Matthew H. Adler (MA-4720) Jeffrey A. Carr (JC-1103) **PEPPER HAMILTON LLP** (A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership)

(A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Parmership) 300 Alexander Park Princeton, NJ 08543-5276 (609) 452-0808 Counsel for the Equity Receiver

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

| COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING           | )                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| COMMISSION,                         | )                             |
|                                     | )                             |
| Plaintiff,                          | )                             |
|                                     | )                             |
| vs.                                 | ) Civil Action No.: 04CV 1512 |
|                                     | )                             |
| EQUITY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC, TECH   | ) Honorable Robert B. Kugler  |
| TRADERS, INC., TECH TRADERS, LTD.,  | )                             |
| MAGNUM INVESTMENTS, LTD., MAGNUM    | )                             |
| CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, LTD., VINCENT  | )                             |
| J. FIRTH, ROBERT W. SHIMER, COYT E. | )                             |
| MURRAY, and J. VERNON ABERNETHY,    | )                             |
|                                     | Ĵ                             |
| Defendants.                         | )                             |

## EQUITY RECEIVER STEPHEN T. BOBO'S AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISALLOW CERTAIN UNIVERSE INVESTOR CLAIMS

Stephen T. Bobo first being duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am submitting this affidavit in support of my motion to disallow, in whole or

in part, the claims of eight Tier 3 investors who transferred funds to Universe Capital

Appreciation, LLC ("Universe"). Universe is a Tier 2 investor with Shasta Capital Associates,

LLC ("Shasta").

2. I have personal knowledge of the contents of this affidavit and I am competent

to testify as to them.

3. I am serving as Equity Receiver for Defendants Equity Financial Group, LLC, Tech Traders, Inc., Tech Traders, Ltd., Magnum Investments, Ltd., Magnum Capital Investments, Ltd., Vincent J. Firth, and Robert W. Shimer, pursuant to the provisions of the initial restraining order entered on April 1, 2004 and several consent preliminary injunction orders entered in this case.

4. Pursuant to authority from this Court, I have carried out an investor claim process, requiring all persons who invested funds with Tech Traders, Inc. and Shasta to submit proofs of claim, accompanied by documentary proof of all funds invested with and received from the Defendants, in order to receive a distribution from the receivership estate.

5. On August 16, 2005, I submitted my recommendation regarding the treatment of Universe as a Tier 2 investor with Shasta, which submitted a claim listing its Tier 3 investors and their respective investment amounts and withdrawals. In that submission, I recommended, among other things, that if any Universe investors received any previous withdrawals, including any Tech Traders funds as repayment of their earlier investments with Kaivalya Holding Group, Inc., any such withdrawals should be factored into the amount of the respective distributions to the investors.

6. On October 27, 2005, the Court entered an order authorizing an interim distribution of receivership funds to Tech Traders, Inc. and Shasta investors on account of allowable investor claims. Although Universe appeared as an allowable claim, such treatment was contingent upon the Court's approval of my recommendation that distributions be made directly to Universe investors.

7. In November 2005, Magistrate Judge Donio directed me to move forward with my recommendation regarding the treatment of Universe and develop a proposed plan for

2

distributing funds directly to Universe investors. In late 2005 and early 2006, with the assistance of the CFTC, I reviewed information provided by the Universe investors relating to their investments with Shasta, along with relevant accounting and bank records for Universe.

8. On February 10, 2006, I filed my motion for authority to make an interim distribution directly to certain Tier 3 investors who transferred funds to Universe. In that motion, I proposed making a gross interim distribution of 28.5 percent of the total amount invested with Universe by each investor with an allowed claim less all amounts previously received by the investor.

9. On April 17, 2006, the Court entered an order approving my motion and, specifically, authorizing and directing me to reserve funds for Universe investors with claims on the Disputed Claims Interim Distribution Schedule.

10. Since I filed the Disputed Claims Interim Distribution Schedule, four investors whose claims appeared on this schedule have resolved all discrepancies relating to their claims. I therefore propose that the claims of Brad and Diana Baetz, Cary Maclin, Mitchell Rabin, and the Sherman Family Trust be moved to the Revised Agreed Interim Distribution Schedule, as shown on the attached Exhibit A.

I continue to object to the remaining eight Universe investors whose claims appear on the Revised Disputed Claims Interim Reserve Schedule, attached hereto as Exhibit B.
I move to disallow each of these eight investor claims on one or more of the following grounds:
(1) failure to submit a claim with supporting documentation relating to the investor's investment with Universe; (2) receipt of Tech Traders' funds as repayment of earlier investments with

Kaivalya Holding Group ("Kaivalya"); and (3) need for aggregation of investor claims for

distribution purposes.

STEPMEN T. BOBO

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this <u>44</u> flay of <u>Maw</u>, 2006 NOTARY RUBLIC "OFFICIAL SEAL" Heidi Petersen NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8/16/2009

## EXHIBIT A

#### UNIVERSE CAPITAL APPRECIATION REVISED AGREED INTERIM DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

| Name of Claimant                        | Funds Invested | 28.5% of Total Funds<br>Invested | Previous<br>Withdrawals | Net Distribution Amount to<br>Universe Tier 3 Investor<br>(28.5% of Total Funds<br>Invested Less Total Previous<br>Withdrawals) |  |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| ALBRINK, J. & V.                        | \$160,000      | \$45,600                         | \$0                     | \$45,600.00   |  |
| ANDERSON, H.                            | \$22,000       | \$6,270                          | \$0                     | \$6,270.00  |  |
| ANDERSON, J.                            | \$30,000       | \$8,550                          | \$0                     | \$8,550.00  |  |
| BAETZ, D. & P.                          | \$10,000       | \$2,850                          | \$0                     | \$2,850.00  |  |
| BAETZ, J. & W.                          | \$5,000        | \$1,425                          | \$0                     | \$1,425.00  |  |
| CONDON, R.                              | \$160,000      | \$45,600                         | \$12,500                | \$33,100.00   |  |
| COOK, R.                                | \$75,000       | \$21,375                         | \$0                     | \$21,375.00   |  |
| DONOHUE, J                              | \$95,000       | \$27,075                         | \$0                     | \$27,075.00   |  |
| FISHER, C                               | \$87,000       | \$24,795                         | \$0                     | \$24,795.00   |  |
| FISHER TRUST                            | \$25,000       | \$7,125                          | \$0                     | \$7,125.00  |  |
| FISHER, S                               | \$70,000       | \$19,950                         | \$0                     | \$19,950.00   |  |
| FREEMAN, G.                             | \$100,000      | \$28,500                         | \$0                     | \$28,500.00   |  |
| FURST, J. & S.                          | \$57,750       | \$16,459                         | \$25,000                | \$0.00  |  |
| GEIB, D. & L.                           | \$31,990       | \$9,117                          | \$0                     | \$9,117.15  |  |
| HUTCHINGS, D. & B.                      | \$230,000      | \$65,550                         | \$68,000                | \$0.00  |  |
| MACLIN, C.                              | \$25,000       | \$7,125                          | \$0                     | \$7,125   |  |
| MASTER MARKETERS<br>(STOLFUZ, D. & E.)  | \$35,000       | \$9,975                          | \$5,000                 | \$4,975.00  |  |
| MILLER, O. & J.                         | \$20,000       | \$5,700                          | \$0                     | \$5,700.00  |  |
| MOOKERJEE, P.                           | \$220,000      | \$62,700                         | \$0                     | \$62,700.00   |  |
| NELSON, L.                              | \$50,000       | \$14,250                         | \$0                     | \$14,250.00   |  |
| NIXON, J.                               | \$8,000        | \$2,280                          | \$0                     | \$2,280.00  |  |
| PINARD, A. & B.                         | \$70,104       | \$19,980                         | \$0                     | \$19,979.59   |  |
| PTAK, A. & C.                           | \$352,800      | \$100,548                        | \$0                     | \$100,548.00  |  |
| RABIN, M.                               | \$2,000        | \$570                            | \$0                     | \$570.00  |  |
| RICHARDSON, R. & T.                     | \$90,000       | \$25,650                         | \$25,000                | \$650.00  |  |
| ROONEY, A. & P.                         | \$95,000       | \$27,075                         | \$0                     | \$27,075.00   |  |
| ROONEY, P. GREG & L.                    | \$87,500       | \$24,938                         | \$30,000                | \$0.00  |  |
| SEDLACEK, B. & M.                       | \$50,000       | \$14,250                         | \$0                     | \$14,250.00   |  |
| SHEETS, C.                              | \$10,000       | \$2,850                          | \$0                     | \$2,850.00  |  |
| SHEETS, R.                              | \$10,000       | \$2,850                          | \$0                     | \$2,850.00  |  |
| SHEETS, T.                              | \$3,000        | \$855                            | \$0                     | \$855.00  |  |
| SHERMAN FAMILY TRUST<br>C/O SHERMAN, M. | \$50,000       | \$14,250                         | \$4,000                 | \$10,250.00   |  |
| SIMPSON, T.                             | \$50,000       | \$14,250                         | \$0                     | \$14,250.00   |  |
| THOMPSON, REECE                         | \$50,000       | \$14,250                         | \$0                     | \$14,250.00   |  |
| WATT, M.                                | \$47,000       | \$13,395                         | \$0                     | \$13,395.00   |  |

#### UNIVERSE CAPITAL APPRECIATION REVISED AGREED INTERIM DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

| Name of Claimant | Funds Invested | 28.5% of Total Funds<br>Invested | Previous<br>Withdrawals | Net Distribution Amount to<br>Universe Tier 3 Investor<br>(28.5% of Total Funds<br>Invested Less Total Previous<br>Withdrawals) |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| YAMANE           | \$100,000      | \$28,500                         | \$0                     | \$28,500.00   |
| ZULIANI          | \$10,000       | \$2,850                          | \$0                     | \$2,850.00  |
| TOTALS:          | \$2,594,144    | \$739,331                        | \$169,500               | \$585,885   |

# EXHIBIT B

#### UNIVERSE CAPITAL APPRECIATION REVISED DISPUTED CLAIMS INTERIM RESERVE SCHEDULE

| Name of Claimant            | Funds<br>Invested | 28.5% of<br>Total<br>Funds<br>Invested | Previous<br>Withdrawals | Receiver's<br>Proposed Reserve<br>(28.5% of Total<br>Funds Invested<br>Less Total Previous<br>Withdrawals) | Reason for<br>Objection   | Tech<br>Traders<br>Funds<br>Received<br>from<br>Kaivalya | Receiver's Proposed<br>Treatment  | Receiver's Proposed Distribution<br>(28.5% of Total Funds Invested<br>Less Previous Withdrawals,<br>Including Tech Traders' Funds<br>Received from Kaivalya) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| COOPER, ROBERT              | \$50,000          | \$14,250                               | \$24,000                | \$0  | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$35,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$0  |
| GRAVES, AMANDA              | \$100,000         | \$28,500                               | \$0                     | \$28,500   | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$25,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$3,500  |
| GUBLER, CORY                | \$175,000         | \$49,875                               | \$175,000               | \$0  | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$15,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$0  |
| NIXON, JOAN                 | \$8,000           | \$2,280                                | \$6,000                 | \$0  | Failure to provide<br>supporting<br>documents   | \$0  | Disallow  | Disallow   |
| SCHMALZ, HARRY              | \$140,000         | \$39,900                               | \$0                     | \$39,900   | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$20,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$19,900   |
| SHIMER, GEORGE<br>TRUST     | \$35,000          | \$9,975                                | \$54,834                | \$0  | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$22,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$0  |
| TRINIDAD/VICO/<br>PINNACLE  | \$199,200         | \$56,772                               | \$108,100               | \$0  | Entities related to<br>Universe and to each<br>other that received<br>funds through<br>Kaivalya | \$50,000   | Aggregate claims and<br>subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya | \$0  |
| WEDEL, HARLAND<br>AND DONNA | \$65,800          | \$18,753                               | \$8,000                 | \$10,753   | Received Tech<br>Traders funds<br>through Kaivalya  | \$30,000   | Subtract Tech Traders<br>funds received through<br>Kaivalya                         | \$0  |
| TOTALS:                     | \$773,000         | \$220,305                              | \$375,934               | \$79,153   |   | \$197,000  |   | \$23,400   |