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IN RE			)		
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EAGLE	BROADBAND,	INC.,	)	CASE NO.	07-80605-G3-11
			)		
Debtors,			)	(JOINTLY	ADMINISTERED)
			)		-

### MEMORANDUM OPINION

The court has held a hearing on the "Debtor's Application for Authority to Employ Bettison, Doyle, Apffel & Guarino, P.C. as § 327(e) Special Corporate Counsel for Debtor-In-Possession" (Docket No. 14) and the "Debtors' Amended Application for Authority to Employ Bettison, Doyle, Apffel & Guarino, P.C. as § 327(e) Special Corporate Counsel for Debtor-In-Possession" (Docket No. 83). The following are the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the court. A separate Judgment will be entered denying the motions. To the extent any of the Findings of Fact are considered Conclusions of Law, they are adopted as such. To the extent any of the Conclusions of Law are considered Findings of Fact, they are adopted as such.

## Findings of Fact

Eagle Broadband, Inc. and eleven of its' subsidiaries<sup>1</sup> (collectively, "Debtors") filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on November 14, 2007. The cases were jointly administered, and designated as a Complex Chapter 11 case, by orders entered November 16, 2007. Debtors remain as debtors in possession, pursuant to Section 1107 of the Bankruptcy Code.

In the instant applications, Debtors seek authority to employ the law firm of Bettison, Doyle, Apffel & Guarino, P.C. ("BDAG") as special counsel, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 327(e). The services Debtors anticipate BDAG to render include:

a) Negotiating and termination of contracts;

b) Addressing shareholder inquiries and stock
transfer agent relations;

c) Obtaining debtor-in possession financing;

d) Obtaining a new office lease arrangement;

e) Obtaining D&O insurance financing, which has already been accomplished;

f) Negotiating the sales of certain assets and businesses of Debtors;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The subsidiaries are Atlantic Pacific Communications, Inc.; Clearworks Communications, Inc.; Clearworks Home Systems, Inc.; Clearworks.Net, Inc.; Eagle Broadband Services, Inc.; EToolz, Inc.; Link-Two Communications, Inc.; Northpointe Telecom Services, LLC; UCGI Corporation; and United Computing Group, Inc.

g) Fulfilling SEC filing requirements, although the Debtors do not anticipate further SEC filings at this time;

h) Gathering information for schedules and statement of financial affairs related to the bankruptcy proceeding; and

i) Advising on general business issues when such issues are not more easily addressed by bankruptcy counsel.

(Docket No. 83).

Jeff Adams, an attorney with BDAG, testified that he was in-house counsel for Debtors from September, 2005 through May, 2007. He testified that, when he became employed as inhouse counsel, he determined that the corporate officers listed for several of the Debtors were out of date. He testified that Debtors appointed Dave Micek as president, and Adams as secretary, with respect to several of the Debtors.

Adams testified that, before he was employed by Debtors, Celia Figueroa, who had previously been counsel for one or more of the Debtors prior to their merger with others of the Debtors in 2001, became Debtors' in-house counsel. He testified that Figueroa resigned in 2003, and Debtors' SEC filings were prepared by outside counsel until he became in-house counsel in 2005.

Adams testified that he resigned as in-house counsel for Debtors in May, 2007, and went to work at BDAG. He testified that he never formally resigned as secretary of the subsidiaries

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for which he had been secretary. He testified that Micek resigned from Debtors in the summer of 2007.

Adams testified that he believes the subsidiaries of which he was secretary are presently without any officers. He testified that, although Debtors' securities are publicly traded, he anticipates that Debtors will not maintain their filings with the SEC. He testified that he desired the dissolution of several of the subsidiaries, but was unable to dissolve them, due to a pending state sales tax audit of the various entities.

In the affidavit attached to the initial application, Adams failed to disclose that he was secretary of Atlantic Pacific Communications, Inc., Link-Two Communications, Inc., UCGI Corporation, United Computing Group, Inc., EToolz, Inc., Clearworks Communications, Inc., and Clearworks.net, Inc. (Docket No. 14). In the amended application, Adams disclosed that he was appointed as the corporate secretary of these entities. (Docket No. 83).

The instant application is opposed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, on grounds Adams has failed to disclose his appointment as corporate secretary of some of the Debtors, and he may become a fact witness if alter ego or single business enterprise issues arise in the case.

With respect to the issue of Adams' potential appearance as a fact witness, Adams testified that he does not

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anticipate seeking compensation for his efforts as a fact witness.

#### Conclusions of Law

Section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code provides:

The trustee, with the court's approval, may employ, for a specified special purpose, other than to represent the trustee in conducting the case, an attorney that has represented the debtor, if in the best interest of the estate, and if such attorney does not represent or hold any interest adverse to the debtor or to the estate with respect to the matter on which such attorney is to be employed.

11 U.S.C. § 327(e).

Although Section 327(e) does not require that proposed special counsel be "disinterested," the Fifth Circuit has held that the phrase "does not represent or hold any interest adverse to the debtor or to the estate" requires a factual determination, based on the specific facts of each case, and with attention to circumstances which may impair a professional's ability to offer impartial, disinterested advice to his or her client. <u>In re West</u> <u>Delta Oil Co.</u>, 432 F.3d 347 (5th Cir. 2005).

In the instant case, Adams has failed to adequately disclose his service as corporate secretary of several of the Debtors. Although Adams' second affidavit (which was filed only after the Texas Comptroller objected to the first application) does state that Adams was appointed as corporate secretary, the second affidavit still does not address the question of whether Adams may still be the secretary of those corporations. Instead,

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Adams states that he was appointed as secretary "until I resigned as EBI's in-house counsel on May 31, 2007." The court makes no determination at this time as to whether Adams remains the corporate secretary, but Adams continues to fail to disclose information which might be considered adverse to his representation.

The possibility that one or more of the Debtor entities might conceivably be found liable for debts of another, whether under the putative alter ego and single business enterprise theories advanced by the Texas Comptroller, or under the pending tax audit, makes even more important the court's determination that any attorney representing the estate for a special purpose not have factual knowledge which might be brought to bear in a contested proceeding. The court concludes that BDAG should not be approved as special counsel for Debtors.

Based on the foregoing, a separate Judgment will be entered denying the "Debtor's Application for Authority to Employ Bettison, Doyle, Apffel & Guarino, P.C. as § 327(e) Special Corporate Counsel for Debtor-In-Possession" (Docket No. 14) and the "Debtors' Amended Application for Authority to Employ Bettison, Doyle, Apffel & Guarino, P.C. as § 327(e) Special Corporate Counsel for Debtor-In-Possession" (Docket No. 83).

Signed at Houston, Texas on December 6, 2007.

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# BAE SYSTEMS

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Page 1 of 1

Date Rcvd: Dec 07, 2007

Bankruptcy Noticing Center 2525 Network Place, 3rd Floor Herndon, Virginia 20171-3514

User: jbra

District/off: 0541-3

Case: 07-806		Form ID: pdf002	Total Served: 26	Dai S	Le Reva: Dec 07, 2007				
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aty	Sunrise, FL 3								
aty	+David George A San Antonio,	elvoet, Linebarger Gogg TX 78205-1749	an et al, 711 Navai	rro, Ste 300,					
aty	David S Elder, Houston, TX	Gardere Wynne Sewell L 77002-5011	LP, 1000 Louisiana	, Suite 3400,					
aty	Diane Wade San P. O. BOX 174	ders, LINEBARGER GOGGAN 28, AUSTIN, TX 78760-7	428						
aty	+Ellen Maresh H	ickman, U S Trustee, , DLA Piper US, LLP,	515 Rusk St, Ste 3	516, Houston, T	TX 77002-2604				
aty	Geoffrey Unger	, DLA Piper US, LLP,	1221 S. Mopac, Suite	400, Austin, 1	TX 78746-7650				
aty	+Hughes Watters	& Askanase LLP, 1415 L	ouisiana, 37th floor	, Houston, TX 🕻	77002-7360				
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aty		Gardere Wynne Sewell LL							
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cr	Austin, TX 78			-					
cr		Exchange Commission, 1			lcago, IL 60604-2615				
cr	Bankruptcy &	ler of Public Accounts, Collections Division, P	. O. Box 12548 MC-	-008, Austin, 1	TX 78711-2548				
cr	+Williamson Cou	nty, c/o Michael Reed,	P O Box 1269, Rou	und Rock, TX 7868	30-1269				
The followin NONE.	ng entities were	served by electronic tran	smission.		TOTAL: 0				
		CIPIENTS (undeliverable,	* duplicate) *****						
cr	ANREM Corporat								
cr		Linebarger Goggan et al							
cr		te Equities Fund							
cr	E.H. Winston a								
cr	GIODECast Amer	ica Incorporated			TOTALS: 5, * 0				

Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

I, Joseph Speetjens, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have served the attached document on the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Service and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

First Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 9): Pursuant to Fed. R. Bank. P. 2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Dec 09, 2007

Signature:

Joseph Spections