Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc

2

3

4

5

27

28

Based on the current hearing date on Edelson PC's Motion for Relief from Automatic Stay *Under 11 U.S.C.* § 362 (the "Stay Relief Motion"), oppositions are due on November 2, 2021, and movant's reply is due on November 9, 2021. Accordingly, this Supplemental Opposition is timely. Party-in-Interest Erika Girardi ("Ms. Girardi") submits this Supplemental Opposition to address new facts that have come to light since filing her prior Opposition (Dkt. No. 272), which are relevant to this Court's balancing of interests in determining whether cause exists to grant the Stay Relief Motion. Specifically, the evidence undisputedly shows that the Illinois litigation to collect attorneys' fees allegedly due, which Edelson seeks relief from stay to pursue, is based on an unethical, unenforceable, and illegal fee-sharing agreement between Edelson and Girardi Keese ("GK"), which will require that the Illinois litigation be dismissed (in addition to exposing Edelson to discipline by the State Bar of Illinois and California). As held by the California Supreme Court and Illinois Courts, it is against public policy for any court, including this Court in considering whether to grant relief from stay, to give judicial imprimatur to a claim based on undisputed attorney unethical conduct. Accordingly, for these reasons and the reasons already expressed in the GK trustee's opposition and Ms. Girardi's prior opposition, the Stay Relief Motion should be denied.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT

By the Stay Relief Motion, Edelson seeks this Court's permission to pursue claims asserted in a lawsuit currently pending in the Northern District of Illinois, Edelson PC v. Girardi, et al., Case Number 20-cv-07115 ("Illinois Action"). Based on newly discovered evidence, counsel for Ms. Girardi has learned that the Illinois Action is premised on illegal, unethical, and unenforceable fee-sharing agreements between Edelson and GK.

In the Illinois Action, Edelson seeks to recover attorneys' fees pursuant to fee-splitting agreements with GK which arise out of litigation related to the Lion Air Flight 610 crash ("Lion Air Litigation"). Edelson's claim for attorneys' fees, however, is solely premised on two letters sent to Edelson by GK, which are attached to Edelson's proofs of claim filed in the GK and Thomas Girardi bankruptcy cases. See Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122); Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122). Critically, the letters blatantly violate the ethical rules of both

14

16

17

19

20 21

22

23 24

26

25

27

28

Illinois and California, given that they do not show disclosure of the terms of or written client consent to the fee-splitting, which are immutable requirements of the ethical rules of both Illinois and California. Further, based on an additional investigation, counsel for Ms. Girardi has learned that the underlying fee agreements with the clients are (1) solely between the clients and GK, (2) nowhere mention Edelson, (3) nowhere mention the terms of the fee-splitting between Edelson and GK, and (4) do not contain written client consent to fee-splitting between attorneys – all of which are required by the Illinois and California ethical rules for a fee-splitting agreement to be enforceable.

Attorneys in both Illinois and California are required to comply with strict ethical rules, which impose specific requirements when splitting attorneys' fees between lawyers of different law firms. See Ill. Rules of Prof. Conduct, Rule 1.5(e); Cal. Rules of Pro. Conduct, Rule 1.5.1. These ethical rules were codified to protect the public, the integrity of the legal system, and regulate members of the bar. See Cal. Rules of Prof. Conduct, rule 1.0(a). The ethical rules of both Illinois and California expressly require that for a fee-splitting agreement between attorneys to be enforceable, the attorneys (including, here, Edelson) **must** obtain written client consent to (1) the terms of the fee-splitting agreement, and (2) the apportionment of fees between the law firms. See Ill. Rules of Prof. Conduct, Rule 1.5(e); Cal. Rules of Pro. Conduct, Rule 1.5.1. Despite these requirements, the two letters from GK to Edelson, which form the sole foundation of Edelson's claim to fees, flagrantly fail to comply with the ethical rules of both states. See Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122); Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122). As a result, in both Illinois and California, Edelson's failure to comply with the ethical rules renders the alleged fee-sharing agreements illegal, unenforceable, and violative of public policy. See Donald W. Fohrman & Associates, Ltd. v. Mark D. Alberts, P.C., 7 N.E.3d 807 (III.App. 1st Dist. 2014); Chambers v. Kay, 29 Cal.4th 142 (2002).

By the Stay Relief Motion, Edelson asks this Court for its stamp of approval to allow Edelson to pursue claims that are entirely premised on an alleged right to fees based on illegal, unethical, and unenforceable fee-sharing agreements. In determining whether "cause" exists to grant the Stay Relief Motion, this Court, as mandated by the California Supreme Court and the

appellate courts of Illinois, should not provide judicial imprimatur to what has been exposed as knowing unethical conduct by Edelson that eviscerates its claim. Thus, the Stay Relief Motion should be denied.

II. <u>FACTUAL BACKGROUND</u>

On December 2, 2020, Edelson filed a complaint in the Northern District of Illinois, against Thomas Girardi, GK, and Ms. Girardi, among many others, related to the litigation arising out of the Lion Air Flight 610 crash. The damages sought in the complaint are recovery of attorneys' fees allegedly due to Edelson, and the return of settlements funds due to clients. On July 19, 2021, however, the District Court in the Illinois Action found that Edelson does not have standing to seek recovery on behalf of the clients. Specifically, the Court found that, "to the extent Edelson seeks *any remedy* on behalf of the Lion Air plaintiffs, it lacks standing to do so." Memorandum Opinion and Order, Dkt. No. 91 at 28 (emphasis added.) As a result, all of Edelson's claims in the Illinois Action arise out of its claim for attorneys' fees.

On the same day as the Court's Order in the Illinois Action, Edelson filed identical proofs of claim in the GK and Thomas Girardi bankruptcy cases, seeking the same attorneys' fees sought in the Illinois Action. *See* Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122); Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122), both filed on July 19, 2021. In support of the proofs of claim, Edelson attached two letters from GK to Edelson. *See* Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at pp. 16-17; Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at pp. 22-23. The first letter states that the GK and Edelson "fee split will be 50/50 on the Boeing cases that you [Edelson] have filed with us in Chicago concerning the Lion Air crash." *See* Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 16; Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 22. The second letter discusses "approximately ten" additional wrongful death lawsuits, and that the "referral fee paid to your firm in assisting in this matter will be twenty (20%) percent." *See* Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 17; Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 23. Neither letter is addressed to or bears the signature of any client. *See* Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at pp. 16-17; Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at pp. 22-23.

The GK letters, on their face, do not evidence that any of the Lion Air clients: (1) were

informed in writing of the fee-splitting agreements between the two firms, or the terms of those agreements; or (2) consented in writing to the fee-splitting agreements between the firms – which are express requirements of the ethical rules of Illinois and California. *See* Ill. Rules of Prof. Conduct, Rule 1.5(e); Cal. Rules of Pro. Conduct, Rule 1.5.1

On October 4, 2021, Edelson filed the Stay Relief Motion seeking this Court's approval to pursue its unjust enrichment/constructive trust and accounting claims against Ms. Girardi, which are premised on Edelson's alleged right to fees under the foregoing letters from GK.

In addition, counsel for Ms. Girardi, in investigating Edelson's claim, recently learned that the underlying attorney-client fee agreements with the Lion Air clients are (1) solely between the clients and GK, (2) nowhere mention Edelson, (3) nowhere mention the terms of the fee-splitting between Edelson and GK, and (4) as a result, do not contain the required written client consent to the fee-splitting agreements between GK and Edelson. See Declaration of Evan C. Borges, ¶ 3. Needless to say, if Edelson has evidence to the contrary, Edelson bears the burden to provide that evidence, and did not provide it in support of its proofs of claim.

III. ARGUMENT

The fee-splitting agreements attached to Edelson's proofs of claim are void and unenforceable under established Illinois and California law.

A. The Fee-Sharing Agreements Between GK and Edelson are Illegal, Unethical, and Unenforceable Pursuant to Illinois Law

Edelson's fee-splitting agreements with GK violate Rule 1.5(e) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, rendering Edelson's claims for fees unenforceable. This Court should not authorize Edelson's attempt to circumvent this bankruptcy proceeding, at the expense of the Trustee, creditors, and Ms. Girardi, the sole purpose of which is for Edelson to pursue unenforceable claims.

The Illinois courts have held that the State's ethical rules applicable to attorneys have the force of law. *Donald W. Fohrman & Associates, Ltd. v. Mark D. Alberts, P.C.*, 7 N.E.3d 807, 818 (Ill.App. 1st Dist. 2014). Thus, in Illinois, contracts between lawyers that do not comply with Rule 1.5 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct violate public policy and are unenforceable. *Id.*,

Illinois Rule 1.5(e) provides in pertinent part:

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- (e) A division of a fee between lawyers who are not in the same firm may be made only if:
- (1) the division is in proportion to the services performed by each lawyer, or if the primary service performed by one lawyer is the referral of the client to another lawyer and each lawyer assumes joint financial responsibility for the representation;
- (2) the client agrees to the arrangement, including the share each lawyer will receive, and the agreement is confirmed in writing

Ill. Rules of Prof. Conduct, Rule 1.5(e)(1) & (2) (emphasis added)

Accordingly, in Illinois, a division of fees between attorneys can be enforced only if: (1) the client is informed of the fee-splitting arrangement, and (2) the client agrees in writing to the share of the fee each lawyer will receive. Edelson has not come even close to meeting any of these requirements. Rather, as noted, the GK letters attached to Edelson's Proof of Claim do not even purport to contain Lion Air client signatures, much less evidence client written consent to the terms of the fee-sharing agreement. See Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122); Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122). Making matters worse, one of the GK letters to Edelson states: "[i]f it turns out that one of our two firms performs significantly more work than expected...we will adjust the fee split as would be reasonable to both firms." See Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 16; Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122) at p. 22 (emphasis added.) It is as though the clients did not exist. Further, the GK letter shows that the fee-splitting arrangement was not formed in pursuit of the clients' interests but rather the interests of the two

5

6

4

7 8

9 10

11 12

13 14

15

16

17 18

19

20 21

22 23

24

26

25

27

28

firms, which turns the ethical rules upside down.

Illinois Rule 1.5(e), and the Illinois courts' requirement of strict compliance with the ethical rule, are intended to protect clients and promote public confidence in the integrity of attorneys and the legal system. Donald W. Fohrman & Associates, Ltd. v. Mark D. Alberts, P.C., 7 N.E.3d 807, 821 (Ill.App. 1st Dist. 2014) ("We uphold the Rules' interest in protecting clients above the interests of attorneys in recovering fees."), id., at 816 ("This public policy embodies an understanding 'that the client's rights rather than the lawyers' remedies have always been this state's greatest concern.") (quoting Albert Brooks Friedman, Ltd. v. Malevitis, 304 Ill.App.3d 979, 985.) Indeed, Illinois Rule 1.5(e) is designed to prevent and root-out the very conduct at issue in which Edelson and GK engaged; namely, lawyers seeking to apportion the *client's* award without the *client's* consent. Edelson's fee-splitting agreements with GK are unethical, unenforceable and against the public policy of Illinois. This Court should not condone or enable such flagrantly unethical conduct by Edelson as well as GK in granting the Stay Relief Motion, to allow Edelson to bring purported claims (which do not exist) against a third party, non-attorney, Ms. Girardi. Moreover, no evidence exists that Ms. Girardi, an entertainer, had anything to do with the interactions between GK and Edelson. Finally, as noted in Ms. Girardi's Opposition, if evidence existed that somehow, funds from the Lion Air case were paid by GK to Ms. Girardi, the party with the greatest incentive to say so – the GK trustee – would have said something, but has not done so. This is because no such evidence exists.

В. The Fee-Sharing Agreements Between GK and Edelson are Illegal, Unethical, and Unenforceable Pursuant to California Law

Almost 20 years ago, the California Supreme Court unequivocally held that fee-splitting agreements between attorneys, which fail to comply with the California Rules of Professional Conduct, are unethical and unenforceable as against the public policy of this State. *Chambers v.* Kay, 29 Cal.4th 142, 161 (Cal. 2002); Reeve v. Meleyco, 46 Cal.App.5th 1092, 1098 (2020) ("[a] fee-sharing agreement between attorneys is unenforceable as against public policy if the client did not give informed, written consent to the fee-sharing agreement.") The California ethical rule applicable to the 2019 purported fee-splitting agreements between GK and Edelson, Rule 1.5.1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- (a) Lawyers who are not in the same law firm* shall not divide a fee for legal services unless:
- (1) the lawyers enter into a written* agreement to divide the fee;
- the client has consented in writing,* either at the time the lawyers enter into the agreement to divide the fee or as soon thereafter as reasonably* practicable, after a full written* disclosure to the client of: (i) the fact that a division of fees will be made; (ii) the identity of the lawyers or law firms* that are parties to the division; and (iii) the terms of the division

Cal. Rules of Pro. Conduct, Rule 1.5.1 (a), (a)(1), (a)(2) (emphasis added).

The requirements of Rule 1.5.1 of the California Rules of Professional Conduct are clear. Once again, the letters from GK to Edelson, which are attached to its proofs of claim, do not evidence in way that the Lion Air clients (1) were provided any written disclosure of the terms of the fee-splitting, or (2) consented in writing to the fee-splitting. See Claim No. 91-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122); Claim. No. 40-1 (Case No. 2:20-bk-210122), both filed on July 19, 2021. The ethical violation, as under the Illinois ethical rules, is flagrant and indefensible.

In Chambers v. Kay, 29 Cal. 4th 142, 152 (2002), the California Supreme Court held that a non-compliant fee-splitting agreement is unenforceable by any court as against public policy.

Most important, because this court approved rule 2–200 under legislative authorization (see Bus. & Prof.Code, § 6076), and because the rule binds all members of the State Bar(rule 1–100(A), 1st par.), it would be absurd for this or any other court to aid Chambers in accomplishing a fee division that would violate the rule's explicit requirement of written client consent and would subject Chambers to professional discipline.

Id., (citing Scolinos v. Kolts, 37 Cal.App.4th 635, 640(1995)) (emphasis added.)¹

In Chambers, two attorneys (Chambers and Kay) from different law firms agreed to split fees in the event of a recovery in a sexual harassment action. *Id.*, at 146-147. Similar to Edelson

¹ Chambers was decided under Rule 2-200, a previous iteration of Rule 1.5.1. However, Rule 1.5.1, the current and operative version, is substantially similar, but more strident and less ambiguous than the previous rule. See Cal. Rules of Prof. Conduct, Rule 1.5.1 (Executive Summary) ("First, the agreement between the lawyers to divide a fee must now be in writing and second, the client must consent to the division after full disclosure at or near the time that the lawyers enter into the agreement to divide the fee. Under current rule 2-200, there is no express requirement that the agreement between the lawyers be in writing and case law has held that client consent to the fee division need not be obtained until the fee is actually divided, which might not occur until years after the lawyers have entered into their agreement.")

4 5

6 7

8

9

10

11

Id., at 158 (emphasis added.)

12 13

14

15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

23 24

25 26

27

28

and GK, the fee-splitting agreement between Chambers and Kay violated the operative ethical rule governing fee-splitting. Id. After a jury award, Kay refused to pay Chambers pursuant to the feesplitting arrangement, and Chambers filed suit seeking to recover his claimed share of fees. *Id.* Chambers argued the fee-splitting arrangement could be enforced despite a lack of compliance with the ethical rule. The California Supreme Court resoundingly rejected Chambers' appeal:

Were we to hold that the fee obtained in [the underlying action] may be divided as Chambers and Kay agreed, with no indication that the required client consent was either sought or given, we would, in effect, be both countenancing and contributing to a violation of a rule we formally approved in order "to protect the public and to promote respect and confidence in the legal profession." (Rule 1-100(A), 1st par.; Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6076.) Such a result would be untenable as well as inconsistent with the policy considerations that motivated the adoption of rule 2-200.

Similarly, in Reeve v. Meleyco 46 Cal.App.5th 1092, 1098 (2020), the Court of Appeal held that "[a] fee-sharing agreement between attorneys is unenforceable as against public policy if the client did not give informed, written consent to the fee-sharing agreement." Id., citing Chambers v. Kay, 29 Cal.4th 142, 147-161 (Cal. 2002). The Court in Reeve further noted that: "Chambers and other precedent 'uniformly recognize that an attorney cannot enforce a fee-sharing agreement if that attorney could have obtained written client consent as required by[former] rule 2-200, but failed to do so'." Id., at 1098 (quoting Barnes, Crosby, Fitzgerald & Zeman, LLP v. Ringler, 212 Cal.App.4th 172, 181 (2012)). Thus, under Chambers and its progeny, Edelson is barred as a matter of law, legal ethics, and the public policy of this State from attempting to enforce its alleged fee-splitting agreement with GK, which flagrantly violates Rule 1.5.1.

Granting relief from stay to allow Edelson to prosecute its claims would indirectly provide judicial imprimatur and enabling of Edelson's unethical conduct, an outcome specifically rejected by the California Supreme Court. See *Chambers v. Kay*, 29 Cal.4th 142, 161 (Cal. 2002). Given that as a result Edelson has no claim, Edelson has not shown "cause" that the Stay Relief Motion should be granted.

3

4 5

6

7

8

9

10

12

11

13 14

15

16

17 18

19

20

21 22

23

24 25

26

27 28 I, Evan C. Borges, declare as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of California. I am a partner with the law firm of Greenberg Gross LLP, counsel of record for party-in-interest Erika Girardi. I have personal knowledge of the following facts and, if called and sworn as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.
- 2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 are true and correct copies of the proofs of claim filed by Edelson P.C. ("Edelson") in the Girardi Keese ("GK") and Thomas Girardi bankruptcy cases.
- 3. In the course of my investigation of the claims made by Edelson, I was able to review, but not obtain or retain copies of, underlying fee agreements between GK and its clients in the Lion Air litigation. All of the fee agreements that I saw were solely between GK and its clients in the Lion Air matter. None of the fee agreements referred to Edelson in any way. None of the fee agreements referred to any fee-splitting agreement between GK and Edelson, or the terms of any such fee splitting agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, my client Ms. Girardi never had and does not have any of the fee agreements between GK and the Lion Air clients.
- 4. Given that Edelson bears the burden of proof on its proofs of claim, in the pending Illinois litigation, and in connection with its motion for relief from stay, I would request and expect that if any fee agreements or other writings signed by the Lion Air clients exist that comply with the Illinois or California ethical rules regarding fee-splitting between GK and Edelson, Edelson should produce them and provide copies to this Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: November 2, 2021

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 12 of 28

EXHIBIT 1

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 13 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21022-BR Claim 91-1 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 3

Fill in this information to identify the case:	FILED
Debtor 1 Girardi Keese	U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Debtor 2	Central District of California
(Spouse, if filing)	7/19/2021
United States Bankruptcy Court Central District of California	Kathleen J. Campbell, Clerk
Case number: 20-21022	Ratificen J. Campbell, Clerk

Official Form 410
Proof of Claim

04/19

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense. Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or on any attached documents. Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Do not send original documents; they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

Part 1: Identify the Clair	m					
1.Who is the current creditor?	Edelson PC					
	Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for	or this claim)				
	Other names the creditor used with the debtor					
2.Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	✓ No ☐ Yes. From whom?					
3. Where should notices and payments to the	Where should notices to the creditor be sent?	Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different)				
creditor be sent?	Edelson PC					
Federal Rule of	Name	Name				
Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 2002(g)	150 California Street, 18th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111					
	Contact phone415-212-9300	Contact phone				
	Contact email rbalabanian@edelson.com	Contact email				
	Uniform claim identifier for electronic payments in chapter 1	3 (if you use one):				
4.Does this claim amend one already filed?	✓ No✓ Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known)	Filed on				
		MM / DD / YYYY				
5.Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	Yes. Who made the earlier filing?					

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim page 1

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 14 of 28

ase 2:20-bk-21022-BR Claim 91-1 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Main Document Page 2 of 3 Part 2: Give Information About the Claim as of the Date the Case Was Filed 6.**Do you have any** number you use to Yes. Last 4 digits of the debtor's account or any number you use to identify the debtor: identify the debtor? 7.How much is the Does this amount include interest or other charges? \$ 2063292.00 claim? ✓ No ☐ Yes. Attach statement itemizing interest, fees, expenses, or other charges required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c)(2)(A). 8. What is the basis of Examples: Goods sold, money loaned, lease, services performed, personal injury or wrongful the claim? death, or credit card. Attach redacted copies of any documents supporting the claim required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c). Limit disclosing information that is entitled to privacy, such as healthcare information. Attorneys' fees due under written agreements. 9. Is all or part of the ✓ No claim secured? ☐ Yes. The claim is secured by a lien on property. Nature of property: ☐ Real estate. If the claim is secured by the debtor's principal residence, file a *Mortgage* Proof of Claim Attachment (Official Form 410-A) with this Proof of Claim. ☐ Motor vehicle ☐ Other. Describe: Basis for perfection: Attach redacted copies of documents, if any, that show evidence of perfection of a security interest (for example, a mortgage, lien, certificate of title, financing statement, or other document that shows the lien has been filed or recorded.) Value of property: \$ Amount of the claim that is \$ secured: Amount of the claim that is (The sum of the secured and \$ unsecured: unsecured amounts should match the amount in line 7.) Amount necessary to cure any default as of the \$ date of the petition: Annual Interest Rate (when case was filed) % Fixed Variable 10.Is this claim based on V No a lease? Yes. Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition.\$ 11.Is this claim subject to No a right of setoff? Yes. Identify the property:

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim page 2

12.Is all or part of the claim entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?	Y	No Yes. Check all th	at apply:				Amount entitled to priority
A claim may be partly priority and partly		☐ Domestic suppo under 11 U.S.C	ort obligatio	ons (includi 1)(A) or (a)	ng alimony an (1)(B).	d child support)	\$
nonpriority. For example in some categories, the law limits the amount entitled to priority.		Up to \$3,025* of property or serv U.S.C. § 507(a)	vices for pe	toward pur rsonal, fan	chase, lease, only, or househ	or rental of old use. 11	\$
	☐ Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$13,650*) earned 180 days before the bankruptcy petition is filed or the debusiness ends, whichever is earlier. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4)					he debtor's	\$
		☐ Taxes or penalt 507(a)(8).	ties owed to	o governm	ental units. 11	U.S.C. §	\$
		☐ Contributions to	an employ	yee benefit	plan. 11 U.S.	C. § 507(a)(5).	\$
		☐ Other. Specify s	subsection	of 11 U.S.	C. § 507(a)(_)	that applies	\$
		* Amounts are subject of adjustment.	to adjustmen	t on 4/1/22 a	nd every 3 years	after that for cases	begun on or after the date
Part 3: Sign Below							
The person completing this proof of claim must sign and date it. FRBP 9011(b). If you file this claim electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts to establish local rules specifying what a signature is. A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157 and 3571.	I und the a I have and colored to be seen as a seen	mount of the claim, the e examined the informatorrect. lare under penalty of percuted on date Rafey S. Balabanian ature t the name of the percute examined the country of the percute the country of the cou	attorney or in the debto surety, endozed signature creditor gave ation in this Prerjury that the 7/19/2021 MM / DD /	r, or their a orser, or of on this Proof the debtor c roof of Claim foregoing is	nuthorized agenuther codebtor. If of Claim serves redit for any paynumber and have a reason true and correct.	Bankruptcy Rulas an acknowledgrents received towards that the conable belief that the	e 3005. ment that when calculating ard the debt.
	Title Company			Managing	Middle name Partner	Last name	
				Edelson PC			
	Add	ress		150 Califor Number Str	rnia Street, 18th		the authorized agent is a
	Con	stact phone 415	5-212-9300	City State	ZIP Code Email	rbalabanian@ed	elson.com

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 16 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21022-BR Claim 91-1 Part 2 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Attachment 1 Page 1 of 1

GIRARDI | KEESE

April 3, 2019

Ari J. Scharg EDELSON PC 350 North LaSalle Street Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60654

Re: Boeing Cases

Dear Ari:

This will confirm our agreement that our fee split will be 50/50 on the Boeing cases that you have filed with us in Chicago concerning the Lion Air crash. If it turns out that one of our two firms performs significantly more work than expected, or less if the case settles fairly quickly, we will adjust the fee split as would be reasonable to both firms.

Thanks again for your work so far and looking forward to our future work together.

With kind regards,

KEITH D. GRIFFIN

KDG

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 17 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21022-BR Claim 91-1 Part 3 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Attachment 2 Page 1 of 1

GIRARDI KEESE LAWYERS

June 17, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Ari J. Scharg, Esq.

Edelson PC
350 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illiniois 60654
E-Mail: ascharg@edelson.com

Re: Lion Air Cases

Dear Ari:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of this afternoon. As I indicated, I am prepared to file approximately ten wrongful death lawsuits arising from the Lion Air disaster. Your firm is currently co-counsel on a number of cases previously filed by my firm with Keith Griffin taking the lead on behalf of Girardi | Keese.

It was discussed and agreed in our conversation that the referral fee paid to your firm in assisting in this matter will be twenty (20%) percent of the total attorneys' fees recovered. It is my intent to take the laboring oar in discovery and other tasks. As you can imagine, I will need your assistance in the actual filing of the lawsuits and appearances before the Court when I am not able to attend. Is there a *pro hac vice* form to complete? Keith will also be assisting.

If this does not comport with your understanding of our agreement, please advise. I look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

GIRARDI | KEESE

DAVID R. LIRA

DRL:mlc

1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA • 90017-1904
TELEPHONE: 213-977-0211 • FACSIMILE: 213-481-1554
WWW.GIRARDIKEESE.COM

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 18 of 28

EXHIBIT 2

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 19 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Claim 40-1 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 3

Fill in this information to identify the case:	FILED
Debtor 1 Thomas Girardi Debtor 2	U.S. Bankruptcy Court Central District of California
(Spouse, if filing)	7/19/2021
United States Bankruptcy Court	Kathleen J. Campbell, Clerk

Official Form 410
Proof of Claim

04/19

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense. Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or on any attached documents. Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Do not send original documents; they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

Part 1: Identify the Clair	n					
1.Who is the current creditor?	Edelson PC					
	Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid	for this claim)				
	Other names the creditor used with the debtor					
2.Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	✓ No ☐ Yes. From whom?					
3. Where should notices and payments to the	Where should notices to the creditor be sent?	Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different)				
creditor be sent?	Edelson PC					
Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure	Name	Name				
(FRBP) 2002(g)	c/o Jay Edelson 350 N La Salle, 14th Flr Chicago, IL 60654					
	Contact phone415-212-9300	Contact phone				
	Contact email rbalabanian@edelson.com	Contact email				
	Uniform claim identifier for electronic payments in chapter	13 (if you use one):				
4.Does this claim amend one already filed?	☑ No☐ Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known	n) Filed on				
		MM / DD / YYYY				
5.Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	Yes. Who made the earlier filing?					

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim page 1

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 20 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-2102 Part 2: Give Information			Filed 07/1 Pate the Cas		Desc Main Filed	Document	Page 2 of 3
6.Do you have any number you use to identify the debtor?		No Yes. Last 4 digits of the debt	tor's account or	r any num	ber you use to ident	ify the debtor:	
7.How much is the claim?	\$	2063292.00	Does th — ☑ No	is amou	unt include inte	rest or other	charges?
- Claim.			☐ Yes.	Attach s r charge	statement itemizies required by Ba	ng interest, fe nkruptcy Rule	es, expenses, or a 3001(c)(2)(A).
8.What is the basis of the claim?	deat Ban	mples: Goods sold, mon th, or credit card. Attach kruptcy Rule 3001(c).	redacted co	pies of a	any documents s	upporting the	claim required by
		t disclosing information t		•	acy, such as hea	althcare inforr	mation. —
9. Is all or part of the claim secured?		Yes. The claim is secure Nature of property: Real estate. If the	claim is sec	cured by	the debtor's prin	ncipal residend 410–A) with th	ce, file a <i>Mortgage</i> his <i>Proof of Claim</i> .
		Basis for perfection:					
		Attach redacted copies interest (for example, a document that shows t	a mortgage,	lien, cer	tificate of title, fin	dence of perfe nancing staten	ection of a security nent, or other
		Value of property:		\$			
		Amount of the claim t secured:	that is	\$			
		Amount of the claim tunsecured:	that is	\$		ùnsecur	m of the secured and ed amounts should ne amount in line 7.)
		Amount necessary to date of the petition:	cure any d	lefault a	s of the \$		
		Annual Interest Rate	(when case	was file	d)	<u></u> %	
		☐ Fixed ☐ Variable					
10.ls this claim based on a lease?		No Yes. Amount necessa	ary to cure a	any defa	ault as of the da	ite of the peti	ition.\$
11.Is this claim subject to a right of setoff?		No Yes. Identify the prope	rty:				

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim page 2

12 Is all or part of the claim entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?	Y	No Yes. <i>Check a</i>	all that apply:				Amount entitled to priority
A claim may be partly priority and partly nonpriority. For example in some categories, the law limits the amount entitled to priority.		☐ Domestic support obligations (including alimony and child suppounder 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B).				d child support)	\$
		Up to \$3,02 property or U.S.C. § 50	services for p	s toward purcha ersonal, family	ase, lease, , or househ	or rental of old use. 11	\$
Challed to phonty.		☐ Wages, sal 180 days b	aries, or comr efore the bank	missions (up to cruptcy petition or is earlier. 11	is filed or the	he debtor's	\$
				to government	-		\$
		☐ Contribution	ns to an emplo	oyee benefit pla	an. 11 U.S.	C. § 507(a)(5).	\$
		☐ Other. Spec	cify subsection	n of 11 U.S.C.	§ 507(a)(_)	that applies	\$
		* Amounts are su of adjustment.	bject to adjustme	ent on 4/1/22 and e	every 3 years	after that for cases	begun on or after the date
Part 3: Sign Below							
The person completing this proof of claim must sign and date it. FRBP 9011(b). If you file this claim electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts to establish local rules specifying what a signature is. A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157 and 3571.	I und the a I hav and c I dec	I am the truste I am a guarant terstand that an au mount of the claim e examined the informect. Iare under penalty recuted on date Rafey S. Balaban ature t the name of the	tor. tor's attorney of the debt tor, surety, enter the debt tor, enter th	dorser, or othe e on this Proof of re the debtor credi Proof of Claim and e foregoing is true 21 / YYYY	norized age r codebtor. Claim serves it for any payr I have a reason and correct.	ments received tow. onable belief that th	e 3005. ment that when calculating
	Title)		First name Managing Part	Middle name ener	Last name	
	Con	npany		Edelson PC			
	Add	Iress		Identify the corporative of the corporative of the corporation of the	Street, 18th	. ,	the authorized agent is a
	Con	ntact phone	4152129300	City State ZIP	Code Email	rbalabanian@ed	elson.com

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 22 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Claim 40-1 Part 2 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Attachment 1 Page 1 of 1

GIRARDI | KEESE

April 3, 2019

Ari J. Scharg EDELSON PC 350 North LaSalle Street Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60654

Re: Boeing Cases

Dear Ari:

This will confirm our agreement that our fee split will be 50/50 on the Boeing cases that you have filed with us in Chicago concerning the Lion Air crash. If it turns out that one of our two firms performs significantly more work than expected, or less if the case settles fairly quickly, we will adjust the fee split as would be reasonable to both firms.

Thanks again for your work so far and looking forward to our future work together.

With kind regards,

KEITH D. GRIFFIN

KDG

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 23 of 28

Case 2:20-bk-21020-BR Claim 40-1 Part 3 Filed 07/19/21 Desc Attachment 2 Page 1 of 1

GIRARDI KEESE

June 17, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Ari J. Scharg, Esq.

Edelson PC
350 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illiniois 60654
E-Mail: ascharg@edelson.com

Re: Lion Air Cases

Dear Ari:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of this afternoon. As I indicated, I am prepared to file approximately ten wrongful death lawsuits arising from the Lion Air disaster. Your firm is currently co-counsel on a number of cases previously filed by my firm with Keith Griffin taking the lead on behalf of Girardi | Keese.

It was discussed and agreed in our conversation that the referral fee paid to your firm in assisting in this matter will be twenty (20%) percent of the total attorneys' fees recovered. It is my intent to take the laboring oar in discovery and other tasks. As you can imagine, I will need your assistance in the actual filing of the lawsuits and appearances before the Court when I am not able to attend. Is there a *pro hac vice* form to complete? Keith will also be assisting.

If this does not comport with your understanding of our agreement, please advise. I look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

GIRARDI | KEESE

DAVID R. LIRA

DRL:mlc

1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA • 90017-1904
TELEPHONE: 213-977-0211 • FACSIMILE: 213-481-1554
WWW.GIRARDIKEESE.COM

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

November 2, 2021 Cheryl Winsten Date Printed Name Signature

24 25

22

23

28

26 27

SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION OF PARTY-IN-INTEREST ERIKA GIRARDI TO EDELSON PC'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY UNDER 11 U.S.C § 362; DECLARATION OF EVAN C. BORGES

V	a

1
I

<u>In re THOMAS VINCENT GIRA</u>RDI Case No. 2:20-bk-21020-BR U.S.B.C. Central District of California Los Angeles Division

3

4

SERVED VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): 1.

5

The following is the list of **parties** who are currently on the list to receive email notice/service for this case.

6

Rafey Balabanian rbalabanian@edelson.com, docket@edelson.com

8

7

Shraddha Bharatia notices@becket-lee.com

9

Ori S Blumenfeld Ori@MarguliesFaithLaw.com, Helen@MarguliesFaithLaw.com;Angela@MarguliesFaithLaw.com;Vicky@MarguliesFait hLaw.com

10

11

Richard D Buckley richard.buckley@arentfox.com

12

mchristiansen@vedderprice.com, Marie E Christiansen ecfladocket@vedderprice.com,marie-christiansen-4166@ecf.pacerpro.com

13

Jennifer Witherell Crastz jcrastz@hrhlaw.com

14 15

Ashleigh.danker@dinsmore.com, Ashleigh A Danker SDCMLFiles@DINSMORE.COM;Katrice.ortiz@dinsmore.com

16

Clifford S Davidson csdavidson@swlaw.com, jlanglois@swlaw.com;cliff-davidson-7586@ecf.pacerpro.com

17

lekvall@swelawfirm.com, Lei Lei Wang Ekvall lgarrett@swelawfirm.com;gcruz@swelawfirm.com;jchung@swelawfirm.com

18 19

Richard W Esterkin richard.esterkin@morganlewis.com

20

tevanston@swelawfirm.com, **Timothy W Evanston** gcruz@swelawfirm.com;lgarrett@swelawfirm.com;jchung@swelawfirm.com

21 22

Jeremy Faith Jeremy@MarguliesFaithlaw.com, Helen@MarguliesFaithlaw.com;Angela@MarguliesFaithlaw.com;Vicky@MarguliesFaithl aw.com

23

James J Finsten , jimfinsten@hotmail.com

24 25

James J Finsten ifinsten@lurie-zepeda.com, jimfinsten@hotmail.com

26

Alan W Forsley alan.forsley@flpllp.com, awf@fkllawfirm.com,awf@fllawyers.net,addy.flores@flpllp.com

27

Eric D Goldberg eric.goldberg@dlapiper.com, eric-goldberg-1103@ecf.pacerpro.com

28

Case	Main Document Page 27 of 28
1	William F Savino wsavino@woodsoviatt.com, lherald@woodsoviatt.com
2	Gary A Starre gastarre@gmail.com, mmoonniiee@gmail.com
3	Richard P Steelman rps@lnbyb.com, john@lnbyb.com
4	Philip E Strok pstrok@swelawfirm.com, gcruz@swelawfirm.com;1garrett@swelawfirm.com;jchung@swelawfirm.com
5	United States Trustee (LA) ustpregion16.la.ecf@usdoj.gov
6	Christopher K.S. Wong christopher.wong@arentfox.com, yvonne.li@arentfox.com
7	Timothy J Yoo tjy@lnbyb.com
8	
9	2. <u>SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:</u>
10	Debtor: Thomas Vincent Girardi
11	1126 Wilshire Boulevard
12	Los Angeles, CA 90017
13	ABIR COHEN TREYZON SALO, LLP, a California limited liability partnership ACTS
14	16001 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 200
15	Encino, CA 91436
16	Compass 42 S Pasadena Ave
17	Pasadena, CA 91105
18	Daimler Trust
19	c/o BK Servicing, LLC PO Box 131265
20	Roseville, MN 55113
21	Levene Neale Bender Yoo & Brill LLP 10250 Constellation Blvd Ste 1700
22	Los Angeles, CA 90067
23	William Savino
24	1900 Main Pl Tower Buffalo, NY 14202
25	
26	Eric Bryan Seuthe Law Offices of Eric Bryan Seuthe & Assoc
27	10990 Wilshire Blvd Ste 1420. Los Angeles, CA 90024
28	
	-27-
	SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION OF PARTY-IN-INTEREST ERIKA GIRARDI TO EDELSON PC'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY UNDER 11 U.S.C § 362; DECLARATION OF EVAN C. BORGES

Case	2:20-bk-21020-BR Doc 280 Filed 11/02/21 Entered 11/02/21 21:11:25 Desc Main Document Page 28 of 28							
1	Neil Steiner Steiner & Libo							
2	11845 W. Olympic Blvd Ste 910W							
3	Los Angeles, CA 90064							
4	Andrew W Zepeda Lurie, Zepeda, Schmalz, Hogan & Martin							
5	1875 Century Park East Ste 2100 Los Angeles, CA 90067							
6								
7	3. <u>SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY:</u>							
8	U.S. Bankruptcy Court:							
9	U.S. Bankruptcy Court Hon. Barry Russell							
10	255 E. Temple Street, Courtroom 1668 Los Angeles, CA 90012							
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
	-28-							
	SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION OF PARTY-IN-INTEREST ERIKA GIRARDI TO EDELSON PC'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY LINDER 11 U.S.C. 8 362: DECLARATION OF EVAN C. BORGES							