

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF CARVER

DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In Re:

Court File No. 10-PR-16-46

Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson,
Decedent.

Order: Procedure for Fee Applications

The above matter has been referred to the undersigned as a Master pursuant to Rule 53 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court's orders of June 5, 2018 and March 7, 2019, which orders provide that the undersigned adopt procedures and conduct conferences and hearings as deemed necessary to hear and decide the fee applications and related issues. Heirs' attorneys Cozen O'Connor, Hanson Dordell, Justin Bruntjen, Frank Wheaton, J. Selmer Law/White, Wiggins and Barnes ("Applicants") have made applications for an award of attorney fees and costs for periods from February 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, pursuant to Minn. Stat. section 524.3-720. These applications are before the undersigned pursuant to the above referenced orders.

As the Applicants have noted, payments by the Estate for services on behalf of an interested person are allowable only if they contribute to the benefit of the Estate as distinguished from the personal benefit of the interested person. Accordingly, as was the case last year, it is important that the undersigned understand the categories of services which each Applicant can affirm, by way of affidavit, so contributed.

Applicants the Cozen firm and Mr. Bruntjen have provided such a list of categories which are essentially the following: (1) Entertainment Deals; (2) Paisley Park; (3) Determination of Heirs; (4) Selection of Personal Representative; (5) Legislation; (6) the Tribute Concert; (7) Special Administrators Accounting, Discharge and Fees; (8) Appointment of a Second Special Administrator; (9) Discharge of Comerica as Personal Representative; (10) Updating clients, filing, research and court appearances; and (11) General. Such applicants have limited their time entries for which fees are requested to each of these categories, and have provided related groupings of such time entrees by such categories.

The applications of Mr. Wheaton, and those of J. Selmer Law/White Wiggins & Barnes, appear to seek approval of fees for all services during given time periods, without segregating the time entries associated solely with categories of services they affirm contributed to the benefit of the Estate. The application of Hansen Dordell is unclear as to time entries segregated solely for such categories or services.¹

¹ The Hansen Dordell application references fee statements and it is unclear from the submission whether the redactions on such statements are in respect to fees not contributing to a benefit, as stated in the submission, or are in respect to time entries about which some element of confidential *in camera* treatment is afforded. Regardless, the order here should provide the necessary submission for the undersigned to consider the Hansen Dordell application.

Finally, Comerica's position is that only the following services subject to the applications contributed to a benefit of the Estate: (1) determining heirship; (2) rescission of the UMG agreement; (3) opposing the removal of Comerica as PR; and (4) objecting to the conduct and compensation associated with Jobu Presents, Koppelman and McMillan and engagement/work of Second Special Administrator. No determination has been made as to Comerica's position, which will be considered.

In light of the above, the undersigned requests the parties' views as to the need for a hearing, and in the meantime enters the following Procedure Orders:

1. On or before May 24, 2019, applicants Hansen Dordell, J. Selmer Law/White Wiggins & Barnes, and Mr. Wheaton, shall provide to the undersigned and the parties hereto affidavits from a person with first-hand knowledge, which affidavit shall: (a) set out categories of services subject to the application which such person affirms are services which contributed to the benefit of the Estate, stating with sufficient precision and detail how such services so contributed and how the related fees are commensurate with such contribution; and (b) attaching to the affidavit such time entries/charges (un-redacted) and grouped by such categories of service which so contributed.
2. On or before May 24, 2019, all Applicants shall provide to the undersigned, and the parties hereto, an affidavit from a person with first-hand knowledge, which affidavit references and attaches the actual original time entries for services contributing to the benefit of the Estate in respect to (a) services in furtherance of determining heirship; (2) services in furtherance of rescinding the UMG agreement; (3) services opposing the removal of Comerica as PR; and (4) services in objecting to the conduct and compensation associated with Jobu Presents, Koppelman and McMillan, and the engagement/work of Second Special Administrator. On or before such date, all Applicants, to the extent they request fees for services other than those described in this paragraph and have not done so in respect to paragraph 1 above, shall provide the undersigned and the parties hereto an affidavit setting out in detail why services beyond such services have contributed to the benefit of the estate and how the related fees are commensurate to such contribution.
3. On or before May 24, 2019, all Applicants shall provide to the undersigned and the parties hereto, by email attachments, copies of their submissions to the Court which submissions were in furtherance of the services they have affirmed contributed to the benefit of the Estate.
4. On or before May 24, 2019, Comerica's counsel shall provide to the undersigned and the parties a brief description (including time periods) of the work of the Second Special Administrator, and the present status in respect to such work.

Dated: May 4, 2019

Richard B. Solum
Master