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October 19, 2007

Honorable G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.
Judge, U.S. District Court
Eastern District of Louisiana
U.S. Courthouse, Chambers C206
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Via Fax (504) 589-2444

Dear Judge Porteous:

The Special Committee has received and considered your most recent request for a continuance and has decided to proceed with the hearing on October 29, 2007.

You received the Complaint on May 24, 2007, and were notified that a Special Committee had been appointed. On June 25, 2007, you were notified that the Special Committee would conduct a hearing beginning on August 27, 2007. On July 5, 2007, you informed the Special Committee that Kyle Schonekas was withdrawing as your counsel and asked for a continuance of the hearing. On July 10, 2007, the Special Committee granted this request and rescheduled the hearing from August 27-29, 2007, to September 26-28, 2007. On September 11, 2007, the hearing was rescheduled to October 29, 2007, so that you could receive an independent medical evaluation based upon your claim of disability.

After Mike Ellis notified the Special Committee on August 2, 2007, that he was your new counsel, we provided him documents and witness statements and offered several times to allow him to review all of the documents in Houston. (See letters of September 14 and October 8, 2007.) Mr. Ellis advised us that he would not present any witnesses at the hearing, and that the only documents he would present were your medical records. (See Ellis letter of August 16, 2007.)

You should be familiar with the allegations in the Complaint since you and your attorney dealt with them during the criminal investigation over a several-year period. You have had the detailed Complaint for five months and are certainly familiar with your own bankruptcy proceeding, financial disclosure forms, federal income tax returns, and what your friends have said about giving you money, as detailed in the Complaint and in the witness statements we have previously provided.

EXHIBIT 7A

SC00941

Honorable G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.

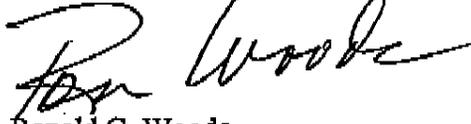
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After our meeting with Mr. Ellis on October 9, 2007, it was our understanding that you had decided to resign subject to a brief delay until November 30, 2007, and a request that the Special Committee not refer you to the Louisiana State Bar. The Special Committee agreed to recommend those terms to the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council, and we drafted a Memorandum of Understanding incorporating the terms agreed to by Mr. Ellis. We were then informed that Mr. Ellis has withdrawn as your counsel.

The Special Committee believes that you have had ample opportunity to prepare for the October 29, 2007, hearing. Accordingly, your request for yet another continuance is denied.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Woods", written in black ink.

Ronald G. Woods

SC00942