25

26

Michael J. Gearin, wsba # 20982 David C. Neu, wsba # 33143 Brian T. Peterson, WSBA # 42088 K&L GATES LLP 925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2900 Seattle, WA 98104-1158 (206) 623-7580

Honorable Christopher M. Alston Chapter 11

Hearing Location: Seattle, Rm. 7206

Hearing Date: Friday, September 30, 2016

Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

Debtor.

Case No. 16-11767-CMA

TRUSTEE'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING ROSS HANSEN IN CONTEMPT AND FOR AWARD OF SANCTIONS

Mark Calvert, as Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") of Northwest Territorial Mint, LLC ("NWTM") replies to Response to Trustee's Motion for Contempt (the "Response") (Dkt. 644) as follows:

I. REPLY

Mr. Hansen has characterized the Trustee's Motion for Order Holding Ross Hansen in Contempt and for Award of Sanctions (the "Motion") as a "waste of estate resources" and "unnecessary." In reality, Mr. Hansen's refusal to fulfill obligations under the 2004 Order has made it necessary for the Trustee to seek relief. The 2004 Order was entered by this Court almost five months ago to the day. It was not until mid-June, 2016, that Ross Hansen dribbled a few documents to the Trustee. Significantly, he did not produce his bank statements, tax returns, or investment account statements at that time.

Since June, Mr. Hansen has repeatedly ignored his obligations under the 2004 Order,

TRUSTEE'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING ROSS HANSEN IN CONTEMPT AND FOR AWARD OF SANCTIONS - 1 K:\2070561\00001\20347 DCN\20347A28P2

K&L GATES LLP 925 FOURTH AVENUE **SUITE 2900** SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1158 TELEPHONE: (206) 623-7580 FACSIMILE: (206) 623-7022

Case 16-11767-CMA Doc 746 Filed 09/27/16 Ent. 09/27/16 15:40:33 Pg. 1 of 5 2345

1

6

7

8

11

10

13

12

1415

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

2526

justifying his non-compliance with the gambit that either: 1) the Trustee is already in possession of the records; or 2) the Trustee should just subpoena the records. The result of this gambit has been that the Trustee has had to engage in a tail-chasing exercise of digging through records in an effort to verify Mr. Hansen's assertions when Mr. Hansen could have easily authorized his accountant, bank, or investment account custodian to release records to the Trustee.

As explained in the Motion, some bank account and incomplete investment account records were ultimately located in the documents from Ross Hansen's office, however the fact that the Trustee located these records does not mean Mr. Hansen has fulfilled his obligations. Accordingly, after a series of back-and-forth emails in which counsel for the Trustee requested that Mr. Hansen authorize his accountant to release tax returns 1, and provide the other missing documents, the Trustee filed the Motion. After the filing of the Motion, the Trustee, out of frustration that Mr. Hansen would not authorize their release, subpoenaed Mr. Hansen's tax returns and obtained them directly from the accountant. Also, after the filing of the Motion, Mr. Hansen finally requested statements for his investment account (the "Investment Account"), which he provided on September 14, 2016 - almost five months after entry of the 2004 Order. The Investment Account statements produced were from the period of November, 2011, through 2013. It bears noting that notwithstanding the fact that the Investment Account is in Ross Hansen's name, it appears to have been used to make investments for NWTM. Attached to the accompanying Declaration of David C. Neu as Exhibit C is a page from NWTM's 2009 tax return, in which it declares gains based on trades in the account.

On September 15, 2016, after receiving only two years of Investment Account statements from Mr. Hansen, counsel for the Trustee contacted MF Global Holdings, LTD² which, based on public records, appears to have possession of the records from the Investment Account prior to

The only tax return located in the records held by the Trustee was from 2003.

² Prior to November, 2011, the custodian of the Investment Account was M.F. Global Inc. d/b/a Lind Waldock. M.F. Global's parent filed for Chapter 11 relief in October, 2011, and M.F Global Inc. was liquidated under the Securities Investor Protection Act. Mr. Hansen's account was transferred from M.F. Global, Inc. to a company called R.J. O'Brien.

November, 2011. Attached to the accompanying Declaration of David C. Neu is the email pursuant to which MF Global Holdings, LTD confirms that it has records going back to 2006 and that with Mr. Hansen's authorization, it will release them. Also attached to the Declaration of David C. Neu is an email to Mr. Hansen's counsel requesting that Mr. Hansen authorize the release of the statements, and the expected reply email with the assertion that the Trustee already has the records.³

In sum, despite being under order to do so, Mr. Hansen has provided almost no records to the Trustee other than two years of statements related to the Investment Accounts, which he only provided when faced with the Motion. At any time over the past five months, Mr. Hansen, with no more effort than a few phone calls or emails, could have provided the records thereby saving the Trustee the time and effort of sorting through boxes of records and issuing subpoenas. More importantly, given NWTM's recordkeeping, Mr. Hansen's compliance with the 2004 Order would give the Trustee assurance that he has the universe of available records. To date, Mr. Hansen has not provided any verification or assurance that there are not additional records that the Trustee is unaware of (for example, other accounts). Without Mr. Hansen's compliance, the Trustee's only recourse has been to guess what accounts exits, and which records he may already have.

II. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Mr. Hansen is under an order of this Court to provide records to the Trustee. Instead of complying with the Court's order, he has spent the last five months playing games and doing as little as humanly possible to make records available to the Trustee. The Trustee, largely through his own efforts, has obtained most of the records that he knows about, with the exception of the remaining Investment Account statements available from M.F. Global. Mr. Hansen has been under an obligation to provide the Trustee with these missing Investment Account statements, and the Court should hold him in contempt for his failure to provide them. Moreover, given that Mr. Hansen has produced almost nothing voluntarily, the Court should compel Mr. Hansen to provide the Trustee

TRUSTEE'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING ROSS HANSEN IN CONTEMPT AND FOR AWARD OF SANCTIONS - 3 K:\2070561\00001\20347 DCN\20347A28P2

K&L GATES LLP
925 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 2900
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1158
TELEPHONE: (206) 623-7580
FACSIMILE: (206) 623-7022

³ The Trustee has been able to locate incomplete Investment Account statements, which cover two months of 2006, two months of 2007, two months of 2008, and 2009.

1	with a complete list of all investment, bank, and credit card accounts which he currently or formerly
2	maintained. It is certainly possible, given Mr. Hansen's lack of cooperation, that there are accounts
3	which the Trustee has not identified.
4	Dated this 27th day of September, 2016.
5	K&L GATES LLP
6	
7	By <u>/s/ David C. Neu</u> Michael J. Gearin, wsba #20982 David C. Neu, wsba #33143
8	Brian T. Peterson, wsbA #42088 Attorneys for Mark Calvert, Chapter 11 Trustee
9	Attorneys for Mark Carvert, Chapter 11 Trustee
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	

TRUSTEE'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING ROSS HANSEN IN CONTEMPT AND FOR AWARD OF SANCTIONS - 4 K:\2070561\00001\20347_DCN\20347A28P2

K&L GATES LLP
925 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 2900
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1158
TELEPHONE: (206) 623-7580
FACSIMILE: (206) 623-7022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned declares as follows:

1

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

That she is a Paralegal in the law firm of K&L Gates LLP, and on September 27, 2016, she caused the foregoing document to be filed electronically through the CM/ECF system which caused Registered Participants to be served by electronic means, as fully reflected on the Notice of Electronic Filing.

Also on September 27, 2016, she caused the foregoing document to be mailed to the Debtor at the address listed below:

Northwest Territorial Mint LLC c/o Ross Hansen, Member P.O. Box 2148 Auburn, WA 98071-2148

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

Executed on the 27th day of September, 2016 at Seattle, Washington.

/s/ Denise A. Evans
Denise A. Evans

TRUSTEE'S REPLY TO RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR ORDER HOLDING ROSS HANSEN IN CONTEMPT AND FOR AWARD OF SANCTIONS - 5 K\2070561\00001\20347 DCN\20347A28P2

K&L GATES LLP
925 FOURTH AVENUE
SUITE 2900
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1158
TELEPHONE: (206) 623-7580
FACSIMILE: (206) 623-7022