

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLOTTE DIVISION**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

REX VENTURE GROUP, LLC d/b/a  
ZEEKREWARDS.COM, and PAUL  
BURKS,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:12-cv-00519

**RECEIVER'S STATUS REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2020**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Matthew E. Orso, Esq., the Court-appointed Receiver (the "Receiver") for and over the estate of Rex Venture Group, LLC d/b/a ZeekRewards.com, submits this Quarterly Status Report in accordance with the Order of this Court entered on August 17, 2012, to provide a status report on the work and findings to date (the "Investigation") of the Receiver, his counsel, agents, consultants, and advisors (the "Receiver Team").

**II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE RECEIVER BETWEEN JULY 1, 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**A. Operations of the Receiver**

**1. Marshaling and Preserving Receivership Assets**

**a. Accounts for Holding Receivership Assets**

During the third quarter of 2020, the Receiver maintained two bank accounts on behalf of the Receivership Estate for holding Receivership Assets: the "Affiliate Payments Account" and the "Holdback Account."

Excluding earned interest and transfers between accounts, the Receiver deposited the following funds into the Receivership accounts during the third quarter of 2020:

- \$585,142.94 from unclaimed property fund claims; and
- \$8,076.08 from third-party litigation income.

As of September 30, 2020, the Receivership Estate held approximately \$17.2 million in the Affiliate Payments Account and approximately \$1.7 million in the Holdback Account.

**b. Unclaimed Property Claims**

In July 2019, the Receiver discovered that unclaimed property divisions in various states and territories of the United States were holding unclaimed funds from cashier's checks and money orders made payable to Rex Venture Group or Zeek Rewards that were lost and never claimed. The Receiver contacted unclaimed property divisions in all states and U.S. territories, found property in 47 states and the District of Columbia, and pursued claims seeking recovery of more than \$2 million in unclaimed funds.

During the third quarter of 2020, the Receiver deposited an additional \$585,142.94 in funds recovered through these unclaimed property claims. At least \$90,000 remains to be collected.<sup>1</sup>

**c. Foreign Accounts**

The Receiver continues to engage in litigation in connection with the February 11, 2016 Motion seeking to recover \$13,174,015.48 in outstanding Receivership Assets from PaymentWorld, Victoriabank, and their affiliates, and to hold these entities in contempt for violating the Court's Freeze Order ("Contempt Motion"). The Receiver continued to pursue litigation against Victoriabank following a favorable outcome in 2019 on appeal to the Fourth

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<sup>1</sup> The Receivership team spent over 30 hours of unbilled administrative time and 22.3 hours of billed attorney time totaling \$12,264.66 in furtherance of these collection efforts during the third quarter.

Circuit. During the Fourth Quarter of 2019, the District Court again dismissed the Receiver's Contempt Motion, and the Receiver again appealed to the Fourth Circuit. Oral argument on the Receiver's appeal took place on October 16, 2020.

**2. Analyzing the Operations of the Receivership Entity**

**a. Investigating the Receivership Defendant's Operations**

During the third quarter, the Receiver's investigation and analysis of RVG's operations was limited to analysis of RVG and payment-processor database transactions in support of inquiries from claimants and net winners.<sup>2</sup> Both FTI and Epiq (formerly Garden City Group) assisted with inquiries from claimants regarding distributions and check reissuances, and they fielded additional requests from the Receiver Team regarding updated judgment collection data and information needed for assessment of the sale of Net Winner judgments.

**3. Communicating with Affiliates and Creditors**

The Receiver Team has continued to respond to the many inquiries regarding the allowance of claims by and distributions from the Receivership Estate. The Receiver Team continued to communicate with such claimants by email, phone, and updates to the Receivership website. In February 2020, the Receiver announced there would be an additional Court-approved partial interim distribution to claimants with allowed and payable claims. This distribution was made in April 2020. The Receiver sent 122,608 checks to claimants with

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<sup>2</sup> FTI billed \$16,406 during the third quarter. Time spent on claims work during the third quarter included analyzing, tracking, and coordinating with McGuireWoods on several requests such as misdirected checks, unclaimed property, and responding to ad hoc requests. Ad hoc requests in the third quarter included research of various net winner disagreements including claims of identity theft and preparing for the reissuance of Israeli claims distributions to a new address. In addition to claims work, FTI continued to monitor the Receivership's banking activity and prepare quarterly reports of the activity. FTI also prepared weekly billing reports and ultimately the quarterly Fee Application.

authorized and payable claims totaling \$27,896,364.80. Since that time, the Receivership Team has responded to multiple reissuance requests associated with the distribution.

**4. Litigation in the SEC Enforcement Action**

The Receiver Team continued its litigation against PaymentWorld and Victoriabank, as discussed above. This litigation originated as a contempt motion by the Receiver in the civil lawsuit that was filed in the SEC Enforcement Action.

**5. Tax-Related Work**

During the third quarter, the Receiver Team did not engage in meaningful tax-related work.

**B. The Receiver's Fund Accounting**

The Standardized Fund Accounting Report ("SFAR") is attached as Exhibit A.

**C. The Receiver's Receipts and Disbursements**

The Receiver's Schedule of Receipts and Disbursements ("Schedule") from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Schedule sets forth the following receipts and disbursements:

1. Received funds of \$8,076.08 from third-party litigation settlements;<sup>3</sup>
2. Received funds of \$585,142.32 from state unclaimed property divisions;
3. Disbursed funds from the Receiver's accounts of \$1,778,020.40 to affiliate-investors; and,

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<sup>3</sup> Since the inception of the Receivership and as of the end of the third quarter 2020, the Receiver has agreed to approximately \$18.2 million in settlements with net winner affiliates. Additionally, the Receiver has collected a total of \$35.5 million from litigation-related settlements with affiliates, vendors and insiders.

4. Disbursed additional funds from the Receiver's accounts of \$34,417.49 for bank fees related to management of the Receiver's accounts and distribution plan implementation expenses.<sup>4</sup>

Between July 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, the Receivership Estate deposited \$593,218.40 and disbursed \$1,812,437.89. The Receiver has marshaled total assets of approximately \$387.1 million during the period between August 17, 2012 and September 30, 2020, while disbursing approximately \$369 million during the same period.

**D. Description of All Known Non-Cash Receivership Property**

The Receiver is not currently in possession of any non-cash Receivership property that holds any meaningful resale value.

**E. Description of Claims Held by the Receivership Estate**

1. **Identifying and Pursuing Fraudulently Transferred Funds Held by Net-Winner Affiliate Investors**

- a. **Status of Net Winner Settlements**

The Receiver did not enter into any new settlements with a Net Winners during the third quarter of 2020. Through the third quarter of 2020, the Receiver has settled with 2,516 Net Winners for a total amount of \$18,158,808.87, which amounts to 44.3% of their collective Net Winnings of \$40,979,259.09. As of the end of the third quarter, payments from these settlements totaled \$14,504,947.26, leaving \$3,653,861.61 to collect. The Receiver Team also continued to address issues and correspond with Net Winners regarding previously finalized settlements.

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<sup>4</sup> There were no distributions for legal fees in the third quarter as no fee applications were filed or granted during that period.

**b. The Net Winner Class Action**

The Fourth Circuit issued a decision on April 25, 2019 affirming this Court's certification of the Defendant Net Winner class along with other related orders. This allowed the Receiver to file for summary judgment against all remaining Net Winners who either disputed or failed to respond to the calculations of their Net Winnings. In the Fourth Quarter 2019, the Receiver sold judgments against Net-Winners for approximately \$10 million to an independent third party. The purchaser has begun collection efforts, which has resulted in misplaced inquiries to the Receiver from dozens Net-Winners. The Receivership Team has no involvement or input in these collection efforts, and Net Winners contacted by Nationwide Judgment Recovery, Inc. or its counsel regarding judgment collection efforts should not contact the Receiver or McGuireWoods about these judgments.

**c. Claims Against Foreign Net Winners**

No meaningful work was done related to claims against foreign net winners during the third quarter.

**d. Remaining Litigation**

The Receiver's primary area of remaining litigation concerns Victoriabank. The Fourth Circuit's decision in April of 2019 allowed the Receiver to file a renewed motion to hold Victoriabank in contempt for violating the District Court's 2012 Freeze Order. On October 1, 2019, the District Court again dismissed the Receiver's motion, causing the Receiver to again appeal to the Fourth Circuit. The resolution of this remaining litigation will depend on the Fourth Circuit's ruling and further rulings made by the District Court, but it could involve further

written discovery, additional motions practice, one or more hearings, and further appeals before the action reaches resolution.

**F. Potential Creditors of the Receivership Estate**

There are no additional non-Affiliate, pre-Receivership creditors of the Receivership Estate with a reasonable likelihood of collecting on any claims they assert against the Estate.

**G. Status of Creditor Claims Proceedings, After Such Proceedings Have Been Commenced**

The Receiver expects to make one final distribution at the end of the Receivership. The Receiver will continue with periodic check reissuances or wire transfers related to prior distributions consistent with the Receivership's policies and the Court's oversight.

**III. CONCLUSION**

There are limited substantial tasks of the Receivership that remain. These include (1) completing the receipt and processing of payment from Net Winner settlements; (2) completing the sale or collection of unsettled judgments against Net Winners; (3) pursuing claims against Victoria Bank and Payment World worth approximately \$13.5 million; (4) pursuing outstanding unclaimed property from multiple states; and (5) making a final distribution to claimants with recognized claims.<sup>5</sup>

At this time, the Receiver recommends the continuation of the Receivership for the following reasons:

1. To continue the Receiver's efforts to investigate and marshal assets of the Receivership Estate;
2. To continue the Receiver's efforts to implement to the claims and distribution processes in order to distribute proceeds to injured claimants; and

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<sup>5</sup> The Receiver anticipates a total return of between 80% -85% of each recognized claim.

3. To carry out any other legal or appointed duties of the Receiver identified in the Receiver Orders or as the Court deems necessary.

This the 30th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Matthew E. Orso  
Matthew E. Orso, Esq., Receiver

and

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*MATTHEW E. ORSO, ESQ.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I filed the foregoing electronically, which will serve the attorneys for parties authorized to receive service through the Court's electronic docketing system.

This is the 30th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Matthew E. Orso