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Anthony L. Vitullo Partner

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July 13, 2016

Re: In re: Estate of Max D. Hopper; Deceased; Cause No. PR-11-3238-1

My name is Anthony L. Vitullo. I am one of the counsel for Dr. Stephen Hopper and Ms. Laura Wassmer in this case. Attached to this report you will find a copy of my CV and further information can be found at http://www.feesmith.com/vitullo.html. I have been practicing law in Texas courts since 1991. I will be providing expert testimony on the attorneys' fees incurred by Chase and Jo Hopper and the appropriateness of charging any such attorneys' fees to the estate.

It is my expert opinion that the fees charged to the estate by Chase are excessive, unnecessary, unreasonable and outside the scope of Chase's agreement to provide administrative services. The contract setting forth Chase's responsibilities limit the use of attorneys to representing the estate in court and overseeing legal matters. It is clear from a review of Chase's summaries of the attorneys' fees and the bills themselves that Chase had its attorneys perform work that should have properly been performed by Chase. In addition, the rates charged by the Hunton & Williams attorneys and legal assistants were and are extremely high given the nature of the work performed and the fact that such fees were charged against the estate. It also appears from a review of the legal bills that multiple attorneys charged for the same type of work, resulting in unnecessary overbilling. It appears little to no consideration was given to the fact that such enormous legal bills were depleting the inheritance of the beneficiaries that Chase owed a fiduciary duty to. Given Chase's allegedly non-adversarial role as an independent administrator and the subsequent billing of these fees against the estate, such rates and total fees were extremely excessive, unnecessary and unreasonable.

It is also my expert opinion that the fees sought to be charged to the estate by Jo Hopper are excessive, unnecessary and unreasonable. The total bills and rates charged by Jo Hopper's multiple attorneys were and are extremely high given the nature of the work performed and the fact that such fees are sought to be charged against the estate. It also appears that there was a large amount of duplication of efforts by the various attorneys for Jo Hopper, creating unnecessary fees. Additionally, any and all fees relating to Jo Hopper's litigation regarding the Robledo property are improper because this declaratory judgment has been resolved without the award of such fees.





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Education:

Austin College (B.A. 1988) Baylor University School of Law (J.D. 1991)

Bar Admissions:

Texas California

Court Admissions:

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the
Southern District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the
Western District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the
Eastern District of Texas

Practice Areas:

Commercial/ Business Litigation Insurance Litigation Class Action Litigation Consumer Litigation Investment/Tax Litigation

Class Action Settlements: Sharp Electronics Dell Inc. Gateway Corporation Hewlett-Packard Company Toshiba American Medical Security Continental General Mr. Vitullo is an AV rated attorney by Martindale- Hubbell. He was born in Niagara Falls, New York in 1966. Mr. Vitullo has devoted most of his practice to complex litigation primarily emphasizing on business, and commercial litigation. He has handled complex insurance and investment and tax litigation for clients across the country. He has had extensive experience in both prosecuting and defending cases, including many involving Fortune 500 corporations. As a result of this diverse background, Mr. Vitullo appreciates all sides of a dispute and anticipates his opponent's actions before they happen.

Since 1991, Mr. Vitullo has been lead counsel in over 50 jury trials. He has successfully negotiated settlements in numerous cases resulting in millions of dollars in recoveries for his clients, and also saving millions of dollars for his corporate clients.

Mr. Vitullo has appeared in Courts from California to New Jersey and is regularly retained to represent clients in courts throughout the state of Texas. Mr. Vitullo has prosecuted and defended class action lawsuits in the state of Texas and the state of California. The cases were certified as class actions and culminated in payments of over millions of dollars in settlement proceeds.

Mr. Vitullo has also worked directly with a number of insurance companies both in defending lawsuits in reviewing their business practices for potential litigation risks.

Mr. Vitullo has handled investment litigation involving complex tax issues and has successfully recovered millions of dollars for clients who have tax exposure to the IRS.

Professional Affiliations:

AV Rated Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell Member State Bar of Texas; Dallas Bar Association; State Bar of California Asian-American Dallas Bar Association American Bar Association ATLA

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