Court File No.: CV-12-9667-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

COMMERCIAL LIST

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED, AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF SINO-FOREST CORPORATION

Court File No.: CV-11-431153-00CP

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

BETWEEN:

THE TRUSTEES OF THE LABOURERS' PENSION FUND OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN CANADA, THE TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 793 PENSION PLAN FOR OPERATING ENGINEERS IN ONTARIO, SJUNDE AP-FONDEN, DAVID GRANT and ROBERT WONG

Plaintiffs

- and -

SINO-FOREST CORPORATION, ERNST & YOUNG LLP, BDO LIMITED (formerly known as BDO MCCABE LO LIMITED), ALLEN T.Y. CHAN, W. JUDSON MARTIN, KAI KIT POON, DAVID J. HORSLEY, WILLIAM E. ARDELL, JAMES P. BOWLAND, JAMES M.E. HYDE, EDMUND MAK, SIMON MURRAY, PETER WANG, GARRY J. WEST, PÖYRY (BEIJING) CONSULTING COMPANY LIMITED, CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (CANADA), INC., TD SECURITIES INC., DUNDEE SECURITIES CORPORATION, RBC DOMINION SECURITIES INC., SCOTIA CAPITAL INC., CIBC WORLD MARKETS INC., MERRILL LYNCH CANADA INC., CANACCORD FINANCIAL LTD., MAISON PLACEMENTS CANADA INC., CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (USA) LLC and MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED (successor by merger to Banc of America Securities LLC)

Defendants

Proceeding under the Class Proceedings Act, 1992

RESPONDING FACTUM OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PURCHASERS OF THE APPLICANT'S SECURITIES, INCLUDING THE CLASS ACTION PLAINTIFFS (Motion Returnable April 20, 2015)

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PART I – OVERVIEW

- 1. On this motion, Chubb¹ asks this Court to bless its payment of Defense Costs paid out of the Chubb Policy to date. It presumably requests this relief to protect itself from claims alleging that the Defense Costs did not constitute covered Loss and therefore its Limits of Liability had not been exhausted.²
- 2. The Ad Hoc Committee of Purchasers of the Applicant's Securities, including the Class Action Plaintiffs ("Plaintiffs") oppose the relief sought.
- 3. To date, Sino-Forest's Insurance Tower has paid out over \$46 million from policies affording total coverage of \$62 million. The evidence on this motion suggests that approximately \$41 million was paid in respect of Defense Costs alone.
- 4. The Plaintiffs have a legal and beneficial interest in the policies in the Insurance Tower (the "Policies"). Under the Plan of Compromise and Reorganization of Sino-Forest Corporation under the CCAA, dated December 3, 2012 ("Plan"), certain claims of the Plaintiffs are limited to the proceeds of the Policies.
- 5. This Court cannot provide the blessing that Chubb requests based on the incomplete evidentiary record before it. Chubb, and the remainder of the Insurance Tower, must produce a full and detailed accounting of the monies spent to date such that the Court

¹ Unless otherwise defined or the context suggest otherwise, capitalized terms in this factum have the meanings ascribed to them in the Affidavit of Paula Kargas, sworn April 6, 2015 ("Kargas Affidavit"), Motion Record of Chubb Insurance (Motion Returnable April 20, 2015) ("Chubb MR"), Tab 2.

² July 3, 2014 letter, Exhibit "A" to the Affidavit of Serge Kalloghlian, sworn April 14, 2015 ("Kalloghlian Affidavit"), Responding Motion Record of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Purchasers of the Applicant's Securities, Including the Class Action Plaintiffs ("Plaintiffs' MR"), Tab 1A.

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may inform itself as to the reasonableness of the Defense Costs payments in deciding whether to provide that blessing.

PART II – FACTS

- 6. The events giving rise to these proceedings against Sino-Forest occurred in June 2011. On or around that time, certain Sino-Forest Insureds requested coverage from ACE (the first layer of the Insurance Tower) for various Claims made against them.³
- 7. The four policies in the Insurance Tower provide aggregate coverage to the Sino-Forest Insureds of \$62 million. By January 2014, ACE had paid out the ACE Limit of \$15 million in respect of Defense Costs, thereby exhausting Sino-Forest's first layer of insurance.⁴
- 8. Since that time, Sino-Forest's second layer (the Chubb Limit of \$15 million) has been exhausted (plus the Overpayment of approximately \$1 million), and its third layer (the Lloyd's Limit of \$15 million) has been exhausted or nearly exhausted.⁵ The only Indemnity Payment of which counsel to the Plaintiffs ("Class Counsel") is aware is the \$5 million payment from the Chubb Policy in respect of the Horsley Settlement.⁶ Accordingly, it appears that:
 - a. Approximately \$41 million has been paid out as Defense Costs from the Policies since the commencement of these proceedings;
 - b. Approximately \$26 million has been paid out as Defense Costs from the Policies since January 2014;

⁴ Kargas Affidavit, paras 4 and 9, Chubb MR, Tab 2; July 3, 2012 letter, Exhibit "A" to the Kalloghlian Affidavit, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1A.

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³ Kargas Affidavit, para 8, Chubb MR, Tab 2.

⁵ Kargas Affidavit, paras 14 and 25, Chubb MR, Tab 2.

⁶ Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 7, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

- c. Approximately \$18 million has been paid out as Defense Costs from the Policies since July 2014 (i.e. approximately 10 months ago).⁷
- 9. It is Class Counsel's understanding that the Defense Costs of the following defendants to the Ontario class action have or are being paid been paid by the Insurance Tower:
 - a. Sino-Forest, represented by Bennett Jones LLP;
 - b. W. Judson Martin, Peter Wang, Edmund Mak, and Simon Murray, represented by Bennett Jones LLP;
 - c. Allen T.Y. Chan; previously represented by Miller Thomson LLP, and now represented by Rueter Scargall Bennett LLP;
 - d. Kai Kit Poon, represented by Davis LLP;
 - e. David Horsley, represented by Wardle Daley Bernstein Bieber LLP; and
 - f. William E. Ardell, James P. Bowland, James M.E. Hyde, and Garry J. West, represented by Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.⁸
- 10. Although there is one set of responsive insurance policies, five separate law firms have been retained to defend the individual defendants. Bennett Jones LLP has been involved in three different roles in these and related proceedings: i) it advised the independent committee of the board of directors of Sino-Forest in its investigation following the Muddy Waters allegations; ii) it is defending Sino-Forest and certain directors in the class actions; and iii) it is counsel to the SFC Litigation Trust.⁹
- 11. To date, the only major motions in the Ontario class action have been the motions for certification and for leave to assert the right of action contained in Part XXIII.1 of the Ontario Securities Act. 10

⁹ Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 16, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

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⁷ As of July 3, 2014, approximately \$7 million remained payable under the Chubb Policy, and all amounts paid until that date related solely to Defense Costs: Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 8, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1

⁸ Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 15, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

¹⁰ Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 9, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

- 12. Certain defendants continued to oppose the relief sought on those motions despite the fact that they did not have a basis to contest such relief. Indeed, those motions ultimately proceeded almost entirely unopposed or on consent in January of 2015, 11 but only after the Plaintiffs were put to the cost and effort of preparing materials and conducting farranging cross examinations in a number of jurisdictions, and only after the defendants' counsel presumably billed the Insurance Tower for the time spent mounting a vigorous opposition to the relief that they ultimately consented to or did not oppose. 12
- 13. As an example, counsel to Allen T.Y. Chan (Miller Thomson LLP) and Kai Kit Poon (Davis LLP) vigorously opposed the Plaintiffs' motion to strike certain affidavits filed by David Horsley in response to the Plaintiffs' motion for leave under the *Securities Act*. Ultimately, that motion was settled and the affidavits remained on the record. However, notwithstanding their vigorous opposition to the Plaintiffs' motion to strike, neither Mr. Chan nor Mr. Poon relied on any of these expert reports in their facta in response to the Plaintiffs' motion for leave.¹³
- 14. There are other examples of unnecessary time spent by defendants' counsel, presumably billed to the Insurance Tower. Certain defendants' counsel attended one or more of the approximately 19 cross examination (including as far away as Hong Kong) without asking any substantive questions, and one or more of the counsel (sometimes with multiple lawyers from each firm) attended the certification and leave hearing, and certain of the interlocutory motions, CCAA motions, and case conferences in the class

¹¹ Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 10, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1. Some of the proposed common issues were modified slightly following discussion with the defendants in advance of the motions.

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¹²The only contested issue on the leave and certification motion was a legal issue raised only by Sino-Forest. Argument on that motion took less than half a day of court time: Kalloghlian Affidavit, para 14, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

¹³ Kalloghlian Affidavit para 12, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

proceeding and CCAA proceeding without making any submissions and while having little or no stake in the matters being addressed.¹⁴

15. Notwithstanding these examples, Chubb seeks the following declaration from this Court:

A declaration that all funds paid out by Chubb under its policy no. 8209-4449 [...] constitute Loss [...] under the Policies. 15

16. In the circumstances, Chubb's motion should be dismissed.

PART III – LAW AND ARGUMENT

A. Plaintiffs' Interest in the Policies

17. There was significant negotiation and compromise prior to the voting and sanction of the Plan. As part of that negotiation and compromise, the Plaintiffs agreed to limit recovery in respect of certain claims to the proceeds of the Policies. Pursuant to s. 2.4(c) of the Plan, the insurers comprising the Insurance Tower "agree and acknowledge that they shall be obliged to pay any Loss payable pursuant to the terms and conditions of their respective [Policies]." In addition, those insurers consented to a direct right of action against them by the Plaintiffs:

[...]For greater certainty, the insurers agree and consent to a direct right of action against the insurers, or any of them, in favour of any plaintiff who or which has (a) negotiated a settlement of any Claim covered under any of the Insurance Policies, which settlement has been consented to in writing by the insurers or such of them as may be required or (b) obtained a final judgment against one or more of SFC and/or the Directors or Officers which such plaintiff asserts, in whole or in part, represents Loss covered under the Insurance Policies, notwithstanding that such plaintiff is not a

¹⁴ Kalloghlian Affidavit paras 10-11, Plaintiffs' MR, Tab 1.

¹⁵ Notice of Motion para 1, Chubb MR, Tab 1

named insured under the Insurance Policies and that neither SFC nor the Directors or Officers are parties to such action [...]¹⁶

18. As indicated, pursuant to section 2.4(c) of the Plan, the Plaintiffs have a direct interest in the Policies, including the right to commence an action directly against the insurers in respect of any amount representing Loss payable under the Policies. A critical element of the Plaintiffs' interest in the Policies is therefore the interpretation of the term "Loss," as any amount declared to be Loss (and which is not paid to the Plaintiffs) will reduce the amount that the Plaintiffs are able to ultimately collect under the Policies.

B. This Court's Supervisory Function

- 19. This Court has the inherent jurisdiction at common law, under the CCAA, 17 and under the Class Proceedings Act^{18} to supervise the expenditures of counsel billing the Policies.
- 20. Moreover, by asking this Court for a declaration that the funds paid by it constitute Loss under the Policies, Chubb has invoked this Court's jurisdiction and supervisory role.
- 21. Chubb acknowledges that the defined terms "Defense Costs" and "Loss" in the Policies are relevant in this motion. "Loss" includes the payment of Defence Costs. "Defence Costs" means "reasonable and necessary costs, charges, fees and expenses incurred..."

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- 22. In order to provide the requested blessing of Chubb's payments to defendants' counsel, this Court must satisfy itself that the amounts paid out as Defence Costs are "reasonable and necessary costs, charges, fees and expenses incurred."

¹⁸ Class Proceedings Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 6, s.12.

¹⁹ Kargas Affidavit para 6, Chubb MR, Tab 2 [emphasis added].

¹⁶ Plan of Compromise and Reorganization of Sino-Forest Corporation under the CCAA, dated December 3, 2012, s. 2.4(c), Plaintiffs' Book of Authorities ("BOA"), Tab 1.

¹⁷ Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, s 11.

- 23. This Court's inquiry into determining whether the Defense Costs are "reasonable and necessary" is analogous to the inquiry on the passing of a receiver's account and the same principles and procedure should be applied. In that context, the Court of Appeal for Ontario recently held that "in proceedings supervised by the court and particularly where the court is asked to give its *imprimatur* to the legal fees requested for counsel by its court officer, the court must ensure that the compensation sought is indeed fair and reasonable,"20 words with application here.
- 24. In such context, there is an onus on the moving party "to prove that the compensation for which it seeks approval is fair and reasonable. This includes the compensation claimed on behalf of its counsel."²¹ The information provided to the Court in support of that relief "must disclose the total charges for each of the categories of services rendered,"22 and "the focus of the fair and reasonable assessment should be on what was accomplished, not on how much time it took."²³
- 25. There is no evidence before the Court that could allow it to come to a conclusion that the Defence Costs paid to date are "reasonable and necessary." On the contrary, the only evidence before the Court is that defendants' counsel have billed a staggering \$41 million since the commencement of these proceedings, and that much unnecessary time was spent (and presumably billed to the Policies) opposing Plaintiffs' motions for certification and leave, and needlessly attending cross examination and case conferences where their clients had little or no interest at stake. Based on that evidence, the only possible outcome of this motion is that it be dismissed.

 $^{^{20}}$ Bank of Nova Scotia v Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851 at para 45, BOA Tab 2 21 Bank of Nova Scotia v Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851 at para 32, BOA Tab 2

²² Bank of Nova Scotia v Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851 at para 32, BOA Tab 2

²³ Bank of Nova Scotia v Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851 at para 45, BOA Tab 2 [emphasis added].

26. In order to determine whether the amounts paid out as Defence Costs are "reasonable and necessary," this Court requires an evidentiary record on which to base that conclusion. At a minimum, this motion must be adjourned so that Chubb, and the remainder of the Insurance Tower, be required to provide a full and detailed accounting of the amounts paid out to date in respect of Defense Costs.

PART IV – RELIEF REQUESTED

27. For the reasons set forth above, the Plaintiffs respectfully submits that the motion should be dismissed.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL, 2015

Kirk Baert (L/SUC#: 309420)

Jonathan Ptak/(LSUC#: 45773F)

Garth Myers (LSUC#: 62307G)

SCHEDULE "A" LIST OF AUTHORITIES

Plan of Compromise and Reorganization of Sino-Forest Corporation under the CCAA, dated December 3, 2012

Bank of Nova Scotia v Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851

SCHEDULE "B" RELEVANT STATUTES

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-36, s 11.

General Power of Court

11. Despite anything in the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* or the *Winding-up and Restructuring Act*, if an application is made under this Act in respect of a debtor company, the court, on the application of any person interested in the matter, may, subject to the restrictions set out in this Act, on notice to any other person or without notice as it may see fit, make any order that it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

R.S., 1985, c. C-36, s. 11; 1992, c. 27, s. 90; 1996, c. 6, s. 167; 1997, c. 12, s. 124; 2005, c. 47, s. 128.

Class Proceedings Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 6, s.12.

Court May Determine Conduct of Proceeding

12. The court, on the motion of a party or class member, may make any order it considers appropriate respecting the conduct of a class proceeding to ensure its fair and expeditious determination and, for the purpose, may impose such terms on the parties as it considers appropriate. 1992, c. 6, s. 12.

1985, c.C.36, AS AMENDED AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. ARRANGEMENT OF SINO-FOREST CORPORATION

Court File No.: CV-11-431153-00CP Court File No.: CV-12-9667-00-CL

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE ONTARIO

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

Proceeding under the Class Proceedings Act, 1992

(Motion Returnable April 20, 2015)

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