \P 23.) However, to the extent that an Aggregator receives notice but neither contacts the Receiver nor files an objection with the Court or otherwise requests a hearing, then the Receiver will ask the Court to grant the Motion and authorize her to disregard the Aggregators (and any Net Loss Claims that they may file) in determining who may assert a Net Loss Claim against the Estate. (*Id.*)

This proposed procedure is a form of "negative notice" and summary procedures. Negative notice refers to a procedure by which a debtor or receiver advises a claimant that if he or she does not respond and request a hearing within a time certain, the Court may enter an order without further hearing. *See, e.g., In re Marinez*, 589 F.3d 772, 775 (5th Cir. 2009) ("'negative notice' is language

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customarily used in bankruptcy cases to indicate if and when a response is due and the consequences of failing to file a response"). "Negative notices shift the burden to an interested party...to evaluate his claim and the debtor's objections, and then make his own decision whether an evidentiary hearing would be helpful, and request a hearing, if desired." *In re Pierce*, 435 F.3d 891, 892 (8th Cir. 2006). Negative notice procedures comply with procedural due process so long as they offer the claimant an opportunity to be heard. *See, e.g., Pierce*, 435 F.3d at 892 (negative notice satisfied due process where claimant received notice, which was clear, but claimant failed to request an evidentiary hearing); *In re Haffey*, No. 5:21-cv-323-MMH, 2022 WL 950645, at *7 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 30, 2022) (similar).

Ninth Circuit courts have approved the use of summary procedures under similar circumstances. *See, e.g., Champion-Cain,* 2023 WL 2215955, at *9 (finding summary proceedings "more than satisf[ied]" due process where investors received notice of proposed distribution plan over 90 days prior to hearing, had almost 60 days to file objections, and had full and fair opportunity to present objections at hearing); *cf. Wencke,* 783 F.2d at 838 (rejecting creditors' arguments that due process rights were violated where notice was provided just 19 days before summary proceeding in which disgorgement order was issued).

Conclusion

Based on her experience in complex federal equity receivership matters, her 20 forensic accounting work performed to date in this case and 1inMM's extensive use 21 of Aggregators to perpetuate the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, the Receiver believes that 22 it is necessary and appropriate for the Court to clarify who may assert Net Loss 23 Claims before the claims process begins in earnest. (Vives Decl. ¶ 24.) Because the 24 Aggregators functioned as pass-throughs for end Investors of the 1inMM Ponzi 25 Scheme, the Receiver recommends that the Court should use its wide discretion and 26 broad equitable power to administer claims processes in receiverships to authorize 27

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her to disregard the Aggregators in calculating Net Losses and determining who holds Net Loss Claims. (*Id.*)

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Notice to Creditors

As noted above, the Receiver will give notice of this Motion to all Aggregators listed on Exhibit A to the Vives Declaration. The Receiver will also give notice to all known creditors of the Estate. (*Id.* \P 25.)

"Creditors are entitled to 'notice reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections."" *Perez v. Safety-Kleen Sys., Inc.*, 253 F.R.D. 508, 518 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (quoting *Mullane v. Central Hanover Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950)). "[D]ue process...is not a technical conception with a fixed content unrelated to time, place and circumstances[.]" *Grimm v. City of Portland*, 971 F.3d 1060, 1065 (9th Cir. 2020). Instead, "due process is flexible and calls for such procedural protections as the particular situation demands." *Muñoz v. United States Dep't of State*, 50 F.4th 906, 922 (9th Cir. 2022). The Court may "exercise[] significant control over the time and manner" of any proceeding to hear a creditor's objections. *Liberte Cap Grp.*, 462 F.3d at 552.

The Receiver will give notice of the Motion by: (a) CM/ECF to 18 parties/interested parties; (b) email to all Aggregators listed on Exhibit A to the 19 Vives Declaration and all known creditors of the Estate (or, if represented, their 20 counsel) with a link to this Motion and supporting exhibits; and (c) posting it on the 21 receivership website. (Vives Decl. ¶ 26.) These communications will include 22 instructions on how to advise the Receiver of any objections to the Motion by no 23 later than seven days before the hearing. (Id.) The Receiver will thereafter file a 24 status report. (*Id.*) 25

The Court should deem this notice sufficient under the circumstances. *See*, *e.g., Fed. Trade Comm'n v. Cardiff*, 2020 WL 9938072, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 10, 2020) (receiver's notice of settlement satisfied due process where receiver posted

motion to its website and served on all parties, known creditors and interested parties); Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Adams, 2021 WL 8016843, at *2 (S.D. Miss. Feb. 2 25, 2021) (same, where receiver provided mail notice to interested parties, 3 publicized settlement on receivership website and gave interested parties 4 instructions how to submit comment or objection to settlement); Sec. & Exch. 5 Comm'n v. Nadel, 2012 WL 12910648, at *1 (M.D. Fla. Feb. 10, 2012) (same, where 6 receiver published notice once in two newspapers). 7

WHEREFORE, the Receiver respectfully requests that the Court enter an 8 order: (a) granting the Motion; (b) clarifying the Claims Procedures Order as 9 10 discussed above; and (c) granting such other relief as is just and equitable.

Dated: April 10, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP

/s/*Terence G. Banich* Terence G. Banich By:

Attorneys for the Receiver Michele Vives

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 525 W. MONROE ST. CHICAGO, IL 60661 (312) 902-5200

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Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER 19

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	1	<u><u>C</u></u>	ertificate of Com	pliance with L.	<u>R. 11-6.2</u>
	2	The undersigned	ed, counsel of rec	ord for the Recei	iver, Michele Vives, certifies
	3	that this brief contain	s 5,764 words, w	hich complies w	ith the word limit of L.R. 11-
	4	6.1.			
	5	Dated: April 10, 202	25 R	Respectfully subr	nitted,
	6		/c Ŧ	<u>s/ <i>Terence G. Ba</i></u> Ference G. Banic	nich
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PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK

At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of Cook, State of Illinois. My business address is 525 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60661. On April 10, 2025, I served the following document(s) described as:

UNOPPOSED MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER

as follows:

[] BY MAIL: I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the persons at the addresses listed above and placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that the correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.

[] BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: I caused the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address terence.banich@katten.com to the persons at the e-mail address(es) listed below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

[] BY OVERNIGHT MAIL (FedEx): I enclosed said document(s) in an envelope or package provided by FEDEX and addressed to the persons at the addresses listed above. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or a regularly utilized drop box of FEDEX or delivered such document(s) to a courier or driver authorized by FEDEX to receive documents.

[X] E-FILING: By causing the document to be electronically filed via the Court's CM/ECF system, which effects electronic service on counsel who are registered with the CM/ECF system.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Illinois that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on April 10, 2025, at Winnetka, Illinois.

<u>/s/Terence G. Banich</u> Terence G. Banich

Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD MOTION OF RECEIVER MICHELE VIVES FOR ORDER CLARIFYING CLAIMS PROCEDURES ORDER

Case	2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD	Document 419-1 ID #:9597	Filed 04/10/25	Page 1 of 12 Page
1	Terence G. Banich (SI	AN 212173)		
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10		NITED STATES		
11	CEN	NTRAL DISTRI	CT OF CALIFO	DRNIA
12	SECURITIES AND EX COMMISSION,	KCHANGE	Case No. 2:22	1-cv-02927-CAS-PD
13	Plaintiff,		DECLARAT VIVES	TION OF MICHELE
14	v.			
15		TZ; and 1inMM	Judge: H Courtroom: 8	Hon. Christina A. Snyder
16 17	ZACHARY J. HORWI CAPITAL, LLC,			
17 18	Defendant	<u>s.</u>		
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				Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD
			Ι	DECLARATION OF MICHELE VIVES

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I, Michele Vives, declare as follows:

I am over the age of eighteen years, am under no disability and am 1. competent to testify to the matters set forth herein. Except as otherwise stated, all facts set forth in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge and/or my review of documents. If called as a witness in this case, I could and would testify competently to the facts set forth in this declaration.

2. I submit this declaration in support of the *Motion of Receiver Michele* 7 Vives for Order Clarifying Claims Procedures Order, dated April 10, 2025 (the "Motion"). Any capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to 9 them in the Motion. 10

I am the President of the Douglas Wilson Companies ("DWC"), an 3. advisory firm that assists companies and entities of all kinds, from financial institutions to operating companies, law firms, state and federal courts, corporations, partnerships, pension funds, REITs and more. DWC has been appointed as receiver or otherwise involved in hundreds of receiver cases over the last 30 years, and has served in other fiduciary roles, such as chapter 11 trustee, chapter 11 examiner, special master, liquidating trustee, assignee for the benefit of creditors and chief restructuring officer.

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My forensic accounting work A.

On January 14, 2022, this Court entered the Order on Appointment of 4. 20 a Permanent Receiver [ECF #70] (the "Receiver Order"), which appointed me to be 21 the federal equity receiver of defendant 1inMM Capital, LLC ("1inMM") as well as 22 assets that are attributable to investor or client funds or that were fraudulently 23 transferred by 1inMM or Zachary J. Horwitz ("Horwitz," and together with 1inMM, 24 "Defendants") (collectively, the "Estate"). 25

In connection with my duties, my staff and I conducted a 5. 26 comprehensive forensic accounting analysis of the financial transactions involving 27 linMM, Horwitz, their respective insiders and affiliates, as well as third parties who 28

received transfers from Defendants. I determined that, throughout the duration of the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, 1inMM engaged in tens of thousands of transactions totaling over \$750 million.

6. As there were no accounting records, I had no choice but to reconstruct linMM's transaction history from scratch. The forensic accounting analysis has been a fundamental element of maximizing the Estate's recovery, as it has enabled me to determine who may be liable to the Estate for receiving fraudulent transfers, identify previously unknown assets, and obtain information about 1inMM's investors.

7. Obtaining information about 1inMM's investors—including the amounts each investor invested into and received from the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme is particularly important, as this information serves as the basis for my determined claim amount for each investor and will be an integral part of the claims process (discussed in more detail below and in the Motion). The forensic accounting, therefore, will be a foundational part of ensuring that accurate claim amounts are accepted on behalf of the Estate.

B. The role of Aggregators in 1inMM Ponzi Scheme

8. As I have reported previously, Horwitz generally operated the 1inMM 18 Ponzi Scheme on a feeder fund model. In the context of a Ponzi scheme, the typical 19 "feeder fund" is an investment vehicle that channels money from investors directly 20 into the Ponzi scheme itself, essentially acting as a conduit to funnel funds to the 21 22 fraudulent operator, allowing the operator to pay returns to earlier investors with money from new investors, thus perpetuating the scheme. I have usually referred to 23 such feeder funds as "aggregators." Certain feeder funds in a Ponzi scheme can also 24 channel money from investors into one or more aggregators higher up the "chain" 25 for eventual upstream investment in the fraudulent operator. I have usually referred 26 to such feeder funds as "sub-aggregators" or "sub-sub-aggregators," depending on 27

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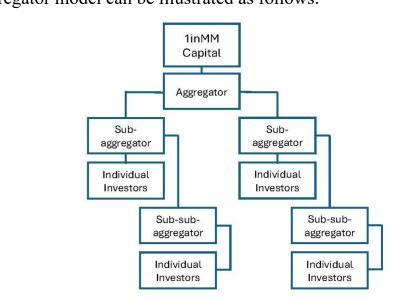
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how many levels removed they were from 1inMM. In the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, the aggregator model can be illustrated as follows: 2



9. Here, I determined that the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme ultimately involved aggregators, sub-aggregators and sub-sub-aggregators (collectively, the 38 "Aggregators"). A list of the Aggregators is attached hereto as Exhibit A. In compiling this list of Aggregators, I excluded entities which I have confirmed served as vehicles for an individual to invest in (or loan to) 1inMM, but did not aggregate money on behalf of multiple investors. To the extent I could not determine whether an entity aggregated investments for multiple individuals, I included it in the list of Aggregators.

I have analyzed each Aggregator's relationship with 1inMM by, among 10. 20 other things, reviewing the applicable promissory notes, investor agreements and 21 22 related documents and performing a detailed forensic accounting analysis of their financial transactions with 1inMM and their constituent investors/lenders. 23

24 11. My forensic accounting analysis indicated that the Aggregators, in fact, operated as pass-throughs (or "conduits") for their respective investors' investments 25 in 1inMM. Put differently, the Aggregators simply passed money they received (or 26 aggregated) from their investors up the chain to 1inMM, and then returned money 27 from 1inMM (i.e., returned capital and profits) down the chain to their constituent 28

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Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD DECLARATION OF MICHELE VIVES investors. It does not appear to me that any Aggregators held back or retained any substantial amount of money at the aggregator level for trading on their own accounts or for any other discernible purpose.

12. This analysis generally demonstrates that the Aggregators collected money from their constituent lenders/investors, then loaned it to (or invested in) linMM in bulk sums for supposed particular film projects. linMM later repaid the loans with interest (or repaid the invested capital with a return) to the Aggregator, which then distributed those funds in the appropriate individualized amounts to its constituent lenders/investors. I, therefore, concluded that the Aggregators generally functioned purely as pass-throughs/conduits for the investors, as opposed to functioning as investors themselves.

I also observed that Aggregators (including the various sub-13. 12 Aggregators) usually entered into some form of agreement, promissory note or other 13 undertaking regulating various aspects of the investment/loan as to each supposed 14 individual film project with (a) their constituent investors/lenders as well as (b) their 15 upstream Aggregator (or, in the case of the Aggregators in the highest position of 16 the "chain," with 1inMM). These agreements varied in form and content from 17 Aggregator to Aggregator. I have not attempted to obtain copies of all such 18 agreements from each and every Aggregator, as I do not believe it would be 19 worthwhile to subpoena, review and analyze all such agreements. For one thing, 20 given the sheer number of Aggregators, this would be an administratively 21 burdensome, time-consuming and costly endeavor. But even more importantly, my 22 forensic accounting work summarized above and in the Motion clearly indicates that 23 the Aggregators, in practice, functioned as pass-throughs no matter what the written 24 agreements might have said. 25

14. In any event, 1inMM did not use the investors' funds as promised
pursuant to any agreement, regardless of whether that agreement was between (a)
1inMM and an Aggregator, (b) an Aggregator and a sub-Aggregator or (c) an

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Aggregator (or sub-Aggregator) and its constituent investors/lenders. As a result, even if an individual investor did not have a direct contractual relationship with linMM, any agreement the investor had with an Aggregator or sub-Aggregator was part of a larger series of agreements feeding up to linMM, which ultimately perpetuated the fraud and caused direct injury to the investor.

15. For purposes of the claims process, then, I believe that 1inMM's individual investors/lenders—and not the Aggregators—are the only persons and entities who should be permitted to assert net loss claims against the Estate. However, disregarding the Aggregators for claims allowance purposes is not intended to impact any other aspect of the Estate or any claims pursued by me for avoidance of fraudulent transfers, particularly where the Aggregators may have paid and received funds from 1inMM on behalf of the individual investors. The purpose of this Motion, instead, is to eliminate duplicate claims by the Aggregators against the Estate for funds they paid into the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme on behalf of their respective individual constituent investors.

16 16. In light of the foregoing, in addition to other considerations described
in the Motion, I believe it is necessary and appropriate to clarify the Claims
Procedures Order using precise definitions to address how I should treat
Aggregators. Those proposed definitions appear at pages 8-9 of the Motion.

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C. Relief Requested

17. Because the Aggregators functioned as pass-throughs, I believe they
did not themselves suffer Net Losses as a result of the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme.
Instead, I have concluded that the financial reality of the matter is that Investors who
sent their money to the Aggregators for eventual upstream investment in/loans to
1inMM are the ones who actually incurred the Net Losses. I therefore respectfully
submit that it is appropriate for the Court to clarify the Claims Procedures Order as
specified in the Motion.

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 CHICAGO, IL 60661

 (312) 902-5200

18. Here, the claims process is an integral step in developing a comprehensive distribution plan for holders of Net Loss Claims and other creditors. My forensic accounting analysis will determine the preliminary value of prospective claims held by Investor claimants and any potential non-Investor claimants. The streamlined claims process that the Court has approved uses my extensive accounting work as its foundation. It will allow the Court and me to efficiently determine the appropriate claim amounts for all Investors and other prospective claimants, which is a key step towards being able to make a fair and equitable distribution of Estate funds.

19. linMM's extensive use of Aggregators, however, could potentially 10 complicate and even frustrate the claims process. As discussed above and in the 11 Motion, my forensic accounting work clearly indicates that the Aggregators in fact 12 functioned as pass-throughs for their constituent Investors. But upon receiving the 13 claims materials, Aggregator representatives are likely to file Net Loss Claims even 14 though the Aggregator itself was literally just bundling other Investors' money and 15 upstreaming it. Such claims would be entirely duplicative of their constituent 16 Investors' claims for the very same Net Losses. Thus, dealing with Aggregator 17 claims during the claims process will almost certainly result in an administrative 18 burden on the Estate and a concomitant delay in my completion of claims review 19 and reconciliation. 20

20. I respectfully submit that clarifying the Claims Procedures Order as 21 proposed in the Motion is well within the Court's wide discretion and equitable 22 power to supervise receiverships generally and claims processes therein specifically, 23 and that doing so will reflect the implications of the Claims Procedures Order and 24 ensure that its purpose is fully implemented and executed. To be clear, however, my 25 request to disregard the Aggregators would apply to the claims process only and is 26 not intended to impact any other aspect of the Estate (such as, for example, claims 27 pursued by me for avoidance of fraudulent transfers, particularly where the 28

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Case No. 2:21-cv-02927-CAS-PD DECLARATION OF MICHELE VIVES Aggregators may have paid and received funds from 1inMM on behalf of the
 individual investors).

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D. Objection Procedures

21. I recognize that some Aggregators may disagree with my conclusion and wish to challenge it. I also understand and respect the importance of giving Aggregators reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard on this issue.

22. I, therefore, propose to give notice of the Motion to all Aggregators listed on Exhibit A hereto, in addition to the usual notice parties.¹ An accompanying notice will, among other things:

• Explain that the Motion asks the Court to declare that Aggregators are not permitted to assert Net Loss Claims, and I am authorized to disregard them (and any Net Loss Claims that they may file) for purposes of calculating Net Losses and determining who is entitled to hold a Net Loss Claim, but that they will still be permitted to file a claim for debts other than Net Losses;

Instruct the Aggregators that, if they wish to challenge my
determination that they were pass-throughs (i.e., Conduits) as opposed to Investors
themselves, they must file an objection to the Motion stating all factual and legal
grounds therefor no later than seven (7) days before the hearing date (the
"Objection Deadline");

State that failing to file an objection by the Objection Deadline may
result in the Court granting the Motion with respect to the applicable Aggregators
without a hearing; and

¹ Exhibit A contains the names of the Aggregators but not their last-known addresses. Out of respect for their privacy, I do not think it appropriate to make the Aggregators' addresses public.
I maintain a list of the Aggregators' last-known mailing (and, if known, e-mail) addresses and will provide it to the Court upon request.

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 525 W. MONROE ST. CHICAGO, IL 60661 (312) 902-5200

Invite Aggregators to contact my office to ask questions and/or to
present documents, information and any arguments that they wish me to consider to
avoid filing a formal objection.

23. I will, of course, work with any Aggregators who respond to avoid objections and reach individualized solutions. However, to the extent that an Aggregator receives notice but neither contacts me nor files an objection with the Court or otherwise requests a hearing, then I will ask the Court to grant the Motion and authorize me to disregard the Aggregators in determining who may assert a Net Loss Claim against the Estate.

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E. Conclusion

Based on my experience in complex federal equity receivership 24. 11 matters, my forensic accounting work performed to date in this case and 1inMM's 12 extensive use of Aggregators to perpetuate the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, I believe that 13 it is necessary and appropriate for the Court to clarify who may assert Net Loss 14 Claims before the claims process begins in earnest. Because the Aggregators 15 functioned as pass-throughs for end Investors of the 1inMM Ponzi Scheme, I 16 recommend that the Court should use its wide discretion and broad equitable power 17 to administer claims processes in receiverships to authorize me to disregard the 18 Aggregators in calculating Net Losses and determining who holds Net Loss Claims. 19

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F. Notice to Creditors

21 25. As noted above and in the Motion, I will give notice of this Motion to
22 all Aggregators listed on Exhibit A hereto. I will also give notice to all known
23 creditors of the Estate.

24 26. I will give notice of the Motion by: (a) CM/ECF to parties/interested 25 parties; (b) email to all Aggregators listed on Exhibit A hereto and all known 26 creditors of the Estate (or, if represented, their counsel) with a link to this Motion 27 and supporting exhibits; and (c) posting it on the receivership website. These 28 communications will include instructions on how to advise me of any objections to

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	1	the Motion by no later than seven days before the hearing. I will thereafter file a
	2	status report.
	3	Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the
	4	laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.
	5	Executed on April 10, 2025 /s/Michele Vives in San Diego, California Michele Vives
	6	in San Diego, California Michele Vives
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	1		Exh	ibit A				
	2	<u>Exhibit A</u> List of Aggregators						
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Exhibit A List of Aggregators
AFA Marketing & Investments
Altgeld Group SPE, LLC
Beepa Cheech Paulo, LLC
Breakout SPE, LLC
Centre & Broome LLC
CLA Investment, LLC
Cohen Distributions, LLC
Empirus, Inc.
FNG Capital Partners, LLC
G3 Capital Partners, LLC
Global Hospitality Concepts
Go Bucks Investments, LLC
Granite Holdings, LLC
Granite Ridge Investors, LLC
Ingen
IRVRU Company, LLC
JJMT Capital, LLC
JLSS Investments
Kim Capital, LLC
LPIW, LLC
Magna Capital, LLC
McBride Capital LLC
McLinden Family, LLC
Movie Fund, LLC
Nalpak Enterprises
Nalpak I
Nalpak II
New Traveler, Inc.
Next Generation Investment Group
Palace Court Capital, LLC
Private Client Capital Partners, LLC
PRL Venture I, LLC
Pure Health Enterprises, Inc.
QD Associates, LLC
Sekula Investments LLC
Sibleymov, LLC
SKI, LLC
Sync Investments, LLC