

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE:	§	CASE NO. 20-10846
	§	
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF	§	
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS,	§	CHAPTER 11
	§	
DEBTOR.	§	
	§	COMPLEX CASE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

For the reasons stated on the record on August 15, 2024,

The Court has determined that much more information is required to assist and guide the Court in its decision-making process to resolve the pending contested matters, namely:

- (i) *Eleventh Interim Application of Jones Walker LLP for Allowance of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses, as Counsel to the Debtor and the Debtor in Possession, for the Period from November 1, 2023 Through February 29, 2024, [ECF Doc. 2927], and the objection thereto, [ECF Doc. 2943];*
- (ii) *U.S. Fire Insurance Company’s and International Insurance Company’s (I) Statement in Connection with the Court’s Order on the Continuance of the Hearing on Jones Walker, LLP’s Eleventh Interim Application for Allowances of Compensation and Reimbursement, (II) Response to Jones Walker’s Fee Application (Dkt. 2927) and Gisleson’s Objection (Dkt. 2943), and (III) Motion for (A) Implementation of Fee Holdback for Estate Professional Interim Fee Applications and (B) Granting Related Relief, [ECF Doc. 3168], and the responses to that motion, [ECF Docs. 3234, 3236, 3244, 3245, 3253 & 3258];*
- (iii) *Motion To Consider Whether the Materials in Question Should Be Sealed Pursuant to Local Rule 5.6(D)(2), [ECF Doc. 3248], and the response thereto, [ECF Doc. 3260]; and*
- (iv) *Certain Abuse Survivors’ Motion To Appoint a Chapter 11 Trustee and Fee Examiner Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1104, [ECF Doc. 3246].*

The policy goal of Federal Rule of Evidence 706 is to promote accurate fact-finding. To resolve the pending matters before this Court, the Court requires an independent assessment of where the case stands, with specific information regarding:

- the existence and status of a plan structure(s) and available alternatives,
- the Debtor's management structure and functioning, as well as the competency of management of the debtor to represent the interests of the estate,
- a review of administrative costs in the context of the contours of this case, and
- considering the Debtor's tort liability, the financial wherewithal of the Debtor to reorganize and move forward as a going concern, including the availability of insurance proceeds and contributions from non-debtor affiliates, and implementation of non-monetary remedies to curb and attempt to prevent future tort liability.

The Court preliminary believes that the appointment of a highly competent, qualified, neutral, and unbiased expert witness with turnaround and restructuring experience who is willing to serve may be highly beneficial to the Court and all parties in interest in this case at trial(s) on the pending matters before the Court. Any such expert witness will provide a public report stating the facts relied upon, assumptions made, and conclusions and suggestions/recommendations made. Any such expert witness will give expert testimony if called upon to do so.

The Court requests input from all parties in interest and the United States Trustee. Any party in interest and the United States Trustee may nominate a qualified potential expert. If it is determined that an expert witness should be appointed, the Court shall make the appointment and order the terms and conditions of the payment of the expert witness's fees and reimbursement of necessary expenses in a subsequent Order pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 706(c).

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the Debtor, the two official committees of unsecured creditors, U.S. Fire Insurance Company and International Insurance Company, counsel for Certain Abuse Claimants who have filed the pending motion to appoint a trustee and/or fee-examiner, Argent Institutional Trust Company (as indenture trustee), and the United States Trustee **SHALL** appear

and other parties in interest **MAY** appear, at a show-cause hearing at which the Court will determine whether an expert witness should be appointed by the Court. All parties in interest are invited to give their views to the Court and/or present legal argument if they choose to do so at the hearing or may file a pleading into the record.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, because time is of the essence, the Show-Cause hearing will take place at the United States Bankruptcy Court, 500 Poydras Street, Floor 7, New Orleans, LA 70130, on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** Parties in interest may participate in the hearing (i) in-person; (ii) by telephone only (Dial-in 504.517.1385, Access Code 129611); or (iii) by telephone using the dial-in number and video using <https://gotomeet.me/JudgeGrabill>.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any written responses to the Order To Show Cause may be filed into the record on or before **Monday, August 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for the Debtor will serve this Order via first-class U.S. Mail as soon as practicable on all parties not receiving electronic notice pursuant to this Court's CM/ECF system pursuant to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, this Court's Local Rules, and any Order limiting notice in this case, and will file a certificate of service indicating same.

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 15, 2024.



MEREDITH S. GRABILL
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE