

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-1789 (SMB)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

**APPLICATION OF TRIAY STAGNETTO NEISH AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE
TRUSTEE FOR ALLOWANCE OF INTERIM COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES
RENDERED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2017¹**

Keith Azopardi, together with other members and associates at the law firm of Triay Stagnetto Neish (“TSN”), special counsel for Irving H. Picard (the “Trustee”), trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS” or “Debtor”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”) and Bernard L. Madoff, submits this Application for interim compensation of legal fees in the amount of \$449.83 (of which 20% is to be deferred through the conclusion of the liquidation period) and the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$33.50 for the period from December 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017 (the “Compensation Period”). In support of the Application, TSN respectfully submits as follows:

¹ This Application includes legal fees from a prior compensation period, December 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, which TSN has not previously submitted to the Court.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, upon application filed on the same date by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), entered an order calling for the liquidation of BLMIS in accordance with SIPA and appointing the Trustee as BLMIS’s trustee.

2. BLMIS’s liquidation proceeding was removed to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4), and, pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b), is being conducted as though it were a case under chapters 1, 3, and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

3. On November 13, 2012, this Court entered an order approving the Trustee’s motion to retain TSN *nunc pro tunc* as of September 11, 2012 as special counsel to the Trustee in all matters pertaining to Gibraltar law.

4. The Trustee’s motion to retain TSN established a fee arrangement pursuant to which TSN agreed to a fee reduction in the amount of 10% as well as an additional holdback of fees in the amount of 20%, which will remain in effect until the conclusion of the liquidation period.

II. SERVICES RENDERED BY TSN

5. The legal services performed by TSN on behalf of the Trustee during the time period covered by this Application are as follows:

6. TSN continued to advise the Trustee on several aspects of Gibraltar law.

7. TSN assisted in drafting, filing, and reviewing pleadings filed by the Trustee in actions involving various Gibraltar defendants.

8. TSN represented the Trustee before the courts of Gibraltar.

III. COMPENSATION REQUESTED

9. The Application demonstrates how TSN has both added value to BLMIS's estate and advanced BLMIS's liquidation proceeding.

10. TSN has been mindful of the need to avoid undue legal fees in this case and has taken all reasonable steps to provide cost-effective representation while rendering services with the highest degree of skill and professionalism. To that end, TSN has staffed this matter leanly and endeavored to eliminate duplication of efforts by giving primary responsibility of the case to one partner, Mr. Keith Azopardi.

11. During the time period of December 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017, TSN provided a total of 2 hours of legal services to the Trustee in this case. Prior to the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred in this time period was \$499.81 and the total blended rate for professional services was \$249.90/hour. After the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred is \$449.83 and the total blended rate is \$224.91/hour. TSN has agreed to a further holdback of 20% of its fees in the amount of \$89.97, resulting in the present request for compensation in the amount of \$359.86.

12. A breakdown of the total number of hours performed by each TSN timekeeper is provided on **Exhibit A** annexed hereto.

13. TSN seeks reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its representation of the Trustee during the Compensation Period of \$33.50. An itemized list of these expenses is detailed on **Exhibit B** annexed hereto.

IV. GENERAL MATTERS

14. All of the professional services for which compensation is requested herein were performed by TSN for and on behalf of the Trustee and not on behalf of any other person or entity. No agreement or understanding exists between TSN and any other person for sharing

compensation received in connection with this case, nor has any other person or entity agreed to provide TSN with compensation for the legal services described herein.

15. SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(A) provides in pertinent part that, upon appropriate application and after a hearing, “[t]he court shall grant reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for proper costs and expenses incurred . . . by a trustee, and by the attorney for such a trustee” SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C) specifically establishes SIPC’s role in connection with applications for compensation and the consideration the Court should give to SIPC’s recommendation concerning fees, providing as follows:

In any case in which such allowances are to be paid by SIPC without reasonable expectation of recoupment thereof as provided in this chapter and there is no difference between the amounts requested and the amounts recommended by SIPC, the court shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC. In determining the amount of allowances in all other cases, the court shall give due consideration to the nature, extent, and value of the services rendered, and shall place considerable reliance on the recommendation of SIPC.

SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C).

16. To the extent the general estate is insufficient to pay such allowances as an expense of administration, SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(E) requires SIPC to advance the funds necessary to pay the compensation of TSN. *See also* SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2).

17. At this time, the Trustee has determined that he has no reasonable expectation that the general estate will be sufficient to make a distribution to general creditors or pay administrative expenses. SIPC has advised the Trustee that it concurs with this determination. Accordingly, any fees and expenses allowed by this Court will be paid from advances by SIPC without any reasonable expectation by SIPC of recoupment thereof.

18. Therefore, with respect to this Application, TSN requests that, consistent with SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C), the Court “shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC.” *See McGraw v. Betz (In re Bell & Beckwith)*, 112 B.R. 876 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1990). TSN expects

that SIPC's recommendation in support of the relief sought by this Application will be filed with this Court separately.

WHEREFORE, TSN respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

- a. Granting this Application; and
- b. Allowing and awarding \$449.83, of which \$359.86 is to be paid currently and \$89.97 is to be held back through the conclusion of the liquidation period or until further order of the Court, as an interim payment for professional services rendered by TSN to the Trustee from December 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017; and
- c. Allowing payment to TSN in the amount of \$33.50 for reimbursement of expenses incurred by TSN from December 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017; and
- d. Granting TSN such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 15, 2017

TSN

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EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF INTERIM FEE APPLICATION
OF TSN FOR SERVICES RENDERED
FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2017

| | YEAR ADMITTED | HOURLY RATE | TOTAL HOURS BILLED | TOTAL COMPENSATION |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Keith Azopardi | 1990 (UK & Gib) | \$413.80 | 0.5 | \$206.90 |
| Kelly Power | 2009 (UK & Gib) | \$195.27 | 1.5 | \$292.91 |
| | | | | |
| Total: | | \$249.90 | 2 | \$499.81 |
| Total minus 10% Discount | | \$224.91 | | \$449.83 |
| Total Net of 20% Holdback: | | | | \$359.86 |

EXHIBIT B

EXPENSE SUMMARY OF TSN
FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2017

| EXPENSES | AMOUNTS |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Court Search Fees | \$33.50 |
| | |
| Grand Total: | \$33.50 |