

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**MERRIMACK, SS.**

**SUPERIOR COURT**

**Docket No. 217-2003-EQ-00106**

**In the Matter of the Liquidation of  
The Home Insurance Company**

**AFFIDAVIT OF PETER A. BENGELSDORF, SPECIAL DEPUTY  
LIQUIDATOR, IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN OPTICAL CORPORATION**

I, Peter A. Bengelsdorf, hereby depose and say:

1. I was appointed Special Deputy Liquidator of the Home Insurance Company (“Home”) by the Insurance Commissioner of the State of New Hampshire, as Liquidator (“Liquidator”) of Home. I submit this affidavit in support of the Liquidator’s Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement with American Optical Corporation. The facts and information set forth are either within my own knowledge gained through my involvement with this matter, in which case I confirm that they are true, or are based on information provided to me by others, in which case they are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.
2. The motion seeks approval for the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release (“Settlement Agreement”) between American Optical Corporation (“Claimant”), and the Liquidator. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated under my supervision. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached as Exhibit A to the Liquidator’s motion.
3. Home issued an insurance policy to Claimant for the period June 1, 1984 to June 1, 1985 which, together with all other insurance policies Home may have issued to Claimant, are referred to collectively as the “Policy”. Settlement Agreement, first Whereas clause.

4. Claimant submitted a proof of claim in the Home liquidation seeking coverage for asbestos, coal mine dust and silica-related bodily injury claims which, together with any other proofs of claim hereinbefore or hereinafter filed by Claimant in the Home liquidation, are referred to collectively as the “Proof of Claim”. Settlement Agreement, third Whereas clause. (Claimant previously submitted a proof of claim that was disallowed without prejudice to the filing of a new proof of claim. Settlement Agreement, fourth Whereas clause.)

5. The Liquidator and the Claimant have negotiated the Settlement Agreement reflecting a resolution of all matters concerning the Proof of Claim and their rights and obligations with respect to the Policy. Settlement Agreement, fifth Whereas clause, ¶ 2(B). The Settlement Agreement is subject to approval by the Court. Settlement Agreement ¶ 1.

6. The Settlement Agreement provides that the Liquidator will recommend allowance of the Proof of Claim in the amount of \$13,800,000 (the “Recommended Amount”) as a Class II priority claim under RSA 402-C:44. Settlement Agreement ¶ 2(A). Allowance of the Recommended Amount as a Class II claim will fully and finally resolve the Proof of Claim and all claims that Claimant has under the Policy. *Id.* ¶ 2(B). Distributions based on that allowance will be made at the same intervals and at the same percentages as distributions to other Class II creditors of Home. *Id.* ¶ 2(C). The Recommended Amount reflects only known claims identified before the Claim Amendment Deadline.

7. The Settlement Agreement is intended to resolve the Proof of Claim and all claims that Claimant has under the Policy. Settlement Agreement ¶ 2(B). To that end, the Settlement Agreement provides for mutual releases of all claims among the Liquidator, Home, and the Claimant arising from or related to the Proof of Claim or the Policy. *Id.* ¶¶ 3, 4.

8. In resolving all of the Claimant’s claims relating to the Proof of Claim and the Policy, the Settlement Agreement is intended to resolve all matters arising out of or relating to

any rights the Claimant ever had, now has, or hereafter may have in the Policy and the Proof of Claim, including any asserted rights of third-party claimants against Claimant under the Policy. Settlement Agreement ¶ 5. The Claimant agrees to address, at its sole cost, any such claims of third-party claimants against Claimant as if there had been no liquidation proceeding for Home and as if Claimant had no insurance coverage from Home by virtue of the Policy. Id. The Claimant also agrees to indemnify and hold the Liquidator and Home harmless from all claims arising from or relating to the Proof of Claim or the Policy, including asserted rights of third party claimants but not insurer contribution claims, up to the total amount ultimately distributed or distributable in relation to the Recommended Amount. Id.

9. The Liquidator is not aware of any third party claimant proof of claim asserting claims under the Policy. However, the denial of any third party claimants' claims without prejudice to their claims against the Claimant will not harm the third party claimants, who will continue to have their claims against the Claimant. As noted above, the Claimant has agreed to address these claims as if it had no insurance coverage from Home under the Policy. Settlement Agreement ¶ 5. Third party claimants' proofs of claim against the insolvent Home, if not denied with the agreement, would release the Claimant from those claims up to the limits of the Policy but only entitle the third party claimants (assuming their claims were allowed) to the initial interim distributions and any later distribution at a presently undetermined distribution percentage from Home at the future date when distribution is made. It is not expected that the allowed claims of any third party claimants (or other Class II creditors) of Home will be paid in full. Under the Settlement Agreement, the Claimant is responsible for any third party claimants' claims against it. See Settlement Agreement ¶ 5.

10. The Liquidator is presently unaware of any proof of claim asserting a claim subject to the same policy limit as the claims resolved by the Settlement Agreement that could



together exceed that limit.<sup>1</sup> However, if a claim of another claimant is subject to the same limit of liability as claims resolved by the Settlement Agreement, and if the total allowed amounts for all claimants exceed the limit, then the allowed amounts for all claimants will be subject to adjustment under RSA 402-C:40, IV, so that the policy limit will not be exceeded. See Settlement Agreement ¶ 6.

11. The Settlement Agreement reflects a compromise of the claims asserted in the Proof of Claim. It is the result of negotiations involving the Claims Department, under my supervision, which has extensive experience in assessing the exposure presented by claims under Home's insurance policies. The agreed settlement amount is based on careful evaluation and negotiation of coverage obligations under the Policy respecting the underlying liabilities of the Claimant. The Liquidator accordingly recommends approval of the Settlement Agreement and allowance of the \$13,800,000 settlement amount as a Class II claim of the Claimant in accordance with RSA 402-C:45 and RSA 402-C:44.

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<sup>1</sup> An insurer has a pending proof of claim asserting a contribution claim respecting the Policy.

12. I believe that the Settlement Agreement is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the policyholders and creditors of Home.

Signed under the penalties of perjury this 6<sup>TH</sup> day of ~~May~~<sup>JUNE</sup>, 2024.

Peter A. Bengelsdorf  
Peter A. Bengelsdorf  
Special Deputy Liquidator of The Home Insurance Company

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached and not the truthfulness, accuracy or validity of that document.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF VENTURA

On June 6, 2024 before me, Brendan Nolan, Notary Public personally appeared Peter A. Bengelsdorf, Special Deputy Liquidator of The Home Insurance Company, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature [Handwritten Signature]  
Signature of Notary Public

