# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA WEST PALM BEACH DIVISION www.flsb.uscourts.gov

In re:	CHAPTER 11
PALM BEACH FINANCE PARTNERS, L.P., PALM BEACH FINANCE II, L.P.,	Case No. 09-36379-PGH Case No. 09-36396-PGH (Jointly Administered)
Debtors.	

# LIQUIDATING TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT WITH PALM BEACH STRATEGIC INCOME, LP AND PALM BEACH STRATEGIC OFFSHORE LIMITED AND PAYMENT OF CONTINGENCY FEE

Any interested party who fails to file and serve a written response to this motion within 21 days after the date of service stated in this motion shall, pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(D), be deemed to have consented to the entry of an order in the form attached to this motion. Any scheduled hearing may then be cancelled.

Barry E. Mukamal, in his capacity as liquidating trustee ("Liquidating Trustee") for the Palm Beach Finance Partners Liquidating Trust and Palm Beach Finance II Liquidating Trust (collectively, the "Liquidating Trusts"), by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019, seeks an Order from this Court approving a settlement of claims that could be asserted against Palm Beach Strategic Income, LP ("PBSI"). In support of this relief, the Liquidating Trustee states the following:

### I. Factual Background

### A. The Pre-Petition Activities of PBF II

1. The Liquidating Trusts are the successors in interest to Palm Beach Finance Partners, L.P. and Palm Beach Finance II, L.P. (collectively, the "Palm Beach Funds").

- 2. The Palm Beach Funds were formed to lend monies in purchase financing transactions supposedly brokered by Thomas Petters and his company, Petters Company, Inc. ("PCI") in the consumer goods business. The idea was that the Palm Beach Funds and other lenders would supply bridge financing to PCI and then later, once goods were received by a particular big box retailer, the retailer would remit the payment to the lender or PCI.
- 3. In reality, the Palm Beach Funds' investments in PCI were worthless PCI's purchase and financing transactions were fictitious and part of an elaborate, multi-billion dollar *ponzi* scheme perpetrated by Mr. Petters, Deanna Munson a/k/a Deanna Coleman, Robert White and others. No retailer ever made any payment on the purchase and sale of goods because the deals were fictitious.
- 4. On September 24, 2008, federal agents raided Mr. Petters' offices. Thereafter, Mr. Petters' companies were placed into federal receivership. Ultimately, Mr. Petters was convicted of his crimes and sentenced to 50 years in prison. Other persons complicit in the fraud were sentenced to prison sentences as well.
- 5. On November 30, 2009 ("Petition Date"), the Palm Beach Funds commenced bankruptcy cases by filing voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida ("Bankruptcy Court").

### B. PBSI

- 6. PBSI was a hedge fund that was affiliated with the Palm Beach Funds.
- 7. PBSI's investment strategy consisted of investing in asset based loans. To lever its returns, PBSI borrowed monies from an offshore lender Palm Beach Strategic Offshore Limited ("PBSO"). In exchange for these loans, PBSO was granted a lien on the assets of PBSI

including its cash located in a bank account at US Bank, NA, account no. 788208000 ("PBSI Account").

- 8. Historically, one of PBSI's investment strategies included investing in PCI purchase financing transactions. Rather than hold these notes to maturity, in several instances, PBSI sold its outstanding PCI notes to both of the Palm Beach Funds.
- 9. After PCI's offices were raided in September 2008, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota entered its Order creating a receivership for PCI and other individuals and appointing Douglas A. Kelley as receiver ("*PCI Receiver*"). Thereafter, the Receiver sought and obtained orders from the District Court freezing multiple bank accounts, including the PBSI Account.
- shareholder with Geoffrey Varga and Nicolas Matthews appointed as joint voluntary liquidators. Thereafter, on September 3, 2009, the liquidation of PBSO was brought under the supervision of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, with Messrs. Varga and Matthews being appointed as Joint Official Liquidators to PBSO. Mr. Varga is referred to as the "PBSO Offshore Liquidator." As the Court is aware, the PBSO Offshore Liquidator is also the offshore liquidator for Palm Beach Offshore, Ltd. and Palm Beach Offshore II, Ltd. and serves as the Trust Monitor with respect to the Liquidating Trusts. Mr. Varga has abstained from any decision making process as it relates to the Liquidating Trusts in connection with this specific matter.

### II. Settlement Terms

- 11. The settlement proposed here consists of a multi-step process. The key aspects of the stipulation of settlement between the parties ("*Stipulation*") are the following:
  - a) Upon approval of the Stipulation, PBSI will cause the PBSI Account to be turned over to PBSO Offshore Liquidator. Currently, there is \$871,431.91 located in the PBSI Account.
  - b) Thereafter, the PBSO Offshore Liquidator and the Liquidating Trustee will work together to unfreeze the funds located in the PBSI Account. Upon the account being unfrozen, the PBSO Offshore Liquidator will, after payment of any required realization costs, pay (or cause to be paid) 25% of the remaining funds located in the PBSI Account to the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts ("Settlement Payment"). The Settlement Payment is in satisfaction of any clawback claims the Liquidating Trusts could assert against PBSI in connection with the sale of PCI notes to the Palm Beach Funds.
  - c) The Settlement Payment will be made within 30 days from the date of any agreement entered into with the PCI Receiver unfreezing the PBSI Account. The Settlement Payment will be allocated to the Liquidating Trusts in accordance with the pro rata allocation formula approved by this Court ("Allocation Formula"): 18% to the Palm Beach Finance Partners Liquidating Trust and 82% to the Palm Beach Finance II Liquidating Trust.
  - d) The parties will exchange mutual releases as described in the Stipulation.
  - e) PBSI and PBSO shall not be entitled to any distribution from the Liquidating Trusts or the PBF I or PBF II bankruptcy estates.
- 12. This settlement differs from the typical settlements that have been presented to this Court. *First*, the nature of the claim does not involve a typical profiteer claim. Instead, the claim would be to avoid and recover transfers made to PBSI under a theory of constructive fraud. Namely, the Liquidating Trustee would assert that the Palm Beach Funds did not receive reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the PCI notes purchased from PBSI. *Second*,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A copy of the Stipulation is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. To the extent the terms of the agreement differ with the terms set forth in this Motion, the agreement shall control.

collection is a significant issue in this litigation. PBSO and PBSI are defunct hedge funds that are being wound down. Indeed, the only material asset that is controlled by PBSI is the frozen PBSI Account. PBSO, however, could maintain a superior claim to the monies located in that account. Similarly, to the extent other assets existed, PBSO could assert superior claims to those assets as well.

### III. Relief Requested

- 13. The Liquidating Trustee seeks an Order from this Court (a) approving the Stipulation and (b) approving the Contingency Fee (as defined below).
- 14. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019 provides in relevant part that [o]n motion . . . and after a hearing on notice to creditors; the debtor . . . and to such other entities as the Court may designate, the Court may approve a compromise or settlement."
- 15. Approval of a settlement in a bankruptcy proceeding is within the sole discretion of the Court and will not be disturbed or modified on appeal unless approval or disapproval is an abuse of discretion. *In re Arrow Air*, 85 BR 891 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1988).
- The standards for approval are well settled and require the Court to inquire into the reasonableness of the proposed settlement. See, e.g., Protective Comm. for Indep. Stockholders of TMT Trailer Ferry, Inc. v. Anderson, 390 U.S. 414, 424 (1968); In re W.T. Grant Co., 699 F.2d 599, 608 (2d Cir. 1983); Florida Trailer and Equip. Co. v. Deal, 284 F.2d 567, 571 (5th Cir. 1960). The inquiry need only determine whether the settlement falls below the lowest point of the range of reasonableness. See W.T. Grant Co., 699 F.2d at 608; see also In re Martin, 91 F.3d 389 (3rd Cir. 1996); In re Louise's Inc., 211 B.R. 798 (D. Del. 1997) (setting forth considerations by the Court for approval of a settlement, including: (i) the probability of success in litigation, (ii) the likely difficulties in collection; (iii) the complexity of the litigation

involved, and the expense, inconvenience and delay necessarily attending it; and (iv) the paramount interest of the creditors.

### A. The Stipulation Ought to be Approved

17. Based upon the above legal principles, the Liquidating Trustee asserts that the Stipulation falls well above the lowest point of the range of reasonableness and thus, should be approved.

### Probability of success in litigation

- 18. The Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trust, could assert that the transfers to PBSI were fraudulent transfers under federal or state law, or alternatively, that PBSI was unjustly enriched by the Profit Distribution. Additionally, the Liquidating Trustee would likely bring claims to recover principal repayments made to PBSI.
- 19. The Liquidating Trustee believes that he may succeed in prosecuting these causes of action. Nonetheless, the Liquidating Trustee acknowledges that there are risks inherent in all litigation and there is the possibility that PBSI, or other similarly situated parties, could raise certain issues or defenses that potentially could impact the Liquidating Trustee's claims.
- 20. Moreover, the probability of success in then executing on this judgment is significantly more difficult to predict. Namely, PBSO could assert a superior claim to the PBSI Account. To the extent PBSO successfully asserts such claim, then any judgment obtained against PBSI would be likely worthless.

# Collectability

- 21. Collectability is a significant issue in this matter and drives this settlement.
- 22. Based on PBSI's disclosures, and more importantly, the current status of both PBSI and PBSO, PBSI does not have the financial wherewithal to pay any meaningful judgment

obtained against it. The limited funds located in the PBSI Account are the only meaningful asset available for recovery.

Complexity of litigation and attendant expense, inconvenience and delay

- 23. This is a meaningful consideration that militates in favor of approval of the Stipulation.
- 24. In sum, although fraudulent transfer claims are typical claims litigated before this Court, they still potentially require retention of experts and extensive fact discovery before a trial could take place. The result of these efforts will be substantial fees of professionals that could diminish the net result of any recovery to creditors in these bankruptcy cases.
- 25. Moreover, assuming the Liquidating Trustee was successful in obtaining a judgment against PBSI, he would then have to engage in collection efforts. These efforts become more complicated due to PBSO's interest in the assets of PBSI.
- 26. The Stipulation addresses these concerns. The parties avoid litigating fact specific claims and issues relating to collection, with the attendant expense and delay of such litigation being nullified.

### Paramount interest of creditors

27. In the event the Liquidating Trustee is successful in unfreezing the PBSI Account, the Settlement Payment will yield a six-figure recovery of the clawback claims he could assert against a defunct PBSI. Although this recovery is significantly less than the multi-million dollar face value of the fraudulent transfer claims that could be asserted, it is appropriate in light of the limited sources of collection and the competing claims of PBSO. Most importantly, this result gives certainty to the estate and avoids the risk, expense and delay attendant with litigation. As

such, the Stipulation is in the paramount interest of the Liquidating Trusts creditors and should be approved.

# B. The Contingency Fee Ought to be Approved

- 28. Pursuant to the Plan and this Court's Order Approving the Trustee's Motion to Approve Hybrid Form of Compensation [ECF No. 223], Meland Russin & Budwick, P.A. ("MRB") is entitled to a contingency fee of 10% for any affirmative recovery it obtains on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts without further order of the Court ("Contingency Fee").
- 29. As such, MRB requests that the Contingency Fee be paid upon actual receipt of the Settlement Payment without further Order from this Court. Pursuant to the Allocation Formula, each Liquidating Trust shall pay the Contingency Fee from the portion of the Settlement Payment proceeds received by it.

WHEREFORE, the Liquidating Trustee requests that this Court enter an Order (similar in form to the Order attached as Exhibit 2) (1) approving the Stipulation; (2) approving payment of the Contingency Fee and (3) granting such other relief this Court deems just and proper.

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on March 28, 2012, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via the Court's Notice of Electronic Filing on those parties listed on the attached Exhibit 3, and via U.S. Mail to the parties listed on the matrix attached as Exhibit 4.

s/ Jonathan S. Feldman
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Telephone: (305) 358-6363
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Attorneys for Barry E. Mukamal, Liquidating Trustee

### STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") is entered into on 7 Feb, 2012. by and among (a) Barry Mukamal, in his capacity as liquidating trustee ("Liquidating Trustee") of the Palm Beach Finance Partners Liquidating Trust and Palm Beach Finance II Liquidating Trust ("Liquidating Trusts"); (b) Geoffrey Varga, in his capacity as Joint Official Liquidator ("Offshore Liquidator") of Palm Beach Strategic Offshore Limited ("PBSO") and (c) Palm Beach Strategic Income, L.P. ("PBSP") (the Liquidating Trustee, Offshore Liquidator and PBSI are at times individually referred to as a "Party" or collectively, the "Parties"). The terms of this Stipulation are as follows:

### RECITALS

- A. PBSI and PBSO were formed to raise monies and pursue certain investment strategies;
- B. In conjunction with its investment strategies, PBSI maintained a bank account at US Bank, NA, account no. 788208000 ("PBSI Account");
- C. On September 24, 2008, government agents raided the office of Petters Company, Inc. ("PCI");
- D. On October 6, 2008, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota entered its Order creating a receivership for PCI and other individuals and appointing Douglas A. Kelley as receiver ("PCI Receiver");
- E. The Receiver sought and obtained orders from the District Court freezing multiple bank accounts, including the PBSI Account;
- F. On 14 May 2009, PBSO was placed into voluntary liquidation by its sole shareholder with Geoffrey Varga and Nicolas Matthews appointed as joint voluntary liquidators;

- G. Given the insolvent nature of PBSO, on 3 September 2009, the liquidation of PBSO was brought under the supervision of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, with Geoffrey Varga and Nicolas Matthews being appointed as Joint Official Liquidators to PBSO;
- H. On November 30, 2009 ("Petition Date"), Palm Beach Finance Partners, LP (PBF I") and Palm Beach Finance II, LP ("PBF II"; and together with PBF I, the "Palm Beach Funds") commenced Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases by filing voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida;
- I. On October 21, 2010, the Bankruptcy Court entered its Order Confirming Second Amended Plan of Liquidation [ECF No. 444] creating the Liquidating Trusts and appointing the Liquidating Trustee as liquidating trustee.
- J. The Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, asserts certain rights to the remaining assets of PBSI, including without limitation, the remaining funds located in the PBSI Account resulting from amounts owing to PBSO from PBSI under certain promissory notes ("Promissory Note Claims");
- K. The Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts, asserts certain claims against PBSI relating to transfers made to it by the Palm Beach Funds ("Clawback Litigation"; and together with the Promissory Note Claims, the "Potential Litigation");
- L. PBSI expressly denies any liability or assertion of rights with respect to the Clawback Litigation;
- M. The Offshore Liquidator, Liquidating Trustee and PBSI have engaged in discussions in an attempt to resolve any and all issues, including the Potential Litigation;
- N. To avoid the continued expense and risk of adverse outcome arising from any litigation, as well as incurring costs and expenses associated therewith, among other reasons, the {Firm Clients/4189/4189-1/01033649.DOCX.}2

Parties have agreed to resolve the Potential Litigation pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Stipulation.

NOW, WHEREFORE, it is stipulated, consented to and agreed, by and among the Parties as follows:

- 1. **No admission of liability.** The Parties acknowledge that this Stipulation is a compromise and settlement of a controversy. No Party admits, and each expressly denies, any liability on its part, except for acknowledgement of amounts due to PBSO from PBSI under the Promissory Note Claims.
- 2. Entire agreement. This Stipulation constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and there are no other stipulations, agreements, representations, or warranties other than those specifically set forth herein. All prior agreements and understandings between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof are superseded by the terms of this Stipulation.
- 3. Turnover of the PBSI Account. In full and final settlement of the Potential Litigation, PBSI shall effectuate a turnover of any and all rights it may have to the PBSI Account to PBSO. PBSI agrees to cooperate with the Offshore Liquidator in connection with the turnover including executing any and all documents reasonably necessary to effectuate turnover of the PBSI Account to PBSO or to the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO.
- 4. Split of Proceeds in the PBSI Account. In furtherance of the full and final settlement of the Clawback Litigation, the Offshore Liquidator shall pay (or cause to be paid) 25% of the remaining funds, after payment by the Offshore Liquidator of any and all required realization costs, located in the PBSI Account ("Payment") to the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts. The Payment shall be made within 30 days from the date of any agreement entered into with the PCI Receiver unfreezing the PBSI Account for the benefit of

PBSO or the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO. To the extent such agreement with the PCI Receiver requires court approval, the time period described in the preceding sentence shall begin to accrue on the date any final order approving such agreement is entered. The Payment may be made via (i) wire transfer pursuant to written instructions to be provided by the Liquidating Trustee or his counsel or (ii) check made payable to "Barry E. Mukamal, Liquidating Trustee" and delivered to Jonathan S. Feldman, Esq., Meland Russin & Budwick, P.A., 200 South Biscayne Blvd., Suite 3000, Miami, Florida 33131.

- 5. No entitlement to distribution. PBSI and PBSO agree that they shall not be entitled to any monetary distribution whatsoever from the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I or PBF II.
  - 6. General releases between the Parties.
  - A. For purposes of this Stipulation, the term "Claims" shall mean any obligations, claims, causes of action, demands of any type that a party may presently have, may have or have had in the past, upon or by reason of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, including without limitation any and all obligations, debts, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, claims, causes of actions and demands of any kind whatsoever, whether known or unknown, at law or in equity, indirect, derivative, or direct, known or unknown, discovered or undiscovered, including, but not limited to, those claims that could have been asserted in the Potential Litigation.
  - B. Upon approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 3 of this Stipulation, the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, waives, releases and hold harmless, now and forever, (i) PBSI and (ii) PBL Capital, L.P. ("PBL Capital") and the respective past and present officers, directors, insurers, employees, agents, attorneys, representatives, predecessors, successors, assigns, partners, shareholders, parents, subsidiaries and other affiliates of PBSI and PBL Capital

(collectively, the "PBSI Released Parties") from any and all Claims that PBSO or the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, may have against the PBSI Released Parties related to the Potential Litigation; provided that nothing herein shall be deemed to release, waive or otherwise limit any rights or obligations arising out of this Stipulation. The scope of this release shall not impact, impair or alter in any manner any Claims whatsoever that the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, may have against any parties other than PBSI or the PBSI Released Parties, including but not limited to Claims against any alleged concurrent or consecutive tortfeasors, if any.

- C. Upon approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 3 of this Stipulation, the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II, waives, releases and hold harmless, now and forever, the PBSI Released Parties from any and all Claims that the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I or PBF II may have against the PBSI Released Parties relating to the Clawback Litigation; provided that nothing herein shall be deemed to release, waive or otherwise limit any rights or obligations arising out of this Stipulation. The scope of this release shall not impact, impair or alter in any manner any Claims whatsoever that the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II may have against any parties other than PBSI or the PBSI Released Parties, including but not limited to Claims against any alleged concurrent or consecutive tortfeasors, if any.
- D. Upon approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 3 of this Stipulation, the PBSI Released Parties waive, release and hold harmless, now and forever, the Offshore Liquidator, PBSO, the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II from any and all Claims {Firm Clients/4189/4189-1/01033649.DOCX.}5

that the PBSI Released Parties may have against the Offshore Liquidator, PBSO, the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II relating to the Potential Litigation; provided that this provision does not release, waive or otherwise limit any rights or obligations arising out of this Stipulation.

- E. Upon approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 4 of this Stipulation, the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, waives, releases and hold harmless, now and forever, the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II, from any and all Claims that the Offshore Liquidator or PBSO may have against the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II relating to the Clawback Litigation; provided that nothing herein shall be deemed to release, waive or otherwise limit any rights or obligations arising out of this Stipulation. The scope of this release shall not impact, impair or alter in any manner any Claims whatsoever that the Offshore Liquidator, on behalf of PBSO, may have against any parties other than the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II, including but not limited to Claims against any alleged concurrent or consecutive tortfeasors, if any.
- F. Upon approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 4 of this Stipulation, the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II, waives, releases and hold harmless, now and forever, the Offshore Liquidator, PBSO and the respective past and present officers, directors, insurers, employees, agents, attorneys, representatives, predecessors, successors, assigns, partners, shareholders, partners, subsidiaries and other affiliates of the Offshore Liquidator and PBSO (collectively, the "PBSO Released Parties") from any and all Claims that the Liquidating Trustee, the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I or PBF II may

that nothing herein shall be deemed to release, waive or otherwise limit any rights or obligations arising out of this Stipulation, including, for the avoidance of doubt, the obligations of the Offshore Liquidator to comply with the terms of paragraph 4 of this Stipulation. The scope of this release shall not impact, impair or alter in any manner any Claims whatsoever that the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I and PBF II, may have against any parties other than the PBSO Released Parties, including but not limited to Claims against any alleged concurrent or consecutive tortfeasors, if any.

- 7. Authorization to bind. The individuals signing below represent and warrant that they have the authority to execute this Stipulation on behalf of the applicable Party and bind them to its terms.
- 8. Review/No Duress. Each of the Parties acknowledges that he, she or it has read all of the terms of this Stipulation, has had an opportunity to consult with counsel of his, her or its own choosing or voluntarily waived such right, and enters into those terms voluntarily and without duress.
- 9. Attorneys' fees and costs. Each Party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs in connection with the negotiation of this Stipulation and motions and orders as may be necessary to obtain the approval of this Stipulation by the Bankruptey Court; provided that that in the event of any litigation between the Parties under this Stipulation or arising as a result of a default under this Stipulation, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs related thereto, including, but not limited to, those incurred at all trial and appellate levels.

- 10. No waiver of modification. This Stipulation and any of the specific items, covenants, and conditions contained herein, may not be waived, changed, altered or modified except by an instrument in writing signed by the Party against whom enforcement of such change is sought.
- Parties hereto, subject only to approval of this Stipulation by final order of the Bankruptcy Court and compliance with the terms of paragraph 3 of this Stipulation. Upon it becoming effective, this Stipulation shall be binding on all of the Parties' personal representatives, successors, heirs or assigns.
- 12. No effect. If the Bankruptcy Court does not approve this Stipulation, then the Stipulation shall be of no further force or effect, and the Parties shall be restored to their rights as they existed prior to the execution of this Stipulation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Bankruptcy Court does not approve this Stipulation because any of the Parties have failed to provide the Bankruptcy Court with adequate information to rule on the merits of the Stipulation, the Parties will use their best efforts to seek reconsideration of any order declining to approve the Stipulation, or to file an amended motion to approve the Stipulation.
- 13. Controlling law. This Stipulation shall in all respects be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida applicable to contracts made and to be performed wholly within the State of Florida and by federal law to the extent the same has preempted the laws of the State of Florida.
- 14. Counterparts. This Stipulation may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same

Stipulation. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to this Stipulation by facsimile shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart of this Stipulation.

- 15. **Construction.** This Stipulation shall be deemed to have been jointly drafted by the Parties, and in construing and interpreting this Stipulation, no provision shall be construed and interpreted for or against any of the Parties because such provision or any other provision of the Stipulation as a whole is purportedly prepared or requested by such Party.
- 16. **Jurisdiction.** The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Stipulation.

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# Palm Beach Strategic Offshore Ltd. (in official liquidation) By its Joint Official Liquidator Geoffrey Varga Date: Date: 7 February 2012 Palm Beach Strategic Offshore Ltd. (in official liquidation) By its Joint Official Liquidator Geoffrey Varga Date: Palm Beach Strategic Income, L.P. By: PBL Capital, L.P., its general partner By: PBL Holdings, LLC, its general partner By: Name:

Title:

Date:

STIPULATED AND AGREED TO BY:						
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Ву:	PBL C	Capital, L.	P., its gener	ral partner		
	Ву:	By: Name: Title:	Scott Ok	its general		

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA WEST PALM BEACH DIVISION www.flsb.uscourts.gov

In re:	CHAPTER 11
PALM BEACH FINANCE PARTNERS, L.P., PALM BEACH FINANCE II, L.P.,	Case No. 09-36379-PGH Case No. 09-36396-PGH (Jointly Administered)
Debtors.	

# ORDER GRANTING LIQUIDATING TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT WITH PALM BEACH STRATEGIC INCOME, LP AND PALM BEACH STRATEGIC OFFSHORE LIMITED AND PAYMENT OF CONTINGENCY FEE [ECF NO. ]

THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon the Liquidating Trustee's Motion for Approval of Settlement with Palm Beach Strategic Income, LP ("PBSI") and Palm Beach Strategic Offshore Limited ("PBSO") and Payment of Contingency Fee [ECF No. \_\_\_\_] (the "Motion"). The Court, having reviewed the Motion and noting that a Certificate of No Response and Request for Entry of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms not defined in this Order shall have the meaning ascribed to such term as set forth in the Motion.

Order has been filed, finds that the notice of the proposed compromise and settlement is sufficient to comply with Bankruptcy Rules 9019 and 2002(a)(3), Local Rule 9013-1(D) and any other applicable notice requirement, and accordingly, it is:

### **ORDERED** as follows:

- 1. The Motion is **GRANTED**.
- 2. The Settlement is **APPROVED**.
- 3. PBSI shall turn over control of the PBSI Account to the Offshore Liquidator.
- 4. Upon the PBSI Account being unfrozen, the Offshore Liquidator shall, after payment of any required realization costs, pay (or cause to be paid) 25% of the remaining funds located in the PBSI Account to the Liquidating Trustee, on behalf of the Liquidating Trusts ("Settlement Payment").
- 5. MRB's Contingency Fee is approved. The Liquidating Trustee is authorized and directed to make payment of the Contingency Fee without the need of further Court Order, in accordance with the Allocation Formula, promptly upon receipt of the Settlement Payment.
- 6. PBSI and PBSO shall not be entitled to any monetary distribution whatsoever from the Liquidating Trusts, PBF I or PBF II
  - 7. The Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

###

# **Mailing Information for Case 09-36379-PGH**

### **Electronic Mail Notice List**

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

- Geoffrey S. Aaronson gaaronson@aspalaw.com, tdmckeown@mckeownpa.com;sbeiley@aspalaw.com;dlinder@aspalaw.com
- Melissa Alagna mma@segallgordich.com, jxp@segallgordich.com
- Keith T Appleby kappleby@fowlerwhite.com, kthompson@fowlerwhite.com
- Paul A Avron pavron@bergersingerman.com, efile@bergersingerman.com
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