Honorable Christopher M. Alston 1 Michael J. Gearin, wsba # 20982 David C. Neu, wsba # 33143 Chapter 11 2 Brian T. Peterson, WSBA # 42088 Hearing Date: November 18, 2016 K&L GATES LLP Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m. 3 925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2900 Response Date: November 10, 2106 Seattle, WA 98104-1158 4 (206) 623-7580 5 6 7 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 8 AT SEATTLE 9 In re: Case No. 16-11767-CMA 10 NORTHWEST TERRITORIAL MINT, LLC, TRUSTEE'S RESPONSE TO 11 BRADLEY STEPHEN COHEN AND Debtor. COHEN ASSET MANAGEMENT, 12 INC.'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF NON-APPLICABILITY OF THE 13 AUTOMATIC STAY OR, IN THE 14 ALTERNATIVE, RELIEF FROM THE **AUTOMATIC STAY** 15 16 Mark Calvert, the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee"), files this response to Bradley Stephen 17 Cohen and Cohen Asset Management, Inc.'s Motion for an Order of Non-Applicability of the 18 Automatic Stay or, in the Alternative, Relief from the Automatic Stay (the "Motion"). 19 The Trustee has investigated the insurance coverage rights of the estate under the Primary 20 Commercial General Liability Policies and the Umbrella Commercial General Liability Policies 21 issued by Berkley National Insurance Company ("Berkley") which are the subject of the Motion (the 22 "Policies"). The Trustee is presently unaware of any claims that the estate could bring, under the 23 Policies, for the coverage years which are the subject of the Motion. Accordingly, the Trustee does 24 not oppose granting relief from the stay to allow Mr. Cohen to pursue his claims solely against the 25 26

TRUSTEE'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR AN ORDER

OF NON-APPLICABILITY OF THE AUTOMATIC STAY

OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, RELIEF FROM

**AUTOMATIC STAY - 1** 

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proceeds of the Policies, provided that the estate is not subject to any litigation or claims as a consequence of Cohen's pursuit of the insurance proceeds and that as suggested in his Motion, Cohen applies any recovery of insurance proceeds from the Policies to reduce his claims against the bankruptcy estate.

## 1. The Insurance Policies are Property of the Bankruptcy Estate.

The Policies are property of the estate subject to the automatic stay because "the debtor's estate is worth more with them than without them." *In re Minoco Group of Companies, Ltd.*, 799 F.2d 517, 519 (9th Cir. 1986). Courts have recognized that the Ninth Circuit has not resolved the issue of "whether the Policy proceeds that are potentially going to be paid to injured third-parties are property of the Debtors' estates." *In re Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada, LLC*, 451 BR. 527, 542-43 (Bankr. D. Nev. 2011) (noting that the "law in this area is not entirely consistent, and seems to depend in large part upon the type of policy involved, and whether the Debtor has or will receive any proceeds from the policy," in determining that the proceeds of a debtor's medical professional liability policy were not property of the estate); *see also In re Metropolitan Mortg. & Securities Co., Inc.*, 325 B.R. 851, 855 (Bankr. E.D. Wash. 2005) ("The applicability of § 541 to proceeds of insurance policies is not yet a settled question in the Ninth Circuit."). The Trustee does not believe it is necessary for the Court to decide the issue of whether the insurance proceeds are property of the bankruptcy estate in order to adjudicate the Motion.

## 2. The Trustee does Not Object to Granting Relief from Stay to Pursue Claims Against the Proceeds of the Policies.

The Trustee is presently unaware of any claims that the estate could bring under the Policies for the coverage years which are the subject of the Motion. Accordingly, the Trustee does not oppose granting relief from the stay to allow Mr. Cohen to pursue his claims solely against the proceeds of Policies, provided that the Debtor will not be subject to any litigation or claims by any party as a consequence of the pursuit of the claims of Cohen against the proceeds of the Policies, and further

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OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY - 2 K&L GATES LLP 925 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 2900 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1158 TELEPHONE: (206) 623-7580 FACSIMILE: (206) 623-7022

1	provided that as suggested in his Motion, Cohen applies any recovery of insurance proceeds from the
2	Policies to reduce his claims dollar for dollar against the bankruptcy estate and provides prompt
3	notice to the Trustee of any insurance settlement or receipt of insurance proceeds.
4	DATED 11 101 1 CN 1 2016
5	DATED this 10th day of November, 2016.
6	
7	K&L GATES LLP
8	
9	By <u>/s/ Michael J. Gearin</u> Michael J. Gearin, wsba #20982
10	David C. Neu, wsba #33143 Brian T. Peterson, wsba #42088
11	Attorneys for Mark Calvert, Chapter 11 Trustee
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26	TRUSTEE'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR AN ORDER

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OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, RELIEF FROM

**AUTOMATIC STAY - 3** 

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned declares as follows:

That she is a Paralegal in the law firm of K&L Gates LLP, and on November 10, 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 November 10, 2016, she caused the foregoing document to be mailed to the Parties at the addresses 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 10th day of November, 2016 at Seattle, Washington.

/s/ Denise A. Evans
Denise A. Evans

TRUSTEE'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF NON-APPLICABILITY OF THE AUTOMATIC STAY OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY - 4

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