

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

IN RE: § **CASE NO. 00-CV-00005-DT**
§ **(Settlement Facility Matters)**
DOW CORNING §
CORPORATION, §
§
REORGANIZED DEBTOR § **Hon. Denise Page Hood**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE’S MOTION FOR
ENTRY OF AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WITH RESPECT TO
RONALD L. BROQUET OF MATERNA CUSTER & ASSOCIATES**

The Finance Committee files this Motion to require Ronald L. Broquet, Esq. to appear before this Court and show cause why he should not be sanctioned, held in contempt, and otherwise required to respond regarding the following activities: 1) cashing the claims payment checks intended for a Claimant he represents; 2) failing to provide the SF-DCT with valid address information for the Claimant, which is necessary to confirm the Claimant’s receipt of her claims payments; 3) failing to provide the SF-DCT with proof of distribution of the claims payments to the Claimant; and 4) failing to return to SF-DCT any claim payment funds that were not distributed to the Claimant. In support of this motion, the Finance Committee would respectfully show the Court as follows:

1. On May 15, 1995, Debtor filed a petition for reorganization under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the

Eastern District of Michigan. On November 30, 1999, the Court entered the Order confirming the Plan of Reorganization of Dow Corning Corporation (“the Confirmation Order”) and on June 1, 2004 the Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Dow Corning Corporation (“the Plan”) became effective. Pursuant to the Plan and the Confirmation Order, the Settlement Facility and Fund Distribution Agreement (“SFA”) became effective on June 1, 2004. *See* Exh. A.

2. The SFA establishes the Settlement Facility (“SF-DCT”), which among other things, assumes liability for and resolves claims of settling Personal Injury Claimants and distributes funds to Claimants with allowed claims. The Court supervises the resolution of Claims under the SFA and is authorized to perform all functions relating to the distribution of funds. *See* Exh. A at § 4.01. The funds distributed by the Settlement Facility are in the custody of the Court until they are *paid to* and *actually received by* a Claimant. *See id.* at § 10.09 (“All funds in the Settlement Facility are deemed in custodia legis until such times as the funds have actually been paid to and received by a Claimant.”).

3. Ronald L. Broquet is the attorney-of-record representing the Claimant¹ listed in the chart below, who submitted claims to the SF-DCT. In that

¹ The Claimant’s name is excluded from this filing to maintain her privacy. The Claimant is identified by her “SID” number.

capacity, Mr. Broquet is aware that his client's election to settle her claims subjects him to the terms of the SFA. *See id.* at § 6.02.

4. The Claimant was determined by the SF-DCT to have allowed claims. On the dates indicated in the chart below, the SF-DCT sent checks for a Rupture Partial Premium and a Disease Partial Premium to Mr. Broquet for distribution to the Claimant.

	Claimant SID	Payment Type	Payment Amount	Payment Date
1	0605582	Rupture Partial Premium Payment	\$1,250	11/13/2014
		Disease Partial Premium Payment	\$1,000	12/11/2014

5. The SF-DCT has confirmed that the checks listed in the chart above were cashed.

6. The Claim award notification letters mailed by the SF-DCT directly to the listed Claimant was returned as "undeliverable," with no forwarding address. Valid address information is necessary for the SF-DCT to notify Claimants of their claim payments and confirm receipt of those payments. To perform those functions, the SF-DCT sent written requests to Mr. Broquet for an updated address for the Claimant, or if the Claimant is deceased, the address of the person with authority to act on behalf of the Claim. *See e.g.* Exh. B. Mr. Broquet has failed to respond to these numerous requests. As a result, the \$1,250 and \$1,000 payments,

which were cashed by Mr. Broquet's law firm, have not been accounted for as requested by the SF-DCT.

7. Because the checks sent to Mr. Broquet were cashed, it is reasonable to assume that Mr. Broquet has valid address information for the Claimant to facilitate his distribution of funds to her. It is also reasonable to assume that Mr. Broquet has proof of distribution of the claim payments to the Claimant. Nevertheless, Mr. Broquet has failed to provide this information in response to multiple written requests by the SF-DCT and counsel for the Finance Committee. *See e.g.* Exhs. B and C.

8. In the event that Mr. Broquet was unable to distribute the claim payments to the Claimant, the SF-DCT and the counsel for the Finance Committee requested in its correspondence that he return the undistributed claims funds to the SF-DCT. *See id.* Mr. Broquet has not returned any funds to the SF-DCT.

9. Because Mr. Broquet has failed to provide a valid address for the Claimant, failed to provide proof of distribution to the Claimant, and failed to return the funds, the SF-DCT cannot verify that two checks totaling \$2,250 sent to his law firm (and subsequently cashed) have been received by the Claimant.

10. Mr. Broquet's conduct with respect to the funds entrusted to him for distribution to the Claimant has diverted SF-DCT's employees from performing

their normal duties and necessitated the utilization of counsel, which has caused the SF-DCT to incur unnecessary expense.

11. This Court supervises the distribution of funds from the SF-DCT to Claimants. There can be no dispute that the claims payment funds sent to Mr. Broquet for distribution to the Claimant are in the Court's custody and under the Court's supervision until those funds are received by the Claimant. *See* Exh. A at § 10.09. Accordingly, the Court is entitled to know with certainty whether the monies sent to Mr. Broquet were received by the Claimant. Moreover, if Mr. Broquet was unable to distribute the claims payments to the Claimant, the Court should require him to return those funds to the SF-DCT.

12. While there is no order or injunction requiring Mr. Broquet's compliance with the SF-DCT's requests, Mr. Broquet subjected himself to the requirements of the SF-DCT and SFA when he filed claims on behalf of the Claimant and his conduct clearly contradicts the SFA and this Court's custody over the funds in question. Therefore, the imposition of civil contempt sanctions is warranted. District courts have inherent power to enforce compliance with orders through civil contempt. *Electrical Workers Pension Trust Fund of Local Union #58, IBEW v. Gary's Elec. Serv. Co.*, 340 F.3d 373, 378 (6th Cir. 2003).

13. The Finance Committee respectfully requests that the Court enter an order requiring Mr. Broquet to appear before this Court on May 9, 2019 at 9:30

a.m. and show cause why he should not be sanctioned, held in contempt, and otherwise required to respond regarding his failure to account for or return \$2,250 in claims funds. At the hearing, following submission of this and other evidence, the Finance committee will ask that the Court enter such sanctions and penalties against Mr. Broquet as the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: April 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

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 /s/ Karima G. Maloney

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 10, 2019, the foregoing Motion for Entry of An Order to Show Cause has been electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the ECF system which will send notice and copies of the document to all registered counsel in this case. A copy of this motion was also sent to Ronald L. Broquet via email at rbroquet@mc-lawyers and certified mail on April 11, 2019 to his offices in Madison Heights, Michigan.

By: /s/ Karima G. Maloney
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