

**SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP**

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Attorneys for Jeffrey E. Brandlin,  
Receiver

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

RICHARD VU NGUYEN, A/K/A  
NGUYEN THANH VU, AND NTV  
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.,

Defendants,

and

MAI DO,

Relief Defendant.

Case No. SACV19-1174-SVW  
(KESx)

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON  
SECOND AND FINAL  
APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE  
AND PAYMENT OF FEES OF:**

**(1) JEFFREY BRANDLIN,  
RECEIVER, AND BRANDLIN &  
ASSOCIATES; AND**

**(2) SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP**

**[Second and Final Application  
filed concurrently]**

DATE: October 2, 2023

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

CTRM: 10A

First Street Courthouse  
350 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street,  
Los Angeles, California

JUDGE: Hon. Stephen V. Wilson

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**TO ALL PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT** unless appearances are excused prior to the hearing, on **October 2, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 10A of the above-captioned Court, located at 350 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, the Court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the Second and Final Application for Allowance and Payment of Fees of (1) Jeffrey Brandlin and Brandlin & Associates, and (2) Smiley Wang-Ekvall, LLP (the "Application"). Investors and creditors do not need to attend the hearing on October 2, 2023, unless they have filed written objection to the relief sought in the Application. Please consult with Kyra Andrassy or Michael Simon, counsel for the Receiver, before attending the hearing to make sure it is going forward.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that any opposition to the relief sought in the Application must be filed with the Court and served on counsel for the Receiver no later than twenty-one (21) days before the hearing on the Motion. Failure to timely file a written opposition may be deemed by the Court to be consent to the granting of the relief sought in the Application. A summary of the relief sought in the Application is as follows:

**SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF BEING SOUGHT**

For the period from November 1, 2021, through August 21, 2023, Jeffrey Brandlin (the "Receiver") and his firm, Brandlin & Associates ("Brandlin"), seek allowance and payment of fees totaling \$117,019.00. The fees reflect a reduction of 31% off of the normal hourly rates of the Receiver and Brandlin.

The Receiver's counsel, Smiley Wang-Ekvall, is seeking allowance and payment of legal fees totaling \$22,388.35, plus costs of \$5,098.61, for

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1 the same period. These fees reflect a reduction of 10% from the firm's  
 2 standard hourly rates and an additional voluntary reduction of \$5,000.00.

3 The Receiver also seeks authorization to pay the heldback amounts  
 4 that were previously allowed but not authorized to be paid until the final  
 5 application. For Brandlin, the amount held back, which was 20% of the fees  
 6 requested in the first interim fee application, is \$44,241.25. For SWE, the  
 7 amount held back, which was also 20% of the fees it requested in the first  
 8 interim application, is \$38,527.64.

9 The Application is posted on the website that the Receiver maintains  
 10 for this receivership, which is at the following website address:  
 11 <https://www.donlinrecano.com/Clients/brandlin/Index>. It is also available by  
 12 contacting counsel for the Receiver at [kandrassy@swelawfirm.com](mailto:kandrassy@swelawfirm.com) or  
 13 [msimon@swelawfirm.com](mailto:msimon@swelawfirm.com).

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 15  
 16 Respectfully submitted,

17 DATED: September 1, 2023 SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP

18  
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 20 By: /s/ Kyra E. Andrassy  
 21 Kyra E. Andrassy  
 22 Counsel for Jeffrey E. Brandlin,  
 23 Receiver  
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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE**

At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. My business address is 3200 Park Center Drive, Suite 250, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

On 9/1/2023, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as  
**NOTICE OF HEARING ON SECOND AND FINAL APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF FEES OF:**  
**(1) JEFFREY BRANDLIN & ASSOCIATES; AND (2) SMILEY WANG-EKVALL, LLP** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

**SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST**

**(X) (BY COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING ("NEF"))**. Pursuant to United States District Court, Central District of California, Local Civil Rule 5-3, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlinked to the document. On 9/1/2023, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this case and determined that the aforementioned person(s) are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email address(es) indicated.

**(X) (BY U.S. MAIL)**. I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package and placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with the practice of Smiley Wang-Ekvall, LLP for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope was placed in the mail at Costa Mesa, California.

**( ) (BY E-MAIL)**. By scanning the document(s) and then e-mailing the resultant pdf to the e-mail address indicated above per agreement. Attached to this declaration is a copy of the e-mail transmission.

**( ) (BY FACSIMILE)**. I caused the above-referenced documents to be transmitted to the noted addressee(s) at the fax number as stated. Attached to this declaration is a "TX Confirmation Report" confirming the status of transmission.  
Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, at Costa Mesa, California.

**( ) STATE** I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

**(X) FEDERAL** I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on September 1, 2023 at Costa Mesa, California.

*/s/ James Chung*

James Chung

**BY COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING ("NEF"):**

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