

EXHIBIT 7

COURTESY OF
LUNA SHARK MEDIA

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF HAMPTON

Renee S. Beach, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Mallory Beach,

Plaintiff,

v.

Gregory M. Parker, Inc. d/b/a Parker's Corporation, Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Jr., John Marvin Murdaugh, as P.R. of The Estate of Margaret Kennedy Branstetter Murdaugh, and Randolph Murdaugh, IV, as P.R. of the Estate of Paul Terry Murdaugh,

Defendants.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Civil Action No.: 2019-CP-25-00111

**ORDER ENTERING SCHEDULING
ORDER AND APPOINTING SPECIAL
REFEREE TO ADMINISTER THE
CLAIMS PROCESS**

Before the Court is Co-Receivers John T. Lay, Jr. and Peter M. McCoy, Jr.'s motion, pursuant to Rule 66 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure for (A) entry of the Scheduling Order for the allocation of funds in the receivership estate among and between the claimants and creditors of Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Sr. ("Murdaugh"), and (B) appointment of special referee L. Walter Tollison, III, Esq. pursuant to S.C. Code § 14-11-60 and Rule 53, SCRCP, to implement a process proposed in the Motion for the receipt of claims against the fund and distribution of the monies held. A hearing was held on August 25, 2023, where, while concerns were raised regarding some aspects, no objection was made regarding the appointment of a receiver or generally to the process proposed. After review of the Motion and consideration of the arguments presented at the hearing of this matter, it is hereby Ordered that the Co-Receivers' Motion is GRANTED as follows:

1. This Court entered an Order granting the temporary injunction and establishing the receivership over Murdaugh's assets on November 2, 2021. The authority of the Co-Receivers was further defined by Order of this Court entered November 4, 2021

(collectively, the November 2, 2021 Order and the November 4, 2021 Order are referred to herein as the “Receivership Order”). The Receivership Order conferred broad and exclusive authority to the Co-Receivers to decide all matters with respect to Murdaugh’s assets, except those as expressly retained by this Court. As further detailed therein, the Co-Receivers were appointed to, among other things, “take any and all steps necessary to identify, recover, protect, collect, preserve, receive, manage, liquidate, sell, administer and marshal, and to do all things incidental, necessary and/or appropriate thereto, all of the Subject Assets during the pendency and final resolution of this lawsuit.”

2. The Co-Receivers and their counsel have worked diligently since their appointment to marshal as many assets into Murdaugh’s receivership estate (the “Receivership Funds”) as reasonably practicable.
3. Pursuant to and in furtherance of the authority granted the Co-Receivers in the Receivership Order to administer, allocate, and distribute the Receivership Funds, and in furtherance of the Receivership Order the Court hereby Orders a process for the receipt of claims against the Receivership Funds, the equitable allocation of the Receivership Funds among Murdaugh’s creditors and claimants, and the distribution of those Receivership Funds. The interests of substantial justice and equity are served by implementing the schedule and process outlined herein and there is good cause shown for the appointment a special referee.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REFEREE

4. The Court hereby appoints L. Walter Tollison, III, Esq. as the Special Referee to implement and administer the process and schedule as set forth herein. This appointment serves the legitimate interest of judicial economy and efficient resolution of the Eligible Claimants’

petitions. The Special Referee shall be compensated from Receivership Funds according to his standard hourly rates commonly and reasonably applied.

CLAIMS PROCESS

5. The Co-Receivers shall publish a notice to potential claimants notifying them of the deadline for filing their proof of claim in order to be considered an Eligible Claimant (as defined herein) in a newspaper of general circulation in Hampton County and in Richland County for ten (10) consecutive days beginning fourteen (14) days following the entry of the Court's entry of this Order or as soon as practical thereafter permitting for the publishers availability.
6. All potential claimants and creditors shall be required to file their respective proofs of claim, which may, but are not required to, include a valid judgment for damages, by **October 29, 2023**, in order to be eligible for any allocation (if any) of the Receivership Funds.
7. A proof of claim shall include:
 1. a statement of the nature of the claim and the monetary value of claimed damages or judgment;
 2. the date of the loss;
 3. a statement of any and all amounts received to date in satisfaction or partial satisfaction of the damages underlying the claim;
 4. reasonably sufficient evidence to substantiate the claim and claimed damages, including, but not limited to, a sworn affidavit of the Claimant attesting to the validity and accuracy of the submitted Claim; and
 5. any additional evidence in support of the claim.

(as constituted a “Proof of Claim” and collectively the “Proofs of Claim”).

8. Creditors who have filed their Proof of Claim by the applicable deadline shall be an “Eligible Claimant” and collectively the “Eligible Claimants”.

9. To the extent a claimant or creditor does not file their Proof of Claim by the above deadline prescribed by the Court, such person shall not be considered an Eligible Claimant (an “Ineligible Claimant”) and, therefore, shall not be entitled to any allocation from the available Receivership Funds as of the date of allocation either through the mediation process or by this Court. However, such Ineligible Claimant shall retain any and all rights to pursue any judgment or satisfaction of the same from Murdaugh in accordance with applicable law, excluding the Receivership Funds.

10. The Co-Receivers shall submit an accounting of the Receivership Funds on or before **October 29, 2023**.

11. Any Eligible Claimant or the Co-Receivers may, but are not required to, file a memorandum in opposition to any Proof of Claim and, in turn, there shall be an opportunity for the petitioning Eligible Claimant to reply. To be considered, Eligible Claimants must file all memoranda in support of claimed damages on or before **November 15, 2023**, with opposition briefing to be filed by **November 29, 2023**, and any replies to be filed on or before **December 14, 2023**.

12. Except as provided for herein, there shall be no written or deposition discovery unless specifically ordered by the Special Referee.

13. Consistent with South Carolina court rules, the mediation of all Eligible Claims shall be conducted by **December 21, 2023**, in an attempt to reach agreement on the equitable allocation of the Receivership Funds in final resolution of their respective claims or judgments,

unless otherwise consented to by all Eligible Claimants or unless otherwise ordered pursuant to a motion and for good cause shown.

14. If the Special Referee deems it advisable and in light of the extraordinarily complex factual, legal and equitable considerations of the various Eligible Claimants' claims and judgments, the Special Referee or Court may engage Peter D. Protopapas, Esq. to assist an appointed mediator in the mediation of this matter.

15. To the extent mediation is unsuccessful in resolving all claims and judgments with finality, the Special Referee would then undertake consideration of the Eligible Claimants' petitions concerning equitable allocation of the Receivership Funds.

16. After consideration of the Eligible Claimants' submissions, the Special Referee will determine whether to conduct a hearing for such Eligible Claimants to present any oral arguments. Any such Hearing shall occur on or before **January 12, 2024**.

17. After careful consideration, the Special Referee shall issue a written order by **February 5, 2024**, equitably allocating the funds in the receivership estate to Eligible Claimants.

18. In the event the Co-Receivers are able to marshal any further assets into the receivership estate following the end of the process for Eligible Claimants described herein, such additional funds shall be available for the potential benefit of both the Eligible Claimants and the Ineligible Claimants pursuant to the same process set forth herein, unless subsequently ordered otherwise by the Court. In such circumstances and only to the extent the Eligible Claimants do not settle their claims and judgments in full at mediation, the Eligible Claimants shall be entitled to their *pro rata* share of such additional funds based on the allocable share determined by this Court or Special Referee *less* the equitable allocation (if any) of such additional funds among the Ineligible Claimants as determined by the Court or Special Referee in its discretion. Alternatively,

to the extent (a) mediation by the Eligible Claimants is successful, (b) additional funds are marshaled by the Co-Receivers into the receivership estate, and (c) there are Ineligible Claimants who seek satisfaction of their claims and judgments from such additional funds, the Court or Special Referee shall determine the equitable allocation of such additional funds to the Ineligible Claimants and the Eligible Claimants according to the same process as set forth herein unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

19. The deadlines contained herein, except for the deadline for filing the Proof of Claim, may be extended by consent of all Eligible Claimants without leave of the Court. If the Eligible Claimants do not consent, a motion to amend shall be filed and the deadlines may be extended by the Special Referee for good cause shown.

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

(Judge's electronic signature page to follow)

COURTESY OF
LUNA SHARKY MEDIA



Hampton Common Pleas

Case Caption: Renee S. Beach , plaintiff, et al VS Gregory M. Parker, Inc. ,
defendant, et al

Case Number: 2019CP2500111

Type: Order/Other

So Ordered

s/Daniel D. Hall 2753

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