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Financial Guaranty Insurance Company

## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

	X	
In re:	)	Case No. 12-12020 (MG)
RESIDENTIAL CAPITAL, LLC, et al.,	)	Chapter 11
Debtors.	)	Jointly Administered
	)	
	X	

FINANCIAL GUARANTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S MOTION IN LIMINE

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
INTI	RODUCTION	1
BAC	CKGROUND	3
I.	THE GIBSON OPINION	3
П.	THE GOLDSTEIN OPINION	3
ARG	GUMENT	4
I.	STANDARDS FOR EXPERT TESTIMONY	4
II.	THE GIBSON OPINION SHOULD BE EXCLUDED	5
III.	THE GOLDSTEIN OPINION SHOULD BE EXCLUDED	7
IV.	THE TESTIMONY OF CERTAIN FACT WITNESSES SHOULD BE	
	EXCLUDED	8
CON	ICLUSION	10

### TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Chang	Page
CASES	
Amorgianos v. Nat'l R.R. Passenger Corp., 303 F.3d 256 (2d Cir. 2002)	4, 5
Carroll v. United States, 2008 WL 4482230 (2d Cir. Oct. 2, 2008)	5, 7
Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993)	4, 5
Faiveley Transport USA, Inc. v. Wabtec Corp., 2013 WL 440200 (2d Cir. Feb. 6, 2013)	5, 7
In re 4Kids Entm't, Inc., 463 B.R. 610 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2011)	5
In re Fosamax Prods. Liab. Litig. (Secrest v. Merck & Co.), 807 F. Supp. 2d 168 (S.D.N.Y. 2011)	5, 7
In re Worldcom, Inc., 371 B.R. 33 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007)	4
Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137 (1999)	4
LaSalle Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. CIBC Inc., 2012 WL 466785 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2012)	6
Lee v. Kucker & Bruh, LLP, 2013 WL 680929 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 25. 2013)	9
Medisim Ltd. v. BestMed LLC, 861 F. Supp. 2d 158 (S.D.N.Y. 2012)	5, 6
Nimely v. City of New York, 414 F.3d 381 (2d Cir. 2005)	4
Sea Tow Int'l, Inc. v. Pontin, 246 F.R.D. 421 (E.D.N.Y. 2007)	9
U.S. v. Yonkers Bd. of Educ., 946 F.2d 180 (2d Cir. 1991)	

# 12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 4 of 28

### **TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

(continued)

Page	
STATUTES AND RULES	
Fed. R. Evid. 702	5
EXHIBITS	
Exhibit 1: Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, July 19, 2013	
Exhibit 2: Excerpts from the Transcript of the Deposition of Scott R. Gibson, July 24, 2013	
Exhibit 3: Expert Witness Report of Charles R. Goldstein, July 19, 2013	
Exhibit 4: Excerpts from the Transcript of the Deposition of Charles R. Goldstein, July 26, 2013	
Exhibit 5: Letter from the Monarch Investors' counsel, June 28, 2013	
Exhibit 6: Proposed Order	

Financial Guaranty Insurance Company ("FGIC"), by and through its undersigned counsel, respectfully moves for the entry of an order, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702, excluding the expert testimony of Scott R. Gibson and Charles R. Goldstein as well as the testimony of certain other witnesses.

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. FGIC submits this motion *in limine* to exclude expert testimony of Scott R. Gibson, the expert witness proffered by The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), and Charles R. Goldstein, the expert witness proffered by Monarch Alternative Capital LC, Stonehill Capital Management LLC, CQS ABS Alpha Master Fund Limited, CQS ABS Master Fund Limited, and Bayview Fund Management LLC (the "Monarch Investors" and together with Freddie Mac, the "Investor Objectors"), from the hearing on the pending *Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019 for Approval of the Settlement Agreement among the Debtors, FGIC, the FGIC Trustees and Certain Individual Investors* (Dkt. No. 3929) (the "FGIC 9019 Motion"). <sup>1</sup>
  - 2. The essence of the Gibson and Goldstein Opinions is that,

The "Gibson Opinion" consists of the Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 19, 2013 (the "Gibson Report") (attached hereto as Exhibit 1); the transcript of the deposition of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 24, 2013 (excerpts attached hereto as Exhibit 2); the Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 31, 2013 (Dkt. No. 4447); and the Amended Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 31, 2013.

The "Goldstein Opinion" consists of the Expert Witness Report of Charles R. Goldstein, dated July 19, 2013 (the "Goldstein Report") (attached hereto as Exhibit 3); the transcript of the deposition of Charles Ronald Goldstein, dated July 26, 2013 (excerpts attached hereto as Exhibit 4); and the Declaration of Charles R. Goldstein in Support of Objection of Monarch Alternative Capital LP, Stonehill Capital Management LLC, Bayview Fund Management LLC, CQS ABS Master Fund Limited to Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019 for Approval of the Settlement Agreement among the Debtors, FGIC, the FGIC Trustees and Certain Institutional Investors, dated July 31, 2013 (Dkt. No. 4435).

- 4. Accordingly, the Gibson and Goldstein Opinions should be excluded pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702.
- 5. FGIC further moves to preclude testimony from Gary T. Holtzer and Marcelo Messer, both of whom are listed as witnesses for the Investor Objectors. The Investor Objectors have identified these individuals as potential witnesses at the hearing, but have either not submitted direct testimony from them or have improperly identified them as adverse witnesses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the FGIC 9019 Motion.

### **BACKGROUND**

### I. THE GIBSON OPINION

	6.	Mr. Gibson is a Senior Vice President, Independent Pricing Service & Analytics,
at Mo	ountain	View IPS, LLC, a company that provides analytics and fair value pricing of
mortg	gage-ba	cked securities, asset-backed securities, and residential whole loans.
	7.	Mr. Gibson opines that
		. Nevertheless, Mr. Gibson assumes that,
	Gi	bson Report ¶ 17.
II. THE GOLDSTEIN OPINION		
	8.	Mr. Goldstein is a managing director of Protiviti Inc., a financial advisory and
profes	ssional	consulting firm, and the leader of its Restructuring & Litigation Services practice
area.		
	9.	Similar to Mr. Gibson, Mr. Goldstein opines, in part, that
	10.	Mr. Goldstein argues, in particular, that
		. Goldstein Report ¶ 31.

#### **ARGUMENT**

#### I. STANDARDS FOR EXPERT TESTIMONY

- 11. Federal Rule of Evidence 702 permits a court to admit expert evidence only if the "knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education" qualifies the witness as an expert in the relevant subject matter, *and then* only if "(1) the testimony is based upon sufficient facts or data, (2) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods, and (3) the witness has applied the principles and methods reliably to the facts of the case." Fed. R. Evid. 702.
- 12. Rule 702 "establishes a standard of evidentiary reliability" for expert testimony. Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc., 509 U.S. 579, 590 (1993). Under this standard, "where such testimony's factual basis, data, principles, methods, or their application are called sufficiently into question, the trial judge must determine whether the testimony has a reliable basis in the knowledge and experience of the relevant discipline." Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137, 149 (1999) (alteration and citation omitted). "[I]t is critical that an expert's analysis be reliable at every step." Amorgianos v. Nat'l R.R. Passenger Corp., 303 F.3d 256, 267 (2d Cir. 2002) (emphasis added).
- 13. To apply the expert reliability standard, the "court should undertake a rigorous examination of the facts on which the expert relies, the method by which the expert draws an opinion from those facts, and how the expert applies the facts and methods to the case at hand." *Id.* When there is not "a sufficiently rigorous analytical connection between [an expert's] methodology and the expert's conclusions," *Nimely v. City of New York*, 414 F.3d 381, 396 (2d Cir. 2005), such that an expert's data or methodology "are simply inadequate to support the

Rule 702 and related *Daubert* principles are applied regularly in bankruptcy proceedings. *See, e.g., In re Worldcom, Inc.*, 371 B.R. 33 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2007) (granting motion *in limine* to preclude expert testimony).

conclusions reached, *Daubert* and Rule 702 *mandate* the exclusion of that unreliable opinion testimony," *Amorgianos*, 303 F.3d at 266 (emphasis added).

14. The Gibson and Goldstein Opinions fail to meet these standards. As detailed below, the Gibson and Goldstein Opinions lack the "rigorous analytical connection" between methodology and conclusions that *Daubert* demands, were formed in reliance upon materials not properly disclosed, and are based on false assumptions and incomplete analysis. Accordingly, the Gibson and Goldstein Opinions will not help the Court and should be excluded to the extent of these failures.

## II. THE GIBSON OPINION SHOULD BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE IT IMPROPERLY RELIES ON A FAULTY ASSUMPTION

12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 10 of 28

which is tantamount to an abdication of the court's role as gatekeeper of expert testimony"); LaSalle Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. CIBC Inc., 2012 WL 466785, at \*10 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2012) (excluding expert testimony that "would be a mere *ipse dixit*, unsupported by an articulable analysis").

16.	The Gibson Opinion wrongly assumes that

17. This assumption, however, is faulty. The approval of the Settlement Agreement is a key milestone in the Plan Support Agreement and if the Settlement Agreement is not approved by August 19, 2013, a large number of parties may terminate the Plan Support Agreement. *See* Plan Support Agreement § 6.1(i) (Dkt. No. 3814); Plan Term Sheet at 4 (Dkt. No. 3814). If the Plan Support Agreement is terminated, the Plan will not be approved, and FGIC will not receive the projected \$206.5 million distribution. Therefore,

12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 11 of 28

		. Because Mr.	
Gibso	n's con	nparison of investor recoveries under the FGIC Rehabilitation Plan and the	
Settle	ment A	greement is based upon a false assumption, his ipse dixit opinion is not useful to	
this C	ourt and	d should be disregarded.	
III.	THE GOLDSTEIN OPINION SHOULD BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE IT IMPROPERLY RELIES ON A FAULTY ASSUMPTION		
	18.	The Goldstein Opinion should be stricken to the extent that	
		. As discussed above, a court may	
exclu	de expe	rt testimony based upon unreliable, speculative assumptions. See, e.g., Faiveley	
Trans	port US	SA, 2013 WL 440200 at *2; Carroll, 2008 WL 4482230 at *2; In re Fosamax, 807	
F. Suj	op. 2d a	t 183.	
	,		
	19.		

12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 12 of 28

### IV. THE TESTIMONY OF CERTAIN FACT WITNESSES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED

- 22. The Investor Objectors should not be allowed to call to testify at a hearing any individuals that have not been deposed or submitted direct testimony, pursuant to the Court's Scheduling Order, dated July 8, 2013 (Dkt. No. 4168), which required written direct testimony from any such witness.
- 23. Freddie Mac has identified Marcelo Messer of Rothschild, Inc., the financial advisor to an Ad Hoc Committee in the FGIC Rehabilitation process, of which Freddie Mac was a member, as a potential witness at the hearing. But Freddie Mac failed to provide any written

testimony for this witness. Accordingly, Mr. Messer should not be allowed to testify at the hearing on this matter.

Monarch Investors identified Gary T. Holtzer of Weil, Gotshal & Manges as an 24. adverse witnesses.<sup>4</sup> The rationale for seeking to call Mr. Holtzer, counsel to the Rehabilitator, is unclear, and appears to be completely improper. Indeed, when the FGIC Trustees sought to depose counsel to the Monarch Investors with respect to a confidentiality agreement he signed but his clients did not, Monarch Investors strongly objected, based upon the longstanding policy of disfavoring the depositions of adverse counsel. See June 28, 2013 letter from the Monarch Investors' counsel (attached hereto as Exhibit 5), citing Lee v. Kucker & Bruh, LLP, 2013 WL 680929 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 25, 2013) (denying deposition of counsel where counsel lacks first-hand knowledge and deposing party's theory does not support the need for deposition); see also U.S. v. Yonkers Bd. of Educ., 946 F.2d 180, 185 (2d Cir. 1991) ("depositions of opposing counsel are disfavored" in the Second Circuit); Sea Tow Int'l, Inc. v. Pontin, 246 F.R.D. 421, 426 (E.D.N.Y. 2007) (denying defendants' request to depose opposing counsel where the information can be obtained from the defendants themselves or plaintiffs' representatives). Mr. Holtzer has been the Rehabilitator's lead counsel, and, on August 6, 2013, argued the motion by the Rehabilitator to the State Court for approval of this very settlement. No valid reason has been advanced for his testimony, either formally or informally. Mr. Holtzer should not be required to testify at the hearing on this matter.

The Monarch Investors have also identified Michael W. Miller of Lazard as an adverse witness. The Court ruled that Lazard, financial advisor for the Rehabilitator, should not be subject to discovery in this proceeding. *In re Residential Capital, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 12-12020, Hearing Tr. 31:13-32:7 (July 25, 2013).

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons discussed above, FGIC respectfully requests that the Court (a) enter an order substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 6, granting the relief requested herein; and (b) grant such other and further relief to the FGIC and the proponents of the Settlement Agreement as the Court may deem proper.

Dated: August 7, 2013

/s/ Richard L. Wynne

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12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 16 of 28

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12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 18 of 28

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## WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP

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June 28, 2013

VIA EMAIL

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Re: In re Residential Capital, LLC, et al., Case No. 12-12020 (MG)

#### Dear Counsel:

We write in response to the Trustees' Subpoena addressed to Willkie Farr & Gallagher ("Willkie Farr"), as well as the Trustees' Subpoena addressed to Marc Abrams, both dated June 26, 2013 (together, the "Subpoenas"). For the reasons set forth below, the Subpoenas are patently improper and constitute harassment.

With respect to the Subpoena seeking Mr. Abrams's deposition, as you must or should know, depositions of counsel are disfavored and rarely granted. See, e.g., Lee v. Kucker & Bruh, LLP, 2013 WL 680929 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 25, 2013). We know of no reason why such a deposition is warranted here. If you contend otherwise, we demand that you disclose the basis for your contention in writing forthwith.

To the extent the Subpoenas seek the production of documents, they are superfluous. Under the established law of this Circuit, documents within a client's "control" within the meaning of Rule 34 must be produced in response to a document demand or subpoena directed to the client, including documents within the possession of the client's attorneys. See, e.g., MTB Bank v. Federal Armored Exp., Inc., 1998 WL 43125 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 2, 1998). In accordance with that well-settled rule, we

Page 2

have searched for and are producing non-privileged documents from Willkie Farr files that are responsive to the document demands which the Trustees served on our clients. Tellingly, when we inquired as to whether you, as counsel to the Trustees, were likewise meeting your production responsibilities in this regard, you acknowledged that you were not. Unless those documents are produced by 5:00 p.m. today in accordance with the Court-imposed deadline, we intend to seek appropriate relief from Judge Glenn.

Apart from those fundamental defects in the Subpoenas, they are objectionable on other bases as well, including but not limited to the following grounds: that the Subpoenas seek information protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the common interest privilege, or any other applicable claim of privilege or protection from or restriction against disclosure under federal, state, or any other applicable or relevant law, regulation, case authority, or principle; that the Subpoenas seek documents not in either Willkie's or Mr. Abrams's possession, custody, or control; that the Subpoenas seek discovery of documents that are neither relevant to the issues in this action nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence; that the Subpoenas are overbroad and unduly burdensome as to time and subject matter; and that the Subpoenas are vague and ambiguous.

Consistent with the foregoing objections, neither Willkie Farr nor Mr. Abrams will be responding to the Subpoenas.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mary Eaton

cc: All Counsel

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY CO SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YOR	_	
	x )	
In re:	)	Case No. 12-12020 (MG)
RESIDENTIAL CAPITAL, LLC, et al.,	)	Chapter 11
Debtors.	)	Jointly Administered
	)	
	) X	

## ORDER ON FINANCIAL GUARANTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S MOTION IN LIMINE

This matter having come before the Court on the Motion *in Limine*, filed by Financial Guarantee Insurance Company ("<u>FGIC</u>"); the Court having reviewed the Motion; and the Court having found that: the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein;

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED.
- 2. Consistent with the Motion, the expert testimony of Charles R. Goldstein, including the Expert Witness Report of Charles R. Goldstein, dated July 19, 2013; the transcript of the deposition of Charles Ronald Goldstein, dated July 26, 2013; and the Declaration of Charles R. Goldstein in Support of Objection of Monarch Alternative Capital LP, Stonehill Capital Management LLC, Bayview Fund Management LLC, CQS ABS Master Fund Limited to Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019 for Approval of the Settlement Agreement among the Debtors, FGIC, the FGIC Trustees and Certain Institutional Investors, dated July 31,

12-12020-mg Doc 4550 Filed 08/07/13 Entered 08/07/13 17:01:33 Main Document Pg 28 of 28

2013; is hereby deemed inadmissible in part and shall be excluded from the record, pursuant to

Federal Rule of Evidence 702.

3. Consistent with the Motion, the expert testimony of Scott R. Gibson,

including the Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 19, 2013; the transcript of the deposition

of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 24, 2013; the Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 31, 2013;

and the Amended Declaration of Scott R. Gibson, dated July 31, 2013; is hereby deemed

inadmissible in part and shall be excluded from the record, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence

702.

4. Marcelo Messer of Rothschild, Inc. and Gary T. Holtzer of Weil, Gotshal

& Manges will not testify at the hearing on Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019

for Approval of the Settlement Agreement among the Debtors, FGIC, the FGIC Trustees and

Certain Individual Investors (Dkt. No. 3929).

5. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising

from or related to the implementation of this Order.

\_\_\_\_\_, 2013

Dated: New York, New York

HON. MARTIN GLENN, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

2