

1 Leonard M. Shulman – Bar No. 126349
Melissa Davis Lowe – Bar No. 245521
2 **SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP**
8105 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 600
3 Irvine, California 92618
Telephone: (949) 340-3400
4 Facsimile: (949) 340-3000
Email: lshulman@shbllp.com; mlowe@shbllp.com
5

6 Proposed Attorneys for John M. Wolfe,
Chapter 7 Trustee
7

8 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA ANA DIVISION**

11 In re

12 **MURAD SHUQOM,**

13 Debtor.

Case No. 8:14-bk-14461-ES

Chapter 7

**NOTICE OF CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE'S
APPLICATION TO EMPLOY SHULMAN
HODGES & BASTIAN LLP AS GENERAL
COUNSEL**

[No Hearing Set Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy
Rule 2014-1(b)]

14
15
16
17
18 **TO THE HONORABLE ERITHE A. SMITH, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY**
19 **JUDGE, THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE AND ALL INTERESTED**
20 **PARTIES:**

21 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that John M. Wolfe (“Trustee”), the duly appointed, qualified
22 and acting Chapter 7 trustee for the bankruptcy estate (“Estate”) of Murad Shuqom (“Debtor”),
23 applies to this Court for an order authorizing the employment of Shulman Hodges & Bastian
24 LLP (the “Firm”), effective as of August 11, 2014, as the Trustee’s general counsel
25 (“Application”). A copy of the complete Application is on file with the Court and may be
26 obtained by submitting a written request to the Trustee’s proposed counsel as follows: Shulman
27 Hodges & Bastian LLP, Attn: Melissa Davis Lowe, Esq., 8105 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 600,
28

1 Irvine, California 92618; telephone number (949) 340-3400; facsimile number (949) 340-3000;
2 email: mlowe@shbllp.com. The Application will be promptly provided upon written request.

3 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that after conducting an initial investigation into
4 this case, the Trustee has determined that there is a need to retain counsel in this Chapter 7 case
5 to advise the Trustee on various matters affecting the recovery and liquidation of potential assets.
6 For example, the Debtor's Statement of Financial Affairs ("SOFA") reflect that the Debtor held
7 an interest six corporations, one of which is RBS Royalty Motorsports, Inc. ("RBS"), who, on
8 July 18, 2014, also filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. The
9 Debtor is the President of RBS. The SOFA¹ reflects that during the 90 days prior to the Petition
10 Date, the Debtor made payments to numerous creditors totaling in excess of \$1 million dollars.
11 In addition, the SOFA reflects that during the year prior to the Petition Date, the Debtor closed
12 six bank accounts; three of which were closed within 90 days of the Petition Date.

13 Based on the foregoing, the Trustee needs the assistance of counsel to provide services
14 which will include, but will not be limited to, 1) investigate the Debtor's ownership interest in
15 RBS and the other corporations to determine the true value and whether there is anything
16 available for liquidation for the benefit of the Estate and creditors; 2) investigate the financial
17 affairs of the Debtor; 3) investigate the Debtor's interest in any assets of his non-debtor spouse, if
18 any; 4) investigate and analyze the transfers made to creditors within the 90 days prior to the
19 Petition Date to determine if any can be avoided pursuant to the Trustee's avoiding powers under
20 the Bankruptcy Code; and 5) investigate potential discharge issues.

21 In order to assist the Trustee in the administration of the Chapter 7 case, the Trustee seeks
22 to employ the Firm as his general counsel at the Firm's hourly billing rates, which may be
23 subject to adjustment from time to time, plus costs. The Trustee believes that employment of the
24 Firm will be in the best interest of the Estate.

25 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Trustee seeks to employ the Firm as his
26 general counsel to render, among other services, the following types of professional services:

27 _____
28 ¹ It is interesting to note that other than Schedule B, the Debtor's Bankruptcy Schedules and the SOFA
appear to be the same as those filed by RBS in its bankruptcy proceeding.

- 1 • Consult with the Trustee concerning the administration of the bankruptcy case.
- 2 • Investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities and financial condition of the
- 3 Debtor, and any other matters relevant to the case or the recovery of assets for the benefit of
- 4 creditors.
- 5 • Assist the Trustee in the liquidation of assets of the Estate including any assets
- 6 that may not have been scheduled by the Debtor, and the preparation of any documents and
- 7 pleadings necessary to sell and liquidate the assets, including negotiations with secured creditors
- 8 if needed, and bringing a motion for turnover if the Debtor fails to cooperate with the Trustee's
- 9 administration of assets of the Estate.
- 10 • Conduct examinations of witnesses, claimants, or adverse parties and to prepare
- 11 and assist in the preparation of reports, accounts and pleadings related to the Debtor's Chapter 7
- 12 case if necessary.
- 13 • Conduct investigations to determine if the Debtor has committed acts warranting
- 14 the commencement of an action to request the denial of the Debtor's discharge or revocation of
- 15 the Debtor's discharge.
- 16 • Investigate any and all claims and causes of action which constitute property of
- 17 the Estate, including but not limited to, the Estate's claims arising under any of Sections 542,
- 18 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code, any actions based on
- 19 applicable nonbankruptcy law that may be incorporated or brought under the foregoing sections
- 20 of the Bankruptcy Code, or any other similar action or proceeding filed to recover property for or
- 21 on behalf of the Estate or to avoid a lien or transfer ("Litigation Claims").
- 22 • Prosecute any Litigation Claims lawsuit to a judgment in an appropriate trial
- 23 court.
- 24 • Analysis of possible settlement of Litigation Claims and conduct possible
- 25 settlement negotiations.
- 26 • If a judgment is obtained in favor of the Estate in any Litigation Claims lawsuit,
- 27 opposing any motion for new trial by any opposing party.

28 ///

1 • Review of extraordinary claims filed against the Estate and, if necessary, bring
2 action to object to certain claims if there is sufficient cause. The Firm will review claims filed
3 against the Estate and, if necessary, bring actions to object to certain “legally sophisticated”
4 claims if there is sufficient cause; all other “routine” claims will be analyzed by the Trustee’s
5 administrator.

6 • Perform any and all other legal services incident and necessary herein to preserve
7 assets for the benefit of the Estate and its creditors.

8 The Trustee has not employed any other professional in this case. The services to be
9 rendered by the Firm will not duplicate the services rendered by any other professionals that may
10 be employed in the case.

11 The Firm’s current hourly billing rates are as follows:

<u>Professionals</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Paraprofessional</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Leonard M. Shulman	\$550.00	Lorre E. Clapp	\$225.00
Ronald S. Hodges	\$550.00	Erlanna L. Lohayza	\$225.00
James C. Bastian, Jr.	\$550.00	Pamela G. Little	\$225.00
J. Ronald Ignatuk	\$525.00	Patricia A. Britton	\$195.00
Gary A. Pemberton	\$525.00	Melanie G. Rodgers	\$195.00
Michael J. Petersen	\$525.00	Steve P. Swartzell	\$185.00
Mark Bradshaw	\$525.00	Tammy Walsworth	\$185.00
John Mark Jennings	\$525.00	Anne Marie Vernon	\$185.00
Lynda T. Bui	\$450.00	Arland Udo	\$165.00
Robert C. Huttenhoff	\$450.00	Tonia Mann-Wooten	\$150.00
Franklin J. Contreras, Jr.	\$450.00		
Samuel J. Romero	\$410.00	<u>Of Counsel</u>	
Paul S. Ocampo	\$410.00		
Melissa Davis Lowe	\$385.00	A. Lavar Taylor	\$525.00
Kiara W. Gebhart	\$375.00	Donald R. Kurtz	\$525.00
Rika M. Kido	\$325.00	Gregory J. Anderson	\$450.00
Ryan O’Dea	\$325.00		
Heather B. Dillion	\$250.00		
Elyza P. Eshaghi	\$250.00		

23 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Trustee believes that the Firm is well
24 qualified to render the foregoing services. The Firm is comprised of attorneys who are
25 experienced in insolvency, bankruptcy and corporate reorganization as well as the legal matters
26 of the type that may need to be pursued herein. The Firm has extensive experience in
27 debtor/creditor matters, including the representation of trustees that appear in bankruptcy cases.
28 In summary, the members of the Firm have practiced in the Bankruptcy Court for many years,

1 and the Firm has handled virtually every type of matter that can arise in the context of a
2 bankruptcy case and is well able to perform the legal services required in this case.

3 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Firm has received no retainer for the
4 services to be performed herein. There is no oral or written employment agreement, except an
5 agreement that the Firm will accept as compensation such sum as the Court may deem
6 reasonable, and the only source of payment will be from property of the Estate as authorized by
7 the Court. The Firm understands the provisions of Bankruptcy Code Sections 327, 330 and 331
8 which require, among other things, Court approval of the Trustee's employment of the Firm as
9 general counsel and of all legal fees and reimbursement of expenses that the Firm will receive
10 from the Debtor's Estate.

11 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Firm has agreed to be employed and
12 compensated subject to the provisions of Bankruptcy Code Section 330. In compliance with
13 Sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Firm intends to file applications for allowance
14 of fees and reimbursement of costs as and when appropriate. The Firm has not shared or agreed
15 to share any compensation to be received by it in this case with any other person, except as
16 among partners of the Firm.

17 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Firm is disinterested. Other than
18 representing the Trustee in other non-related bankruptcy cases, to the best of the Firm's
19 knowledge, neither the Firm, nor any of the attorneys comprising or employed by it, have a
20 business, professional, or other connection with the Debtor, his creditors, any other party in
21 interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States trustee, or any person
22 employed in the Office of the United States Trustee. To the best of the Firm's knowledge, none
23 of the attorneys comprising or employed by the Firm are related to any judge of the United States
24 Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, to the United States Trustee, or any
25 employee of the United States Trustee, except that Lynda T. Bui, who is a non-equity partner of
26 the Firm, is a member of the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee panel for the Central District of
27 California appointed and supervised by the Office of the United States Trustee.

28 ///

1 The Firm is a “disinterested person” within the meaning of Bankruptcy Code Section
2 101(14) and represents no interest which would be adverse to the Debtor, the Estate, or any party
3 in interest in this proceeding. As of the Petition Date, the Firm was not a creditor of the Estate.

4 **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that pursuant to **Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-**
5 **1(b)**, a hearing on the Application is not required unless a timely response and request for
6 hearing is filed as set forth in **Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(b)(5)**. Any opposition or other
7 responsive paper and request for hearing on the Application must be filed with the Clerk of the
8 above-entitled Court and a copy served on Shulman Hodges & Bastian LLP to the attention of
9 Melissa Davis Lowe at the address indicated above and the Office of the United States Trustee,
10 411 West Fourth Street, Suite 9041, Santa Ana, California 92701, within **fourteen (14) days**
11 after the date of service of this Notice, plus an additional three (3) days unless the Notice was
12 served by personal delivery or posting as described in F.R.Civ.P. 5(b)(2)(A)-(B), in the form
13 required by **Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-1(f)(1)**.

14 Failure to file a timely response may be deemed as consent to the relief requested in the
15 Application. **SEE, LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 9013-1(h)**.

16 **SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP**

17 Dated: September 16, 2014 By: */s/ Melissa Davis Lowe*
18 Leonard M. Shulman
19 Melissa Davis Lowe
20 Proposed Attorneys for John M. Wolfe, Chapter 7
Trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Murad Shuqom

21 **Date of service of Notice: September 16, 2014**

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:
8105 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 600, Irvine, CA 92618

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (*specify*): **NOTICE OF CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE'S APPLICATION TO EMPLOY SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP AS GENERAL COUNSEL** will be served or was served **(a)** on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and **(b)** in the manner stated below:

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (*date*) **September 16, 2014**, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

- **Interested Party:** Frank Cadigan frank.cadigan@usdoj.gov
- **Attorney for Debtor:** Melissa A Clark bk_hearings@higbeeassociates.com, mclark@firstsourcelaw.com
- **Attorney for H&H64, Inc.:** Franklin S Davidson seth@sethdavidsonlaw.com
- **Interested Party:** Michael Jones mike@mjthelawyer.com, michaeljonesmyecfmail@gmail.com
- **Interested Party:** Neal Salisian neal.salisian@salisianlee.com, ECF@salisianlee.com
- **Interested Party:** United States Trustee (SA) ustpregion16.sa.ecf@usdoj.gov
- **Chapter 7 Trustee:** John M Wolfe (TR) john.wolfe@txitrustee.com, ecf.alert+jmwolfe@titlexi.com
- **Interested Party:** Helen Wong helenwong.law@gmail.com

Service information continued on attached page

2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:

On (*date*) **September 16, 2014**, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Service information continued on attached page

3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (*state method for each person or entity served*): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (*date*) _____, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

September 16, 2014 Erlanna Lohayza
Date Printed Name

/s/ Erlanna Lohayza
Signature

U.S. MAIL SERVICE LIST

DEBTOR

MURAD SHUQOM
26895 ALISO CREEK RD., SUITE
B119
ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656

NEF - ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR

MELISSA A CLARK
HIGBEE & ASSOCIATES
1504 BROOKHOLLOW DR STE 113
SANTA ANA, CA 92705-5418

NEF - INTERESTED PARTY

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE (SA)
411 W FOURTH ST., SUITE 9041
SANTA ANA, CA 92701-8000

NEF - CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

JOHN M WOLFE (TR)
5450 TRABUCO ROAD
IRVINE, CA 92620-5704

CREDITOR LISTING

A-Z AUTO TRANSPORT, LLC.
700 LIDO PARK, DRIVE # 25
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663-4414

CREDITOR LISTING

ART TUNING GMBH
AM KEUPER 3, D-90475
NRNBERG, GERMANY

CREDITOR LISTING

AEGIS SECURITY INSURANCE
COMPANY
2407 PARK DRIVE
PO BOX 3153
HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3153

CREDITOR LISTING

AMERICAN EXPRESS
MAIL CODE: 01-34-01
3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
NEW YORK, NY 10285-0002

SCHEDULE F ADDRESS

AMERICAN EXPRESS
4315 SOUTH 2700 WEST
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84184

CREDITOR LISTING

APPLIED BANK
ATTN: BOX 5165
400 WHITE CLAY CENTER
DRIVE
NEWARK, DE 19711-5468

CREDITOR LISTING

ATLANTIC AUTO PERFORMANCE,
LTD.
71 STRADA DR. UNIT 7
WOODBIDGE ON L4L 5V8

CREDITOR LISTING

AUTO GOODS
16059 KAPLAN AVE.
CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91744-
3100

CREDITOR LISTING

BLAIRS TOWING
26100 DIMENSION DR
LAKE FOREST, CA 92630-7808

CREDITOR LISTING

CNA SURETY
333 S WABASH AVE 41 S
CHICAGO IL 60604-4107

CREDITOR LISTING

CAPITAL ONE
ATTN: GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE
PO BOX 30285
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0285

CREDITOR LISTING

COMERICA CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS
COMERICA BANK TOWER
1717 MAIN STREET
DALLAS, TX 75201-4612

CREDITOR LISTING

COX COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
29947 AVENIDA DE LAS
BANDERAS
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA
92688-2167

CREDITOR LISTING

CYPRESS PREMIUM
PO BOX 3529
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92690-1529

CREDITOR LISTING

DBN CARRIERS, INC.
15248 TEXACO AVE
PARAMOUNT, CA 90723

SCHEDULE F ADDRESS

DAN MARTINS AUTO DEPOT
66 TORERE PLACE
YONKERS, NY 10703-1703

CREDITOR LISTING

DAN MARTINS AUTO DEPOT, LTD.
16 GARNER PLACE
YONKERS, NY 10703-1703

SCHEDULE E ADDRESS

DEPT OF TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
PO BOX 9019
HOLTSVILLE, NY 11742-9019

CREDITOR LISTING

EUROWEST GROUP, INC.
PO BOX 565
WINTER PARK, FL 32790-0565

CREDITOR LISTING

EXPORTATION D' AUTO
3705 ROUTE 132
VILLE SAINTE-CATHERINE
(QUEBEC) J5C 1V9

CREDITOR LISTING

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942840
SACRAMENTO CA 94240-0040

SCHEDULE E ADDRESS

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942867
SACRAMENTO CA 94267-0001

CREDITOR LISTING

GRAND UNION INTERNATIONAL
CORP.
2200 AMAPOLA CT
TORRANCE CA 90501-1481

CREDITOR LISTING

H&H64 INC
520 LUNALILO HOME RD, #7218
HONOLULU, HI 96825-1755

CREDITOR LISTING

HSBC BANK USA, N.A.
PO BOX 2013
BUFFALO, NY 14240-2013

CREDITOR LISTING

HULL AND COMPANY INC
18401 VON KARMAN AVE, SUITE
150
IRVINE CA 92612-8590

CREDITOR LISTING

IMPERIAL AUTO TRADERS
3455 E LA PALMA AVE., STE.
205
ANAHEIM, CA 92806-2026

**CREDITOR LISTING - PREFERRED
ADDRESS**

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
CENTRALIZED INSOLVENCY
OPERATIONS
PO BOX 7346
PHILADELPHIA PA 19101-7346

CREDITOR LISTING

IROC, MOTORING
ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
2-350 FUKUIKE TEMPAKU-KU
NAGOYA 468-0049
JAPAN

SCHEDULE F ADDRESS

IROC CO LTD
2-517 SHIMADA
TENPAUKU, KU-NAGOYA
JAPAN

CREDITOR LISTING

JJ BROTHERS, LLC
307 ROSEMOND BLVD.
SAN GABRIEL, CA 91775-2827

CREDITOR LISTING

JOHNSON GLOBAL, INC.
PO BOX 565
WINTER PARK, FL 32790-0565

CREDITOR LISTING

LA AUTO DEALS 4 LESS
14545 FRIAR STREET SUITE 102
VAN NUYS, CA 91411-2357

CREDITOR LISTING

MAC INC.
15591 CONTAINER LANE
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92649-
1530

CREDITOR LISTING

MARSHAL GROUP LLC.
1413 WASHINGTON RD
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2371

CREDITOR LISTING

OPTION MOTORS
3695 POMONA BLVD.
POMONA, CA 91768-3277

CREDITOR LISTING

OXFORD SPECTRUM, LLC.
27111 ALISO CREEK RD., SUITE
196
ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656-3367

CREDITOR LISTING

PANAMERICAN MOTORS, LTD.
AVENIDA BALBOA, EDIFICIO
DESTINY, OFICIN
PANAMA, REPUBLICA DE PANAM

CREDITOR LISTING

PAYCHECK
PO BOX 4482
CAROL STREAM, IL 60197-4482

CREDITOR LISTING

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
2244 WALNUT GROVE AVE
ROSEMEAD, CA 91770-3714

CREDITOR LISTING

STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCE,
INC.
1501 BROADWAY, SUITE 1515
NEW YORK, NY 10036-5505

CREDITOR LISTING

SUN MIU INC.
250 W VALLEY BOULEVARD #
C1
SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776-3711

SCHEDULE F ADDRESS

SUN MIU INC.
708 VALLEY VIEW ROAD
SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91031

CREDITOR LISTING

TANDEM CONCEPTS/M.R.
INTERNET
1950 E. 220TH , #302
LONG BEACH , CA 90810-1650

CREDITOR LISTING

U.S.A AUTO EXPORT, INC.
10380 SW VILLAGE CENTER
DRIVE, SUITE 111
PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34987-
1931

CREDITOR LISTING

US AUTO EXPORT TRADERS, LLC.
1600 LOWER RD.
LINDEN, NJ 07036-6516

CREDITOR LISTING

VSI WORLDWIDE
300-1533 BARRINGTON STREET
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1Z4

CREDITOR LISTING

VILLA FORD
2550 N TUSTIN AVE.
ORANGE, CA 92865-3099

CREDITOR LISTING

WALLINTERNATIONAL, INC.
3855 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY #3
TORRANCE, CA 90505-5947

SCHEDULE F ADDRESS

WEST COAST COURIER
27075 CABOT ROAD, SUITE 111
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653

CREDITOR LISTING

WEST COAST COURIER
200 TECHNOLOGY DR.
IRVINE, CA 92618-2404

CREDITOR LISTING

WING AUTO
67-2 YAKETA.HARUHI
KIYOSUSHI.AICHI 452-0962
JAPAN

CREDITOR LISTING

YAMAMOTO SEKIYU
3-3-1 SHIMOSAKAMOTO OTSU-
CITY
SHIGA PREFECTURE 520-0105
JAPAN