

Fredrikson

& BYRON, P.A.

January 15, 2019

VIA E-FILING

The Honorable Kevin W. Eide
Judge of the District Court
Carver County Justice Center
604 East 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Re: *In re the Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson*
Court File No. 10-PR-16-46

Dear Judge Eide:

We are writing on behalf of Comerica Bank & Trust, N.A. (the “Personal Representative”) after reviewing Cozen O’Connor’s (“Cozen”) Motion for Order to Approve Payment of Attorney’s Fees from February 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. As of the date of this letter, it does not appear that Cozen has secured a hearing date on its motion.

The Personal Representative appreciates Cozen starting the process of seeking Court review of the fees that it believes should be paid by the Estate, but respectfully disagrees with Cozen’s decision to submit fees incurred only during 2017, when it continued to represent Mr. Baker through mid-2018. The Personal Representative also believes that Cozen’s request for reimbursement should be considered along with any requests from other attorneys similarly seeking compensation for services rendered to the Estate during the same time period. Adjudicating all fee requests now—rather than waiting until attorneys decide to seek compensation for services which they began performing almost two years ago—will assist the Personal Representative in managing the cash flow of the Estate, as well as ensure that the Court is able to simultaneously review all requests for reimbursement for the same or similar services.

As a result, the Personal Representative respectfully requests that the Court issue an order (which the Personal Representative would serve on all current and former attorneys who have represented any Heir from February 1, 2017 through the present) that: (1) sets a deadline to submit requests for reimbursement from the Estate by counsel for the Heirs from February 1, 2017 through an end date selected by the Court (*i.e.*, December 31, 2018 or January 31, 2019 if the Court wants a full two-year period); (2) sets deadlines for responses to, and replies in support

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of, the fee requests; (3) states who will be adjudicating the motion (the Court or the Special Master¹); (4) sets a hearing on the motion (or, in the case of a referral to the Special Master, defers that issue to the Special Master); and (5) notifies all counsel that if they do not submit a request for fees incurred during the applicable time period, they will be barred from doing so in the future.

A proposed order consistent with the recommendations set forth in this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Cassioppi

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¹ A referral to the Special Master would require an amendment to the Court's June 5, 2018 Order, which limited the Special Master's authority to determining the "Remanded Fee Issues" from the Court of Appeals. The proposed order submitted herewith includes alternative language referring adjudication of the motions to the Special Master.