

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re:

Adoption of Bar Date Order Guidelines

Administrative Order No. 556

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UPON the resolution of the Board of Judges for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the annexed Bar Date Order Guidelines are adopted.

Dated: Brooklyn, NY
March 29, 2010

/s/Carla E. Craig
CARLA E. CRAIG
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

BAR DATE ORDER GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a form order (“**Bar Date Order**”) to establish deadlines for the filing of proofs of claim (the “**Bar Date**”) in chapter 11 cases and thereby expedite court review and entry of such orders.

All proposed Bar Date Orders should conform to these guidelines and use the form of Bar Date Order and notice of Bar Date, with only such changes as are necessary under the circumstances of the individual case. **If a proposed Bar Date Order and accompanying notice of Bar Date do not comply with these guidelines, counsel should identify and explain, in the application for approval of the Bar Date Order, the reason for each change.** These forms and the guidelines apply only in chapter 11 cases and do not apply to deadlines for filing administrative claims.

GUIDELINES

1. An application for entry of a Bar Date Order should ordinarily be filed within 30 days after the earlier of (i) the initial case conference and (ii) the date which the Debtor’s Schedules of Assets and Liabilities and Schedules of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases are due to be filed. If counsel believes that entry of a Bar Date Order should be delayed for any reason, counsel is urged to take up the matter at the initial case conference.
2. The application and accompanying papers may be submitted to the court without notice if these guidelines are followed and the application represents that the proposed Bar Date Order has been approved in form and substance by any official creditors’ committee, any Debtor in Possession lender (or administrative agent thereof, if any) and any secured creditor (or administrative agent thereof, if any) with a lien on a significant percentage of

the Debtor's assets. Otherwise, the proposed Bar Date Order should be submitted by notice of presentment or by notice of motion on notice to any official committee, Debtor in Possession lender, party requesting notice, and the United States trustee.

3. The application may contain suggested dates for the Bar Date, for mailing the notice of the Bar Date to creditors and, where appropriate, for publication. In most cases the suggested Bar Date should be at least 35 days after the mailing date and at least 28 days after the publication date. If possible, the proposed dates should provide the court with at least seven days after the application is submitted to enter the order. If applicable, the application should take into account the procedural provisions pertaining to creditors with foreign addresses. *See* Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (“**Bankruptcy Rules**”) 2002(p). For cause shown, the court may reduce the notice period to 21 days after mailing in accordance with Bankruptcy Rules 2002(a)(7) and 9006(c)(2).
4. The form of Bar Date Order and the accompanying form of notice of the Bar Date to creditors assumes that the case is a single-debtor case. If more than one Debtor is present in jointly administered cases, the notice should list each of the Debtors and their related case numbers as part of, or as an addendum to, the notice of the Bar Date to creditors.
5. The form of Bar Date Order contains a paragraph in brackets providing for publication of notice of the Bar Date. These guidelines do not take any position as to whether publication notice of the Bar Date is required in a particular case. Counsel should state in the application for a Bar Date whether they believe publication is required and, if so, the proposed time, place and method of publication, and in appropriate cases should raise the issue at the initial case conference. The published notice should be substantially similar to the written notice to creditors.

6. The form of Bar Date Order and notice of Bar Date contain instructions for proofs of claim to be filed electronically with the court, mailed to the court, or delivered by hand directly to the court site where the case is pending. Where it is anticipated that more than 1,000 proofs of claim will be filed, the Debtor should retain a claims/noticing agent (“**Claims Agent**”) to receive mailed proofs of claim. In such cases, counsel should contact the Clerk’s Office for procedures involving Claims Agents. In cases *without* Claims Agents, attorneys (with full access accounts) and employees of institutional creditors (with limited access accounts) may file proofs of claim electronically on the Court’s Case Management/Electronic Case File (“**CM/ECF**”) system.
7. The form of Bar Date Order is intended for use only in connection with fixing a bar date for the filing of proofs of claim. If a Bar Date for the filing of proofs of equity interest is required, counsel may file a substantially similar motion or counsel may submit a proposed order and accompanying notice that sets a Bar Date for the filing of proofs of claim and proofs of interest. Notice of a deadline for the filing of administrative claims should **not** ordinarily be combined with notice of any other Bar Date.
8. The forms of Bar Date Order and notice of Bar Date list persons and entities that are not required to file a proof of claim. While the list is not exhaustive, it is anticipated that these persons and entities will not be required to file proofs of claim in most chapter 11 cases. Some of the subparagraphs are bracketed, reflecting that the exemption may have no application or the Debtor may elect not to exempt the particular category from the requirement to file.
9. The notice of Bar Date to creditors should contain the name and telephone number of an individual at the Debtor’s counsel, or the bankruptcy services firm to whom questions may

be addressed. The notice should not indicate that it has been signed by the bankruptcy judge but may provide that the notice is “By Order of the Court.”

10. The electronic copy of the proposed Bar Date Order submitted to the court should include both the form of the proposed Bar Date Order and the text of the notice of Bar Date to creditors.

[FORM OF BAR DATE ORDER]

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re:

Chapter 11

Case No.: __-____(____)

Debtor.

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**ORDER ESTABLISHING DEADLINE FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM
AND APPROVING THE FORM AND MANNER OF NOTICE THEREOF**

Upon the application of the Debtor and Debtor in Possession for an order, pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (“**Bankruptcy Rule**”) 3003(c)(3), fixing a deadline and establishing procedures for filing proofs of claim and approving the form and manner of service thereof, and it appearing that the relief requested is in the best interests of the Debtor, its estate, and creditors and that adequate notice has been given and that no further notice is necessary; and after due deliberation and good and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is hereby

ORDERED, that except as otherwise provided herein, all persons and entities, (including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts and governmental units) that assert a claim, as defined in section 101(5) of 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”), against the Debtor which arose prior to the filing of the Chapter 11 petition on _____, shall file a proof of such claim in

writing so that it is received on or before _____, 20__ (the “**Bar Date**”); and it is further

[**ORDERED**, that notwithstanding any other provision hereof, proofs of claim filed by governmental units must be filed on or before _____, 20__ (the date that is 180 days after the date of the order for relief); and it is further]¹

ORDERED, that the following procedures for the filing of proofs of claim shall apply:

(a) Proofs of claim shall conform substantially to Official Bankruptcy Form No. 10;

(b) *[(1) Cases without Claims Agents - Insert this Subparagraph:]*²

Attorneys (with full access accounts) and employees of institutional creditors (with limited access accounts) shall file proofs of claim electronically on the Court’s Case Management/Electronic Case File (“**CM/ECF**”) system. Those without accounts to the CM/ECF system shall file their proofs of claim by mailing or delivering the original proof of claim to the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, [Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse, 271 Cadman

¹ For use only when the general Bar Date is less than 180 days after the Filing Date. Section 502(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that governmental units have at least 180 days after the order for relief to file a proof of claim (however, a different deadline may apply for certain tax-related claims in a chapter 13 case).

² Choose either subparagraph 1 *or* subparagraph 2. If you have questions regarding the applicability of a claims agent to your case, please contact the Clerk’s Office.

Plaza East, Suite 1595, Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800] [Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722];

[(2) Cases with Claims Agents - Insert this Subparagraph:] Proofs of claim shall be filed either by U.S. Postal Service mail or overnight delivery of the original proof of claim to the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, c/o [address provided by Claims Agent] or by mailing or delivering the original proof of claim by hand to the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, [Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse, 271 Cadman Plaza East, Suite 1595, Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800] [Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722];

- (c) Proofs of claim shall be deemed timely filed only when received by the Clerk of the Court on or before the Bar Date;
- (d) Proofs of claim shall (i) be signed; (ii) include supporting documentation (if voluminous, attach a summary); (iii) be in the English language; and (iv) be denominated in United States currency;
- (e) [In multiple debtor cases] Proofs of claim shall specify by name and case number the Debtor against which the claim is filed; if the holder asserts a claim against more than one Debtor or has claims against different Debtors, the holder shall file a separate proof of claim form for each Debtor; and it is further

ORDERED, that the following persons or entities need not file a proof of claim on or prior to the Bar Date:

- (a) Any person or entity that has already filed a proof of claim against the Debtor in this case with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York in a form substantially similar to Official Bankruptcy Form No. 10;
- (b) Any person or entity whose claim is listed on the Schedules of Assets and Liabilities filed by the Debtor (collectively, the “**Schedules**”) [Docket Entry No. _____], if (i) the claim is not scheduled as “disputed,” “contingent” or “unliquidated”; and (ii) the claimant agrees with the amount, nature and priority of the claim as set forth in the Schedules; [and (iii) the claimant does not dispute that the claim is an obligation of the specific Debtor against which the claim is listed in the Schedules];
- (c) Any holder of a claim that has already been allowed in this case by order of the Court;
- (d) Any holder of a claim for which a different deadline for filing a proof of claim in this case has already been fixed by this Court; or
- (e) Any holder of a claim allowable under sections 503(b) and 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code as an expense of administration of the Debtor’s estate; and it is further

ORDERED, that any person or entity that holds a claim that arises from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease, as to which the order authorizing such rejection is dated on or before the date of entry of this Order, must file a proof of claim based on such rejection on or before the later of the Bar Date or the date that is 30 days after the date of the order authorizing such rejection, and any person or entity that holds a claim that arises from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease, as to which an order authorizing such rejection is dated after the date of entry of this Order, must file a proof of claim on or before such date as the Court may fix in the applicable order authorizing such rejection; and it is further

ORDERED, that holders of equity security interests in the Debtor need not file proofs of interest with respect to the ownership of such interests, but if any such holder has a claim against the Debtor (including a claim relating to an equity interest or the purchase or sale of the equity interest), a proof of claim shall be filed on or prior to the Bar Date; and it is further

ORDERED, that if the Debtor amends or supplements the Schedules after the date of this Order, the Debtor shall give notice of any amendment or supplement to the holders of claims amended thereby, and holders of such claims shall have 30 days from the date of service of the notice to file proofs of claim and shall be given notice of that deadline; and it is further

ORDERED, that nothing in this Order shall prejudice the right of the Debtor or any other party in interest to dispute or assert offsets or defenses to any claim listed in the Schedules; and it is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(2), a holder of a claim that fails to comply with this Order by timely filing a proof of claim in appropriate form shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to that claim for purposes of voting and distribution; and it is further

ORDERED, that notice of the Bar Date substantially in the form annexed hereto is approved and shall be deemed adequate and sufficient if served by first-class mail at least 35 days prior to the Bar Date on:

- (a) the United States trustee;
- (b) counsel to each official committee;
- (c) all persons or entities that have requested notice of the proceedings in this case;
- (d) all persons or entities that have filed claims in this case;
- (e) all creditors and other known holders of claims as of the date of this Order, including all persons or entities listed in the Schedules as holding claims;
- (f) all parties to executory contracts and unexpired leases of the Debtor;
- (g) all parties to litigation with the Debtor;

(h) the Internal Revenue Service for the district in which the case is pending and, if required by Bankruptcy Rule 2002(j), the Securities and Exchange Commission and any other required governmental units;

and it is further

[**ORDERED**, that pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002(l), the Debtor shall publish notice of the Bar Date in substantially the form annexed hereto as Exhibit ___ once, in the _____ [and the _____] at least 28 days prior to the Bar Date, which publication is hereby approved and shall be deemed good, adequate and sufficient publication notice of the Bar Date;³ and it is further]

ORDERED, that the Debtor is authorized and empowered to take such steps and perform such acts as may be necessary to implement and effectuate the terms of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED, that entry of this Order is without prejudice to the right of the Debtor to seek a further order of this Court fixing a date by which holders of claims or interests not subject to the Bar Date established herein must file such proofs of claim or interest or be barred from doing so.

Dated: _____, New York

_____, 20__

³ For Debtors that propose to publish notice of the Bar Date. See Guideline 5.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

[FORM OF NOTICE OF BAR DATE]

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re:

Chapter 11

Case No.: __-____(____)

Debtor.

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**NOTICE OF DEADLINE REQUIRING FILING OF PROOFS OF
CLAIM ON OR BEFORE _____**

TO ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WITH CLAIMS AGAINST [NAME OF DEBTOR]

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York has entered an Order establishing [**set forth date in bold**] (the “**Bar Date**”) as the last date for each person or entity (including individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts and governmental units) to file a proof of claim against [Name of Debtor] (the “**Debtor**”).

The Bar Date and the procedures set forth below for filing proofs of claim apply to all claims against the Debtor that arose prior to _____ (the “**Filing Date**”), the date on which the Debtor commenced a case under chapter 11 of 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”), except for those holders of the claims listed in Section 4 below that are specifically excluded from the Bar Date filing requirement.

1. WHO MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM

You **MUST** file a proof of claim to vote on a Chapter 11 plan filed by the Debtor or to share in distributions from the Debtor's bankruptcy estate if you have a claim that arose prior to the Filing Date, and it is not one of the types of claim described in Section 4 below. Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before the Filing Date must be filed on or prior to the Bar Date, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated or certain before the Filing Date.

Under section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code and as used in this Notice, the word "claim" means: (a) a right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or (b) a right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured or unsecured.

2. WHAT TO FILE

Your filed proof of claim must conform substantially to Official Form No. 10, a copy of which is annexed to this Notice. Additional proof of claim forms may be obtained at www.uscourts.gov/bkforms.

The proof of claim form must be **signed** by the claimant or, if the claimant is not an individual, by an authorized agent of the claimant. It must be written in English and be denominated in United States currency. You must attach to your completed proof of claim any documents on which the claim is based (if voluminous, attach a summary).

[Any holder of a claim against more than one Debtor must file a separate proof of claim with respect to each Debtor, and all holders of claims must identify on their proof of claim the specific Debtor against which their claim is asserted and the case number of that Debtor's bankruptcy case. A list of the names of the Debtors and their case numbers is [set forth in the case caption above] [attached to this Notice].]

Your proof of claim form shall not contain complete social security numbers or taxpayer identification numbers (only the last four digits), a complete birth date (only the year), the name of a minor (only the minor's initials) or a financial account number (only the last four digits of such financial account).

3. WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

[(A) *Cases Without Claims Agents - Insert the following as Paragraph 3:*]⁴

Except as provided for herein, all proofs of claim must be filed so as to be received **on or before** _____.

Attorneys (with full access accounts) and employees of institutional creditors (with limited access accounts) shall file proofs of claim electronically on the Court's Case Management/Electronic Case File ("**CM/ECF**") system. Those without accounts to the CM/ECF system shall file their proofs of claim by mailing or delivering the original proof of claim to the Court at the address provided below:

[United States Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of New York
Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse
271 Cadman Plaza East, Suite 1595
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800]

⁴ Choose either subparagraph A *or* subparagraph B. If you have questions regarding the applicability of a claims agent to your case, please contact the Clerk's Office.

[United States Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of New York
Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse
290 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, NY 11722]

A proof of claim will be deemed timely filed only when received by the Bankruptcy Court on or before the Bar Date. A proof of claim may not be delivered by facsimile, telecopy or electronic mail transmission.

[Governmental units may have until _____, the date that is 180 days after the order for relief, to file proofs of claim.]⁵

[(B) Cases with Claims Agents - Insert the following as Paragraph 3:]

Except as provided for herein, all proofs of claim must be filed so as to be received **on or before** _____ at the following address:

**[Insert address provided by claims agent]
agent]**

IF DELIVERED BY HAND:

United States Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of New York
Conrad B. Duberstein U.S.
Bankruptcy Courthouse
271 Cadman Plaza East, Suite 1595
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800

or

United States Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of New York
Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse
**290 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, NY 11722**

⁵ See footnote 1, above.

Proofs of claim will be deemed filed only when received at the address listed herein on or before the Bar Date. Proofs of claim may not be delivered by facsimile, telecopy or electronic mail transmission.

[Governmental units may have until _____, the date that is 180 days after the order for relief, to file proofs of claim.]⁶

4. WHO NEED NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM

You do **not** need to file a proof of claim on or before the Bar Date if you are:

- (a) A person or entity that has already filed a proof of claim against the Debtor in this case with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York in a form substantially similar to Official Bankruptcy Form No. 10;
- (b) A person or entity whose claim is listed on the Schedules of Assets and Liabilities filed by the Debtor (collectively, the “**Schedules**”) [Docket Entry No. _____] if (i) the claim is not scheduled as “disputed,” “contingent,” or “unliquidated” and (ii) you agree with the amount, nature and priority of the claim as set forth in the Schedules [and (iii) you do not dispute that your claim is an obligation only of the specific Debtor against which the claim is listed in the Schedules];
- (c) A holder of a claim that has already been allowed in this case by order of the Court;
- (d) A holder of a claim for which a different deadline for filing a proof of claim in this case has already been fixed by this Court; or

⁶ See footnote 1, above.

- (e) A holder of a claim allowable under sections 503(b) and 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code as an expense of administration of the Debtor's estate.

If you are a holder of an equity interest in the Debtor, you need not file a proof of interest with respect to the ownership of such equity interest at this time. But, if you assert a claim against the Debtor, including a claim relating to your equity interest or the purchase or sale of that interest you must file a proof of claim on or prior to the Bar Date in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Notice.

This Notice is being sent to many persons and entities that have had some relationship with or have done business with the Debtor but may not have an unpaid claim against the Debtor. The fact that you have received this Notice does not mean that you have a claim, or that the Debtor or the Court believes that you have a claim against the Debtor.

5. EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES

If you have a claim arising out of the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease as to which the order authorizing such rejection is dated on or before _____, the date of entry of the Bar Order, you must file a proof of claim based on such rejection on or before the later of the Bar Date or the date that is 30 days after the date of the order authorizing such rejection. Any person or entity that has a claim arising from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease, as to which the order is dated after the date of entry of the Bar Order, you must file a proof of claim with respect to such claim by the date fixed by the Court in the applicable order authorizing rejection of such contract or lease.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM BY THE BAR DATE

ANY HOLDER OF A CLAIM THAT IS NOT EXCEPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDER, AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 4 ABOVE, AND THAT FAILS TO TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM IN THE APPROPRIATE FORM, WILL BE BARRED FROM ASSERTING ITS CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTOR AND ITS CHAPTER 11 ESTATE, VOTING ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION FILED IN THIS CASE, AND PARTICIPATING IN ANY DISTRIBUTION IN THE DEBTOR'S CHAPTER 11 CASE ON ACCOUNT OF THAT CLAIM.

7. THE DEBTOR'S SCHEDULES AND ACCESS THERETO

You may be listed as the holder of a claim against the Debtor in the Debtor's Schedules. If you agree with the nature, amount and status of your claim as listed in the Debtor's Schedules, [and if you do not dispute that your claim is only against the Debtor specified by the Debtors,] and if your claim is not described as "disputed," "contingent," or "unliquidated," you do not need to file a proof of claim. Otherwise, you must file a proof of claim before the Bar Date in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Notice.

Copies of the Debtor's Schedules are available for inspection on the Court's Internet Website at <http://www.nyeb.uscourts.gov>. A login and password to the Court's Public Access to Electronic Court Records ("**PACER**") are required to access this information and can be obtained through the PACER Service Center at <http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>. Copies of the Debtor's Schedules may also be examined between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday at the Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, [Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse, 271 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800] [Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722]. Copies of the Debtor's Schedules may also be obtained by written request to the Debtor's counsel at the address and telephone number set forth below:

[address and telephone number]

If you are unsure about any of these matters, including whether you should file a proof of claim, you may wish to consult an attorney.

Dated: _____, New York
_____, 20__

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTOR AND
DEBTOR IN POSSESSION
FIRM NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER