

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE:	.	Chapter 11
	.	
WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC.,	.	Case No. 08-12229 (MFW)
<i>et al.</i> ,	.	(Jointly Administered)
	.	
	.	January 28, 2010
	.	4:00 p.m.
Debtors.	.	(Wilmington)
	.	
.....		
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK,	.	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,	.	
	.	
Plaintiff,	.	
	.	
v.	.	Adv.Proc.No. 09-50551 (MFW)
	.	
WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC. AND	.	
WMI INVESTMENT CORP.,	.	
	.	
Defendant for all claims	.	
	.	
-and-	.	
	.	
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE	.	
CORPORATION,	.	
Additional Defendant	.	
for Interpleader claim	.	
	.	
.....		
WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC. AND	.	
WMI INVESTMENT CORP.,	.	
	.	
Plaintiffs,	.	
	.	
v.	.	Adv.Proc.No. 09-50934 (MFW)
	.	
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK,	.	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,	.	
	.	
Defendant.	.	
	.	
.....		

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARY F. WALRATH
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Debtor:

Bill Kosturos, Esq.
Jonathan Goulding, Esq.
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Alvarez & Marsal, Inc.

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For Centerbridge,
et al.:

Michael B. de Leeuw, Esq.
Carl I. Stappen, Esq.
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& Jacobson, LLP

For the Equity
Committee:

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Jorian L. Rose, Esq.
Venable, LLP

For JPMorgan Chase:	Stacey R. Friedman, Esq. Joshua J. Fritsch, Esq. Bruce E. Clark, Esq. Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP Adam G. Landis, Esq. Landis, Rath & Cobb, LLP
For the Committee:	David B. Stratton, Esq. Pepper Hamilton, LLP Robert A. Johnson, Esq. Fred S. Hodara, Esq. Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP Paul M. O'Connor, III, Esq. Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman, LLP Philip J. Nichols, Esq. Sara Lewis, Esq. White & Case, LLP
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For the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission:	Kevin Solonsky, Esq. U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission
For the Bank Bondholders:	Philip D. Anker, Esq. Wilmer Hale
For Dow Jones:	Peg Brickley, Esq. Dow Jones
For BlackHorse Capital:	Ian Connor Bifferato, Esq. Bifferato, LLC David Heroy, Esq. Baker & McKenzie

For PriceWaterhouse
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For Standard & Poors: Curtis Miller, Esq.
Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, LLP

For the WMB Noteholder
Group: R. Stephen McNeill, Esq.
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Bank & TD Bank, N.A.: Richard W. Riley, Esq.
Duane Morris, LLP

For the Noteholders: Timothy P. Cairns, Esq.
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For the US Trustee: Joseph J. McMahon, Jr., Esq.
US Department of Justice

For the Law Debenture: Daniel A. Lowenthal, Esq.
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1 THE CLERK: All rise. You may be seated.

2 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Mr. Rosen.

3 MR. ROSEN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Brian
4 Rosen, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, together with Matt Curro on
5 behalf of the Debtors, Washington Mutual, Inc. and WMI
6 Investment. Also with us today, Your Honor, is Mr. Mark
7 Collins from Richards, Layton & Finger, and then for some
8 subsequent matters, we have representatives from Quinn
9 Emanuel who will be taking care of those.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, if I could turn to the
12 agenda and to page 7, I think that's where we would start,
13 and move very quickly. Item number 9, Your Honor, was the
14 Debtors' objection to the proof of claim filed by Wells Fargo
15 Bank. It's my understanding, although we have not seen it
16 hit the docket yet, that an order has been entered with
17 respect to that.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. ROSEN: The 18th omnibus, which is number 10,
20 Your Honor, we know that an order has been received for that
21 one, as well as number 11, which is relief from the Local
22 Rule 3007. Item number 12, Your Honor, is a motion of the
23 Debtors pursuant to §105 and Bankruptcy Rule 9019 to approve
24 a settlement. And the parties, although there were no
25 objections that were filed, Your Honor, the parties are

1 making certain modifications to the settlement agreement
2 itself, and we would like to adjourn that matter to the next
3 hearing, which is next week, Your Honor, we believe that's
4 all it will take, to February 5th, when we have a hearing.
5 And at that time, we will be able to present the order with
6 the final agreement. As I said, Your Honor, it's mere
7 ministerial changes to some of the language within the
8 settlement agreement itself, that will be agreed to by all
9 the parties.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, with that, what I would like
12 to do is skip then, to item number 15, on page 11 of the
13 agenda, which is the 17th omnibus objection. There was one
14 objection that had been filed that was by First American
15 CoreLogic, Inc., and the parties have agreed to adjourn the
16 hearing with respect to the CoreLogic objection and the
17 CoreLogic claim itself. And with respect to the balance of
18 the claims that were objected to, Your Honor, there were no
19 responses by any of the parties. And so Your Honor, we would
20 ask the Court at this time to enter an order approving the
21 17th omnibus objection to the extent of all of the other
22 claims that were covered by that 17th omnibus objection. For
23 the Court's benefit, the omnibus objection dealt with the
24 fact that these claims did not include any detail as to why
25 they should be allowed, and this was an objection on

1 substantive grounds, Your Honor. And I believe that we have
2 attached - -

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. ROSEN: I'm sorry?

5 THE COURT: I had no comments on that.

6 MR. ROSEN: Okay.

7 THE COURT: Except with respect to CoreLogic. So
8 we'll all right on that.

9 MR. ROSEN: Okay, Your Honor. If I could present an
10 order?

11 THE COURT: You may. Thank you. All right. I'll
12 enter that order, then, as unopposed.

13 MR. ROSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor,
14 again, if we could jump a little bit around on the agenda, I
15 would like to move, at this time, to what I believe has
16 brought a lot of people into the room, which is item number
17 16. Which is the motion of Washington Mutual, Inc. and WMI
18 Investment for an order with respect to the Equity Committee.
19 If that's all right, Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: Yes. Let's do that.

21 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, also, if I could approach
22 now to provide the Court with three documents that we're
23 going to seek to introduce. And these have been provided to
24 counsel in the courtroom.

25 THE COURT: You may.

1 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, as I indicated, we're here
2 at this time to deal with the motion of the Debtors for an
3 order seeking to disband the recently formed Equity Holders
4 Committee, or in the alternative, to ask the Court to impose
5 a cap on the fees and expenses that could be incurred by that
6 Equity Committee. We received several responses, Your Honor.
7 The first, as we expected, was from the Equity Committee.
8 And of course, the Equity Committee in their papers said that
9 the Debtors are doing a knock up job with respect to all of
10 their efforts on the litigation. Such a good job, as a
11 matter of fact, that they are establishing, in the Equity
12 Committee's mind, that there is solvency, and therefore,
13 people need to be represented at this point in time.

14 THE COURT: Well, let me interrupt you for a moment.
15 Are we going to have any testimony or - -

16 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor - -

17 THE COURT: - - just argument?

18 MR. ROSEN: - - it is going to be just argument, as
19 far as I know. The three documents that I provided, I
20 believe, are, will be admitted into evidence on a consensual
21 basis. And that will go to the asset and liability issue,
22 Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. Sorry to interrupt.

24 MR. ROSEN: That's quite all right. Secondly, Your
25 Honor, we received an objection from Black Horse Management,

1 LLC, who also says that the Debtors have done a great job and
2 they believe that there is solvency. But that the solvency
3 that they foresee will not dip down to the common equity
4 level. So they're asking for a reconstitution of the Equity
5 Committee so that it only provides for membership by
6 preferred stockholders. Third we received a joinder by the
7 Creditors Committee to the Debtors' motion itself. And the
8 Creditors Committee, and they will certainly speak for
9 themselves, they focused really on the adequate
10 representation of all parties in interest in these cases.
11 Next, there were two pleadings that were filed by the United
12 States Trustee. The first was an objection to the motion
13 itself, and the second was an objection by the United States
14 Trustee to the request by Black Horse as to the
15 reconstitution of the Committee. Next, Your Honor, there was
16 a response interposed by the Bank Bondholders, and we were
17 very happy to see that the Bank Bondholders agreed with the
18 Debtors with respect to something in this case. And they
19 believe that before anything goes down to the equity holders
20 in this case, that the bank, the creditors of the bank itself
21 have to be paid in full. And it was their view there - -

22 THE COURT: I think they suggested that before
23 anything goes to the Debtors, the creditors and the - -

24 MR. ROSEN: Well - -

25 THE COURT: - - subsidiary have to be paid first.

1 MR. ROSEN: We'll let Mr. Anker speak. But - -

2 THE COURT: Well, I was - -

3 MR. ROSEN: - - before he - -

4 THE COURT: I was - -

5 MR. ROSEN: - - does speak, Your Honor, I would
6 like to just bring up one small point. And that is, the
7 Court has already entered an order in this case with respect
8 to 2019. And the imposition of that with respect to what was
9 previously referred to as the senior noteholder group that
10 had been represented by White & Case. Your Honor, we would
11 just like to point out for the record that as far as we know,
12 there has not been a 2019 statement filed by any of the Bank
13 Bondholders, and we think that based upon the law of the
14 case, that there probably should be one before pleadings are
15 permitted to be filed, or that counsel is permitted to be
16 heard. Lastly, Your Honor, the next item that was filed was
17 a reply by the Debtors with respect to all of the pleadings
18 that I referred to earlier. Initially, Your Honor, I would
19 like to point out that it is the Debtors' goal, the Debtors'
20 responsibility, and the Debtors' obligation to look after the
21 interests of all stakeholders. Creditors and shareholders
22 alike. And the Debtors, in that regard, have served, and
23 will continue to serve, as the custodian for the whole. For
24 the entire creditor and shareholder body. And in a case like
25 this, there is no basis to draw a distinction between

1 creditors and shareholders. And no distinction, in fact, has
2 been drawn, Your Honor. The Debtors and the professionals
3 have adhered to a simple mantra throughout this case. Which
4 is do whatever is necessary to maximize the assets of the
5 Debtors' estates, and to minimize the liabilities that may be
6 allowed against the creditors. In that regard, Your Honor,
7 the Debtors have liquidated assets, the Debtors have
8 commenced litigation, and they have taken other actions - -
9 excuse me - - to provide for, or to investigate and see
10 whatever claims and causes of actions may exist on behalf of
11 the estate. Conversely, the Debtors have filed 20 omnibus
12 objections to claims, and they have served miscellaneous
13 others. And each of those is designed to reduce the
14 magnitude of allowed claims in these Chapter 11 cases. In
15 doing so, Your Honor, the Debtors have no favorites. The
16 Debtors merely do what is necessary, and at the end of the
17 day will provide for distributions as are required by the
18 Bankruptcy Code and the underlying contractual documentation
19 that was, that WMI was a party to. At the same time, Your
20 Honor, the Debtors cannot turn a blind eye to what the
21 economic realities are of these cases. And as currently
22 presented, the Debtors are insolvent. But let's look at what
23 we know, Your Honor. First, we have the latest monthly
24 operating report that was filed with the Court. And Your
25 Honor, that is marked as Debtors' Exhibit 1 before you. It

1 represents the Debtors' view as to what the assets and
2 liabilities are as of November 30th, 2009. And it has a
3 balance sheet depicting these assets and liabilities. And
4 Your Honor, I believe that is page 7 of that exhibit, and we
5 also have a blow up there for you, Your Honor, off to the
6 side. And as you can see from the balance sheet, Your Honor,
7 the Debtors reflect assets and liabilities as of November
8 30th, 2009, assets of 6.932 billion and liabilities of 8.294
9 billion respectively. Now everyone, Your Honor, in the
10 pleadings that you've seen, they jump on what they perceive
11 to be that sliver, that \$1.3 billion of negative equity, if
12 you will, Your Honor. And they say, Aha! Let's get a \$20
13 billion recovery in the litigation that's currently pending,
14 and by the way the Debtors have asserted viable, valid, and
15 knock down winners on all of these claims, and we have
16 solvency. Well Your Honor, unfortunately, it's not that
17 simple on so many levels. First, the number is not truly \$20
18 billion, as certainly in this case the Equity Committee
19 contends. The \$20 billion, Your Honor, includes \$4 billion
20 of deposits. And as reflected on the monthly operating
21 report, which is already before you, Your Honor, the \$4
22 billion is factored into the \$6.9 billion. So Your Honor,
23 what we're really talking about as . . . (indiscernible) . .
24 . for relief, is approximately \$16 billion. But Your Honor,
25 let's assume for the moment that there is solvency. Then

1 creditors would be entitled to receive post-petition interest
2 on their claims. And based upon the Debtors' analysis, such
3 amount would be approximately \$600 million. Assuming that
4 the plan went effective and creditors' claims were paid in
5 full no later than June 30th, 2010.

6 THE COURT: And where do you get that figure?

7 MR. ROSEN: Based upon the contractual interest that
8 is set forth, Your Honor, on the respective scheduled debt as
9 well as a Federal judgment rate for general unsecured.

10 THE COURT: So you think I can do that calculation,
11 or take judicial notice of the Federal rate, and multiply it
12 times your liabilities? Is that - -

13 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, I am just giving it to you
14 as an example.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. ROSEN: Applying that spread, Your Honor, would
17 increase what we know already to be that 1.3 billion spread
18 to about \$1.9 billion. And likewise, Your Honor, as we know,
19 unfortunately, claims will not be paid in full on that date.
20 Either because assets will not be available, or claims will
21 not be reduced to such a level to allow the payment to be
22 made in full. And the Debtors know that interest will
23 therefore continue to accrue at the approximate amount of \$30
24 million per month. Third, Your Honor, what else doesn't the
25 balance sheet show? It doesn't reflect any amounts

1 associated with disputed and unliquidated claims. Your
2 Honor, Debtors' Exhibit 2, which you have before you, is the
3 claims register in these Chapter 11 cases. And Your Honor,
4 this claims register was put together by KCC, which is the
5 Court appointed agent. Several things to note, Your Honor.
6 If you go to the last page, and we've taken the liberty of
7 making that number a little bit larger so people could
8 actually see it. You'll see that the total amount of claims
9 filed, and by that I mean, Your Honor, claims filed with a
10 number associated with it, and nothing more than a number, is
11 \$104 billion. Now I would call your attention to the fact,
12 Your Honor, that that \$104 billion includes a \$40 billion
13 Marta claim, as we call it, and a \$9.7 billion IRS claim.
14 Both of which, Your Honor, will be objected to as being
15 amended and superceded. So let's reduce that 104 right now
16 to approximately \$54 billion. Taking out that \$50 billion of
17 excess. The problem, Your Honor, is this chart doesn't even
18 include a number for unliquidated claims. Case in point,
19 Your Honor, Exhibit 3, which we have before you, and it's
20 reflected, Your Honor, on page 28 of the, the large chart, is
21 the FDIC claim that was filed in the case. And the FDIC
22 claim is asserted a liquidated amount of \$24 billion, plus an
23 unliquidated portion. And as a result, KCC reflects that
24 claim as totally unliquidated. The point, Your Honor, is
25 that 104 may become 54, but we know that there are a large

1 component of claims that have liquidated pieces that are not
2 even reflected. So the 54 gets ballooned up yet again. The
3 claim, Your Honor, that was filed by JPMorgan Chase is
4 similar. And when I say the claim, Your Honor, JPMorgan
5 Chase filed approximately 30 claims against the estate, some
6 having a liquidated, some having an unliquidated portion,
7 therefore each enlarging the amount of what would be the
8 denominator base of claims in these cases. And while the
9 Debtors are still in the process of evaluating these claims,
10 Your Honor, we cannot at this time provide any sort of
11 estimate as to what the ultimate recovery would be. Let's go
12 back to the \$16 billion number that we talked about earlier,
13 Your Honor, which was the 20 billion minus the 4 billion
14 which is already included in the monthly operating report. A
15 lot of people have been focused on those claims, as I said.
16 And they say, You're going to hit a home run, slam dunk,
17 whatever sports analogy you want to use, Your Honor, and
18 therefore all that money is going to come into the estate.
19 But is it really? I don't think so. Unfortunately, Your
20 Honor. We know, Your Honor, that there are approximately
21 \$1.9 billion of cash in the receivership. And that was due
22 to the acquisition by JPMorgan Chase of the bank. And we
23 know that the receivership probably has some other money, and
24 so conservatively we'll say \$100 million for a total of 2
25 billion. And we know that WMB, based upon everything that

1 we've said, had funded debt of approximately \$13.8 billion.
2 And when you add that slam dunk recovery against the WMB
3 receivership for the lawsuit that we have filed, you take the
4 16 billion and the 13.8 of funded debt and you come up with
5 about \$29.8 billion of debt. The problem is, Your Honor, you
6 only have \$2 billion of assets to satisfy that. So
7 therefore, Your Honor, we look at it on the other side and
8 say, We don't see that \$16 billion coming back as a recovery,
9 necessarily. There will be some recovery, Your Honor, but it
10 would be a fraction of that. Thus Your Honor, any way we
11 look at it, even without adding the disputed claims that we
12 know of, and the unliquidated claims that we don't know of,
13 the Debtors are still insolvent, and we don't, therefore, see
14 any reason for an equity committee to be involved at this
15 time. But take it on the flip side, Your Honor. To argue
16 that the Debtors are solvent, the Committee has to assume
17 that we're 100% successful not only on all the litigations,
18 on the recoveries that we are to get, as well as defeating
19 any claims that emanate back against the estate as a result
20 of the victory that we would have achieved in the
21 receivership. That necessarily when you get a, an avoidance
22 action recovery, there's not a corresponding avoidance action
23 claim back against the estate for payment back into the
24 estate. It's hard to understand it, Your Honor, but there
25 would be claims. If there's a breakdown in any of these

1 scenarios, Your Honor, the equity would not recover anything.
2 As far as we can see, there's simply not a scenario under
3 which anyone can conclude that equity has enough of an
4 economic stake in these cases to warrant the continuation of
5 the Equity Committee. But Your Honor, assume for the moment
6 that there might be solvency, then you have to go to the case
7 law, and you have to look at the factors. You have to look
8 at adequate representation. None of the objecting parties
9 have established why an equity committee is necessary to
10 ensure that adequate representation, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Well, aren't we beyond that? This is
12 not a motion for appointment of an equity committee. One has
13 been appointed.

14 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, and that perhaps gets to the
15 issue of what sort of review should be undertaken.

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. ROSEN: The *de novo* or the abuse of discretion
18 standard.

19 THE COURT: Right.

20 MR. ROSEN: And Your Honor, we believe that there is
21 no question. That the *de novo* review should be undertaken.
22 The cases that have been cited by the Equity Committee and
23 the United States Trustee, they go to a determination of this
24 Court being made subsequently on appeal by a District Court.
25 And that's why the abuse of discretion standard is used.

1 THE COURT: But do you point me to any case?

2 MR. ROSEN: The Williams decision, Your Honor. We
3 believe it's squarely on point. And in fact, Your Honor, I
4 believe in Williams, the Court explicitly used the *de novo*
5 standard of review to determine whether committees should be
6 formed after the US Trustee denied an equity holder's request
7 to form it. So Your Honor, we believe that that is where
8 this Court should go. And so therefore we need to look back
9 at the requisite factors.

10 THE COURT: But there is no case that you, the
11 parties can point to where the Trustee has appointed a
12 committee and a motion to disband is being considered by the
13 Court.

14 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, I believe in our reply - -
15 and I want to find that for Your Honor - - we referred the
16 Court to the Texaco decision. And there, Your Honor - - and
17 that's on page 7 of our reply. And for the Court's benefit,
18 the Texaco cite 79BR 560. In Texaco, the Bankruptcy Court
19 reviewed the decision by the United States Trustee to appoint
20 two committees of unsecured creditors. And the Court found
21 that two committees were no longer needed and ordered the US
22 Trustee to combine the two into one, effectively disbanding
23 one of the two committees. And in doing so, the Court
24 specifically noted that the issue of adequate representation,
25 quote, "is determined on a *de novo* basis, after the

1 administrative task of appointing committees is performed by
2 the United States Trustee." Close quote. The quote went on
3 to hold that, quote, "An abuse of discretion standard does
4 not apply with respect to the United States Trustee's initial
5 exercise of discretion, because the concept of adequate
6 representation is a legal issue which must be resolved
7 judicially." So Your Honor, we would ask the Court to look
8 at those two decisions. With respect to the adequate
9 representation, Your Honor, as I mentioned, nobody is
10 claiming at this point in time that the Debtors are not doing
11 everything that they have said that they would do. And in
12 fact, everybody has lauded the Debtors and their counsel,
13 specifically Quinn Emanuel, for what they have been able to
14 achieve in connection with the litigation that's before this
15 Court and the litigation that was recently stayed in the
16 District of Columbia. Really what it comes down to, Your
17 Honor, is that people are only concerned if we decide to
18 settle this case. Settle this litigation. Not that we're
19 not going to zealously pursue it, but if the Debtors, at the
20 end of the day decide that they believe, based upon whatever
21 factors we take into account, a resolution among the FDIC,
22 JPMorgan, WMI is appropriate to be resolved consensually.
23 And at that point in time, Your Honor, as our papers clearly
24 set it out, that's when the Equity Committee, if at all,
25 should come into being. Because it's that point in time,

1 Your Honor, that people will be unhappy with that resolution.
2 Not that we're proceeding in the litigation right now, but
3 that we've decided to settle at a number that they don't
4 think is appropriate. And therefore, they would argue, Your
5 Honor, that it falls beneath the lowest range in the range of
6 reasonableness. To us, Your Honor, that's the time when
7 someone needs to rear their head. It's not now. We don't
8 need any additional help in litigating Your Honor, because
9 we're doing a pretty good job. And we already have the help
10 of the Creditors Committee in that, in those litigations.
11 People are casting stones at the Debtors, they're casting
12 stones at the Creditors Committee saying they're not, at that
13 point in time, they won't be looking out for the interests of
14 the equity holders. Your Honor, we're doing everything we
15 can to maximize those assets. That was the mantra that we
16 started out with in this presentation, that's the mantra that
17 we're going to carry through to the end of the case. And if
18 in fact the waterfalls that would be presented in this case
19 show that there should be a distribution to flow down south
20 to the preferred holders and the common equity holders, that
21 will be appropriate, that will be contained in the disclosure
22 statement, that will be something that will be put forth in a
23 Chapter 11 plan. But at this juncture, in these cases, we
24 believe that there already is adequate representation of the
25 equity holders. It's also worth noting, Your Honor, that to

1 the extent that an equity holder and ad hoc group of equity
2 holders substantially contributes to these cases, they are
3 statutorily entitled to apply to the Court for compensation.
4 We have never said anything other than that, Your Honor. We
5 included that in our motion in the first instance. We stand
6 by that, Your Honor. Lastly Your Honor, if the Court decides
7 that it's not appropriate at this time to disband that
8 Committee, and we do think that it is, and we ask the Court
9 to do so, we ask the Court to consider capping the fees and
10 expenses of the Equity Committee. As I just indicated, Your
11 Honor, we think the role of this Committee should not be to
12 get involved in any litigation, but rather should be to have
13 the opportunity to review any settlement if in fact one is
14 ever brought before this Court. We believe, Your Honor, that
15 the cost, the fees and expenses associated with that would be
16 relatively *de minimis*. We would certainly work with that
17 Equity Committee to bring them up to speed so that they could
18 understand what the relevant issues are. And we believe that
19 the appropriate cap, as we set forth in our motion, of \$250
20 thousand should be implemented. Thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. ROSEN: With that, Your Honor - - excuse me. I
23 would just ask for the admission of those three exhibits.
24 And I would also note, Your Honor, I failed to mention that
25 we did receive a letter this afternoon. It hit the docket.

1 It was an independent letter by a shareholder with respect to
2 the motion itself. Just asking that the Court deny the
3 relief. And if the Court does not have a copy, I'm happy to
4 hand one up.

5 THE COURT: I don't have a copy, you may hand it up.
6 Thank you. Okay.

7 MR. HODARA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Fred
8 Hodara for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors from
9 Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. Your Honor, as Mr. Rosen
10 indicated, on behalf of the Creditors Committee, I'm going to
11 focus my comments on the adequate representation issue. And
12 the manner in which we believe that the existence of adequate
13 representation in this case, coupled with the expense of a
14 creditor, of an additional official committee, in this
15 instance of equity holders, outweighs any perceived need, any
16 conceivable need, for an official committee of equity
17 holders. The case law which Mr. Rosen touched on we believe
18 is clear, notwithstanding that it exists primarily in the
19 context of equity holders seeking a Court to determine that a
20 committee should be appointed. It's clear that the
21 representation need not be exclusive, but merely needs to be
22 adequate. Here we don't have an instance of merely being
23 adequate, we believe that there's circumstances of perfect
24 adequacy, and that's with respect to many different levels.
25 Three to be specific. The role of the Debtors themselves,

1 which Mr. Rosen articulated very clearly, and Your Honor has
2 seen throughout these cases. The role of the Board of
3 Directors. And in this case, unlike many cases, there are
4 still nine members of this Board of Directors, which meet
5 from time to time, and have been active throughout these
6 cases. And of course, the role of the Creditors Committee.
7 Now in the Edison Brothers case, District Judge Robinson here
8 in Delaware didn't find grounds appropriate for the
9 appointment of the equity committee. She said there that she
10 could revisit the issue if the shareholders could provide
11 evidence suggesting that management's interests were not
12 aligned with shareholders. Again, there's no reason that
13 we've seen in this case why one would believe that those
14 interests are not aligned. No reason to believe that the
15 dual duty of management, and of the Debtors, to equity and to
16 creditors, is not being exerted appropriately. We all know
17 the plethora of litigation in these cases. We know how
18 aggressive the Debtor, with the Creditors Committee, has been
19 in pursuing these litigations. There's no reason to believe
20 that an equity committee would somehow add anything to those
21 litigation efforts. The role of the Creditors Committee,
22 while obviously not on behalf of equity holders, we think is
23 absolutely relevant to the issue of adequate representation.
24 The Creditors Committee is not only focused on the
25 litigations, but we're focused on the claims process. The

1 objections, 20 of them that have been filed by the Debtors,
2 and which have been done working hand in hand with the
3 Creditors Committee reviewing those claims, are focused
4 obviously on minimizing the number of claims and the amount
5 of the ultimate claims that have to be paid in this case.
6 That's exactly what equity holders would want to see happen.
7 There can be no inference that somehow this Creditors
8 Committee is being lax in their effort and in their scrutiny
9 of those claims to reduce that claims base. Now in our
10 pleading, we cite to a series of cases that talk about other
11 protections for equity holders who don't get the benefit of
12 an equity committee, and it's not been said, but it's
13 obviously the case that it's not the norm for there to be an
14 appointment of an equity committee. And in these various
15 cases, AMPEX in the Southern District, the Williams case that
16 Mr. Rosen references, the Leap Wireless case in the Southern
17 District, the Courts refer to these other protections that
18 equity holders have. For instance, in the Leap case, the
19 court explained that the equity holders who were seeking a
20 committee still have recourse. They have standing to be
21 heard under 1109(b), and they can be reimbursed for their
22 efforts, if their efforts result in substantial contribution
23 under 503(b)(3)(d). Now in this particular case, we should
24 look at whether these equity holders have the ability to
25 represent themselves. One thing that's come out through the

1 discussions and the papers of the appointment of this Equity
2 Committee is that they not only have been organized, but
3 they've been organized for quite some time. And they've been
4 advocating, it appears, effectively through a law firm. So
5 what they're really doing is trying to shift the expense of
6 that effort to this estate. And we think that's the final
7 point, and very important point, in balancing whether it's
8 appropriate to appoint another official committee in this
9 case. Because the cost, Your Honor, comes in two forms.
10 There's the obvious out of pocket expense of another official
11 committee, clearly with a law firm, it appears two law firms,
12 as most of us seem to have. Perhaps there'll be a third, as
13 most of us, or at least the Debtors have had with respect to
14 the litigation. In fact, I think at last count the Debtors,
15 and this is not a criticism, have 19 professional firms in
16 all retained, because of the nature of the litigations all
17 over the country, as well as the need for financial advice.
18 And so is this Equity Committee going to seek a financial
19 advisor? So we have that kind of cost. The obvious out of
20 pocket expense. But then we have the cost that we would
21 expect if an equity committee is allowed to stand here of
22 delay. And of the burden that this Equity Committee, being
23 funded, if they are deemed to be official, and are not
24 capped, straight out of the estate, will put on all of the
25 parties by demanding to get up to speed on every last thing

1 that has happened in this case, everything that's pending.
2 And then, and this is the most difficult part for, from a
3 creditor's perspective, presumably holding things up, trying
4 to extract what can only be considered a gift, unless we are
5 successful in all of the litigation. Now it's the hope of
6 the Creditors Committee that the estate will be successful in
7 all of the litigations, and that we'll all be showered with
8 compensation beyond expectations, and that there could be
9 value for the equity. But as Mr. Rosen indicated, that would
10 require success up and down the line. That effort is being
11 made in spades by the Debtor and by the Creditors Committee.
12 To inject another party just for the sake of piling on and
13 pursuing that, which is the only thing we think it would be
14 for, is going to delay the process. And what we don't want
15 is for our creditors' money to be used to ultimately hold us
16 up to try to extract something in the end of the day for the
17 equity holders. So for those reasons, Your Honor, we believe
18 that this is not the case, this is not the time, for
19 appointment of an equity committee.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 MR. ANKER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I'll be
22 brief. Philip Anker, filed the papers on behalf of the bank
23 bondholders. We have filed a 2019 statement. We have had
24 other members join our group and we will amend promptly to
25 add them.

1 THE COURT: When did you file that?

2 MR. ANKER: Several months ago. I can look it up.

3 I don't have the exact date, Your Honor. I can look it up in
4 the - -

5 THE COURT: In compliance with my order?

6 MR. ANKER: It was filed before the order, Your
7 Honor. It was filed before the order.

8 THE COURT: Did it disclose what was required?

9 MR. ANKER: It disclosed consistent with what the
10 WMI noteholders did at the time. We have not amended since
11 your order, Your Honor, nor have the WMI noteholders. They
12 have taken an appeal from that decision. The filing did pre-
13 date it. But I wanted to simply correct the record that
14 there was no filing. Your Honor, let me just make a couple
15 of remarks briefly. I don't stand up here to discuss the law
16 with you. I appreciate there isn't a lot of law in this
17 area, and I understand the Court may feel its hands are tied.
18 But I do want to correct a couple of statements of fact,
19 frankly, that in our own pleading weren't quite accurate. I
20 stated, or we stated in our pleading, that the total amount
21 of the WMB bond debt was about \$13 billion. It's actually
22 closer, and this is without interest, Your Honor, of any
23 kind, to 14 billion. There's 6.1 of the senior bank debt,
24 7.6 billion of the junior debt. I suggested in our pleading
25 that the junior bonds were trading at pennies on the dollar,

1 the senior bonds at 45¢ on the dollar. We attached an
2 exhibit. And again, I wasn't quite right. The junior bonds
3 are trading at less than 1 penny on the dollar. I stand up
4 with trepidation. There are many - -

5 THE COURT: Well am I to take judicial notice of
6 that fact? What evidence do I have of that?

7 MR. ANKER: There is a, Your Honor, I don't think
8 that the Equity Committee will dispute. Attached as Exhibit
9 A to our pleading is a copy of a Bloomberg - -

10 THE COURT: I remember it.

11 MR. ANKER: - - and it does show that. WMB juniors,
12 I'm referring to. I thought I was clear, but Mr. Rosen wants
13 me to clarify. Your Honor, obviously if you want an
14 affidavit of authenticity, we can put that in front of you.
15 Let me just underscore a couple of points Mr. Rosen made on
16 the numbers here. And point out to you one thing the Debtor
17 has said. The Debtor, obviously, has a claim to the deposit.
18 If it wins that claim, and there's no setoff, and there's no
19 argument, if Your Honor rules all their way, it's \$4 billion
20 and change. The senior bonds at WMI are greater than that
21 amount. What else is there? There are claims against the
22 receivership estate. And Mr. Rosen has noted those. He has
23 noted that the receivership estate has in this case claims of
24 even a greater amount. But let's say that at the end of the
25 day, they succeed in their litigation, those claims are

1 allowed, the claims of the receivership estate are
2 disallowed. As Mr. Rosen notes, and I hope the comment
3 didn't get lost in the translation, that's a claim against a
4 receivership estate that right now is holding \$1.9 billion,
5 the proceeds paid by JPMorgan Chase, pursuant to the purchase
6 and assumption agreement, and has against it \$13.8 billion in
7 liability already. That claim, if there were a net claim
8 allowed for WMI, is a pennies on the dollar claim. There is
9 much talk in this case about the tax asset. We'll be back
10 before Your Honor relatively soon on an objection that was
11 filed to claims that my clients filed in this case. But
12 attached to that was a declaration filed by WMI of Mr. Brauer
13 (phonetic). And he notes there, and I quote, "Where WMB
14 would have been entitled to a refund on a separate company
15 basis, then under the tax sharing agreement, WMB would be
16 owed the, that amount by WMI." And so even under their view
17 of the tax sharing agreement, which is that they have the
18 right to file the tax returns and the money in the first
19 instance flows into the WMI estate, even under their view,
20 which is not the view of JPMorgan Chase, not the view of the
21 FDIC, not the view of the bank bondholders, all of whom think
22 the property right remained on the WMB side, or if the asset
23 has been sold, to JPMorgan Chase. But whoever it is - -

24 THE COURT: We don't have to get into the merits of
25 all that.

1 MR. ANKER: But the point is that even the Debtor
2 concedes, even the Debtor concedes - -

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MR. ANKER: - - there would be a claim back, and
5 that claim would obviously come ahead of equity. Your Honor,
6 I want to underscore one other point, which we hint at at the
7 pleadings, and I want to be circumspect in what I say.
8 Obviously, the hope of a lot of parties here is that we don't
9 go through nuclear war and litigate until, for years, and
10 years, and years. But rather, that ultimately there is a
11 resolution that helps, or at least satisfies all
12 constituencies. JPMorgan Chase, the FDIC, the WMB
13 bondholders, the WMI creditors, at least at some level, and
14 the WMI Debtor. That process obviously hasn't, today,
15 produced a settlement yet. It will only get that much harder
16 if equity is at the table, because there's just not enough
17 money to go around. Your Honor, I wish there were a prospect
18 that WMI equity could get something, because that would mean
19 not only would my creditors, the senior bank bondholders, my
20 clients, be paid in full, but so too would the juniors. I
21 wish it were true. I have no beef against the people in this
22 courtroom. But simply that is not the economic reality of
23 the world in which we find ourselves. Thank you, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 MR. CROSS: Greg Cross on behalf of the Official

1 Committee of Equity Security Holders from Venable. Your
2 Honor, before I begin, I have two slides I'd like to hand up.
3 Both are trading slides, and they've been shared with the
4 Debtor. I'd ask that the Court take judicial notice of them.

5 THE COURT: All right. Any objection? All right.
6 You may hand them up.

7 MR. CROSS: I'd also like to ask the Court to take
8 judicial notice of the Exhibits that are attached to our
9 opposition, which are all publicly available trading slides
10 and information from Google.

11 THE COURT: Any objections?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. I will take judicial notice
14 of that.

15 MR. CROSS: Your Honor, §1102 vests with the Trustee
16 the discretion to appoint additional committees.

17 THE COURT: The US Trustee.

18 MR. CROSS: The US Trustee, correct. It vests with
19 the Court the power to expand that representation or to alter
20 the representation if it deems that the representation is
21 inadequate. It does not vest with the Court the power to
22 constrict representation by disbanding committees. And
23 notwithstanding what the Debtor said, they've not cited a
24 single case in their papers which stands for that
25 proposition. The Texaco case isn't that case. The Texaco

1 case is a case of two unsecured creditors committees where
2 the Court was reallocating the representation into one
3 effectively. Saying that there was no longer a need for two
4 separate committees which were advocated to the Court because
5 there was a perceived conflict. The in re: New Life case is
6 the only case that's directly on point. In that case, the
7 Court concluded that it lacked authority and power to disband
8 the committee. Now there are cases that have said it's an
9 abuse of discretion standard. I frankly think, though, the
10 New Life case is the correct standard. All of the papers
11 that are in front of you, all of the tests that have been
12 advanced are under (a)(2). They are entities, they are
13 individuals coming to the Court asking for the creation of an
14 unsecured committee, an additional unsecured committee, or an
15 equity committee, and they are trying to satisfy the
16 standards for the Court's *de novo* review and creation of
17 additional representation. There are no cases which speak to
18 how you evaluate whether the Trustee appropriately exercised
19 his discretion. At a minimum, he should be afforded an abuse
20 of discretion standard. But I would argue that the Court
21 lacks any authority to disband the Committee. We have,
22 however, addressed each of the four factors, and believe that
23 had we come here, and the Trustee turned us down, we would
24 have a compelling argument for the creation of an equity
25 committee, addressing each of the five factors, actually.

1 And there are only two that are relevant. This is obviously
2 a widely traded stock. It's obviously a complex case.
3 Nobody disputes that. So there are only three issues. Is
4 this Debtor hopelessly insolvent? Is the equity adequately
5 represented? And what's the cost/benefit analysis of adding
6 an equity committee to this case? Now with respect to
7 hopeless insolvency, in the papers, no one takes the
8 position, other than the bondholders for WMB, other than that
9 they are hopeless, that this case is hopelessly insolvent.
10 They say, there's no proof of solvency, but they don't argue
11 that the estate is hopelessly insolvent. And in fact, the
12 Debtors said in their discussions before you, I don't know.
13 I don't know what the claims are going to be, what the
14 recoveries will be, and I don't know what the claims, the
15 validity of the claims that are pending will be. You have in
16 front of you a motion to extend exclusivity, and the Debtors
17 justification for extending exclusivity is that the Debtor
18 has an inability at this time to assess the assets and
19 liabilities of this estate. Yet the Debtor bears the burden
20 of coming before you and showing that the estate is
21 hopelessly insolvent. They can't make both statements. And
22 in the statement before you just moments ago, they conceded
23 that they can't. That they don't know. The Unsecured
24 Creditors Committee really doesn't address the point. They
25 argue just adequacy of representation. The bondholders say,

1 It's got to be hopelessly insolvent, because I'm going to win
2 every single argument at the WMB level. Nothing is going to
3 flow to WMI. And gee, my noteholders are trading at
4 fractions of cents on the dollar. Well frankly, if you look
5 at the noteholders at the WMI level, which were the two
6 sheets that I gave you, the WMI noteholders think they're
7 going to do a lot better than WMB. The senior notes at the
8 WMI level, are trading, have traded in the past month at
9 above 100¢ on the dollar. The junior noteholders are trading
10 at 50¢ on the dollar. The stock, the common, and the
11 preferred shares show \$500 million of equity value in these
12 cases. In the normal case, \$500 million would be a
13 staggering sum. It's only - -

14 THE COURT: Not in this case. But - -

15 MR. CROSS: Not in this case. And 500 million in
16 and of itself would warrant the creation of an equity
17 committee. It's only in a case where we're tossing billions
18 here and billions there, without any specificity, where all
19 parties admit that there are years of litigation ahead, that
20 they say equity shouldn't have a voice. There has been no
21 satisfying of a burden by the Debtor that the estate is
22 hopelessly insolvent. The second test is, Is equity
23 adequately represented? The unsecured creditors, and the
24 Debtor, argue, We're doing a great job. They may be or they
25 may not be. I don't know. I'm going to presume that they

1 are. That doesn't mean that equity has a seat at the table,
2 or a voice. And it doesn't mean that they have the type of
3 fiduciary duties that the equity should enjoy. The unsecured
4 creditors have no fiduciary duty to the equity. The
5 unsecured creditors make the argument in their motion, it's
6 just litigation. We're doing a good job in the litigation,
7 so why does equity need to participate? But you know,
8 actions speak louder than words. When the Debtors were
9 litigating the cases, in both adversary proceedings in the DC
10 action, the unsecureds joined. They actually filed a motion
11 to intervene in the DC action. Why is it that the Debtor is
12 not adequately representing their interests in those
13 litigations? Why is it that the unsecureds need to
14 participate? What is the justification for that expenditure,
15 and why wouldn't equity be afforded the same opportunity. It
16 should be identical. And the reason equity needs
17 representation here is precisely why everyone in the room is
18 fighting so hard to keep us out. Settlement will be more
19 complicated only if they're settling with the equity's money.
20 If these cases are truly insolvent, if there is no hope of
21 recovery, any objection I lodge is going to be overruled.
22 Any efforts to extend the period is going to be overruled.
23 We've all been in cases where unsecureds get nothing. They
24 object to a settlement. It's approved. That shouldn't be
25 the fear. The fear is, as the bondholders acknowledge, Hey

1 we can cut a deal if it's just WMI, WMB, and the FDIC. But
2 if we've got to include equity, and they're really looking
3 out for that last dollar, it will be much more difficult.
4 Now what are the relative costs? This Debtor has more than
5 \$800 million in liquid assets. By any measure, we're talking
6 about billions of dollars at stake. The Debtor has 19 sets
7 of professionals, but adding one more is the straw that
8 breaks the camel's back? We can't afford a few million
9 dollars so that equity actually has a voice? The equity owns
10 this company. The costs of adding a committee are *de*
11 *minimis*. And the reasonableness of those costs are going to
12 be subject to your review. I mean, I have to come in and
13 defend whatever those charges are. Were they reasonable,
14 weren't they reasonable. We don't just run up the meter.
15 We're already spent 63 million, \$65 million on professionals
16 in this case. And I think to the Debtors' point, it's the
17 perfect time to create an equity committee. There is no way,
18 in fact it's laughable, to say that equity could come in at
19 the twelfth hour and review a settlement and make any
20 educated judgment. At this juncture, I hope, for 65 million,
21 much of the spade work has been done. We should enjoy the
22 benefit of that spade work and be able to make a
23 knowledgeable and intelligent decision and recommendation to
24 the Court of our view and assessment of the litigation. Now
25 what are the benefits? You know, I listened to the State of

1 the Union last night. The President is accusing all the
2 financial institutions of causing the financial calamity that
3 we presently are experiencing. Saying that the government
4 mishandled it. The Debtor is arguing that one of the largest
5 financial institutions in the United States caused the
6 problems that it has, and is suing the government to recover
7 funds that it says were wrongfully taken. I brought with me
8 nine binders of these books. There were 35 hundred
9 shareholders who wrote the Trustee independently, who
10 organized themselves through a website, asking for the
11 creation of an equity committee. 19% of the preferred
12 holders asked for the creation of an equity committee. More
13 than 100 million shares asked for the creation of an equity
14 committee. They asked for a voice. They asked for an
15 opportunity to be heard. And I think Black Horse, the case
16 that Black Horse attached to their pleading from Judge
17 Robinson was instructive. I mean, the Judge there said,
18 There are circumstances where the process is as important as
19 the ultimate outcome of the case. The integrity of the
20 bankruptcy process rests in large measure on the committee
21 structure, a statutory creation that ensures presentation to
22 the Court of views adverse to, or at least different from
23 those of the Debtor. In this case, if equity is denied
24 representation with billions of dollars at stake, and all of
25 the allegations of malfeasance, for the relatively

1 insignificant costs that would be incurred to give them that
2 voice, there's no settlement, there's no outcome that will
3 have any validity for the people who are sitting in this
4 courtroom or the 35 hundred people who wrote their, wrote to
5 the Trustee asking for representation. I mean, for that
6 reason, the Trustee made the right decision. The Trustee
7 decided they needed a voice in these cases, and that was an
8 appropriate exercise of discretion that should be supported
9 by the Court. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 MR. BIFFERATO: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

13 MR. BIFFERATO: Connor Bifferato on behalf of Black
14 Horse Capital. With me in the courtroom today, Your Honor,
15 is David Heroy of Baker & McKenzie. I have filed a motion
16 for admission *pro hac*, Your Honor. At this time, I'd ask
17 that Mr. Heroy be permitted to address the Court.

18 THE COURT: He will be heard.

19 MR. BIFFERATO: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 MR. HEROY: Thank you and good afternoon, Your
21 Honor. David Heroy from Baker & McKenzie on behalf of Black
22 Horse Capital. Black Horse is a holder in the preferred
23 issuances in this case. It's a holder in both what's known
24 as the hybrid preferreds and the regular preferreds, and I'll
25 circle back to that when I conclude. But hopefully I'll be

1 as brief as possible given the length of the argument so far,
2 and the time of the day.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. HEROY: But let me first start with two items
5 that directly address issues that first Your Honor raised,
6 and secondly were mentioned in argument prior to my speaking.
7 Abuse of discretion. Do we have a case where a court, a
8 reviewing court in the first instance, either a Bankruptcy
9 Court or a District Court in the years when District Courts
10 were hearing bankruptcies in the first instance, reviewed the
11 United States Trustee's decision to appoint a committee and
12 review it with a disbandment motion? Well that case, is
13 attached to my, the pleading we filed, Your Honor. And
14 that's the decision by former Chief Judge Robinson in the
15 Imperial Sugar case, known as Imperial Distributing. And Mr.
16 Hodara knows this case well, because that was his motion on
17 behalf of an unsecured creditors committee to disband an
18 equity committee represented by me. And there, Chief Judge
19 Robinson, then Chief Judge, decided at page 3 of the
20 decision, it's an abuse of discretion standard. And she
21 denied the motion. And I just thought that I should point
22 that out, although it's not directly relevant to our
23 particular relief we're seeking today, I think it directly
24 answers Your Honor's question on that point.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

1 MR. HEROY: Secondly, the notion of adequate
2 representation of equity by an unsecured creditors committee.
3 I can't get into my argument before at least mentioning that,
4 because that issue also was brought up in the Imperial
5 Distributing case, as Mr. Hodara knows, and the fact is, as a
6 matter of law, the only fiduciary duties owed by a creditors
7 committee are to the class of creditors it represents.
8 That's axiomatic, it's black letter law under the Bankruptcy
9 Code. Now in terms of the pleading we filed in the case, I
10 believe that Mr. Rosen accurately set forth what our position
11 is. We're a holder in the preferred issues. The preferred
12 issues are approximately \$7.5 billion that stand between the
13 unsecured creditors return of Washington Mutual, the parent
14 company, and the common shareholders, who are largely
15 representing and dominating the Equity Committee that's been
16 appointed. Our position is in the middle ground between what
17 is being urged by the Debtors in the various creditor groups
18 on the one hand, and by the US Trustee and the Equity
19 Committee on the other.

20 THE COURT: Well, do you agree that the abuse of
21 discretion standard applies to a motion or request to
22 reconstitute the committee?

23 MR. HEROY: Absolutely, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. HEROY: It has to, I believe.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. HEROY: And secondly, we agree that all of the
3 data indicates, and again, this is not an evidentiary
4 hearing, but all the data indicates that the common stock is
5 hopelessly insolvent. We do not disagree with the Debtors'
6 allegations in that regard, but we're not supplying Your
7 Honor with any further evidence or proof, etcetera, because
8 obviously we do not have the same access to this information
9 as do the creditor groups and the Debtors. So we agree as to
10 hopelessly insolvent, we agree as to the abuse of discretion
11 standard. Where we disagree is that we believe that this is
12 the perfect case for this Court to address whether
13 §1102(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code should be applied. And
14 the reason we asked for this is that we believe that since
15 the common is out of the money, and is hopelessly insolvent,
16 first of all the best justification for an equity committee,
17 is for it to be a preferred equity committee, and secondly,
18 to the extent common is on the committee, it's another
19 different interest and we would adopt the Debtors' interest
20 in that, arguments in that regard. Now §1102(a)(4) of the
21 Bankruptcy Code is relatively new. It was enacted to give
22 the Bankruptcy Courts this power precisely in the amendments
23 in 2005. There have only been two reported decisions that
24 even mention §1102(a)(4), neither one of them decided this
25 question. It was mentioned in the Pilgrim's Pride case, from

1 the Northern District of Texas. And it was mentioned in a
2 case called Kings River in 2007. But neither court addressed
3 this specific question. We do not know of any authority,
4 either published or unpublished, within the District of
5 Delaware or the 3rd Circuit on this point. So we believe,
6 really, it's a question of first instance. Now why do I say
7 it's the perfect case for this? I think it's the perfect
8 case for this, Your Honor, because there is hopeless
9 insolvency as to one junior class, but not as to the other.
10 In the terminology that's commonly used in many of these
11 cases, investors look at the capital structure of an
12 insolvent business to determine which security is the fulcrum
13 security. The one that's just below the group that perhaps
14 is going to get paid in full but isn't going to get so much.
15 I don't think there's been a single dispute, a single
16 disagreement heard today, Your Honor, that the preferred is
17 the fulcrum security here. There is certainly a lot of
18 sympathy for 35 hundred shareholders who might be hopelessly
19 insolvent, but there's been no dispute on the numbers. That
20 the 7.5 billion of preferred come ahead of the shareholders.
21 Or that that is the fulcrum security. So what we have, Your
22 Honor, from the facts that have been put forth, and again,
23 it's not an evidentiary hearing, but we have some other
24 details that were in our motion that I would just like to
25 repeat and emphasize to the Court. Because the notion that

1 the creditors at the bank level, the debt is trading very low
2 means there shouldn't be an equity committee is, as we all
3 know, not really relevant in the absence of consolidation or
4 inter-corporate claims. What's really relevant is what's the
5 debt at the legal entity that we're talking about who's here
6 in this Court as a Chapter 11 Debtor. And there, the most
7 junior class of creditors, as we've alleged in our motion,
8 and I do, did not hear any response that's inconsistent with
9 it, trading 75, or I was told this morning, 79¢ on the
10 dollar. As we all know, that indicates an expectation of a
11 nearly full recovery. Secondly, based upon many of the
12 analyses and we included one in our papers, the indication is
13 that given the good job that Weil, Gotshal & Manges is doing,
14 and all the other lawyers, and the Creditors Committee, and
15 everybody else, in maximizing the estate, we believe the
16 recovery may be close to full. What does that mean for
17 adequate representation, which is really the legal question
18 before this Court? Let's first turn to Mr. Rosen's argument
19 the Debtor is adequately representing it. Well, with respect
20 to the maximization of the value of the assets in the estate,
21 I can't disagree with Mr. Rosen. They're trying, they're
22 maximizing the value of the estate. But Your Honor, we all
23 know that that is only one half of the bankruptcy equation.
24 The other half is who gets what out of that value that's
25 maximized. And that's where the equity, the preferred equity

1 in this case, is not being represented. And it's not being
2 represented in two ways. First of all, there's no entity
3 that has fiduciary duties solely to the preferred
4 shareholders who can act on behalf of the preferred in this
5 case, and secondly, within the preferred group, there's a
6 separate class of 4 billion in preferred that's subject to
7 one of the counts in the law suit that's been brought against
8 JPMorgan Chase and the FDIC, that may have slightly superior
9 rights to some of the collateral that this law suit also
10 seeks to recover. So within that 7.5 billion of preferred,
11 we've got additional rights of preferred, and they are not
12 being represented as to how much they might get out of this
13 pie that's being maximized. And I think, Your Honor, that
14 that really describes in detail what the nature of the
15 inadequate representation here is today. So Your Honor, as
16 we sit here, the relief that we're asking for is that this
17 Court apply 1102(a)(4) to reconstitute the committee so as to
18 be a preferred committee in recognition of the hopelessly
19 insolvent argument, but to preserve representation for the
20 equity. In the event that the recovery exceeds all that, an
21 order can be entered, or the US Trustee can monitor the
22 situation, either to enlarge the committee later, or to
23 appoint common members to it. That possibility is always
24 open. But at this time, with the preferred sitting on top of
25 the common for \$7.5 billion, the preferred is really, as the

1 US Trustee has indicated, has some members on a committee,
2 the preferred is really not adequately represented.

3 THE COURT: What is the constituency of the
4 Committee? How many preferreds? How many common?

5 MR. HEROY: Your Honor, the US Trustee addressed
6 that briefly in its pleading, and I'm sure he's going to
7 address it. He said, well, it was said in the pleading that
8 four of the members hold preferreds. But again, the two
9 issues there are we don't know what preferreds. Because Your
10 Honor, it's, the labels are difficult in this case. There is
11 a class of preferred stock that's really debt. I was not
12 including that class in my definition of preferreds, but we
13 don't know whether those preferred issues, which are called
14 trust preferreds, are held by committee members or not.
15 Secondly, there's the disparity between the hybrid preferreds
16 and the real preferreds. And we do not believe that the
17 hybrid preferreds are represented at all, or at the most by
18 one member. But Your Honor, this goes to the objection that
19 the US Trustee filed, which is really the only objection to
20 the relief that we seek. The US Trustee first said it's an
21 abuse of discretion standard. Same question as the Court.
22 We agree. Secondly, as to the fact that preferred is
23 adequately represented because some members hold some
24 preferred, we do not know that to be the case. We've been
25 told otherwise, but of course, the facts are the facts, Your

1 Honor, and ultimately we believe the US Trustee and the
2 Committee representative can provide the Court with the
3 accurate facts. The final argument that the US Trustee made
4 with respect to the relief that we seek is he made a
5 procedural argument. That we're really asking for separate
6 relief, which should be brought by a separate motion, notice,
7 and a hearing, etcetera. Your Honor, we would just argue
8 that after a thorough review of the Local Rules, we believe
9 that filing a pleading in the form of an objection that
10 merely asks for different relief of the same nature sought by
11 the Debtor in its original pleading, does not require a
12 separate motion. But of course, we would be pleased to file
13 a separate motion should this Court require us to do so.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 MR. HEROY: Now Your Honor, just a couple, just one
16 other point with respect to the fee cap argument. And this
17 is also another legal issue, that although it doesn't
18 directly relate to the relief we're seeking, I was involved
19 in the controlling 3rd Circuit precedent on that subject,
20 which is the Federal Mogul case at 348F.3d 390. And there
21 the 3rd Circuit reversed a decision by visiting Judge Newsome
22 as to the financial advisors to an equity committee, and
23 stated that although the Court had the power to impose a cap,
24 it could only be done based on a sufficient record,
25 evidentiary hearing as to the reasons for the cap. And in

1 terms of the actual business reasons for a cap, I believe
2 that those would be the subject of an evidentiary hearing,
3 and should not be controlled by merely representations of
4 counsel as then the author of the opinion, then Circuit Judge
5 Alito, now Mr. Justice Alito, said, The statements of counsel
6 shouldn't, shouldn't supply the record in that regard. So
7 Your Honor, in conclusion, as complicated as this case is,
8 and believe me as a newcomer to the case, it's extremely
9 complicated with a lot of parties, all I can submit to the
10 Court is we think that this is a fairly straightforward
11 question that we're raising. And that is that since the
12 existence of an equity committee is before the Court today,
13 on the abuse of discretion standard, whether this Court
14 should either grant the motion to disband, deny it, or
15 perhaps exercise its powers under §1102(a)(4), to
16 reconstitute it so that it, so that it consists of the
17 representatives of the class who are definitely not
18 hopelessly insolvent. And that's the relief we urge for this
19 Court. And thank you very much.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Well am I going to hear from
21 the United States Trustee?

22 MR. CROSS: I'm just going to give a factual
23 statement, so that you can know.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. CROSS: The Committee is composed of seven

1 members, six of whom are preferred shareholders. None of
2 them hold the hybrid preferred. None of them hold real debt
3 preferred. We only have one committee member that owns just
4 common.

5 THE COURT: Wait. Tell me that again. I'm sorry.

6 MR. CROSS: Six of the seven committee members own
7 preferred shares. Preferred R and Preferred K. None of the
8 committee members own hybrid preferred. None of the
9 Committee members own what was characterized as the real debt
10 preferred.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 MR. CROSS: The US Trustee wanted me to point out.
13 Some of the six also own common shares.

14 THE COURT: I see.

15 MR. McMAHON: Your Honor, good evening. Joseph
16 McMahon for the acting United States Trustee. Your Honor,
17 the acting US Trustee acted well within her discretion in
18 appointing the Equity Committee. And let's start there with
19 the standard of review. This is very simple, in our view.
20 And it's gotten muddled by parties across the aisle from our
21 office in connection with this contested matter, but let me
22 put it simply. 1102(a)(1) gives our office the authority to
23 appoint additional committees of creditors and equity
24 security holders in addition to the standard official
25 committee of unsecured creditors. 1102(a)(2) gives a party

1 in interest a right to come to this Court to seek an
2 appointment of an official committee, if it's necessary to
3 ensure adequate representation of whatever class is sought to
4 be represented by such committee. Creditors or equity
5 security holders, again. The two cases that the, I'll call
6 them the disbanding parties harp on in support of their
7 request for a disbandment are either, A, factually
8 inapposite, or two, frankly just premised upon fallacious
9 reasoning. With respect to factually inapposite, Your Honor,
10 I will turn to the Williams case. Williams Communications.
11 What's different about that? Well, the party there came to
12 the US Trustee's Office, the US Trustee's Office decides not
13 to appoint a committee. So party comes to court under, not
14 under 1102(a)(1), our section, comes to court under
15 1102(a)(2), and seeks an appointment of such an official
16 committee from the court. So again, it's the 1102(a)(1)
17 1102(a)(2) distinction we make in our papers. It's very
18 simple. C'est la vie. With respect to the Texaco decision,
19 Your Honor, I would respectfully disagree with the Court's
20 reasoning there. On page 566 the Court seems to confuse what
21 §1102(a)(2) means insofar as review of US Trustee action
22 under 1102(a)(1). And let me read from the opinion. "There
23 is no requirement under §1102(a)(2) that an interested party
24 must first submit such a request" - - meaning a request for
25 appointment of an official committee - - "to the United

1 States Trustee." And here's where the jump is, Your Honor,
2 for my editorial. "Therefore, whether or not such a request
3 was first submitted to the United States Trustee, the Court
4 must arrive at its own judgement. Although the Court may
5 consider reasons advanced by the United States Trustee in the
6 event that such a request was previously submitted to the
7 United States Trustee." In other words, the fact that
8 1102(a)(2) exists as it's phrased, means that the Court has
9 carte blanche authority to, and excuse the sports analogy,
10 Monday morning quarter back the US Trustee's decision,
11 affirmative decisions to appoint a committee or otherwise
12 under 1102(a)(1). And with that, Your Honor, we couldn't
13 disagree more. In paragraph 6 of our response to the motion
14 to disband, we articulate what abuse of discretion means.
15 And to quote from that without citing to the cases, "Abuse of
16 discretion will be found if a decision maker acted in an
17 irrational, arbitrary, or capricious manner clearly contrary
18 to reason, and not justified by the evidence. A decision is
19 not arbitrary and capricious unless it is based on an
20 erroneous conclusion of law, a record devoid of evidence on
21 which the decision maker could rationally have based its
22 decision, or is otherwise patently unreasonable, arbitrary,
23 or fanciful." And turning now, Your Honor, to a general
24 observation with respect to what has transpired here today.
25 What you have heard amongst the parties on the one hand

1 supporting the Debtors' disbandment request, and on the other
2 hand supporting the United States Trustee's decision, is a
3 debate. Essentially. It has not been a, any, frankly, as I
4 sit here, accusation that the US Trustee acted arbitrarily or
5 capriciously. Rather, it's been a debate about whether or
6 not under these circumstances, the home run scenarios
7 advanced by the Debtors mean that we should have acted,
8 whether the cost concerns raised by the Debtors, the
9 Committee, warrant complete disbandment of the Committee.
10 But we submit that the critical inquiry, Your Honor, is not
11 so much what these parties would have done in light of these
12 circumstances so much as whether our office acted, again, in
13 an arbitrary, capricious manner, abused its discretion. And
14 turning to, primarily Your Honor, the Equity Committee's
15 presentation, the factual portion of it, we submit that it's
16 clear that what this decision was was not an abuse of
17 discretion. It can be debated. It certainly was here today.
18 Insofar as the parties having different views of whether or
19 not the, our office should have taken this action. But Your
20 Honor, we are resolute. We firmly believed that the equity
21 security holders, some of which are in the courtroom today,
22 should have a voice in this proceeding, and we share the
23 Equity Committee's view that the relative costs, viewed in
24 light of the fact that this is, I believe, the largest bank
25 failure in US history, the fact that there is a solvency

1 dispute at the, insofar as the upper levels of equity are
2 concerned. All of these facts weigh in favor of the exercise
3 of discretion that the US Trustee took. And therefore, we
4 ask this Court to find that the US Trustee did not abuse her
5 discretion in forming the Committee. I want to turn,
6 specifically, to Black Horse Capital Management's, this
7 request for a reconstitution.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. McMAHON: In light of the factual statement that
10 Equity Committee counsel made with respect to the
11 constitution of the Committee, I'm just struggling, Your
12 Honor, with what I'm supposed to say in response. Six of the
13 seven members of the Committee hold preferred shares. I
14 didn't hear one argument made by counsel to Black Horse that
15 such a circumstance meant that, you know, his client's
16 interest was inadequately represented by this Committee.
17 Therefore, in the absence of, you know, such an argument, I,
18 you know, would respectfully request that this Court decline
19 Black Horse's request for relief. Unless the Court has any
20 questions for me with respect to either the motion to disband
21 or the reconstitution request, I would turn the podium over.

22 THE COURT: No. No questions. Thank you.

23 MR. McMAHON: Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Any replies?

25 MR. ROSEN: Yes, Your Honor. Very limited. Again

1 Your Honor, Brian Rosen, Weil, Gotshal & Manges on behalf of
2 the Debtors' estates. First Your Honor, I can't think of a
3 better advocate for our cause than Mr. McMahon, because the
4 cases he cites I believe that he just misinterprets them.
5 And I ask the Court to look at the Williams decision and the
6 Texaco decision. The cases he refers to, Your Honor, deal
7 with the composition of a committee, not as to the actual
8 formation of it. And the cases do cite and go to the *de novo*
9 and not the abuse of discretion standard. I appreciate that
10 he cited, Your Honor, what abuse of discretion means, but
11 that's not what is really at issue here. Your Honor, with
12 respect to Mr. Heroy's comments, and I accept that he is new
13 to the party, as he put it. But I don't think he understood
14 the math. Because when he came up with what he perceived to
15 be the fulcrum security, I think he got it wrong. He did
16 talk about \$7½ billion of preferred stock, Your Honor. If
17 Your Honor would look at either the big board over there, or
18 page 7 of Exhibit 1, you'll see that we reflect a preferred
19 stock number of approximately \$3.392 billion. You get to the
20 \$7½ billion, Your Honor, if in fact the Debtors lose the
21 litigation with respect to the Retrust Preferred, as it's
22 referred to. And then that \$4 billion all of a sudden
23 becomes a preferred stock instrument of the Debtors. But at
24 the same time, Your Honor, if you were to look at that page
25 7, you would see that there is a number of approximately \$16

1 billion of retained earnings. That number would balloon up
2 by an additional 4 and you would have \$4 billion more of
3 insolvency. So to accept Mr. Heroy's comment of 7½, you have
4 to assume Your Honor, that there's a loss in the litigation
5 and \$4 billion worth of value is lost from the estate. Your
6 Honor, any way we look at it, we perceive the fulcrum
7 security to be the junior subordinated debt. We have, we
8 know we have, Your Honor, approximately \$6.9 billion of
9 assets. If we were lucky enough to win the litigation, we
10 might have an increase of that, based upon our recovery from
11 the receivership. We know we currently have debt, Your
12 Honor, of 8.3 billion with 104 billion or at least \$54
13 billion worth of disputed claims. We know that there are
14 untold amounts of unliquidated claims. I don't understand
15 how we can argue at this point in time that a fulcrum
16 security is the preferred stock. I am happy to finally learn
17 who is actually on this Committee. Previously we knew the
18 names, Your Honor. We asked Mr. McMahon what the composition
19 of the holdings were two weeks ago, he refused to even reply
20 to us. We asked the proposed counsel, and they were unable
21 to provide us with any answers at this time, either. So
22 we're happy to hear, Your Honor, that there are R and K
23 Preferred shareholders, but as we reflected, those are
24 trading at 7 and 9¢, I believe, respectively, Your Honor.
25 Clearly they believe that they are not going to seek a

1 recovery here. In opposition to what the so-called 71%
2 holder is, or trading one is, therefore he assumes he gets
3 100¢. I don't know how you make up that 29¢, Your Honor. We
4 believe that there's an insolvency here, Your Honor. We
5 believe everything that, about the adequate representation,
6 and we believe that we are going to do and continue to do
7 what we can to maximize the value and minimize the
8 liabilities. And if at the end of the day there is something
9 that were to trickle down to preferred and to common, that
10 would be a wonderful result, Your Honor. But at this point
11 in time, we do not see it.

12 MR. HEROY: Your Honor, may I just add one comment
13 about the facts?

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MR. HEROY: Both as related by counsel to the
16 Committee and as to Mr. Rosen. First of all, the difference
17 between the 7.5 and the 3.5 is the 4 billion of hybrids that
18 I mentioned earlier. And Mr., again, although I am new, I
19 think I do know enough to know that if you're successful,
20 those hybrids would share, pro rata, in a pool of home equity
21 loans that have a face value of 5 billion and are worth God
22 knows what. But certainly a significant amount of money. So
23 that the hybrid preferreds do have that extra incremental
24 value potential that I mentioned earlier and are entitled to
25 representation in this case. And then secondly, with respect

1 to the membership of the Committee currently, I just wanted
2 to add that from our perspective, when we filed the motion,
3 we were told that only one member held preferred. When the
4 US Trustee filed its papers a few days ago, that was up to
5 four holding preferred, after they read our papers. And now
6 they have six holders of preferred. I don't know what the
7 amounts are. Whether it's material, or significant, or
8 trading, but I think put together with Mr. Rosen's statement
9 about his inability to obtain information about the holdings
10 of the Equity Committee members, that perhaps a
11 reconstitution under 1102(a)(4) so as to include preferred,
12 might be appropriate. Thank you, Your Honor.

13 MR. McMAHON: Two very quick points, Your Honor.
14 With respect to the point made by counsel to Black Horse, our
15 papers in paragraph 6 said that a majority of the Equity
16 Committee's representatives hold preferred shares. I don't
17 see where we're getting the number four. Six of seven is a
18 majority. With respect to Debtors' counsels' point about,
19 you know, the Committee composition, I will say that, you
20 know, frankly while we appreciate Equity Committee's
21 counsel's presentation with respect to the composition of the
22 Committee, for today's purposes, Your Honor, it's only
23 relevant insofar as we're discussing Black Horse's piece.
24 Meaning that with respect to the disbandment request, it's
25 neither relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to

1 discoverable or admissible evidence. Thanks.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Well, let me issue my
3 ruling. First on the appropriate standard. I'm not sure the
4 United States Trustee is suggesting that the Court has no
5 power to review, but the US Trustee suggests that 1102(a)(2)
6 gives the United States Trustee authority to appoint
7 additional committees. And I'll quote the language, because
8 I think it is significant as, excuse me, 1102(a)(1), as the
9 United States Trustee deems appropriate. The Committee
10 argues that the Court has no power, therefore, to review that
11 appointment by the US Trustee. And there is at least one
12 case that does suggest that. The New Life Fellowship case.
13 But I disagree. I think that to suggest that the Court has
14 no power to review that appointment, particularly where there
15 might be changed circumstances that affect that, I think the
16 Williams and the Texaco cases suggest that the Court does
17 have the power to review it. While I don't agree with the
18 standard they suggest, I think that clearly the Court has to
19 have some power to review the US Trustee's decision in that
20 regard. I think the standard of review, however, is not *de*
21 *novo*. Clearly Congress did suggest that in the first
22 instance it would be the United States Trustee to make that
23 decision, and I think that if I have the power to review it,
24 it's clearly not within my power to substitute my judgment
25 for that of the United States Trustee. So I do agree with

1 the Imperial decision and the Edison decision that it's an
2 abuse of discretion. Whether reviewing under (a)(1) or the
3 other provisions of §1102. I think that in this instance, we
4 all know what the standard is for abuse of discretion.
5 Whether the United States Trustee acted irrationally,
6 capriciously, or arbitrarily. And I, quite frankly, cannot
7 find that on the record before me. There is clearly evidence
8 both ways as to the insolvency of the Debtor. And if the
9 Debtors' pleadings filed in this case are accepted, I think
10 the Debtor believes that it is not hopelessly insolvent.
11 That it has legitimate claims against others that would
12 result in there being sufficient funds in this estate to pay
13 all creditors in full. I don't have to find that the Debtor
14 is going to win those. I think the standard is not to make a
15 final determination as to whether the Debtor is insolvent,
16 just whether I can determine that the Debtor is hopelessly
17 insolvent. And again, on this record, I cannot find that. I
18 think the evidence that the debt and equity in this case are
19 still trading, at any number, establishes that at least the
20 market thinks that the Debtor is not hopelessly insolvent.
21 With respect to whether there's adequate protection of the
22 interests of the Equity Committee, excuse me, the equity
23 holders, which is the other prong of a determination of
24 whether or not the decision was inappropriate. I think that
25 certainly falls in favor of the equity. While the Debtor

1 clearly is representing all constituents in this case, and
2 fulfilling its fiduciary duty, I think that the fact that we
3 have §1102 in the Code makes it clear that there are
4 instances where other parties have a right to be, have a
5 right to have a place at the table. And the US Trustee has
6 made a determination that the equity should be present, and I
7 don't think they're wrong. Even if I were reviewing this
8 under a *de novo* review. I think that at this point it is
9 appropriate to have the equity represented in this case.
10 With respect to Black Horse Capital's request that I
11 reconstitute it, I won't make them go through the motions of
12 filing a separate motion, because I think that under this
13 case, I think there's certainly sufficient representation of
14 the preferreds on the existing Equity Committee, that no
15 reconstitution need be done. So I don't think they've met
16 the 1102(a)(4) standard, even had they filed a motion. So I
17 will deny the Debtors' motion and I will deny Black Horse
18 Capital's - -

19 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: - - request in its response.

21 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, not that I'm glutton here,
22 but we did file alternative relief.

23 THE COURT: Ah. Thank you. I do have comments on
24 that. With respect to the issue of capping the fees, I've
25 been instructed that I can't cap fees without a full

1 evidentiary hearing, and I'm not, I am not prepared today to
2 impose a cap under the Federal Mogul case. But I think it's
3 clear that I do have the power to monitor the case, and that
4 power can be exercised in two ways. First with respect to
5 any retention applications that are filed by the Equity
6 Committee. And if professionals are appointed, my power to
7 review the fee applications, I think gives me sufficient
8 power to assure that, I'll use a colloquialism, they don't
9 run amuck. I think the parties certainly have heard the
10 arguments as to what the role of the Equity Committee is in
11 this case, and I have not heard anything from counsel for the
12 Equity Committee that they don't understand their role here.
13 So with that said, I will not grant the alternative relief of
14 capping the fees. But will exercise my authority with
15 respect to retention applications and fee applications. All
16 right. The Debtor will get me a form of order?

17 MR. ROSEN: We will, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, I know that there are many
20 people in the courtroom who came for this motion just now.

21 Perhaps - -

22 THE COURT: Let's take a short break and then we'll
23 go on with the remainder of the agenda.

24 MR. ROSEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 (Whereupon at 5:33 p.m. a recess was taken in the

1 hearing in this matter.)

2 (Whereupon at 5:49 p.m. the hearing in this matter
3 reconvened and the following proceedings were had:)

4 THE CLERK: All rise. Please be seated.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, there are two items that are
7 left on the agenda for this afternoon. I would ask, Your
8 Honor, because we have some third parties that we might be
9 able to excuse, that we take them, perhaps, out of order as
10 they are reflected on the agenda.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. ROSEN: And if we could, Your Honor, take the
13 Debtors' motion first with respect to Rule 2004.

14 THE COURT: What number is that?

15 MR. ROSEN: I believe it's item number 14 on the
16 agenda.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. ROSEN: And I will turn the podium over to Quinn
19 Emanuel.

20 MS. TAGGART: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Erica
21 Taggart with Quinn Emanuel on behalf of the Debtors. In this
22 motion, Debtors seek an order authorizing the Court to issue
23 subpoenas for documents and testimony for certain third
24 parties in connection with the same Rule 2004 investigation
25 the Court has already approved. Specifically our

1 investigation into potential business tort claims against
2 JPMorgan. Before I turn to the substance, there was a filing
3 that Debtors made related to this earlier today, and my guess
4 is it hasn't come up to Your Honor yet. If I may approach?

5 THE COURT: What is it?

6 MS. TAGGART: We did a revision to the proposed
7 order. More specifically, in response to some third parties,
8 we wanted to make it clear that the Court today would only be
9 issuing the subpoenas and that those parties could still
10 object to the specific requests in the normal course, and it
11 sets out a very standard schedule for it will be 30 days to
12 give objections and responses and some timing for production.

13 THE COURT: All right. It wasn't included. It was
14 mentioned on the amended agenda, but I didn't get it.

15 MS. TAGGART: May I approach to give you copies?

16 THE COURT: You may. Thank you.

17 MS. TAGGART: And that, Your Honor, the first one is
18 a clean proposed order, and the other one shows the red line
19 from the previous proposed order.

20 THE COURT: All right. Since you've withdrawn this
21 as to some of the third parties, do you want to tell me who
22 you're still seeking this relief against?

23 MS. TAGGART: Yes. I believe still in are primarily
24 the FDIC, both in its receiver and corporate capacity. There
25 are a few others that have objected primarily only to

1 preserve their right to make objections in the future. And
2 then the SEC and David Horn have objected on the basis that
3 they do not have any relevant documents. I'll also note that
4 in their objection, S&P and the Federal HomeLoan Bank of San
5 Francisco said that they joined in the FDIC's objections.
6 But Your Honor is correct that most of the entities and
7 individuals that we originally sought have been resolved
8 through some meet and confer process and a voluntary
9 production.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MS. TAGGART: So turning to the substance of the
12 motion, as Your Honor may recall in June, 2009, Your Honor
13 granted Debtors' request for a 2004 investigation of JPMorgan
14 Chase about potential business torts whereby JPMorgan
15 attempted to drive down the value of Washington Mutual to
16 enable it to acquire Washington Mutual Bank's assets out of
17 receivership at a fire sale price. Since that time, JPMorgan
18 has produced numerous documents. It has not completed its
19 production, including it has not produced a number of
20 documents related to its correspondence with third parties.
21 And I think that was subject to a confidentiality order. And
22 we have not done depositions. Nevertheless, from the
23 documents that have been produced, it is clear that JPMorgan
24 had correspondence with a number of third party entities
25 about Washington Mutual that are relevant to investigating

1 these potential claims. Those entities including rating
2 agencies and many regulators. Although our initial motion
3 was directed at 20 entities and individuals, as I mentioned,
4 most of them no longer object to the issuance of subpoenas,
5 although they have reserved the right to say that specific
6 requests are too burdensome or too broad. Specifically,
7 there are five entities that have reached agreement after
8 filing the motion at, that they will produce some narrowed
9 subset of documents. Those include the Federal Reserve, the
10 Department of Treasury, Moodys, and others. Three entities
11 reserve their rights to object to production, but do not
12 object to the issuance of subpoenas, which is all that we
13 were requesting today. Those include Wells Fargo and TD
14 Bank. Five entities did not object in any way to the motion,
15 including Banco Santander and Goldman Sachs. And it's worth
16 noting that there were another ten entities that reached
17 agreement with the Debtors even before we filed the motion,
18 and they have agreed to voluntary production as requested in
19 full to the extent they have those documents. So let me turn
20 to the remaining objections. I think two of them should be
21 somewhat quickly disposed of. Those are the objections from
22 the SEC and a lobbyist named David Horn. Both of those
23 parties objected on the basis that they don't have any
24 relevant documents. I would suggest that this is the sort of
25 objection that can take place after the subpoena is issued.

1 We will work with those entities, and if in fact they have no
2 responsive documents, they will not have to produce any
3 documents. The main objection that was filed was by the
4 FDIC. They filed both in their corporate and receiver
5 capacity. But most of the substantive objections were in the
6 receivership's objection. And as I noted, two parties, S&P
7 and FHLB San Francisco joined in those objections. The FDIC
8 really makes four object, reasons to object, and I'd like to
9 briefly address each of them. The first is FDIC says that
10 this discovery is so related to the DC case that discovery
11 should be taken in that DC case rather than in this 2004
12 investigation. And with all due respect, this issue in
13 particular has already been addressed by Your Honor in
14 connection with the initial request for the 2004
15 investigation, because JPMorgan at the time made that very
16 same argument. And in the Court's order granting the Rule
17 2004 discovery, the Court held that the business tort claims
18 that were being investigated were sufficiently distinct from
19 the DC action that discovery should go forward here. And in
20 particular, it's the Court's June 24th opinion, at page 17,
21 note 14, that has a paragraph explaining the distinctions.
22 But I'll just quote two sentences where the Court says, "The
23 Debtors seek to discover evidence regarding JPM's alleged
24 malfeasance prior to the seizure and sale of WMB." And
25 later, "The requested 2004 examination does not seek

1 discovery evidence related to the hypothetical liquidation
2 analysis that is implicated in the dissipation and takings
3 causes of action asserted in the DC action." So the Court
4 has already determined in going forward with this 2004
5 investigation that this is the right place for that to be.
6 Furthermore, even setting aside the fact that the claims in
7 DC are distinct, it's worth noting that that case is stayed.
8 And so it is not an avenue of discovery right now. And in
9 particular, as the Bankruptcy Court held in *in re:*
10 International Fibercom, Inc., that's at 283B.R. 290, the
11 pending proceeding rule that sometimes makes discovery not go
12 forward in a 2004 action and instead in a pending proceeding
13 doesn't apply when another proceeding is stayed. The second
14 argument that the FDIC makes is that it is an unnecessary
15 burden. And in particular for Federal regulatory agencies,
16 because it takes away from their important regulatory job.
17 Now to the extent that the FDIC is making an objection to any
18 specific request that it is too burdened to comply with, that
19 is the sort of objection that can be addressed after the
20 subpoenas are issued. And as we have with many of the other
21 parties, we can try to reach the appropriate compromise that
22 gets to the most relevant evidence in an attempt to reduce
23 the burden. But as far as the general proposition that there
24 should not be discovery against the FDIC because they are a
25 regulator, that is not a proper basis not to issue the

1 subpoena here. For one thing, 2004 examinations are
2 routinely expanded to third parties, and especially ones that
3 have a very close connection to the Debtor, and that might
4 have evidence that's related to the Debtors' estate. This
5 discovery is especially appropriate for the FDIC. After all,
6 the potential business tort claims that are under
7 investigation concern whether JPMorgan used its confidential
8 information about Washington Mutual to receive an unfair
9 preference in the FDIC's own bid process for Washington
10 Mutual. We also have significant evidence from even the
11 documents so far produced that the FDIC does have relevant
12 information. Those documents show that JPMorgan has been in
13 correspondence with the FDIC as early as the Spring of 2008,
14 before it engaged in negotiations with Washington Mutual,
15 where it received the confidential information. And all the
16 way up leading to the bid process. Those documents include
17 correspondence prior to the bid process going public, and
18 also include information where the FDIC modified its standard
19 indemnification agreement for this very case, to provide
20 additional indemnity to JPMorgan for potential claims that
21 WMI might bring against it for violating WMI's
22 confidentiality agreement. Thus the FDIC is at the heart of
23 the potential claims against JPMorgan, and so the relevance
24 of its discovery outweighs the burden here. Also, there is a
25 practical reason that we believe the FDIC might not have the,

1 a burden that it might otherwise have. And that is, as the
2 FDIC-Corporate explains in its objection, it's currently
3 responding to a Congressional subpoena from the permanent
4 subcommittee on investigations. And as part of that, it is
5 collecting documents which we believe are an even broader
6 group of documents relating to Washington Mutual. And it is
7 our belief that the documents we request are mostly in a
8 subset of what is gathered in that production. So it is our
9 hope that the burden that is generally associated with
10 searching and collecting those documents, might largely have
11 been done, at least for the FDIC-Corporate. The third
12 argument that FDIC makes is that the Debtors should just go
13 ahead and file their business tort claims. And begin a case
14 right now. Or intervene in the pending American National
15 case, which is dealing with these business torts. But the
16 whole point of 2004 investigations, and as Your Honor found
17 in allowing this investigation, was for Debtors to
18 investigate the facts before, to see if those facts support
19 the theories that were outlined in the American National
20 complaint. Debtors don't have to decide whether to pursue
21 claims because other litigants have asserted them, and the
22 2004 mechanism is the way to look at those facts and
23 determine whether those claims exist. Also, Debtors are
24 entitled to continue their investigation before filing those
25 claims. And that investigation has not concluded. It

1 hasn't, just from what is already authorized, we have not yet
2 taken depositions of JPMorgan, and they have not produced a
3 number of documents with correspondence with third parties.
4 There's obviously documents coming in now from all the third
5 parties who agreed voluntarily to produce in response to
6 these requests. So Debtors are doing exactly what Rule 2004
7 contemplated. It's conducting an investigation into
8 potential claims before it has to make the decision whether
9 those facts support an actual lawsuit. The final argument
10 that the FDIC makes is that, and this was more on the FDIC-
11 Corporate, that the Debtors should first exhaust
12 administrative procedures. Now the Debtors have already
13 filed the appropriate administrative procedures. And there's
14 been over a month and a half since that happened. Without
15 the FDIC giving any formal response to those, or indicating
16 in any way that it would produce documents in response to
17 them. So as a practical matter, we have fulfilled the FOIA
18 requirements and the regulation requirements that are set out
19 in the cases referred to as the Tuey (phonetic) requests.
20 But to the extent that they are going to produce those
21 documents at some time in the future, there's no harm in
22 issuing the subpoenas and they will be fulfilled for both.
23 But there's no reason to wait until there is a more official
24 rejection. Especially since in the case of FOIA, the timing
25 that they were supposed to comply has already elapsed.

1 Moreover, administrative regulations do not take the place of
2 the Federal Rules guiding discovery in civil cases, and this
3 was set out in, for example, the Exxon Shipping Co. case at
4 34F.3d 774, saying that District Courts should apply the
5 Federal Rules of Discovery when deciding on discovery
6 requests made against government agencies. And this is also
7 referred to in the CFR regulations which will talk about, for
8 example 12 CFR 309.5, how classification of records from
9 disclosures should not be construed as authority to withhold
10 the record if it's otherwise subject to a directive or order
11 from any court of competent jurisdiction. So that is not a
12 reason why the subpoena should not issue here. Thus, in
13 conclusion, Debtors ask this Court to issue the subpoenas for
14 the few remaining entities so it can obtain the discovery it
15 needs to assess the potential tort claims against JPMorgan.
16 Those entities will continue to have the right to object to
17 the specific requests in the normal course, and we'll work
18 with them on the proper scope. But the subpoenas are proper,
19 and they're necessary for a full investigation that's
20 permitted under Rule 2004. Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Any replies?

22 MR. CLARKE: Good evening, Your Honor. John Clarke
23 from DLA Piper, representing the FDIC as receiver. As the
24 court undoubtedly is aware, we don't represent the FDIC in
25 its corporate capacity, but I do want to just make one

1 factual point that I do think deserves a response from Ms.
2 Taggart's comments. Which is that I think Ms. Taggart
3 asserted that the FDIC in its corporate capacity had given no
4 indication as to whether it would be willing to produce
5 documents in response to the Debtors' Tvey request. And
6 whether or not there has been a response to the Debtors' Tvey
7 request. I found that factual assertion somewhat surprising,
8 since I'm aware of ongoing discussions between FDIC in its
9 corporate capacity and Ms. Taggart and her partners about
10 documents that the FDIC-Corporate might be willing to
11 produce. Having clarified that, I have only a few comments
12 to make in response to the motion. First, the Debtors have
13 never addressed the balancing test that Courts have
14 recognized for whether or not an order should be issued
15 allowing examination under Rule 2004. That balancing test is
16 an appropriate subject of examination here, because the
17 Debtors repeatedly acknowledge that the discovery that they
18 are seeking, and Ms. Taggart said it again today, does not
19 relate to potential claims against the third parties that
20 they're seeking discovery from. Including the FDIC receiver.
21 It relates to claims against JPMorgan Chase. If there are
22 such claims. Now that balancing test, Your Honor, requires
23 that the party seeking the discovery so that the discovery is
24 necessary to the establishment of the moving party's claim,
25 and to show that denial of production of the requested

1 discovery would cause undue hardship. Neither showing has
2 been made with respect to the FDIC-Receiver here. The
3 Debtors have made no effort in their motion to show that
4 there is any discovery that the FDIC receiver could produce,
5 in response to these proposed requests, that would materially
6 add to their proposed business tort claim and breach of
7 contract claim against JPMorgan. They already have 30
8 thousand pages of documents from JPMorgan. The plaintiffs in
9 the American National case have been litigating their claims,
10 which are the predicate for this motion for a year having not
11 even had that 30 thousand pages of documents. The Debtor
12 said today that they have successfully negotiated the
13 production of various documents from other third parties,
14 which includes the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal
15 Reserve Board of Governors, the US Department of the
16 Treasury. In fact the only people left, pretty much, are the
17 two people that the Debtors are actively in litigation with,
18 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as receiver, and the
19 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in its corporate
20 capacity. Against both of whom the Debtors have a pending
21 case in the United States District Court for the District of
22 Columbia. Now Ms. Taggart said, Well, but the case is
23 stayed. It's the Debtors who asked for that stay, Your
24 Honor. And they were granted it. The Debtors brought that
25 case, and then they asked the District Court to stay that

1 case so they could come litigate issues in this case. Judge
2 Collier in her stay decision, the Court has undoubtedly seen
3 it, recognized that there are issues in that case over which
4 that Court has exclusive jurisdiction, but expressed concerns
5 about judicial comity, and decided to stay the case while
6 these proceedings were pending. That does not give the
7 Debtors license to immediately turn around, and in the form
8 of a Rule 2004 request seek discovery related to the case
9 that they stayed from the very party that they're purporting
10 to sue there. The International Fibercom case that Ms.
11 Taggart pointed the Court to was not on anything like the
12 similar facts. The case involved a motion to take Rule 2004
13 discovery by a subrogee of a debtor against a party that was
14 in litigation separately. But it was also in bankruptcy, so
15 it had an automatic stay. And in those circumstances, the
16 Court said, Well, since there's an automatic stay in that
17 other litigation, we'll let you do the Rule 2004 discovery in
18 this case. That's nothing like this case where the Debtors
19 started a case against our client, and then asked the Court
20 to stay that case. And then came back to this Court and
21 tried to conduct discovery against us here. With respect to
22 relatedness, Your Honor. We read your, the Court's decision
23 on June 24th differently than the Debtor. We recognized in
24 our objection that the Court mentioned in a footnote the
25 relatedness point. However, my reading of the decision, and

1 I know there's one person in the court who knows the right
2 answer, and I defer to that. But my reading of the decision
3 is that that foot note is dicta. Because on the preceding
4 page, the Court said, Relatedness is not relevant, because
5 JPMorgan is not a party to that case. And therefore, I
6 can't, I can't deny Rule 2004 discovery merely on the basis
7 that JPMorgan has sought to intervene in that case. Now a
8 lot of stuff has happened since June 24th, undoubtedly, in
9 this litigation. One of the things that happened is since
10 then Judge Collier did allow JPMorgan to intervene in that
11 case. But at the time of the June 24th decision, that
12 decision had not been made yet. And JPMorgan was a proposed
13 intervener at that time only. And that was the basis for the
14 Court's determination on the relatedness point. Now there is
15 the footnote about relatedness. And the Court made the
16 observation that it made. However, the Debtors arguments in
17 this, in the DC case since this Court's decision, demonstrate
18 that the claims they are seeking to pursue against the FDIC
19 there are exactly the same subject as they're seeking Rule
20 2004 discovery from the FDIC here. In an argument on
21 November 4th with respect to motions to dismiss certain of
22 their claims in the DC case, Mr. Rosen's partner told Judge
23 Collier, quote, "You can't have a situation where the
24 government decides, because it would like to see improvement
25 to the balance sheet of an acquiring institution, that they

1 simply hand over the keys to the failed bank and say, You
2 know what? You guys take it. We don't have to worry about
3 it, because we're immune from lawsuit. Nobody will sue us
4 for breach of any duty to maximize the value of those assets.
5 Depositors will get satisfied. They'll bolster the balance
6 sheet of the acquiring bank, and everyone who's left behind,
7 the creditors and shareholders of the failed bank, they don't
8 have any remedy except to file their proof of claim through
9 the administrative process, etcetera." Your Honor, the
10 claims in Washington, and the Rule 2004 discovery here are
11 the same. They might be crafted carefully with this argument
12 in mind, but they are undoubtedly overlapping. And this
13 Court, itself, recognized on June 24th that Rule 2004 is not
14 appropriate where a Debtor would get - - let me see if I can
15 find the exact wording so I don't state it wrong. Where the
16 party requesting a Rule 2004 examination could benefit their
17 pending litigation outside of the Bankruptcy Court against
18 the proposed Rule 2004 examinee. That's what this Court said
19 on June 24th, quoting in re: Enron Corp., 281B.R. 836.
20 Unquestionably, this discovery could benefit the Debtors.
21 And they should go through the normal party discovery process
22 with us. If that process is a problem because they got a
23 stay of their case, that's a strategic decision that the
24 Debtor made. The Debtors made. The FDIC should not bear the
25 burden of that. And I'd like to make one more point, which

1 is that less than 36 hours ago, I was on the phone with
2 Debtors' counsel discussing our objections and responses to
3 their party discovery request in these adversary proceedings.
4 In this court. Which ask for the same materials. And we
5 were in the middle of discussing what we will give, and what
6 we think is inappropriate because it relates to DC, and how
7 we can narrow the scope of those requests, and hopefully
8 we'll be able to come to some agreement on that. But
9 granting this Rule 2004 motion with respect to the FDIC is
10 not the way to go. We're parties, we'll do party discovery
11 with all the rights and obligations that accompany that. So
12 therefore, Your Honor, we object to the motion.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 MR. GECK (Telephonic): Your Honor, Duane Geck for
15 the Federal HomeLoan Bank of San Francisco. Please advise
16 when you'd like to receive telephone appearances.

17 THE COURT: All right. I'll hear from you. Do you
18 wish to be heard on the motion?

19 MR. GECK (Telephonic): Yes I do, Your Honor.
20 Again, Duane Geck for the Federal HomeLoan Bank of San
21 Francisco. One, first one clarifier. The Federal HomeLoan
22 Bank of San Francisco did not file a joinder with the FDIC
23 receiver as identified by Ms. Taggart before.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. GECK (Telephonic): The Federal HomeLoan Bank is

1 a lender that makes loans to its member banks. Washington
2 Mutual Bank of Henderson, Nevada was a member bank and a
3 borrower form the Federal HomeLoan Bank of San Francisco.
4 The Federal HomeLoan Bank of San Francisco is a third party
5 with no stake in this proceeding. It has no relationship
6 with the Debtor entities, it has no claim in the Bankruptcy
7 case, it's not a creditor. The Federal HomeLoan Bank of San
8 Francisco files its response simply because it is concerned
9 with the breadth of the subpoena requested. The Debtor filed
10 the motion for its 2004 examination because it's
11 investigating, as we understand it, JPMorgan Chase's alleged
12 malfeasance prior to the seizure and sale of Washington
13 Mutual Bank. Nonetheless, the Debtor seeks documents from
14 the Federal HomeLoan Bank of San Francisco far beyond this
15 purpose. Including all documents concerning Washington
16 Mutual Bank's participation as a member bank. And all
17 documents concerning the Federal HomeLoan Bank's of San
18 Francisco's decision to lend or not lend funds to Washington
19 Mutual Bank. Now these objections to breadth may be
20 addressed at a later point in time, but given the
21 overwhelming breadth of them for a unrelated third party, the
22 Federal HomeLoan Bank of San Francisco felt compelled to
23 bring these issues to the Court's attention at this early
24 stage. Thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. Anybody else wish to be

1 heard? Yes.

2 MR. SOLONSKY: Kevin Solonsky on behalf of the
3 Securities & Exchange Commission. I'll be very brief. And I
4 just have three points here. First, I'd like to state that
5 in terms of our response to the motion, we'd basically like
6 to rest on our response to the motion. But there's been
7 absolutely no indication in any of the papers of Debtors that
8 the SEC has any, has any documents that have any relationship
9 to Debtors' claim. That's the first point. The second point
10 is in their reply in support of their motion, they state in
11 footnote 8 on page 14 that the SEC makes the internally
12 inconsistent objection that there is no basis to expect that
13 it possesses responsive documents and that Debtors' Rule 2004
14 discovery requests are nevertheless unduly burdensome. I
15 just wanted to point out that we do not believe that those
16 are internally inconsistent statements. We believe that we
17 do not have any documents that are responsive, and that are,
18 or that are relevant to their lawsuit, but at the same time,
19 their document request, or their proposed subpoena, would
20 request an unduly burdensome amount of documents from the
21 SEC. For example, it requests all documents that are related
22 to any type of regulatory action regarding Debtors,
23 Washington Mutual, or, and it could potentially request any
24 and all documents relating to any investigations we have
25 concerning Washington Mutual or JPMorgan as well. And at any

1 one time, we do always have many regulatory actions, and
2 there are always all types of investigatory actions we have
3 that have absolutely nothing to do with Debtors' potential
4 claims. Then the third thing is that they request documents
5 concerning an order that we issued in 2008 banning the sale,
6 short sales in Washington Mutual. And that had nothing to do
7 with, or as far as we can tell, their potential actions that
8 they have. And in fact, they were just one bank of over 700
9 banks who here listed on that order. And then they state,
10 Well, that, that we, that there's relevance because in an
11 earlier order they were excluded from that order. And a few
12 months earlier, there was a ban also on short selling, an
13 order, emergency order issued against Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac
14 and 17 other institutions. And Debtors state that, you know,
15 it's relevant that we get documents concerning that, because
16 they were left out of that order. But that order was just
17 issued against the short sale of securities in particular
18 institutions. And those institutions were the primary
19 dealers of US Treasuries. And they didn't fall into that
20 category. So there was no really relevance concerning
21 Washington Mutual in either the first or second order. And
22 other than that, we'd like to rest on our papers. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MR. RILEY: Good evening, Your Honor. Richard Riley
25 from Duane Morris on behalf of Toronto-Dominion Bank and TD

1 Bank. I just wanted to clarify that we had reached an
2 agreement with the Debtors on the timing and the scope of a
3 subpoena to the banks. So we no longer have an objection to
4 the motion, as long as the revised proposed form of order
5 which was handed up to you is the last order that I saw.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Anybody else? Any reply by the
7 Debtors?

8 MS. TAGGART: Yes. I'll try to take it in order
9 briefly. Mr. Clarke's first argument of the FDIC was that
10 the FDIC-Corporate is responding to the Tuey requests in that
11 they are speaking with Debtors. Certainly we will continue
12 to speak with them to try to come up with the right scope
13 that fits FDIC-Corporate. My point was that there isn't any
14 time that they say they're going to give some sort of
15 official either production or response, after which we should
16 come back and the motion becomes ripe. They have had the
17 administrative requests and so far have not produced
18 documents. And the fact that they are working with us is not
19 a reason not to issue the subpoena now. Second, he says that
20 under the balancing test, the discovery is not proper against
21 the FDIC in particular, because we have so much other
22 discovery there. But there is discovery that the FDIC, and
23 documents that the FDIC has that are not going to be
24 available for, through anyone else. First of all, as a
25 matter of fact, JPMorgan is not yet producing the

1 correspondence that it has with FDIC. It is making
2 confidentiality objections that I hope are going to be
3 resolved now that there's a confidentiality order. But at
4 any rate, coming up with the FDIC's decision to be speaking
5 with JPMorgan, what confidential information it may or may
6 not have received, how that affected its decision, and why it
7 entered into that very strange change to its indemnification
8 are all - -

9 THE COURT: Let me interrupt you here, because what
10 I authorized you to pursue are claims against JPMC on a
11 business tort.

12 MS. TAGGART: Yes.

13 THE COURT: What possible relevance is there of the
14 FDIC's actions taken, and what they were thinking? I think
15 that's what you're suggesting is relevant here.

16 MS. TAGGART: Yes. Absolutely. First, what did
17 JPMorgan tell the FDIC in its long discussions coming up to
18 the bid process? For example - -

19 THE COURT: That's not what you were suggesting, you
20 were asking for, as I read here.

21 MS. TAGGART: You mean in the scope of the request?

22 THE COURT: The scope of the requests and what you
23 just referred to as what you're looking for.

24 MS. TAGGART: We are definitely, and to be clear,
25 looking for documents that relate to business tort claims

1 against JPMorgan. We - -

2 THE COURT: Well, you say that.

3 MS. TAGGART: We believe that JPMC might have that.
4 For example, FDIC may have documents and correspondence with
5 JPMorgan that JPMorgan says, We, for example, We have given
6 away a lot of confidential information. And we think that we
7 are now having a tort maybe against Washington Mutual. Can
8 you please indemnify us for that. The fact that there is
9 that indemnification suggests there was some concern, and
10 that concern was shared with the FDIC. Also, the price that
11 was taken as part of the damages that we would be seeking in
12 any of our tort claims. How come that price was so much
13 lower than we believe Washington Mutual was worth. And how
14 much of that was affected by the fact that perhaps there
15 weren't other bidders, due to the fact that we believe
16 JPMorgan was speaking to other bidders to dissuade them. For
17 the fact that they have shared confidential information that
18 brought down the value. So we do want to find out how much
19 all of those factors went into the bid price that ultimately
20 became what JPMorgan paid, and we believe was what we've
21 described as a fire sale price. But you're right. We are
22 not looking, in this case, to any conduct about the FDIC or
23 tort claims against them. But they still may have relevant
24 evidence.

25 THE COURT: Really? Well, look at your request for

1 production of documents. Other than paragraph 2, which I
2 think deal with communications with and among JPMC, the FDIC,
3 etcetera. I mean, aren't all the rest of them relating to
4 potential claims you may have against the FDIC?

5 MS. TAGGART: I don't think that's the case. I will
6 bring up the document request. Its correspondence with
7 JPMorgan is, correspondence with JPMorgan is obviously going
8 to be relevant to what JPMorgan is communicating with them.
9 The setting of the price is going to be relevant to the
10 extent that JPMorgan's torts, either in disclosing
11 confidential information, driving down - -

12 THE COURT: Do you need that information now?

13 MS. TAGGART: I'm sorry. Say that again?

14 THE COURT: In determining whether you have a claim
15 against JPMC. That goes to damages.

16 MS. TAGGART: That goes, how they set the price
17 could go to damages. But also could go to, and the fact that
18 they had a price that was so low that they let JPMorgan be
19 the first bidder, and arguably not the full public process.
20 What was the reason behind that? And whether that was
21 because of torts that were committed by JPMorgan. So those
22 documents would be relevant. To the extent that Your Honor
23 looks at certain requests, as have most of the parties, and
24 said, Well, for us in particular we think that this is too
25 broad, we would be willing to work with the FDIC, as we have

1 with a number of entities, to more narrowly tailor it. But
2 we are seeking, we think that the FDIC has documents that are
3 going to be relevant to the business tort claims. I, if I
4 may turn now to the FDIC's argument again that this is, too,
5 related to the DC case, I think Your Honor has its order, and
6 it is true that in the text of the order, the first reason
7 that Your Honor said it did not overlap with DC was because
8 JPMC was not a party. But it clearly, in the footnote, you
9 do say with respect to those business tort claims, even if
10 JPM successfully intervened in the DC action, the requested
11 2004 examination does not seek to discover evidence related
12 to the DC action. And for the same reason I just explained,
13 the tort claims that we are looking to are against JPMorgan.
14 And those are in no way part of our DC case. In fact, the
15 part of the transcript that he read was more about what the
16 FDIC, and whether it, knowing that it was insulated by its
17 claims process, decided for whatever arbitrary reasons to set
18 the bid price, that is not the reason that we're seeking the
19 discovery, and that's not what we're going to be pursuing
20 with it. Not to mention that it's just, as a matter of law,
21 the pending proceeding doctrine is for pending proceedings
22 where you can have discovery. And the fact that discovery
23 could overlap in both of those claims is not a reason not to
24 issue the subpoena here. I think the FDIC is suggesting that
25 there was some improper motive that really we're trying to

1 have some affect on that stayed case by making an end run.
2 But there's really no evidence of that. We are seeking
3 documents about JPMorgan. And if the FDIC wants to talk
4 about those specific requests and say, Those aren't narrowly
5 tailored enough to JPMorgan, we'll work with them, or they
6 can file a motion. But all that needs to be decided here is
7 that third parties, including the FDIC, have relevant
8 documents. And that this is the proper way to explore these
9 claims. But we will have to show that they are narrowly
10 tailored to these claims. I'm just going to briefly address
11 the objections that were made by the other parties. I
12 believe with FHLB San Francisco, again, as that attorney
13 said, this really only goes to the breadth of the request and
14 not to the fact that they would comply with a subpoena to the
15 extent that it was relevant to business claims. And that was
16 the same agreement that we have reached with TD Bank. As for
17 the SEC, again, if they do not have documents related to the
18 business tort claims that we're investigating here, such as
19 correspondence with JPMorgan or information taken from
20 JPMorgan that would have informed their decision to take, to
21 not list Washington Mutual in their first order that
22 prohibited short selling, but then added to their second
23 order, then we wouldn't be seeking documents about them. I
24 think Your Honor's objection is well taken. That we are
25 going to have to prove that any discovery that we seek is

1 tied to claims against JPMorgan. And to the extent that
2 there are, that there are requests that are in those
3 subpoenas that seem to go more broad, I'm sure that the FDIC
4 will be objecting to those very specifically, and we'll have
5 to narrow them. And if we don't - -

6 THE COURT: That's not the standard. You have to
7 prove to me before I issue the 2004 order that they're
8 related. You just can't come in and get authority to issue
9 subpoenas to anybody you want. You have to prove that it's,
10 it relates to a claim that you may have, and you have to
11 prove its necessary. Well the fact that if you file a
12 lawsuit against - - excuse me - - against JPMC, you can have
13 all the discovery you want against all the third parties you
14 want.

15 MS. TAGGART: I understand we have to show now. I
16 think the documents that we have now, even with the fact that
17 we have not had the correspondence with JPMorgan and the
18 FDIC, we know that they were speaking before and after about
19 Washington Mutual, before JPMorgan had negotiations. They
20 made their - -

21 THE COURT: It's not enough to show they may
22 possibly have relevant documents. That's not enough. You
23 have to show that the 2004 is necessary to get it. That you
24 can't simply get it through regular discovery once you file
25 your claim.

1 MS. TAGGART: We do have to show that the discovery
2 that we request relates to the Debtors and that it is
3 necessary for our investigation.

4 THE COURT: Right. Why is it necessary?

5 MS. TAGGART: It is possible - -

6 THE COURT: For an investigation?

7 MS. TAGGART: It is possible because we don't yet
8 have the third party documents that those may be sufficient
9 to determine that. What we know is that the FDIC has
10 relevant documents to determining whether there were claims
11 in a very material way. I know I go back to it, but for
12 example, that indemnification clause is really at the heart
13 of whether or not JPMorgan believed that it may be exposed to
14 the very tort claims we're pursuing. Without, right now,
15 because we still don't have the documents from third parties
16 or really correspondence with third parties, I can't tell you
17 whether once we get those, those will be sufficient. But I
18 know the FDIC has relevant documents that will be important
19 to evaluating the merits of these claims. And I believe that
20 meets the standard that's set out for Rule 2004 examinations
21 of third parties

22 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to deny the Debtors'
23 request, and here's why. I did grant the 2004 discovery.
24 Against JPMC. To allow the Debtor to explore whether the
25 Debtor did have any potential claims against it under a

1 business tort theory. Despite the arguments that the Debtor
2 could get that information by other means. I felt the 2004
3 did allow the Debtor to conduct that discovery. But quite
4 frankly, I think issuing subpoenas against dozens of third
5 parties just goes too far. I don't think that's an
6 appropriate use of Rule 2004. I think the Debtor has a dual
7 burden in using 2004. First that it's absolutely necessary
8 that we do an investigation, that we are unable, at this
9 point, to determine we have a claim, that under Rule 11 we
10 can file against JPMC. Now the Debtor has done extensive
11 discovery and gotten extensive numbers of documents from
12 JPMC. I'm not hearing that the Debtor does not believe it
13 has a claim against JPMC or cannot determine that it has a
14 claim against JPMC at this point. But the second prong is
15 the Debtor has to prove that it is absolutely necessary to
16 use Rule 2004 because the Debtor cannot obtain these
17 documents any other way, and I'm not convinced at this point
18 that that's correct. The Debtor already has obtained some
19 voluntarily, the Debtor has obtained extensive discovery from
20 JPMC. What I'm hearing with respect to the FDIC specifically
21 is that really, looking at the discovery request and
22 arguments of counsel, it's getting awfully close to claims
23 that they may have against the FDIC itself. And I think that
24 fact leads me to believe that specifically asked of them,
25 this is really trying an end run against, around the rules

1 that would otherwise comply with the Federal Rules of Civil
2 Procedure regarding discovery of claims between parties that
3 are in a litigation posture. Again, you're getting documents
4 voluntarily from the third parties. You're getting responses
5 under Freedom of Information, and through other
6 administrative means. I just do not see that the Debtor is
7 prejudiced at this point from not being allowed to issue
8 subpoenas against third parties that go on for paragraph
9 after paragraph, not narrowly tailored to specific claims of
10 a business tort against JPMC. So I'm not prepared to enter
11 the order on the Debtors' motion. Do we want to take another
12 short break?

13 MR. ROSEN: Well Your Honor, I just wanted to
14 apprise the Court as to where we are. We have one additional
15 matter on the agenda, and I have been informed that all told,
16 it will probably take about an hour and a half to handle that
17 matter.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. ROSEN: We had informed the Court of that
20 possibility and suggested that we have a Washington Mutual
21 calendar tomorrow at 10:30 on a discrete matter, but that
22 matter should take probably an hour and a half to two hours.
23 If the Court recalls, it's the continuation and hopefully
24 ending of the HF Almonton (phonetic) matter. I don't, and we
25 had asked the Court at that time whether the Court would be

1 okay with, perhaps continuing this matter for prior to that,
2 because I think the Court had availability before the 10:30
3 calendar. I may be wrong but I thought we had heard that.

4 THE COURT: Well I have a, no, I have a 9:30, and
5 then I have 2 o'clock first days.

6 MR. ROSEN: Oh, okay.

7 MR. CLARKE: Your Honor, I hadn't heard about this
8 at all. I am aware that there's something on the calendar
9 tomorrow, but I'm not available. There's an omnibus hearing
10 next week. I'm available. I don't object to putting this
11 over to the omnibus hearing next week given the lateness of
12 the hour. Although our motion's been on since November, and
13 we've rolled it at several, at the Debtors' request. We're
14 happy to do it now, or we, we're happy to do it next week.

15 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, it's Mr. Clarke's motion.
16 If the Court wants to go for another hour and a half, we're
17 here.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. RILEY: Your Honor, Richard Riley from Duane
20 Morris for TD Bank. I just wanted to clarify your last
21 ruling. We had reached an agreement with the Debtor subject
22 to the, to them being able to issue the subpoena to us. So
23 if they were able to issue the subpoena to us, we had agreed
24 to scope and timing. So I, we'll continue to be in
25 discussions with the Debtor, but what I heard is not allowing

1 them to issue the subpoenas to any of the third parties.

2 THE COURT: Correct. Well let's take a break. I
3 mean, I'm willing to proceed if the parties are. But I'd be
4 happier if I could go home. But - -

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we get a vote, Your Honor?

6 THE COURT: Let's take five minutes, and the parties
7 can talk about which they prefer. I'm, I'll leave it to the
8 parties.

9 (Whereupon at 6:36 p.m. a recess was taken in the
10 hearing in this matter.)

11 (Whereupon at 6:49 p.m. the hearing in this matter
12 reconvened and the following proceedings were had:)

13 THE CLERK: All rise. You may be seated.

14 MR. ROSEN: Good evening.

15 THE COURT: Good evening.

16 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, on February 5th, there is a
17 10:30 calendar already which deals with an omnibus objection
18 to claim, what we refer to as the wrong Debtor claims,
19 litigation related claims that we are seeking to have
20 dismissed. Your Honor, we believe that that presentation is
21 probably going to take about an hour and a half. It so
22 happens that the 11:30 calendar for that day is another case
23 that I'm aware of called Magna, and Mr. Cross and I are the
24 parties for hearing at that time. And we believe that we can
25 adjourn that hearing at 11:30. Which creates an opening,

1 Your Honor, from 10:30 until your next item, which would be
2 at 2 o'clock. And so we would suggest, Your Honor, that we
3 move the item which is on now, which is, what we'll refer to
4 as the 9.5 motion, or the FDIC's motion for relief from
5 automatic stay, to add to that 10:30 calendar next Friday.
6 And I believe that that is acceptable to Mr. Clarke and to
7 the Debtors' counsel who are handling that matter.

8 MR. CLARKE: I just want to thank Mr. Rosen for
9 moving the other hearing. I do appreciate that.

10 MR. ROSEN: Not a problem.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. ROSEN: So we would see you then, Your Honor.
13 10:30 next Friday.

14 THE COURT: Okay. What item is that on the agenda,
15 just so I keep track?

16 MR. ROSEN: Oh, I believe it was 15 or 14, actually.
17 Because we went out of order. It was 15, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: No. That was the omnibus objection.
19 Let's see. 13.

20 MR. ROSEN: 13. Sorry. 13 will get moved to the
21 5th, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. Good. Thank you - -

23 MR. ROSEN: Thank you.

24 THE COURT: - - for letting me go home. All right.

25 MR. ROSEN: Have a nice evening.

1 THE COURT: We'll stand adjourned.

2 (Whereupon at 6:51 p.m. the hearing in this matter was
3 concluded for this date.)

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18 I, Jennifer Ryan Enslen, approved transcriber for
19 the United States Courts, certify that the foregoing is a
20 correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the
21 proceedings in the above entitled matter.

22

23 /s/Jennifer Ryan Enslen
24 Jennifer Ryan Enslen
25 43 Bay Boulevard
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 836-1905

February 1, 2010

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
District of Delaware

In Re:

Washington Mutual, Inc.
1301 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
EIN: 91-1653725

Chapter: 11

Case No.: 08-12229-MFW

***NOTICE OF FILING OF TRANSCRIPT AND OF DEADLINES RELATED TO RESTRICTION AND
REDACTION***

A transcript of the proceeding held on 1/28/2010 was filed on 2/1/2010 . The following deadlines apply:

The parties have 7 days to file with the court a *Notice of Intent to Request Redaction* of this transcript. The deadline for filing a *request for redaction* is 2/22/2010 .

If a request for redaction is filed, the redacted transcript is due 3/4/2010 .

If no such notice is filed, the transcript may be made available for remote electronic access upon expiration of the restriction period, which is 5/3/2010 unless extended by court order.

To review the transcript for redaction purposes, you may purchase a copy from the transcriber (see docket for Transcriber's information) or you may view the document at the clerk's office public terminal.



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