IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

PARAMOUNT PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC,	
Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
v.	2022CV365529
DERRICK JACKSON,	
Defendant	

MOTION FOR AN IMMEDIATE WRIT OF POSSESSION AND RELEASE OF ALL FUNDS HELD IN THE REGISTRY

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Paramount Properties Management Group, LLC ("Plaintiff" or "Paramount"), by and through undersigned counsel, and files this *Motion for an Immediate Writ of Possession and Release of all Funds Held in the Registry*, and shows this Court as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff is a property management group and agent for Michael and Julie McCracken (collectively, "McCracken") at all times relevant to this dispute. On May 17, 2020, McCracken, as owners and landlord, entered into a lease ("Lease") for the single-family residence property located at 955 Tiverton Lane, Johns Creek, Fulton, GA 30022 (the "Property") with Defendant and a separate option agreement (the "Option Agreement"). In late 2021 and January of 2022, Defendant defaulted under the Lease. As a result, on January 24, 2022, Plaintiff initiated a dispossessory action against Defendant in Fulton County Magistrate Court. On April 25, 2022, the Magistrate Court entered a *Consent Order* (the "Consent Order"), whereby this matter was transferred to the Superior Court and Defendant was required to pay all rents due under the Lease at issue "into the Registry on or before the 17th day of each consecutive month thereafter pursuant

to the terms of the Lease. Time is of the essence. Consent Order ¶ 4. A true and correct copy of the Consent Order is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. The Consent Order further held that: "If Defendant does not timely pay rent as specified above, Plaintiff shall be entitled to **seek an immediate Writ of Possession** [for] the property located at 955 Tiverton Lane, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022." *Id.* (emphasis added).

On October 17, 2022, Defendant failed to remit timely payment and breached the Consent Order. As such, Plaintiff moved for an immediate writ of possession. On October 24, 2022, prior to the Court ruling on Plaintiff's motion, and on the day before trial, Defendant filed a bankruptcy action in the Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of Georgia, Case No. 22-58536-bem, thereby automatically staying this action.

On November 30, 2022, the Bankruptcy Court held a hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for relief from the automatic stay. A true and correct copy of the Bankruptcy Court's transcript is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. The Bankruptcy Court ruled that for the reasons announced on the record, the Lease and Option for the Property "terminated prior to filing of the bankruptcy case and that the Property is not part of the bankruptcy estate." The Bankruptcy Court further made a judicial determination that (1) Defendant was required to make timely payment under the Consent Order [Hearing Trans. at 67], (2) the Lease expired on May 16, 2022 [*id.* at 70], (3) the Option to purchase the Property was terminated [*id.*], and (4) Defendant did not have a mortgage on the Property [*id.* at 71]. In addition, the Bankruptcy Court found that Defendant was further in breach of the Consent Order by failing to make the November 17, 2022 payment of \$15,000.00 *See* [*id.* at 65:24-66:21].

Plaintiff filed its initial Motion for an Immediate Writ and Proposed Order on October 21, 2022 and provided this Court with a courtesy copy via email. The Clerk of the Court rejected the Proposed Order e-file and requested the Proposed Order be filed differently; however, due to Defendant's bankruptcy filing on October 24, 2022, which stayed this action, Plaintiff could not resubmit its initial Proposed Order.

Upon making the aforementioned findings, the Bankruptcy Court ordered that the automatic stay be modified to allow Movants [Plaintiff] (1) to pursue this dispossessory action, (2) to obtain possession of the Property, and (3) to obtain the funds held in the registry of the Superior Court, "should this Court determine that Movants [Plaintiff] are entitled to those funds." A true and correct copy of the Bankruptcy Court's Order granting relief from the automatic bankruptcy stay is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

Despite the Bankruptcy Court making it evidently clear that Defendant has no interest in the Property and failed to make payments under the Consent Order, it appears that Defendant may have filed a Notice of Appeal with the Bankruptcy Court of its Order that granted Plaintiff's relief from stay. However, no appeal has been docketed with the Bankruptcy Court or the U.S. District Court as of the date of this Motion. Furthermore, Plaintiff's counsel has not been served with a copy of any Notice of Appeal.

In connection with another motion filed by the Defendant in the Bankruptcy Court, the Bankruptcy Court has issued a subsequent Order reiterating that Plaintiff is permitted to continue pursuing this action before this Court. A true and correct copy of the Order allowing Plaintiff to continue pursuing this action is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.

To date, the last payment Defendant made into the registry of the Court was on October 21, 2022, which was late. Moreover, Defendant has further failed to make the November 17, 2022, payment and the December 17, 2022.

At this time, there is \$115,264.52 in the Court's Registry.

ARGUMENT

I. PLAINTIFF IS ENTITLED TO AN IMMEDIATE WRIT OF POSSESSION

Under the Consent Order, Defendant was required to deposit monthly payments of \$15,000 into the Court's Registry by the seventeenth (17th) of each month. Defendant failed to make the October 17, 2022 payment in a timely manner. Separately, Defendant further admitted that he did not make payment on or before November 17, 2022, as required by the Consent Order. [Hearing Trans. at 65:24-66:16]. In addition, Defendant did not remit payment for December 2022.

Defendant's failure to make the October 2022 payment into the Court's Registry in a timely matter, and his subsequent failure to make the payments that were due for November 2022 and December 2022 are material breaches of the Consent Order, which made it clear that time was of the essence. As such, the Defendant has breached the Consent Order, and Plaintiff is entitled to an Immediate Writ of Possession for the Property as directed in the Consent Order. O.C.G.A. § 44-7-54(b).

II. THE FUNDS OF THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT SHOULD BE RELEASED TO PLAINTIFF.

The Bankruptcy Court made a judicial determination that the Lease expired on May 16, 2022, which subsequently terminated the Option to purchase the Property. [Hearing Trans. at 70]. Despite the Lease expiring on May 16, 2022, Defendant continues to reside in the Property, is not making payments into the registry of the Court, thereby breaching the Consent Order, and continues to enjoy the benefits of residing in the Property. In addition, Defendant is sending the Property owner taunting text messages about the "feds just chipping away at home value." A true and correct copy of the taunts are attached hereto as **Exhibit E**. Conversely, the Property owner—

McCracken—does not have access to its Property, has not received a dime for the use of its Property since about April 2022, and continues to pay the mortgage on the Property.

At this point, Defendant has breached the Consent Order, and a court (*i.e.*, the Bankruptcy Court) has made a judicial finding that the Lease and Option to purchase the Property have expired and terminated. [Hearing Trans. at 70]. Defendant has no legal interest in the Property and cannot claim ownership of the funds in the Registry. As such, the monies in the Court's Registry are rightfully due to McCracken and should be released from the Court's Registry.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, Defendant is in material breach of the Consent Order. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to (1) an immediate *Writ of Possession* for the Property and (2) the release of all funds paid into the Court's Registry by Defendant since April 2022.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of December 2022.

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

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/s/Robert J. Kaufman
ROBERT J. KAUFMAN
Georgia Bar No. 409197
M. Christopher Freeman, Jr.
Georgia Bar No. 436411
Juan S. Patino
Georgia Bar No. 284280
Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served a copy of the within and foregoing *MOTION FOR AN IMMEDIATE WRIT OF POSSESSION AND FOR RELEASE OF ALL*FUNDS HELD IN THE REGISTRY on all parties to this matter by filing said document electronically via Odyssey eFileGA which will automatically send electronic notification to the following counsel of record:

Matthew D. McMaster Matthew D. McMaster, LLC 12 Powder Springs Street, Suite 250 Marietta, Georgia 30064 mdmcmaster@mcmasterlegal.com

This 20th day of December, 2022.

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

2710 Old Milton Parkway, Suite 200 Alpharetta, Georgia 30009 P: (470) 386-6900

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rkaufman@hallboothsmith.com cfreeman@hallbothsmith.com jpatino@hallboothsmith.com /s/Robert J. Kaufman
ROBERT J. KAUFMAN
Georgia Bar No. 409197
M. Christopher Freeman, Jr.
Georgia Bar No. 436411
Juan S. Patino
Georgia Bar No. 284280
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

Case 22-58536-bem Doc 21-8 Filed 11/07/22 Entered 11/07/22 12/35/25 Desc. Exhibit Ex. H- Order Payments due by 17th Page 1 of 2

Date: 4/25/2022 12:00 AM Cathelene Robinson, Clerk 22ED208510

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

PARAMOUNT PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC,

Plaintiff.

CIVIL ACTION NO.

V.

22ED208510

DERRICK JACKSON,

Defendant.

CONSENT ORDER

The above-captioned matter having come on the regularly scheduled April 21, 2022, trial calendar before the Hon. Todd Ashley, Magistrate Judge of Fulton County, and all Parties being present and represented by counsel, and the Parties consenting thereto, and without any prejudice attaching whatsoever regarding any claims, counterclaims, or defenses associated therewith, it is **Hereby Ordered and Adjudged** as follows:

- The Parties agree to transfer the entirety of the instant matter to the Superior Court of Fulton County as a declaratory judgment action to address all claims and counterclaims that were raised or could have been raised before this Court, and to seek a declaratory judgment with respect thereto;
- 2. Defendant shall, on or before 5:00 PM on April 21, 2022, deposit the sum of \$85,264.52 ("Deposit") into the Registry of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Fulton County ("Registry");
- 3. The Clerk of Court is directed to immediately remit the sum of \$75,000.00 from the Deposit to Plaintiff's counsel, Hall Booth Smith P.C., who shall retrieve such check from the Clerk in person;



of 2

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

PARAMOUNT PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC,	
Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
v.	22ED208510
DERRICK JACKSON,	
Defendant.	

CONSENT ORDER

- 4. Defendant shall pay all rents due under the Lease at issue in this action for the month of April 2022 into the Registry on or before May 1, 2022 and shall further pay all subsequent months' rents into the Registry on or before the 17th day of each consecutive month thereafter pursuant to the terms of the Lease. Time is of the essence. Rents shall be deemed paid upon receipt into the Registry on or before the 17th day of each month, except for rents paid for the month of April 2022, which shall be deemed paid upon receipt into the Registry on or before May 1, 2022. If Defendant does not timely pay rent as specified above, Plaintiff shall be entitled to seek an immediate Writ of Possession the property located at 955 Tiverton Lane, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022 ("Premises") upon proper application under Georgia law. Plaintiff's permitting Defendant to remain in possession of the Premises and Defendant's paying of rents into the Registry of the Court shall not compromise or prejudice either Party's rights or privileges associated with these actions, as the Party's respective rights shall be addressed in the declaratory judgment action in the Superior Court of Fulton County; and
- 5. Defendant shall, by 5:00 PM on April 25, 2022, dismiss without prejudice the case presently pending in the Superior Court of Fulton County identified as civil action number 2022CV361902.
- 6. **The Clerk of Magistrate Court of Fulton County** is HEREBY ORDERED to transfer this action in its entirety to the Superior Court for all further proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 22 DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

Judge Todd Ashley, Fulton County Magistrate Court

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EXHIBIT B

	Page 1
1	IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
3	ATLANTA DIVISION
4	IN RE: .
5	•
6	DERRICK BERNARD JACKSON, . Docket No. 22-56981-bem
7	. 22-58536-bem
8	DEBTOR
9	. Atlanta, GA
10	. November 30, 2022
11	. 9:54 a.m.
12	
13	
14	TRANSCRIPT OF
15	HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE BARBARA ELLIS-MONRO
16	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
17	
18	
19	Transcription Services: Veritext
20	330 Old Country Road
21	Suite 300
22	Mineola, NY 11501
23	
24	PROCEEDINGS RECORDED BY ELECTRONIC SOUND RECORDING.
25	TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED BY TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE.

Page	Page 4
1 APPEARANCES:	1 PROCEEDINGS
2 For the Debtor: DERRICK BERNARD JACKSON, Pro S	
3 955 Tiverton Lane	3 case of Derrick Bernard Jackson, case number 22-56981,
4 Johns Creek, GA 30022	4 beginning with Item 92, status conference on Debtor's motion
5	5 for sanctions for violation of the automatic stay. 90
6 For Paramount: ROBERT J. KAUFMAN	6 THE COURT: I'm sorry. So go ahead.
7 NICHOLAS J. GARCIA	7 CLERK: 93, Debtor's motion for sanctions for
8 2710 Old Milton Parkway, Suite 200	8 violation of the automatic stay oh, I'm sorry.
9 Alpharetta, GA 30009	9 THE COURT: All right. On the first matter, the
11 For the Trustee: SONYA BUCKLEY GORDON	10 status conference, are there any appearances? I know Mr.
12 K. Edward Safir, Chapter 13 Trustee	11 Jackson is in the courtroom. Is there anyone on the line 12 here on the status conference, which is in a previously
13 285 Peachtree Center Ave, NE	13 dismissed case for which the Court retained jurisdiction on
14 Suite 1600	13 dismissed case for which the Court retained jurisdiction on 14 the sanctions?
15 Atlanta, GA 30303	15 All right. I had scheduled
16 Atlanta, GA 30303	16 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Good morning, Your Honor.
17	17 THE COURT: Oh, sorry, Ms. Buckley. Go ahead.
18	18 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: I was just going to say
19	19 I'm sorry I interrupted, Your Honor. I'm here if you have
20	20 any questions regarding the case.
21	21 THE COURT: All right.
22	22 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Before it was dismissed.
23	23 THE COURT: Thank you.
24	24 With respect to this first case, it was dismissed
25	25 for what reason, Ms. Buckley?
Page	
1 INDEX	1 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Your Honor, I show that the
2	2 case was filed on September 2nd and dismissed for failure to
3 1) Status conference on Debtor's motion for sanctions for	3 pay the filing fee on September 20th.
4 violation of the automatic stay.	4 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And Mr. Jackson, I
5	5 had set this status conference to discuss scheduling for
6 2) Motion to Impose Sanctions for Violation of the	6 discovery. At the prior hearing, I had indicated that I
7 Automatic Stay.	7 would give you all 60 days for discovery. I don't know if
8	8 discovery has been undertaken or what the status is. And
9 3) Derrick Bernard Jackson on the Debtor's motion for	9 Counsel for GM Financing is not here. What can you tell me
10 sanctions for violation of the automatic stay along with the	10 about progress in putting together the evidence necessary to
11 Debtor's motion to determine value of property.	11 pursue on your damages claim?
12	MR. JACKSON: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
13 4) Paramount Properties Management Group LLC, and Michael	THE COURT: If you would, go ahead and stand, and
14 and Julie McCracken's motion for relief from stay.	14 come to the podium please, sir. Or if the microphone will
15	15 pick you up there, that's fine too.
16	16 MR. JACKSON: Where would you like me?
17	17 THE COURT: If you wouldn't mind, the podium would
18	18 be great. Thank you.
19	19 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Good afternoon, Your Honor.
20	20 First, with GM, I haven't heard I spoke with Mr. Reuben I
21	21 think on the 20th. That's the day I thought we were making
22	22 the payment for the case, and I had discussed with his
23 24	23 attorney that I was going to settle, but I had discussed
25	24 with another attorney that Mr. Reuben referred me to that I
۵٠/	25 was going to not proceed for with the bankruptcy case.

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- 1 But as far as like on the -- for the sanctions in that
- 2 matter, I haven't heard from Mr. Reuben as far as on
- 3 discovery or anything like that.
- THE COURT: Okay. And do you need to take any
- 5 discovery in the nature of any -- excuse me --
- 6 interrogatories or requests to produce or any of those types
- 7 of things from GM or any other party?
- MR. JACKSON: Yes, I do because there were several
- 9 GM employees that I made contact with September the 2nd,
- 10 right after the filing. There were a couple people from the
- 11 (indiscernible) that I made contact with, and I need
- 12 interrogatories from those people to develop their actual
- 13 knowledge of the filing and their -- I do have phone
- 14 records, but I do need the interrogatories.
- THE COURT: All right. Well, have you undertaken
- 16 to send interrogatories to any of those folks?
- 17 MR. JACKSON: No. I haven't had the time.
- 18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, what I will do is the
- 19 usual discovery period for matters is 90 days. I had
- 20 provided 60 days when we were here previously. I'll go
- 21 ahead and schedule 90 days and enter a scheduling order for
- 22 a subsequent status conference on how that has proceeded and
- 23 when we need to schedule the evidentiary hearing on damages.
- MR. JACKSON: Okay. 24
- THE COURT: All right. 25

25 stay. And I know, Mr. Jackson, that you have filed a

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. And then Ms. Flanagan, if

- 3 you'll call the next matters.
- CLERK: The next matter is in case number 22-58536
- 5 for Derrick Bernard Jackson on the Debtor's motion for
- 6 sanctions for violation of the automatic stay along with the
- 7 Debtor's motion to determine value of property, and finally
- 8 along with the Paramount Properties Management Group LLC,
- 9 and Michael and Julie McCracken's motion for relief from
- 10 stay.
- 11 THE COURT: All right. If we could take
- 12 appearances in these matters, please.
- 13 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes, Your Honor. Robert Kaufman and
- 14 my associate, Nicholas Garcia here on behalf of the
- 15 respondent, Paramount, as well as Mr. and Mrs. McCracken.
- 16 THE COURT: Good morning.
- 17 MR. KAUFMAN: Good morning, Your Honor.
- 18 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Jackson.
- 19 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Sonya Buckley -- Sonya
- 20 Buckley Gordon for the Chapter 13 trustee, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: All right. And Ms. Gordon, this case,
- 22 it looks like a payment may be coming due shortly. Can you
- 23 give me any information on what the progress in the case is
- 24 thus far?
- 25 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Yes, Your Honor. This case

- 1 was filed, Your Honor, on October 24th, 2022. A Chapter 13
- 2 plan has been filed that has proposed a planned payment in
- 3 the amount of \$4.218.
- Your Honor, the first payment came due on November
- 5 24th. However, I make note to the Court that that was
- 6 Thanksgiving Day, but I would say, Your Honor, today is the
- 7 30th, so we are anticipating that a payment will be made
- 8 shortly as one has come due --
- 9 THE COURT: All right.
- 10 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: -- in that amount. Your
- 11 Honor, we do show that the 341 meeting of creditors is
- 12 scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.
- 13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: And with the confirmation 14
- 15 date, Your Honor, if you need that information, a
- 16 confirmation date, that is scheduled for I believe January
- 17 the 11th.
- 18 THE COURT: All right. All right. We're here --
- 19 excuse me -- this morning on several matters. It may be
- 20 that we can deal with them all today. It may be that we
- 21 need to reset these until, I believe we've held the 6th for
- 22 evidence.
- 23 But what I'd like to do is hear from Paramount and
- 24 the McCracken's counsel about their motion for relief from

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- 1 sanctions motion, and there are issues with respect to what
- 2 is property of the bankruptcy estate and various other 3 issues. But let me hear from Counsel, and then I'll hear
- 4 from you, sir, if you would.
- 5 So if you go ahead and take a seat. You can stay
- 6 there or come to the podium -- same with you, Mr. Jackson,
- 7 as long as I can hear you with the microphone there.
- MR. KAUFMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. 8
- 9 THE COURT: Good mooring.
- 10 MR. KAUFMAN: Can you hear me okay?
- 11 THE COURT: I can. Thank you.
- 12 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes. Robert Kaufman here for the
- 13 respondents. I think before I get into the details of the
- 14 motion for relief of stay, some background information might
- 15 be helpful to the Court.
- 16 THE COURT: All right.
- 17 MR. KAUFMAN: And it really pervades all the
- 18 motions that --
- 19 THE COURT: Okay.
- 20 MR. KAUFMAN: -- are pending.
- 21 So this really -- this dispute really revolves
- 22 around a property that is owned by Mr. and Mrs. McCracken.
- 23 And if I may show the Court, this is the object of
- 24 everybody's affection. If I may approach and --
- 25 THE COURT: Sure.

516-608-2400

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- 1 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 2 THE COURT: And you've seen these, Mr. Jackson?
- 3 MR. JACKSON: I've seen them. Yeah.
- 4 THE COURT: Okay.
- 5 MR. JACKSON: This is a house that we co-share.
- 6 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 7 MR. KAUFMAN: So this home, which is owned by Mr.
- 8 and Mrs. McCracken -- and we've filed with our moving papers
- 9 the various deeds that show how Mr. and Mrs. McCracken have
- 10 acquired ownership, so there's no question that they are the
- 11 legal title owners of this home.
- 12 This home is in Johns Creek. I euphemistically
- 13 refer to it as a home. It seems to be a mansion in my way
- 14 of looking at things, having grown up in the Bronx near the
- 15 Yankee Stadium.
- The home sits in a development called Country Club
- 17 of the South. It's quite a prestigious neighborhood. It
- 18 has golf, tennis, country club kind of setting, so we're
- 19 talking about a very upscale property.
- In April of 2019, just to dial back a little bit,
- 21 Mr. and Mrs. McCracken entered into a lease with Mr.
- 22 Jackson, and I'll refer to that as the April lease because
- 23 there's another lease, and I don't want to cause any
- 24 confusion.
- 25 This is a one-year lease that expired in April of

- 1 as an option because I think it's more aptly titled that
- 2 way.
- 3 The lease itself, just for purposes, is what is
- 4 known as a triple net lease, and a triple net lease is
- 5 sanctioned under Georgia law that if the parties enter into
- 6 a lease and allow for the transfer of responsibility for
- 7 certain payments -- you can certainly do that. There's case
- 8 authority to that effect, Your Honor, in case that is a
- 9 question of the Court. And I would refer the case of
- 10 Sewell, S-E-W-E-L-L, versus Royal at 147 Ga. App. 88.
- 11 There's a Browning versus Fortenberry case at 131 Ga. App.
- 12 498.
- 13 So there's a triple net lease here, and the
- 14 significance there is that one of the obligations is the
- 15 tenant pays for all the repairs, maintenance, in essence
- 16 everything. And those payments to the extent that they are
- 17 not made constitute additional rent. And of course, rent in
- 18 leases is significant to the full part of the overall rent.
- 19 You've got the gross rent, which I believe is about \$15,000
- 20 a month together with whatever additional rent might accrue
- 21 as a consequence of the failure of the tenant not to make
- 22 certain repairs or payments, which include taxes and some
- 23 other things, so this was really a true triple net lease.
- 24 The lease itself significantly -- and we recently
- 25 filed, Your Honor -- we filed it, I think, yesterday. I

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- 1 2020. In and around the time that this lease was expiring,
- 2 the parties entered into a new lease and another document
- 3 which is referred to -- at least it's titled as a purchase 4 and sale agreement, but in actuality it's an option to
- 5 purchase the property. Okay.
- And so the lease itself -- and this lease is, for
- 7 the Court's edification, in our moving papers and Document
- 8 Number 29, Exhibit 3 -- is the lease. And then I think the
- 9 exhibit right after that --
- 10 THE COURT: Exhibit 8 is the purchase and sale
- 11 agreement.
- 12 MR. KAUFMAN: -- purchase and sale. Correct.
- 13 And so without getting into the weeds of the lease
- 14 itself, there are a couple of very salient points I think at
- 15 least the Court should put some attention to.
- 16 The lease is dated -- and both these documents
- 17 were signed on the same day at the same time. We have -- my
- 18 view of Georgia law is they're integrated. It could be one
- 19 big document, and Georgia is going to -- under Georgia law
- 20 is going to be viewed as one big document, but essentially
- 21 what you have is a lease with the option to purchase this
- 22 particular piece of property.
- The lease itself was due to commence, and it was
- 24 signed on or about May 17th, 2020 at the same time as the
- 25 purchase and sale agreement option. And I'll refer to that

- 1 want to make sure that everybody got that. Just to clarify
- 2 the term of the lease, the actual language of the lease in
- 3 Section 1 says the term of the lease shall begin on May
- 4 17th, 2020, the commencement date, and shall renew
- 5 automatically annually thereafter on the 16th of May
- 6 thereafter, unless there's a default.
 - The significance here is it is a one-year lease.
- 8 In fact, one could argue it's probably less than a one-year
- 9 lease because the tenant can leave after 90 days' notice,
- 10 and I believe the landlord can terminate the lease after 60
- 11 days' notice. But the significance here is that it's a one
- 12 -- at best, it's a one-year renewable lease.
- 13 The reason I point that out, Your Honor, is Mr.
- 14 Jackson has raised issues of that estate for years and
- 15 things of that nature in some of the other motions. Number
- 16 one, it's not an estate for years because it's not a five-
- 17 year lease, number one. Number two, the cardinal rule of
- 18 all construction of contracts here in Georgia revolves
- 19 around what is the intent of the parties? And here, the
- 20 intent is absolutely crystal clear because there's specific
- 21 language in the lease that says -- itself that says it's not
- 22 an estate for years. It's a lease. You don't require any
- 23 additional rights to it. So I would just point that out as
- 24 an aside.
- 25 The lease also has certain provisions that address

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- 1 the tenants' responsibilities and what causes a default, and
- 2 the -- those references would include obviously not paying
- 3 rent, not maintaining the property. One of the prohibitions
- 4 is not to allow any liens to attach to the property.
- 5 Regrettably, Mr. Jackson has allowed a \$301,000 lien. We've
- 6 got a copy of that, Your Honor, as an exhibit to our moving
- 7 papers to attach to the property. It is a \$301,000 lien
- 8 that emanates from the tax liability that Mr. Jackson has
- 9 incurred. That lien is still earnestly outstanding,
- 10 clouding our title and slandering our title.
- 11 I would also add that he has recently filed post-
- 12 filing of the bankruptcy papers in Superior Court of Fulton
- 13 County indicating there's a lis pendens and that he owns the
- 14 property and some other things that we take to be a slander
- 15 of title.
- 16 The -- there are some other significant provisions
- 17 in the lease I'll just briefly touch on. One is time is of
- 18 the essence in the lease so that when payments are due on
- 19 the date and time specific, that's when they're due.
- 20 There's no grace period.
- 21 And significantly, this lease refers to the
- 22 option, and the option in turn refers to the lease. They're
- 23 cross defaulted. And in fact, in Section 22C of the lease,
- 24 it specifically says "the term purchase and sale agreement
- 25 shall refer to that separate purchase and sale agreement

- 1 it doesn't matter since they're integrated. This is one
- 2 total transaction. It doesn't matter which one is
- 3 technically signed first or second. It's absolutely
- 4 immaterial
- 5 And so again, nonpayment of rent, of course, is a
- 6 default. Any judgment or lien that is permitted on the
- 7 property is a default if it remains uncured. I had
- 8 mentioned this idea of it being arguably a 90- or 60-day
- 9 lease, certainly not a five-year lease. And that references
- 10 in the special stipulations in the lease on exhibit -- it
- 11 references Section 27. It's on page 9 of the lease.
- 12 And then the very last few sentences of the lease
- 13 are important as well because here is where it says "any
- 14 termination of the lease prior to the exercise of the option
- 15 will automatically terminate the purchase and sale
- 16 agreement." So they're cross defaulted. And so -- and then
- 17 the earnest money is forfeited, and that's what happened.
- So at the end of the -- by the way, it also says 19 that there's nothing in this lease that bestows any
- 20 ownership rights in the premises of the property to the
- 21 tenant until tenant exercises the option to purchase the
- 22 property and becomes the rightful owner of the property at
- 23 the closing of the transaction. That's right in the lease
- 24 on page -- it's the very last page of the lease, page --
- 25 THE COURT: Page 10.

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- 1 dated May 8th, 2020 between Mike and Julie McCracken and
- 2 Derrick Jackson, the buyer."
- The reason I point that out, Your Honor, is Mr.
- 4 Jackson has taken the position, we think erroneously --
- 5 THE COURT: That was interesting. I have no idea
- 6 what that was.
- 7 MR. KAUFMAN: Sounded like somebody stepped on a
- 8 cat.
- 9 THE COURT: All right.
- 10 MR. KAUFMAN: Are we good to go?
- 11 THE COURT: Go ahead.
- MR. KAUFMAN: And the reason that that's
- 13 significant, Your Honor, is one of the positions he's taken,
- 14 which we think is incorrect, is that the lease which he is
- 15 not denying signing -- and I'm talking about the May lease,
- 16 not the April lease which had expired -- but that lease was
- 17 superseded by the option agreement. That is neither
- 18 factually nor legally correct. And if anything, you can see
- 19 here just in the very language of these unambiguous -- and I
- 20 would emphasize that they were unambiguous documents that
- 21 even refers to the purchase and sale agreement dated May
- 22 8th. I don't know, quite frankly, if that is a typo or not.
- My understanding is the documents were signed
- 24 simultaneously in Mr. Jackson's office by Mr. and Mrs.
- 25 McCracken as well as Mr. Jackson on or about May 17th, and

- MR. KAUFMAN: -- 10, right, of 12. And so that --
- 2 and then it's signed. You see everybody's signing in their
- 3 capacity here. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken sign as landlords,
- 4 and Mr. Jackson signs as the tenant, and there's a proper
- 5 legal description.
- And so that's the lease component here, and our
- 7 position is significantly that Mr. Jackson was in default of
- 8 the lease for failure to timely pay rent payments back in
- 9 January, I believe, and some other months. He was given
- 10 ample notice and opportunity to cure per the language of the
- 11 lease. He did not cure. There's still outstanding rents.
- 12 There's still a lien that has attached. It's a \$301,000
- 13 lien, which is a transgression under the lease -- original
- 14 lease, and that still remains uncured.
- 15 Before I sort of give you the story as to what
- 16 happened, I do want to touch just briefly on the option
- 17 agreement, Your Honor. And with respect to the option
- 18 agreement in this -- for the purpose of the Court, is
- 19 Document 29-4.
- And here's, I think, the root of Mr. -- not going
- 21 to speak for the other side, but I'll take this opportunity
- 22 -- the root of the confusion. Okay. And so in our view,
- 23 there's no possible way you can read this document to be
- 24 what Mr. Jackson believes it to be, which is a mortgage.
- 25 It's not a mortgage in any way, shape, or form. There's no

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- 1 note. There's no security interest. There's no attributes
- 2 of a mortgage. And just because you call something a
- 3 mortgage doesn't make it a mortgage.
- And so let's look at the language significantly,
- 5 and I can -- I think Paragraph 3 is the paragraph that has
- 6 caused Mr. Jackson some confusion here. So in Paragraph 3 -
- 7 all Paragraph 3 is, is a mechanism, is a formula to
- 8 calculate the purchase price at the time the option would be
- 9 exercised. That's all it is. Okay. And I think the
- 10 language here is illustrative of that.
- 11 And so it starts out by saying at the closing --
- 12 and he acknowledged in a deposition prior to the filing of
- 13 the bankruptcy, that there was never a closing. "Buyer
- 14 agrees to pay seller the purchase price of the property of
- 15 \$1,800,000." That's sort of the starting number to work off
- 16 of, on this formula. That's the purchase price. Then it
- 17 says "less the \$100,000 earnest money," as later defined,
- 18 "less the aggregate amount at the date of closing of the
- 19 monthly payments -- monthly principle payments that would
- 20 have otherwise accumulated under a loan in the amount of
- 21 \$1,700,000 at 8.25 percent being amortized over 30 years."
- 22 Okay. So what they're saying here is this. I
- 23 think the parties had contemplated that Mr. Jackson remain
- 24 as a tenant for a minimum of five years. And the reason I
- 25 say that is there are conditions to the ability to exercise

- 1 at that -- you had that amount of a loan at that interest
- 2 rate, you would have probably paid down -- " and I don't want
- 3 to be held to this, Your Honor, but I did some rudimentary
- 4 math, such as it was, and I was about \$70,000 or \$80,000, as
- 5 I recall. But it was some number, not an insignificant
- 6 number, but there was some number -- and we can quantify
- 7 that number. I don't think it matters at this point.
- And what they're saying is, "Look. From that
- 9 million eight, we're going to give you credit for the
- 10 100,000 deposit, and then we're also going to subtract this
- 11 number," that I'm talking about, "and that is going to be
- 12 your purchase price." And so that number is a moving
- 13 target. It's a moving target because the longer you are in
- 14 the lease, okay, the larger that concession you're going to
- 15 get is.
- 16 And so the option here -- the earliest he could
- 17 exercise the option is May of 2025. He could exercise it
- 18 after that as long as he was still in compliance with the
- 19 lease and in compliance with this option, which didn't
- 20 happen.
- 21 And just to -- to pound the point home that it was
- 22 never intended that the McCrackens were going to be the
- 23 lender. How do I know that? I know that because that's
- 24 what this document says. It goes on to say in the last
- 25 sentence in Section 3, "The purchase price as adjusted by

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- 1 this option, which is spelled out here, one of which is you
- 2 can't be in breach of a lease. The other is you can't be in
- 3 breach of this agreement. And most significantly, you
- 4 cannot exercise the option any earlier than May 17th, 2025.
- 5 And so we sit here today, November 30th, 2022. It was
- 6 contractually, and legally, and physically impossible for
- 7 the exercise of that option to occur.
- And so what were the parties sort of thinking
- 9 about here? Really, this was designed as a benefit to Mr.
- 10 Jackson. This formula -- what the McCrackens were willing
- 11 to do for Mr. Jackson was to say, "Look. Had you had a loan
- 12 from somebody," not us, and I'll show you why it's not us,
- 13 "but had you had a loan, let's say from a bank, and you --
- 14 that loan was at, you know, for a million eight at 8.25
- 15 percent, you would have paid down some of that principle
- 16 over the period of time."
- 17 You know, as the loan is amortized, I'm sure as
- 18 the Court is well aware, though your payments may be
- 19 constant, at the beginning of a loan, it's almost 100
- 20 percent interest. At the end of the loan, it's almost 100
- 21 percent principle that are applied to those payments. And
- 22 it sort of shifts as the loan matures a bit.
- And so what the McCrackens were offering here,
- 24 giving to Mr. Jackson, is to say, "Look. Let's assume for a
- 25 moment you had -- you were in this place for five years, and

- 1 the earnest money and the principle payment and optional 2 payments as described above may be paid by bank, cashier's
- 3 check, or wire transfer, or immediately available funds at
- 4 the closing of the sale." Okay. "And the cashier's check
- 5 or wire shall be deemed to be the equivalent to pay all cash
- 6 at closing," and that's the method of payment.
- So the expectation here was when -- if and when --
- 8 and he wasn't required to exercise the option, but if and
- 9 when that event occurred, we look at the event -- at the
- 10 time, calculate what the purchase price is. You pay your
- 11 money, we have a closing, you get a deed, and we're done.
- 12 That didn't happen. None of that happened. Okay.
- 13 But this is not a mortgage. It's not designed to
- 14 be mortgage. It was never intended to be a mortgage. All
- 15 that provision in Section 3 is simply a formula to establish
- 16 the purchase price.
- 17 The document goes on to say this option -- and
- 18 discusses in Section 6 these conditions I've talked about,
- 19 the conditions to exercise the option. And no formal
- 20 exercise has ever been done. He couldn't because we haven't
- 21 hit the date.
- 22. But in Section A -- 6A, it says, "Closing.
- 23 Provided neither this agreement, the option, nor the lease
- 24 as herein defined," and the lease is a defined term here,
- 25 and it specifically refers to the lease that I just talked

Page 22 Page 24 1 It's in Section 26. It says, "Landlord may engage a

- 1 about, the May lease. Okay. So again, that shows the
- 2 integration cross referencing, cross default.
- 3 And it says, "Provided that neither this agreement
- 4 nor the lease has been terminated, the buyer shall have the
- 5 option to close on this sale on or after May 16th, 2025."
- 6 Okay. And, you know, if the parties agreed to a different
- 7 date, fine if it's in writing. That never happened.
- And so at the end of the day, none of those
- 9 conditions have been met by Mr. Jackson because he's
- 10 breached the lease, and concomitantly, he's breached the
- 11 option because of the cross-default nature, and May 16th,
- 12 2025 has not occurred. Okay.
- 13 And by the way, it does show in Section C of 6
- 14 possession because Mr. Jackson has taken the position that
- 15 he has been in possession of the property since, I think he
- 16 said, April of 2019. I read one his pleadings. Well, it's
- 17 true. But of course, he was in possession because he was
- 18 subject to a lease, the original April lease. And then the
- 19 next lease, the May lease, which we were -- he operated
- 20 under. And so -- but clearly here, it shows that cross
- 21 referencing, Your Honor.
- 22 So the story goes on as follows. So there comes a
- 23 point in time beginning -- well, Mr. Jackson had
- 24 historically been late -- making late payments despite time
- 25 being of the essence under the -- not so much the April

3 fulfill the requirements of the lease, et cetera, et

2 property manager at any time who will then be authorized to

- 4 cetera," which is what Paramount did.
- And so proper notices went out, and at which point 5
- 6 shortly thereafter, eviction proceedings were filed in
- 7 magistrate court of Fulton County where the property is
- 8 located. And in and around that time, notices went out of -
- 9 a notice of you're in default, and so the lease is
- 10 terminated. A notice of nonrenewal of the lease -- because
- 11 the lease would automatically renew if somebody didn't give
- 12 notice of nonrenewal, so that went out. These are all
- 13 exhibits, by the way, to the pleadings, Your Honor.
- 14 And then notice of default, notice of nonrenewal,
- 15 and notice of termination of the option, again because
- 16 they're all cross defaulted.
- 17 So all of this occurred prepetition,
- 18 significantly. And our view is all -- any and all interest
- 19 to the extent he had any, was prepetition extinguished.
- 20 Okay. And we think that is very significant.
- 21 The -- and so what happens then, Your Honor, is
- 22 that the eviction proceedings go forward. There's a couple
- 23 of -- they had asked for some continuances and whatnot. It
- 24 culminated in a hearing on -- in April in front of Judge
- 25 Todd Ashley over in magistrate's court. And during that

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- 1 lease but this May lease. And that lateness finally got to
- 2 the point where he was missing payments and giving him a lot
- 3 of stories about payment and whatnot, which didn't actually
- 4 occur.
- And so ultimately, what happens is the McCrackens
- 6 had hired a company called Paramount Management Company --
- 7 Paramount Properties Management Company Inc. The McCrackens
- 8 had moved out of state. They wanted somebody to monitor
- 9 their property, take care of it, and so -- and obviously
- 10 under Georgia law, it allows for property management
- 11 companies to assist and be an agent for property owners.
- 12 There's a Georgia code section to that effect. There's
- 13 specific language in the lease that contemplates that a
- 14 management company would be engaged, Your Honor. I believe
- 15 that is -- I can find that section, but there's a specific
- 16 reference to that.
- And so finally comes December, January, in and
- 18 around that time, he's finally late, and they send out three
- 19 -- the management company and I believe Counsel for the
- 20 management company sent out notices giving Mr. Jackson,
- 21 advising him of being in default, giving him an opportunity
- 22 to cure, which never occurred. It's still in default today,
- 23 especially obviously with the lien that is present.
- Oh, Your Honor, just to dial back, that property
- 25 management reference is on page 9 of 12 of Document 29-3.

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- 2 -- a Mr. McMaster.
- And at that point, we entered into a consent
- 4 agreement. And the background for that is we -- the
- 5 McCrackens had been seeking approximately -- I forget the

1 period of time, Mr. Jackson had engaged new counsel, and the

- 6 exact number, but let's call it about 85-some-odd-thousand
- 7 dollars of rent that they claim was owed at that time.
- 8 And the -- Mr. Jackson had filed a counterclaim in
- 9 the magistrate court for \$37,000 claiming an entitlement for
- 10 reimbursement for certain repairs that he made that he
- 11 advanced.
- 12 Now I'll just say that sort of -- in my view, sort
- 13 of a disingenuous argument to make is on the one hand he's
- 14 saying, "I own the property. I bought it in May," so why he
- 15 -- if he -- if that were true, why he would have an
- 16 expectation that the McCrackens would be paying him back for
- 17 repairs that he made after he allegedly owned it, which of
- 18 course didn't happen. And then the other is it acknowledges
- 19 that in order -- you know, these are things that are
- 20 certainly addressed only in the lease and not in the option
- 21 agreement, and so he's acknowledging that lease exists.
- 22 Okay.
- 23 And the amount of money that he had paid -- and he
- 24 had paid some rent over the years, was invariably in that
- 25 \$15,000 amount. There were other things he paid on top of

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- 1 that, that additional rent I alluded to, but that \$15,000 is
- 2 exactly what the rent is called for under the May lease.
- 3 And so what happens is he files a counterclaim in
- 4 magistrate court, but the problem he had was that the 37,000
- 5 he was seeking exceeds the jurisdictional limit of the
- 6 magistrate court. Okay. And then he said, "Well, you're
- 7 asking for more than \$25,000," which is the jurisdictional
- 8 limit. However, there's some exception in magistrate court,
- 9 and that is for rent, so you can exceed the jurisdictional
- 10 amount for rent, but if there's a counterclaim or other
- 11 claim beyond that, then the Court did not have the authority
- 12 to hear that.
- So the parties agreed that, you know, essentially
- 14 there were two options. One is we could proceed, and then
- 15 he would file a new action in Superior Court on his claim,
- 16 or we would just shift everything over to the Superior Court
- 17 and let Judge Leftridge deal with it. And that's what the
- 18 parties agreed to do.
- 19 And in our view, one of the motivations that we
- 20 had was we intended and in fact did file a declaratory
- 21 judgment action because the entirety of Mr. Jackson's case
- 22 hinges on his belief that A, the lease is not relevant to
- 23 him. It's his words in his deposition. It just doesn't --
- 24 he signed it, but it doesn't matter. Interesting theory,
- 25 but that's his position and he's sticking to it. And that
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- 1 this option is a mortgage.
- 2 And so our view was the most expeditious way to
- $3 \hspace{0.1cm}$ get some resolution here on all of the matters is to shift
- 4 it into Superior Court, let a judge look at it. We filed
- $5\,$ the dec action. And shortly thereafter, the case gets put
- 6 on a bench trial calendar of Judge Leftridge, much to our
- 7 delight because we'd like to get this thing resolved, and we
- $8\,$ firmly believe that any read of the option agreement will
- $9\,$ reveal that it is not a mortgage and it is in fact an option
- 10 agreement.
- On the eve of that bench trial being heard -- and
- 12 now we're into like September-ish -- Mr. Jackson files a
- $13\,$ jury demand in that case, which sort of struck me odd. A
- 14 jury demand for declaratory judgment action, which is sort
- 15 of the (indiscernible), but apparently you can do that, and
- 16 the law allows it. And so that removed the case from the
- 17 bench trial calendar and put it on the -- I think it was --
- 18 if I have the date right, October 25th trial calendar --
- 19 jury trial calendar in front of the Honorable Judge
- 20 Leftridge.
- Well, shortly before that in September, we
- 22 exchanged -- Mr. Jackson exchanged documents. And by the
- 23 way, this was after -- but unbeknownst to us -- he filed
- 24 this September bankruptcy. Okay. And so we exchanged
- 25 documents. Had no knowledge of the existence of this

- 1 bankruptcy. And then I think in and around September 16th
- 2 or so, we took Mr. Jackson's deposition. He was represented
- 3 by Mr. McMaster, his attorney in the civil case. And he sat
- 4 through very cooperatively, you know, a couple-hour
- 5 deposition. Never, never, never uttered a word that he had
- 6 filed bankruptcy. We had no clue that he had filed
- 7 bankruptcy. And then now that we had the deposition taken,
- 8 we're ready for trial. We're all ginned up, ready to go.
- And then on October the 24th, which I think is the
- 10 day before the October 25th trial calendar -- I may have the
- 11 dates off a little bit, but it was literally on the eve,
- 12 sometime around 4:00 in the afternoon I get a call from my
- 13 client who says, "Mr. Jackson has filed bankruptcy." And we
- 14 were first case out, by the way, Your Honor, in front of
- 15 Judge Leftridge on that jury trial. And we filed pretrial
- 16 orders and everything else. We were told we were number
- 17 one. We're going to get started first thing in the morning.
- And so now what happens is I try to reach out to
- 19 Mr. McMaster to confirm. I didn't get a -- like a copy of a
- 20 filing or anything else. I was just -- I was told. I don't
- 21 think -- or maybe the front page or something because Mr.
- 22 Jackson likes to send things by text and send it to my
- 23 client, and they sent something to me. But it was apparent
- 24 that they -- it was more likely than not there was a filing.
- We called down to the bankruptcy court. At that
- 1 point, I don't think it got into the system quickly enough,
 - 2 and so I wasn't getting much feedback from the bankruptcy
 - 3 court, but I felt my ethical and professional responsibility
 - 4 to alert Judge Leftridge's office that there was a
 - 5 bankruptcy filing. Certainly we didn't want to be in
 - 6 violation of the automatic stay, and -- but felt that, you
 - 7 know, jurors were coming and the Court needed to know.
 - 8 So unable to reach Mr. McMaster, and knowing that
 - 9 he was represented by -- not that I knew how to do it anyway
 - 9 he was represented by -- not that I knew now to do it anyway
 - 10 -- to reach out to Mr. Jackson, I sent an e-mail to the11 Court and said that it's my understanding that Mr. Jackson
 - 12 may have filed bankruptcy. Our case is first out, you know,
 - 13 and obviously there's an automatic stay if that in fact
 - 14 happened. What should I do? And Judge Leftridge said,
 - 15 "Prepare an order stating the case." So I said okay.
 - And so as I was starting to prepare that order,
 - 17 across my e-mail about 30 minutes after that -- so now it's
 - 18 like 4:30 in the afternoon -- I get a copy of the order that
 - 19 Mr. McMaster, Mr. Jackson's counsel, prepared essentially
 - 20 stating the case. And I was sent a courtesy copy, and I had
 - 21 one concern with it.
 - 22 And I'm not -- and you've likely not heard of me
 - 23 down here before because this is not my normal court to try,
 - 24 hence my erstwhile associate, Mr. Garcia here. I looked at
 - 25 it. We looked at it, and the concern I had was the language

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- 1 in the order that said that the funds -- that the case is
- 2 stayed and the funds he had paid, by the way -- I'll go back
- 3 to that consent order -- as part of that deal, he had paid
- 4 like 75 -- \$85,000 into the registry of the Court. We were
- 5 allowed to extract that money out by agreement under that
- 6 consent order.
- 7 That consent order also said the parties would act
- 8 without prejudice, and that he could remain in the premises
- 9 until further disposition by the Court, but he had to pay by
- 10 the 17th of every month \$15,000 in to the registry of the
- 11 Court. The last payment he made was in October. It was
- 12 October 17th. It was due. I think he actually paid it on
- 13 October the 24th, so that is also late. I'm unaware whether
- 14 he has made subsequent payments. I don't know if he's made
- 15 a November payment or not.
- But the language in that order says if those
- 17 payments are not paid, we're entitled to an immediate writ
- 18 of possession. Okay. And so to the best of our knowledge,
- 19 those payments haven't all been made. Quite frankly, I'm
- 20 not familiar enough with bankruptcy rules as to whether or
- 21 not the effect of a stay or the automatic stay has on a
- 22 Superior Court order, or a court order directing that. But
- 23 that may be for other people smarter than I am, but that's
- 24 where we are.
- 25 And so since then, Mr. Jackson has resided in

- 1 from an order of the bankruptcy court to any court somehow
- 2 transgressed and is a violation of the automatic stay, and I
- 3 will say again that that order specifically recites, and the
- 4 whole focus of that order is invoking the automatic stay,
- 5 and taking the case off the calendar that was going to be
- 6 tried, you know, the very next morning. So that's all that
- 7 did, and it was certainly exactly opposite of any effort to,
- 8 you know, continue collection efforts. It was designed to
- 9 stop it, just to make sure that I was in, you know, in good
- 10 compliance with all the courts. So that was that.
- 11 The second one that we had been castigated is that
- 12 we went ahead and proceeded with his deposition because of
- 13 the existence -- unbeknownst to us -- of the prior
- 14 bankruptcy filing that he filed in September. The
- 15 bankruptcy papers -- we had no knowledge of that, and we had
- 16 no idea until we got a copy of his petition in this case.
- 17 And then we started to root through the petition and say,
- 18 "Oh, you know, there's a section that says any prior
- 19 bankruptcies? Oh, wait a minute. Oh, he just filed a
- 20 bankruptcy." And then we did a little checking, and saw
- 21 that. Okay.
- 22 But we had no knowledge. And I'm incredulous to
- 23 think that knowing that he had filed bankruptcy -- and I
- 24 think that that bankruptcy was still pending before it
- 25 actually was dismissed for not paying the fee by a couple of

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- 1 those premises, and we haven't gotten the money, and the
- 2 money is sitting in the registry of the Court.
- 3 So now what happens is I look at that order, and I
- 4 make one change. And the one change we made in that order
- 5 that Mr. McMaster had prepared stating the case in the
- 6 Fulton Superior Court was instead of it saying "upon further
- 7 order of the bankruptcy court," I simply said "upon further
- 8 order of" I think I wrote court of competent jurisdiction,
- 9 or something like that.
- 10 My concern, quite frankly -- and again probably
- 11 due to my lack of experience in bankruptcy court -- was I
- 12 had envisioned that since all of this -- I know enough to
- 13 know that all of this was prepetition. I don't believe he
- 14 has any interest over the stay. We would file a motion in
- 15 relief of stay, and if the bankruptcy court granted that,
- 16 I'd go back to the Superior Court, and I didn't want to have
- 17 an order in the Superior Court that said that the only way I
- 18 could extract the funds in the registry or gain possession
- 19 was to get yet another order from the bankruptcy court and
- 20 felt that if the Superior Court issued an order, that should
- 21 suffice. That was the only change I made.
- 22 So two things now. I'll finally get, I think, to
- 23 the point of his motion for sanctions. It seems that it is
- 24 steeped in two very specific theories. One is that my
- 25 interjection in the Superior Court order making that change

- 1 days that neither Mr. Jackson nor his attorney said
- 2 anything. I mean, I may be good, but I'm not clairvoyant,
- 3 okay. There was just no way that we had no knowledge
- 4 whatsoever with respect to that.
- 5 So I would contend, Your Honor, that the idea on
- 6 the sanctions is, to me, by the by.
- With respect to the -- what the Court had asked
- 8 for earlier, and that is our motion for relief of stay, and
- 9 I can address that pretty quickly. But I think now the
- 10 background may be helpful for the Court here.
- We contend the subject property is not the
- 12 property of the estate. The lease was terminated
- 13 prepetition. The option was terminated prepetition. The
- 14 Debtor did not exercise his option. He has no legal or
- 15 equitable interest in the property subject to the option.
- 16 And we cited several cases, Your Honor, that deal with the
- 17 legal position that an option to purchase land is not an
- 18 interest in the property under Georgia law. It's just an
- 19 option. And at this point, that option is terminated
- 20 prepetition. So yes, there is no option.
- 21 But even if there was a live option, it conveys no
- 22 ownership rights, and it's not an interest contemplated
- 23 under the bankruptcy law. And the alleged option at this
- 24 point -- I'll say it's a terminated option to purchase does25 not fall within the definition of "property of the estate"

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- 1 undress Section 541 of the bankruptcy code.
- 2 And so cause exists to lift the automatic stay
- 3 where the debtor's estate holds no interest in the property
- 4 at issue. And I cited the in re Ouche, O-U-C-H-E, at 213
- 5 Westlaw 937571, Section 1. That's a Northern District of
- 6 Georgia 2013 case. So that's Point 1.
- 7 The debtor has no equity in the property. To the
- 8 extent that Mr. Jackson has contended that he's made
- 9 payments, yes, he's made payments. They are rent payments.
- 10 He's lived in that premises. He still owes rent, arguably,
- 11 but those payments were not payments under a mortgage. That
- 12 doesn't exist. Those were simply rent payments. He has no
- 13 equity in the property. And he -- at best, he had a lease
- 14 interest that was terminated prepetition, and his option was
- 15 also terminated, as I said. And so consequently, he has no
- 16 legal or equitable interest in the property whatsoever.
- 17 Presently, all he has is naked possession which, quite
- 18 frankly, should be subject to an immediate writ of eviction
- 19 once the automatic stay is lifted because that's the consent
- 20 order that he agreed to and that the parties operated under
- 21 when we entered into that deal.
- Thirdly, the subject property is not necessary for
- 23 an effective reorganized. I've shown Your Honor the
- 24 pictures of the premises, and we would certainly contend
- 25 that it not necessary for an effective reorganization. Our
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- 1 understanding is under 11 USC 362(g), once we show that the
- 2 debtor has no equity, the burden is on the debtor to prove
- 3 all other issues, including whether or not the property is
- 4 necessary for an effective reorganization. And we believe
- 5 he cannot -- has not certainly and cannot show that to be
- 6 the case.
- 7 He's got no equity in the property. What he's
- 8 done is by the bankruptcy filing, he has sought to halt the
- 9 likely dispossessory that the -- Judge Leftridge would have
- 10 issued in that case because he doesn't have a mortgage, and
- 11 he breached the lease. And I think his tactics by filing
- 12 numerous motions both here and in the Superior Court is
- 13 really designed to stretch out and see how long he can
- 14 remain in Mr. and Mrs. McCracken's home.
- 15 The evidence indicates that to fund successfully a
- 16 plan of debt, adjustment, or retaining possession of
- 17 property, the debtor must pay arrearages, and so I'm citing
- 18 a case that really supports that position. That's In re
- 19 Stewart, 11 B.R. 93, a Northern District of Georgia 1981 20 case.
- 21 Probably the most significant reason why the stay
- 22 should be lifted is that we lack adequate protection.
- 23 Paramount and McCrackens are not receiving any protection
- 24 payments from the debtor for his continued and improper use
- 25 of the home. Again, per the consent order, he was required

- 1 to make these \$15,000 payments. I don't believe he's made
- 2 any since October of -- I believe it's October 24th, which
- 3 that payment in and of itself would've been late. And by
- 4 the way, the consent order specifically recites time being
- 5 of the essence as well.
- 6 And so November payment hadn't been made, and
- 7 therefore, we believe that we are not adequately protected
- 8 under the bankruptcy court. There is no longer a landlord-
- 9 tenant relationship. We were careful in the language of the
- 10 consent order to say that -- one of the concerns we had was
- 11 by requiring the rent payment into the registry of the Court
- 12 that somehow that would be construed in some way, shape, or
- 13 form as the McCrackens either agreeing to an extension of
- 14 the lease or somehow reviving the lease in some way or
- 15 shape. However, there is very specific language in the
- 16 consent order that specifically refutes that and says the
- 17 parties are acting without prejudice. This is really sort
- 18 of a Band-Aid to let the Superior Court deal with it.
- 19 The last argument he's raised, and just to
- 20 anticipate his argument that he's articulated in his papers,
- 21 is that this is an estate for years. And I touched on that
- 22 earlier, and this really gets into an estate for years
- 23 versus use usufruct. In the grand scheme of things, it's
- 24 not an estate for years for several reasons. One is the
- 25 language in the lease itself specifically says no interest
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- 1 is created, and therefore it's not designed to create an
- 2 estate for years. Number two, it is a one-year renewable
- 3 lease and not a five-year lease, which is the minimum that
- 4 you have to hit in order to create an estate for years.
- 5 And so the language is very clear there, and under
- 6 the various cases that we've referenced in our brief you
- 7 look to the intent of the parties and the specific language
- 8 that says it's not an estate for years and that no interest
- 9 supports it.
- 10 And then lastly, Mr. Jackson cites the case of
- 11 Griffith. It's an old case. I think it's a 1930s case.
- 12 Griffeth versus Wilmore. But that case is, if anything,
- 13 helps the McCrackens. The argument there is if you have an
- 14 estate for years, then you can't really go ahead and
- 15 exercise eviction rights.
- But there is no estate for years, number one, and
- 17 the contrast, having a contract where you own the property
- 18 versus an option. And it says that doesn't apply if there's
- 19 just a lease and an option. And so I can quote the case,
- 20 but it specifically says, "Court states that a contract is a
- 21 lease with an option to purchase in the scenario where the
- 22 conditions preceding to the right to exercise the option to
- purchase the property, that the lease must be faithfullypaid, all rents due." In other words, you've got to be in
- 25 compliance with the lease and has got to be an option, and

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- 1 none of that exists. It is clearly not an estate for years.
- 2 So for all of those reasons, we contend that the
- 3 motion for sanctions is frivolous in every sense of the
- 4 word, that a valid argument to lift the stay hopefully has
- 5 been addressed, and really I guess I can get into the very
- 6 last point.
- 7 Your Honor, you hadn't specifically asked for it.
- 8 We can talk about it, and that was his motion to value the
- 9 property. But again, here just really quickly, number one,
- 10 he claims that the property has an appraised value, but he
- 11 hasn't provided any evidence. There's no appraisal. Number
- 12 one.
- Number two, he doesn't have any claim to the
- 14 property. There's no interest in the property. Whatever
- 15 interest he had was terminated, and yes, there is no
- 16 mortgage. And that the plain language of these documents is
- 17 that clearly this is an option.
- And I would point to the Court -- and I'm sure the
- 19 Court knows this -- and that is in construing contracts,
- 20 it's my understanding that the first order of business for
- 21 the Court is to make a determination as to whether or not
- 22 the contract is incomplete or ambiguous. Okay. And so
- 23 here, there's no incomplete. It's not like referring to
- 24 Exhibit A, and Exhibit A isn't attached. Okay.
- 25 And so reading the lease and the option, our

- 1 me what specific facts, and then I'll hear your legal
- 2 argument, but I'm -- I want to drill down a little bit on
- 3 the facts that are disputed.
 - MR. JACKSON: That adequate protection -- I'm
- 5 sorry. Do you want me to stand here or --
- 6 THE COURT: If you can speak up. You speak
- 7 quietly, so I don't hear you as well standing there as I did
- 8 Counsel who speaks more loudly. Is that --
- 9 MR. JACKSON: Specific facts that are up for
- 10 dispute are, number one, they're claiming lack of adequate
- 11 protection, that I'm behind in rent. They have proved that
- 12 more than \$190,000 -- as a matter of fact, \$206,000 has been
- 13 paid in the year 2022. Even if I paid -- even if I owe
- 14 \$15,000, if you multiply that by 12, that's only \$180,000.
- 15 So I'm still over \$26,000 in payment. I gave the evidence
- 16 to the Court in one of the briefs. I don't know if the
- 17 Court get it or see it or look over it, but I have
- 18 additional copies of it if you need it.
- 19 THE COURT: I have -- I have what's been filed and
- 20 have reviewed it.
- 21 MR. JACKSON: Okay. So that argument is false.
- 22 It's not -- it's not (indiscernible). There's more -- once
- 23 again, it's more than \$206,000 has been paid in year 2022
- 24 alone.
- Now I didn't -- when I sent the Court those

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- 1 contention is that they are unambiguous. They -- and so if
- 2 it is unambiguous, at that point the Court as a matter of
- 3 law determines the rights and the duties of the parties and
- 4 construes the contract, and that it's precluded as a matter
- $\,\,$ 5 $\,$ of law for really entertaining any intrinsic oral evidence.
- 6 It doesn't need any because it's not ambiguous to fill in 7 the gaps.
- 8 And so here, we say it is completely unambiguous.
- 9 They say what they say, and that the lease is a lease. It's
- 10 clearly -- to the extent there is anything associated with
- 11 the lease, it was terminated prepetition. And as far as the
- 12 option is concerned, none of the conditions to that option
- 13 have been met. None. Default under the lease and default
- 14 under the option, and then lastly, it's not 2025. I know
- 15 everybody's sort of been in the fog with COVID, but I think
- 16 we haven't advanced that far.
- With that, Your Honor, if there are any questions.
- 18 If not, I'm happy to sit down.
- 19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 20 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: Mr. Jackson, the first thing I want to
- 22 ask you is whether there are specific facts that have been
- 23 asserted that you dispute.
- 24 MR. JACKSON: Yes. (Indiscernible).
- 25 THE COURT: Okay. So if you would, tell me. Tell

- 1 exhibits, I sent them an exhibit of \$190,000. I didn't
- 2 include the \$16,500 that was paid on January the 12th of
- 3 2022 right before this dispossessory was filed, which they
- 4 claim that there was no December payment, and that check
- 5 clearly shows that that affidavit was falsely sworn. It was
- 6 bogus.
- 7 And I filed a charge on them for committing filing
- 8 a false affidavit, which is illegal under Georgia law to do
- 9 that, and they knew that that payment was made. So that's
- 10 over \$206,000.
- 11 Number one, you cannot terminate -- you cannot
- 12 create a bogus reason to say I didn't pay you when you were
- 13 paid and you are paid, you know, and try to get -- try to
- 14 dispossess me of the property because of the value of the
- 15 home has increased significantly.
- 16 THE COURT: So there's a payment dispute as to
- 17 whether there was a default in December --
- 18 MR. JACKSON: I would absolutely agree.
- 19 Absolutely agree.
- 20 THE COURT: -- '21 and January '22. So that's the
- 21 first factual dispute. Okay.
- MR. JACKSON: The second one is Mr. Kaufman stated
- 23 that he hadn't received any more payments. He's not
- 24 entitled to receive anymore because I already prepaid. And
- 25 I want to go to the record, ma'am, Your Honor, and I will

Page 42 Page 44 1 show Mr. McCracken's e-mail, if I could approach the --1 there is a definite April lease, and there is a May lease THE COURT: Well, we're not -- we're not actually 2 also. And there's a separate purchase and sale agreement 3 taking evidence today. 3 mortgage contract. 4 MR. JACKSON: Oh, okay. Okay. THE COURT: Okay. There's a separate agreement 5 THE COURT: And to the extent that we are going to 5 called a purchase and sale agreement. 6 MR. JACKSON: Right. 6 need an evidentiary hearing --7 THE COURT: And that was Exhibit 8 to the 7 MR. JACKSON: Okay. 8 THE COURT: -- I'm going to reset this to allow --8 documents filed by the McCrackens' counsel or Paramount, 9 MR. JACKSON: Okay. 9 correct? 10 THE COURT: -- you all to file exactly what you're 10 MR. JACKSON: Correct. 11 11 going to submit. There are some legal questions that I want THE COURT: Is that right? 12 to get to. 12 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. 13 MR. JACKSON: Okay. 13 THE COURT: Okay. So Exhibit 7 is the May lease, 14 THE COURT: But I first wanted to hear what 14 and so the \$13,000 number that you are arguing comes from 15 specific facts were disputed. 15 the purchase and sale agreement, is that accurate, or is it 16 MR. JACKSON: Okay. There's no -- there's no 16 ---17 prepayment penalty and that the original payment is 17 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am because --18 \$13,977.79 per month at an interest rate of 8.25 percent. I 18 THE COURT: -- from a different lease? Is there a 19 third lease? 19 can pay optional payments per month over the 13,700 and --20 I'm sorry \$13,977.79, which I understand --20 MR. JACKSON: No. What it was is prior to 21 THE COURT: And is that -- is that number from the 21 entering the lease agreement, we were negotiating back and 22 forth --22 prior lease because the lease --23 MR. JACKSON: No, the prior lease, ma'am, I was 23 THE COURT: Right. 24 only paying \$10,000 a month. 24 MR. JACKSON: -- via e-mail. My attorney, THE COURT: All right. 2.5 25 McCracken, his attorney. We were all negotiating, you know, Page 43 Page 45 MR. JACKSON: Or \$9,900 a month, \$9,950 a month. 1 what this deal would be, what type of financing this would 1 2 THE COURT: All right. So let me ask you this. 2 be. And under these deals right here, the original 3 MR. JACKSON: Okay. 3 agreement was he was going to charge me 9.5 percent THE COURT: The Exhibit 7 that was filed, which is 4 interest. 5 the lease for residential property, states that the monthly 5 THE COURT: So your argument is that the 6 rent is \$15,000. Do you dispute that this is in fact the 6 McCrackens were going to give you a loan? 7 lease? 7 MR. JACKSON: Yes. Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. 8 8 THE COURT: All right. MR. JACKSON: Right. That's not the one. 9 9 THE COURT: Okay. Do you --MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. 10 MR. JACKSON: The prior lease that I had --10 THE COURT: Do you -- do you allege that they in 11 THE COURT: -- have a copy of the one? 11 fact gave you a loan? 12 MR. JACKSON: The prior --12 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. 13 THE COURT: Do you have a copy of the one that you 13 THE COURT: All right. Do you have any 14 argue is the right lease? 14 documentation showing that loan? 15 MR. JACKSON: I don't have it on me. No, I do 15 MR. JACKSON: In the -- in the purchase and sale 16 agreement, and plus in all these other documentations right 16 not. Not on me. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Have you shown that at any 17 here showing what these payments were for. 18 point in time to Mr. Kaufman? 18 THE COURT: Okay. And did you file those 19 MR. JACKSON: I showed him the prior lease when I 19 documents you have in your hand? 20 had the deposition. MR. JACKSON: No. I haven't filed all these yet. 21 THE COURT: Okay. So you argue there are three 21 I just pulled them. I stayed up all night pulling all them. 22 leases, the April lease and this lease that was attached and 22 I just went and read the whole e-mail thread now this 23 some other lease? 23 morning. 24 24 MR. JACKSON: Well, I argue that there's an April THE COURT: All right. Well --25 25 lease, and there's a purchase or sale agreement with --MR. JACKSON: I got one right here where one of

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- 1 the lawyers, he read -- this is essentially the same
- 2 numbers. He just lowered the price and raised the interest
- 3 rate.
- 4 THE COURT: Okay. I understand there was a
- 5 negotiation, but Mr. Kaufman argues that the lease and the
- 6 purchase and sale agreement are integrated documents, that
- 7 you read them together. And in fact, they do reference each
- 8 other, and each of these documents make reference to the
- 9 lease not being in default.
- 10 So your argument is that I should just ignore this
- 11 Exhibit 7 lease?
- 12 MR. JACKSON: Well, it's my argument that --
- 13 number one, I'm not in default.
- 14 THE COURT: Okay.
- 15 MR. JACKSON: I'm not in default. It is a bogus
- 16 scheme, and even the dispossessory.
- 17 THE COURT: Wait. Wait. A bogus deed or --
- 18 MR. JACKSON: Scheme. Scheme.
- 19 THE COURT: Oh, scheme. Okay. Thank you.
- 20 MR. JACKSON: Scheme.
- 21 THE COURT: All right.
- 22 MR. JACKSON: To make it appear that I was in
- 23 default when truth in fact, I wasn't in default.
- 24 THE COURT: Okay. And why wouldn't this have been
- 25 an appropriate matter to have the Superior Court hear at the

- 1 an option is not an interest in property, it's certainly a
- 2 contractual interest or a contractual right that could
- 3 become part of the bankruptcy code, so there are some
- 4 nuances here.
- 5 So what I want to hear from you, Mr. Jackson, is
- 6 tell me your view of the world, and then we can talk about
- 7 exactly what needs to happen before the evidentiary hearing
- 8 on Tuesday, which one of the things will include you'll need
- 9 to file all those papers.
- 10 MR. JACKSON: Okay.
- 11 THE COURT: And any other papers that you want to
- 12 try and admit into evidence.
- 13 MR. JACKSON: I got some more papers because my
- 14 attorney, he submitted a request to the Superior Court
- 15 showing that there was no straight -- they didn't follow --
- 16 THE COURT: Okay. So all of these things that
- 17 you're talking about, you will need to get together and file
- 18 on the docket --
- 19 MR. JACKSON: Okay.
- 20 THE COURT: -- before Tuesday morning at 10:00.
- 21 MR. JACKSON: Okay. I will.
- 22 THE COURT: Okay. And you'll need to share them
- 23 with Mr. Kaufman and his associate, so it would truly be
- 24 better if you could do all of that by the end of the day on
- 25 Friday so that they have an opportunity to review all of the

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- 1 jury trial as opposed to filing a bankruptcy case? Why is
- 2 this the right place to be?
- 3 MR. JACKSON: I thought bankruptcy court was a
- 4 better way to settle this because of the necessary remedies
- 5 that were available under the bankruptcy code versus under
- 6 the state law.
- 7 THE COURT: Would that be the automatic stay that
- 8 stopped everything?
- 9 MR. JACKSON: No.
- 10 THE COURT: Okay. What other -- what other
- 11 remedies does this Court have that the Superior Court
- 12 couldn't afford you?
- 13 MR. JACKSON: Such as -- well, the automatic stay
- 14 is one of them because I could argue straight issues of
- 15 having protection of benefit of the automatic stay. Number
- 16 two, stripping some of the payment off is a remedy that was
- 17 available under the bankruptcy code that wasn't available
- 18 under state law.
- 19 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So tell me -- if
- 20 you would just tell me your view of the world because it's
- 21 becoming clear to me that I need to take a look at these two
- 22 documents, but I also will need to understand whether there
- 23 was in fact a default because if the termination was
- 24 improper, then the argument about whether there's any25 interest here, the nature of that may change because while

1 papers.

7

- 2 MR. JACKSON: Okay.
- 3 THE COURT: And they will likewise need to file
- 4 any additional documents and provide any additional
- 5 information to you as well.
- 6 MR. JACKSON: Okay.
 - THE COURT: All right. So if you would just tell
- 8 me -- tell me what your view of the world is. You have
- 9 these two documents that were filed with the Court.
- 10 MR. JACKSON: Right.
- 11 THE COURT: The lease and the purchase and sale
- 12 agreement, your argument is there was no default in making
- 13 payments under the lease, or maybe your argument is there
- 14 was no default in making payments under the purchase and
- 15 sale agreement because this was really a financing
- 16 agreement. I'm not -- I'm not sure I understand exactly
- 17 what you're arguing there, so why don't you make it clear
- 18 for me, please?
- 19 MR. JACKSON: Right. It's really both of them.
- 20 Number one, I never defaulted on the purchase and sale
- 21 agreement. Number two, I never defaulted under the lease
- 22 agreement.
- 23 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So then where does
- 24 that -- where does that leave us in terms of what you're --
- 25 what you're seeking to accomplish with the motions that

Page 50 Page 52 1 you've filed in this Court and in response to their motion 1 payment. 2 2 for relief from stay? Tell me about that please. THE COURT: Okay. So what this agreement says is 3 MR. JACKSON: Where does that leave us? 3 less the aggregate amount at the date of closing of the 4 THE COURT: Yes, sir. 4 monthly principle payments that would have otherwise 5 5 accumulated under a loan in the amount of 1.7 million at 8.5 MR. JACKSON: Again, I think the property should 6 percent being amortized over 30 years had such loan been in 6 be revalued and the second subordinate contract should be 7 effect. 7 stripped down to the fair value of the home. I think that 8 the automatic stay should stay in place because there's This doesn't say there was a loan. It says, 9 equity in the property. I've paid more than 448 -- \$442,000 9 "We're coming up with a number based on those parameters." 10 of interest alone in interest payments. I have paid more 10 Do you see that? It says "had such loan been in effect." 11 than \$50,000 -- or \$45,000 in taxes on this property. 11 It isn't saying there is a loan here. 12 Georgia law makes it clear that a use (indiscernible) is not 12 MR. JACKSON: I got an amortization schedule right 13 a taxable estate. There are several cases that I've cited 13 here. 14 on that. You can't tax a person for merely using your 14 THE COURT: Okay. But what does an amortization 15 priority. 15 schedule show me other than a calculation? If it's 16 I have exercised absolute control over this 16 unaffixed to a promissory note, to money being paid on 17 property since 2020. More than \$300,000 worth of repair 17 account of a loan to buy property at -- I'm not -- I'm not 18 following the argument here based on the language of the 18 work done to this house, upkeep, new roof, insurance, made 19 agreement. 19 payments on time, everything that any homeowner would do. I 20 20 don't understand how could someone collect this type of And frankly, I will have to tell you, having 21 money from me in interest and say this is not a finance 21 looked at the lease and the purchase and sale agreement last 22 night and this morning, I have to agree with Mr. Kaufman 22 agreement. I am a little bit lost with that one. That's a 23 substantial amount of money in interest paid. I can prove 23 that this purchase and sale agreement was an option. That -24 - and even if there was no default under the lease, the 24 it was paid. Every penny of it was paid. 25 option wasn't exercisable until 2025. It hasn't -- it isn't 25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, that's -- you will need Page 51 Page 53 1 to do that, and you will need to prove what -- under which 1 even operative. It's never been operative because the date 2 document and what provisions it was paid. 2 hasn't occurred yet. Do you see what I'm saying? 3 MR. JACKSON: Okay. So I want to give you an opportunity to try and THE COURT: Because their argument is there's no 4 convince me otherwise that your lease isn't in default 5 mortgage. Certainly this purchase and sale agreement that 5 because a lease hold interest is something that perhaps you 6 was attached doesn't provide for any loan, so there must be 6 could prove that you could provide adequate assurance of 7 something else going on. So you're going to need to 7 future performance in a bankruptcy case. But short of that, 8 I just don't see that there's any basis for arguing that you 8 establish that there was a loan made and that that's what 9 you were paying as opposed to paying rent and the other 9 have anything other than a contractual right under the 10 obligations, such as utilities and taxes and upkeep for 10 purchase and sale agreement to potentially exercise an 11 property, which is what the lease provides for. 11 option which may or may not currently exist based on their MR. JACKSON: And interest. 12 argument that all of these things were terminated 13 THE COURT: I didn't see any provision for 13 prepetition, which comes down to the issue of whether you 14 were in default. 14 interest. Perhaps there's provision for interest on late 15 payments, and I didn't pick up on that. 15 So to me, the one issue that we have to determine 16 MR. JACKSON: Yeah. 16 on Tuesday is whether there was in fact a default under the 17 lease. 17 THE COURT: Where would I find the interest 18 payment requirement? 18 MR. JACKSON: Okay. 19 MR. JACKSON: That's also in Paragraph 3 of the 19 THE COURT: Does that make sense? 20 purchase and sale agreement, but there's also a supporting 20 MR. JACKSON: It makes sense. 21 document that Mr. McCracken was sending over about these 21 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Kaufman, did you want to 22 interest payments. These come from Mr. McCracken. 22 add anything to the record at this point?

MR. KAUFMAN: Yes. Just a couple of quick points,

23

25

24 Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

24 the purchase price?

THE COURT: Are you talking about the reduction on

MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. The monthly principle

23

25

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- MR. KAUFMAN: Just to clear things up. And that
- 2 would be, number one, as far as we're talking about these
- 3 interest payments. The lease -- all the payments he's
- 4 reciting are payments that are called for under the lease,
- 5 and Section 4 under the lease talks about late payments, and
- 6 late charges, and percentages, and things like that. So
- 7 that gets subsumed there.
- 8 There's also an entireties provision in the lease,
- 9 Your Honor. It is Section E of 22 of the lease. Entire
- 10 agreement -- this lease and attached addended exhibits shall
- 11 constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and no
- 12 verbal statement, promise, inducement, amendment not reduced
- 13 in writing and signed by the parties shall be binding. So
- 14 any of these negotiations that Mr. Jackson was alluding to
- 15 really get subsumed and incorporated in an entireties
- 16 clause.
- 17 I think most significantly, pre-committing these
- 18 payments, number one, the payments have to be made and have
- 19 to be made timely. And we think the evidence will clearly
- 20 show that these payments that he's referring to have not
- 21 been timely. But significantly, as far as a breach of the
- 22 lease, there's this lien. There's a \$301,000 lien that the
- 23 IRS have imposed, and that lien is in derogation of the
- 24 provision in the lease that says "no liens," and that's in
- 25 section --

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- 1 THE COURT: Where?
- 2 MR. KAUFMAN: Section 22G, and they talk about
- 3 being indemnified and held harmless from any violations
- 4 under the lease, and in Section 4, any judgment, lien, or
- 5 other encumbrance filed against the premises or the property
- 6 as a result of actions taken by tenant, and it goes on about
- 7 damages. But not only is there that lien, but he's filed a
- 8 lis pendens, which would be, in my estimation, a breach of
- 9 the lease. And he's filed other documents in the Court
- 10 slandering the title, all of which were done prepetition.
- But I think significantly, Your Honor, on top of
- 12 the lien and everything else is that a lot of the things he
- 13 talks about obviously are subject to the best evidence rule.
- 14 If there was some loan or some other agreement, we haven't
- 15 seen it.
- But the consent order. So as an outgrowth of the
- 17 filing and the issues associated with the eviction, there
- 18 was a consent order, and that consent order, Your Honor, is
- 19 attached. I think it's Exhibit C to the --
- 20 THE COURT: It's Exhibit H.
- 21 MR. KAUFMAN: H. I'm sorry.
- 22 THE COURT: To Document 20.
- 23 MR. KAUFMAN: Yeah. And so that consent order --
- 24 (indiscernible).
- 25 Your Honor -- here it is. That consent order, to

- 1 me, culminates all of the -- everything that predated it,
- 2 everything that preceded it. And the parties had agreed by
- 3 consent to transfer everything over to the -- to the
- 4 Superior Court.
- Then it says that we're to be paid -- McCracken is
- 6 to be paid the \$75,000, which was done. But then it goes on
- 7 to say in Section 4 on page 2 that Defendant shall pay all
- 8 rents under the lease at issue, and he's got to pay May --
- 9 April and May and whatnot. It's got to be timely, time
- 10 being of the essence. And it's our contention, certainly,
- 11 that those payments were not made timely. And as a result
- 12 of that, what happens is that an immediate writ can be -- it
- 13 says if Defendant does not timely pay rent as specified
- 14 above, okay, Plaintiff shall be entitled to an immediate
- 15 writ of possession. The property located there, proper
- 16 application to the Court.
- 17 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. KAUFMAN: So it seems to me the simple
- 19 question is did he make all of the payments? And leaving
- 20 aside prior to the filing of the bankruptcy, did he make
- 21 those payments timely? To my understanding, unquestionably,
- 22 he did not. And then certainly I think by his own
- 23 admission, that October payment was made several days late.
- 24 I think it was made October 24th. Everything is due on the
- 25 17th, and they were not made timely.
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 And so at the end of the day, between not making
- 2 timely payments per this consent order, and granting us the
- 3 right to seek an immediate writ, coupled with the fact that
- 4 there's a lien that is still outstanding that he's made no
- 5 effort to remove, those are all defaults under the lease.
- 6 And so it seems to me that that's, you know, pretty straight
- 7 up.
- 8 And this idea of he's paid all this interest,
- 9 there's no note. There is no interest. He's never paid a
- 10 penny of interest. All he's paid is rent. And taxes are
- 11 additional rent per the language of the lease. Repairs are
- 12 additional rent per the language of the lease. And his
- 13 claim now seems to be, "Look. I paid a chunk of money,"
- 14 which we don't dispute. "But now I can't buy the house."
- 15 Okay.
- And the problem with that argument that I see --
- 17 and in a non-technical sense, well, you've violated the
- 18 terms of your agreement, number one. You also had the
- 19 benefit of living in this wonderful mansion, you know, all
- 20 this time. But this is on you. You had the opportunity.
- 21 I think the plan was -- I think the -- at the
- 22 inception, the plan was rent the place for five years.
- 23 After that, you'll get a nice credit. It'll reduce the
- 24 purchase price. You'll buy it, and everybody goes off into
- 25 the sunset. That was the plan. He was the one who messed

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- 1 up the plan by not being in compliance with the documents.
- 2 Okay. And now he's sort of complaining, "Well, I paid all
- 3 this money." That's right. You've also had the privilege
- 4 of living in this house for several years.
- 5 That's all I got, Your Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 7 MR. JACKSON: Your Honor.
- 8 THE COURT: Mr. Jackson, with the consent order,
- 9 did you make those payments on time and in full?
- 10 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. All the payments were
- 11 made on time. There is no payment that's really due until
- 12 March if you do all the math calculation on it.
- 13 THE COURT: Well, no. It's -- I'm referring to
- 14 Paragraph 4 of the consent order that was entered by the
- 15 Superior Court that says, "Defendant shall pay all rents due
- 16 under the lease at issue in this action for the month of
- 17 April 2022 into the registry on or before May 1, and shall
- 18 further pay all subsequent months' rent into the registry on
- 19 or before the 17th day of each consecutive month thereafter
- 20 pursuant to the terms of the lease. Time is of the essence.
- 21 Rent shall be deemed paid upon receipt into the registry on
- 22 or before the 17th day of each month, except for rent for
- 23 the month of April 2022, which shall be deemed paid upon
- 24 receipt into the registry on or before May 1." Did you do
- 25 that?

- 1 generally be at fault under the lease. So walk me through
- 2 how other provisions and the indemnification becomes a
- 3 default under the language of the lease.
- 4 MR. KAUFMAN: I think, Your Honor, the -- he's
- 5 allowed a lien to be impressed, and he's taken no action to
- 6 remove that lien. And we're entitled to be indemnified
- 7 under that section, and it hasn't occurred. I think there
- 8 is other language -- I have to go back and take a quick
- 9 look, Your Honor -- where he can't -- he can't impact our
- 10 title to this. I'll find that section with respect to that.
- But our interest in that property is now impaired
- 12 based upon the actions that he has taken by allowing this
- 13 lien to exist.
- 14 Your Honor, I would also say just very quickly, by
- 15 his own admission, I mean, he's provided checks that show a
- 16 payment in September. That check was dated September 20th,
- 17 not the 17th. And the October payment was made on October
- 18 21st, not the 17th.
- 19 THE COURT: And is that of this year?
- 20 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.
- 21 THE COURT: Okay.
- 22 MR. KAUFMAN: These were the payments that were
- 23 made pursuant to the consent order that he's -- that he's
- 24 subject to. And so --
- 25 THE COURT: And are those checks that and with you

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- 1 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. I paid all of it.
- 2 THE COURT: Okay. So that's what you can prove to
- 3 me on Tuesday with all your receipts and with documentation.
- 4 I'm sure that the Superior Court can show what was paid into
- 5 the registry.
- 6 MR. JACKSON: I got them all. Yes, ma'am.
- 7 THE COURT: All right. All right. And with
- 8 respect to the IRS lien, do you dispute that there is a lien
- 9 on this property?
- 10 MR. JACKSON: Well, there is an IRS lien. It was
- 11 for a tax return that -- effective 2003. But I have filed
- 12 my taxes, and the IRS is currently processing those.
- 13 THE COURT: But at the present time, there is a
- 14 lien against the property.
- 15 MR. JACKSON: Yes.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay.
- 17 MR. JACKSON: But I don't understand how there can
- 18 be a lien on a property if there is no interest in the
- 19 property, but --
- 20 THE COURT: Well, it is interesting. That's -- I
- 21 would concur that that's an interesting point that the IRS
- 22 filed a lien against a property that appears to be only
- 23 subject to a leasehold interest. But that is what it is.
- 25 in general judgment of lien or an incumbrance would

So the other provisions, Mr. Kaufman, I understand

- 1 today, Mr. Jackson?
- 2 MR. GARCIA: I think we have them.
- 3 MR. JACKSON: I probably do. I think I do have
- 4 them.
- 5 MR. GARCIA: Your Honor, Nick Garcia speaking.
- 6 Mr. Jackson made the checks that were paid to the registry
- 7 of the Court as exhibits. I don't believe they are all
- 8 numbered, but Document 30, page -- it looks like 38 of 50 is
- 9 one of them. That's the October one, and that check is
- 10 dated 10-21-22, Your Honor. On page 35, Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 12 MR. GARCIA: Document 30.
- 13 THE COURT: All right. That is dated September
- 14 20, 2022. That was the first payment of the 85,264.52 prior
- 15 to May 1st. And have a looks like 6-17-2022, maybe 7-16-
- 16 2022, 5-17, 6-17. What about the September 20th check, Mr.
- 17. 1 1 0
- 17 Jackson?
- 18 MR. JACKSON: September 20th check?
- 19 THE COURT: Yes, sir.
- MR. GARCIA: Do you want to take a look at it?
- 21 It's right here.
- MR. JACKSON: Was it on a weekend? Probably was
- 23 on a weekend.
- 24 THE COURT: I don't know. September 17 was on
- 25 Saturday. The Monday would've been the 19th.

24

Page 62	Page 64
1 This is what I'm going to do. It's about 20	1 MR. JACKSON: I never got billed.
2 minutes of 1:00. I'm going to talk about a half hour, take	2 THE COURT: So you did not make that payment?
3 a look at all the exhibits again and the lease again, and	3 MR. JACKSON: No. I never received the bill.
4 then we'll go from there and see if evidence is necessary on	4 THE COURT: Okay. Did you deny access to
5 Tuesday.	5 contractors hired by the landlord to the property?
6 So we'll be in recess for about 30 minutes.	6 MR. JACKSON: No, ma'am.
7 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. So 10 after 1:00?	7 THE COURT: And did you make improvements to the -
8 THE COURT: Yes. Yes.	8 - or modifications or alterations to the property?
9 MR. GARCIA: Your Honor, may we leave our	9 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.
10 materials?	10 THE COURT: All right. And did you obtain prior
11 THE COURT: You may.	11 approval of the landlord for that?
12 MR. GARCIA: Thank you.	MR. JACKSON: I did not obtain their it was my
13 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you.	13 responsibility to do all that.
14 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.	14 THE COURT: To make modifications, alterations,
15 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.	15 and improvements?
16 (Recess)	MR. JACKSON: Maintenance and upkeep. I haven't
17 CLERK: Be seated, please. We're now back on the	17 made any alterations.
18 record in the case of Derrick Bernard Jackson, case number	18 THE COURT: I'm sorry?
19 22-56981.	MR. JACKSON: I haven't made any alterations to
20 THE COURT: All right. Took a little break and	20 the property other than for paying to have a roofer.
21 was able to take a look a little more closely at the	21 THE COURT: So the media center payment of \$9,000,
22 exhibits that each of the parties had filed. I do note that	22 can you tell me what that was for?
23 Mr. Jackson filed a docket, Docket 30, page 35 and I believe	23 MR. JACKSON: Yeah. That was for a projector.
24 it's 38 of that same document, copies of the payments into	24 The projector had it was an old model projector. It had
25 the registry of the Court of Fulton County, one dated	25 went been.
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1 September 20, 2022 and the other one dated October 21st of	1 THE COURT: So you replaced that?
2 2022, which as we previously discussed the consent order	2 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.
3 that was entered into between the parties through their	3 THE COURT: Did you put it in the same place that
4 counsel indicated that the landlord would have the right to	4 the prior projector was in?
5 seek a writ of possession should any rental payment be not	5 MR. JACKSON: Yes.
6 timely paid.	6 THE COURT: And what was the payment on 2-21 of
7 Presumably, there has not been an attempt to get a	7 '20 to Jones of \$1,000?
8 writ of possession because of the automatic stay in this	8 MR. JACKSON: That was for maintenance around the
9 case, so that means that the exception to the automatic stay	9 house.
10 for a judgment of possession doesn't apply in this case.	THE COURT: And what's Rights Customs?
But I also looked further at the default notice	11 MR. JACKSON: Customs Right. He did a lot of
12 that was provided on March 15th of 2022, and I wanted to ask	12 work. He did a lot of work to the bathroom. He stopped
13 Mr. Jackson first is cited failure to timely pay rent for	13 toilets from leaking. They leaked all the way through,
14 the month of January and February of 2022. Do you dispute	14 destroyed the sheetrock over the garage.
15 that those payments were made on time and in full for	THE COURT: And was is Slasko?
16 January and February of this year, sir?	MR. JACKSON: I'm not recalling that.
17 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.	THE COURT: All right. And you indicate that you
THE COURT: You made those payments on time and in	18 did not deny access to the landlord at any point?
19 full?	19 MR. JACKSON: No.
20 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.	20 THE COURT: All right. And did you make the
21 THE COURT: All right. And did you pay the	21 November rent payment into the registry of the Fulton County
22 property taxes for September of 2021?	22 Superior Court?
23 MR. JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.	MR. JACKSON: Excuse me, ma'am?
A4 PRITE COLUMN 1 1 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
THE COURT: And did you pay the entire Homeowner's 25 Association dues for February of 2022?	24 THE COURT: Did you make the November payment to 25 the registry of the Fulton County Superior Court?

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- MR. JACKSON: No, ma'am because it's my position
- 2 that the whole amount for this is already paid.
- 3 THE COURT: Well, but that consent order that you
- 4 agreed to indicates you are supposed to make payments on
- 5 time and in full or this entity is entitled to a writ of
- 6 possession. The underlying determination as to whether
- 7 there was really a default and who owes what to whom --
- MR. JACKSON: All right --
- 9 THE COURT: -- has not been decided.
- 10 MR. JACKSON: It was my understanding -- it was my
- 11 understanding by my attorney that those payments were made
- 12 in full. It was paid in advance.
- 13 THE COURT: That's completely inconsistent with
- 14 the consent order that you entered. I think it's really two
- 15 different issues, okay?
- 16 MR. JACKSON: Okay.
- 17 THE COURT: The argument that you paid in full and
- 18 paid in advance goes to whether there was a default, whether
- 19 you owed any money. There's a subsequent consent order that
- 20 says if you don't pay the rental amount on time and in full
- 21 each month, that they can get a writ of possession.
- 22 And the matter didn't go forward to allow the
- 23 Superior Court to determine if you're right or they're
- 24 right, if they owe you money or if the termination was
- 25 appropriate, so until that time, obviously subject to the
- Page 67

18

- 1 bankruptcy stay -- but until that time, you've got a consent
- 2 order that says you're going to make these payments. And I
- 3 will further say, even separate and apart from that, in the
- 4 bankruptcy court to deal with a lease, in order to keep a
- 5 lease, you have to make the post-filing payments on time and
- 6 in full, and any arrearage you would have to cure.
- The test in bankruptcy for that is whether you can
- 8 provide adequate assurance of future performance, which
- 9 would mean you'd have to establish that you can pay all the
- 10 things that the lease requires you to pay. And to the
- 11 extent there's an arrearage -- which it looks like since you
- 12 paid the \$85,000, maybe there isn't an arrearage, but that's
- 13 something that you still have to do going forward.
- 14 And just for your edification in bankruptcy, the
- 15 ability to strip down or reduce the amount that you have to
- 16 pay a mortgage holder is inapplicable to a principle
- 17 residence. So even if this were a mortgage and not a lease,
- 18 which I've already determined it's a lease, that is not a
- 19 remedy that's available in this case because this is your
- 20 principle residence.
- So we're really down to talking about the
- 22 automatic stay and whether you have the ability to make the
- 23 required rental payments post-petition while making the
- 24 trustee payment, which one has come due and has not been
- 25 made. So at this point, you owe the rental payment of

- 1 \$15,000 and a trustee payment of 4,000-plus, so something in
- 2 the range of \$19,000 plus even to keep the bankruptcy case
- 3 going. So tell me when you can make those payments.
 - MR. JACKSON: I can do it by Wednesday.
- 5 THE COURT: Wednesday will be December 14, and
- 6 that would be the November rental payment, which would mean
- 7 another payment would be due in -- on the 17th, if you go to
- 8 the next Monday, the 19th. All right.
- 9 Yes, Mr. Kaufman?
- 10 MR. KAUFMAN: Your Honor, if you don't mind, if I
- 11 can just be heard for one second.
- 12 THE COURT: Yep.
- 13 MR. KAUFMAN: And just a thought here, and that is
- 14 in section -- on the lease in Section 27, it allows for -- I
- 15 mentioned this previously under the special stipulation that
- 16 this lease can be terminated by either party within 60 days
- 17 written notice of the termination of the lease.
 - Significantly, the exhibit that you were referring
- 19 to -- this is Docket 29, number 7. This notice was of
- 20 nonrenewal of lease and termination of option to purchase.
- 21 Okay. And so aside from the default, which we certainly
- 22 believe has occurred and is not fixable at this point -- if
- 23 something is late, it's late. You miss the boat, you miss
- 24 the boat. But significantly here, the lease, by not being
- 25 renewed, would terminate as of 16 May 2022. Okay.
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- And so that lease is over. It's terminated. It's
- 2 not renewed. And so if that (indiscernible) pre-committing
- 3 a default, which we contend has occurred, at that point
- 4 there is no lease. There is no lease to make further
- 5 payments on.
- The obligation -- and we were careful in the
- 7 language in the consent order, as I mentioned earlier, was
- 8 not to use any language that would somehow suggest that the
- 9 lease gets revived or it still has some -- you know, a
- 10 breath of air associated with it, allowed the parties -- the
- 11 agreement was, in Section 4, Plaintiffs permitting Defendant
- 12 to remain in possession of the premises, paying of rents
- 13 into the registry, so to not compromise or prejudice either
- 14 party's rights or privileges associated with these actions
- 15 or their, you know, respective rights, et cetera, et cetera.
- 16 And so that was the point. What was the lease, in
- 17 our view, was over and done, again, prepetition but
- 18 certainly by its own terms contractually is over as of May
- 19 16, 2022. It's not renewed. We've agreed not to renew it, 20 and we've canceled it as part of that not renewing.
- 21 And so we think that the issue of whether or not
- 22 there's a -- you know, I guess we can get into a
- 23 determination as to whether or not there was a default. We
- 24 think there was. We think there's ample evidence. We think
- 25 that the checks themselves bearing the dates that are

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- 1 clearly after when they were due, but there is no -- there
- 2 is no lease.
- 3 And then the debtor did not have an unexpired
- 4 lease on the date of the filing of the petition. He filed
- 5 the petition on October 25th. The lease was over as of May,
- 6 four months, five months earlier. He can't cure the
- 7 arrearage due to assume the lease in bankruptcy. There's no
- 8 lease to assume. It's gone.
- And so we submit that we're entitled to the relief
- 10 from the automatic stay.
- 11 THE COURT: Do you understand what Mr. Kaufman has
- 12 just suggested to the Court, that under the lease, under the
- 13 special stipulations -- which is Paragraph 27, page 9 of 12
- 14 -- that states that the lease will automatically be extended
- 15 for consecutive additional one-year terms or less unless or
- 16 until terminated by either party with 60 days written notice
- 17 to the other.
- This nonrenewal of lease and termination of option
- 19 to purchase is dated March 15 of 2022. Even setting aside
- 20 any dispute as to a default under the terms of the lease, 60
- 21 days after this notice that the lease was not going to be
- 22 renewed, the lease no longer existed.
- And I think that -- I think that's an accurate
- 24 interpretation of the lease. As I already said this
- 25 morning, Mr. Jackson, the argument that the purchase and

- With respect to the violation of the automatic
- 2 stay, regardless of knowledge, 362(k) of the bankruptcy code
- 3 provides that there is a violation of the stay whether the
- 4 other party knows about the stay or not. The question then
- 5 becomes whether it's willful, meaning did the party know
- 6 about the stay and do something in the face of the stay that
- 7 is a violation? Here, the argument is that the deposition
- 8 was a violation of the automatic stay, but it can't be a
- 9 willful violation as Mr. Kaufman has said they had no
- 10 knowledge, and apparently neither you nor your counsel
- 11 indicated to them that there was a previous bankruptcy
- 12 filing, so you didn't put them on notice that there could be
- 13 a stay violation.
- 14 And finally, there has to be an injury caused.
- 15 Even if -- even if you set aside the issue of lack of
- 16 knowledge, there has to be an injury caused by violation of
- 17 the automatic stay for any type of damages, and that comes
- 18 from the 11th Circuit in the case of Lodge versus Kandaur
- 19 Capital Corp. 750 F.3d 1263. That's a 2014 case from the
- 20 11th Circuit. Sitting for a deposition in ongoing
- 21 litigation when there was no statement that there was a
- 22 bankruptcy I can't find that there -- that it would be
- 23 equitable and appropriate to grant damages when the party
- 24 who had the knowledge and could've imparted it did not do
- 25 so.

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- 1 sale agreement and that you were paying interest on a loan
- 2 just doesn't hold up in face of the language of the purchase
- 3 and sale agreement. The two agreements do cross-reference
- 4 each other. They're very clear that a default under one is
- 5 a default under the other, and that there is a --
- You could have terminated the lease by giving 90
- 7 days' notice, or the landlord can terminate the lease giving
- 8 60 days' notice, and this does not tie anything to cause.
- 9 It just says you can terminate this -- or you could've or
- 10 the McCrackens could've, and this letter clearly indicates
- 11 that the lease is not being renewed, that it's terminating
- 12 the option to purchase, and it would've been effective 60
- 13 days, so on -- it appears -- May 15 of 2022, perhaps May 16
- 14 of 2022, but long before either of the bankruptcy filings.
- 15 So with that, I'm going to grant the motion for
- 16 relief from the automatic stay. We'll do a short order just
- 17 for the reasons announced on the record.
- With respect, Mr. Jackson, to the motion to value,
- 19 as I've indicated, there's no -- there's no basis to value.
- 20 Even if the lease weren't terminated, there's no basis to
- 21 value the property because it isn't subject to a mortgage,
- 22 so there is no mortgage in effect here, and a lease --
- 23 doesn't matter what the property is worth. You pay what the
- 24 lease says regardless of the value of the property. So that
- 25 motion I'm going to deny as being without merit.

- I had a trial that lasted a couple of days with a
- 2 similar issue, and the individual who was raising the stay
- 3 violation had filed an adversary, had proceeded in a case,
- 4 and had taken all sorts of actions in the state court and
- 5 never once mentioned the bankruptcy case. And 10 years
- 6 later -- literally 10 years later -- sought to invalidate
- 7 everything that had happened in the state court, and that's
- 8 not equitable to use something to your own benefit but then
- 9 try and turn it around on someone else. And I declined to
- 10 take that action in that case, and I decline to do that in
- 11 this case.
- 12 With respect to the insertion in the order of a
- 13 provision that said that the matter could be determined by
- 14 either this Court or the bankruptcy court, certainly there
- 15 was knowledge of the stay, so there's a question of whether
- 16 there was any injury there.
- 17 And I'd be happy to hear from you what injury,
- 18 what damages you believe you suffered from that, or if you'd
- 19 like to reset that motion for another day to talk about
- 20 that, I'm happy to do that. I know you'll be here, I think,
- 21 on the 14th. We could do that. We could reset this to that
- 22 day with the motion to extend the stay to have you explain -
- 23 and again, it will be preliminary -- but what type of
- 24 injury you suffered from that. 25 MR. JACKSON: Okay.

516-608-2400

Page 76 Page 74 THE COURT: All right, to determine if there's any 1 trustee's office may reschedule the meeting of creditors, 2 reason to go further under 362(k) on any damages. All 2 and schedule it and notice it as a business meeting of 3 right. 3 creditors. And I can get that notice filed today and follow 4 up with Mr. Jackson. 4 So I think that concludes all the matters before 5 us today. 5 THE COURT: All right. And that will go on the 6 Go ahead, Mr. Kaufman or Mr. Garcia. 6 docket as well. 7 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes, Your Honor. One point that Mr. 7 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Yes, ma'am. 8 Garcia --8 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So with --9 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: I'm just telling Mr. Jackson 9 THE COURT: Okay. 10 MR. KAUFMAN: -- would like to make. 10 so he knows that it may be okay not to appear tomorrow 11 MR. GARCIA: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you. I just 11 because I do plan to re-notice the meeting of creditors as a 12 business meeting of creditors. 12 wanted to be clear that we had requested in rem relief in 13 our prayer for relief biased on conduct of Mr. Jackson's 13 THE COURT: Okay. So it is not going to go 14 filings, and to avoid a similar circumstances of halting the 14 forward tomorrow. 15 dispossessory in a subsequent filing, as well as that 15 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Yes. 16 similar relief to the funds that are in the registry so that 16 THE COURT: Okay. 17 we can clearly -- or I'm sorry -- actually proceed with 17 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: That is correct. 18 what's contemplated under that consent order that we 18 THE COURT: Okay. So for -- what Ms. Buckley --19 discussed today. 19 Ms. Buckley Gordon is indicating is the Chapter 13 trustee 20 has certain provisions for a debtor who is operating a THE COURT: All right. With respect to in rem 21 relief, I know you all don't spend a lot of time down here, 21 business and funding a case through a business that are 22 but if you did, you would know that I have often said that 22 different than just an individual who's just a wage earner. 23 merely filing some cases, the code provides for that in 23 And so she is going to re-notice this case as a business 24 shortening the stay and other things. The in rem relief in 24 case because Mr. Jackson does operate businesses and is 25 my estimation is meant for truly bad faith issues, for 25 funding his case through that. But the re-notice will be on Page 75 Page 77 1 really extreme situations. I don't find -- from what I've 1 the docket. 2 heard today, and granted we've been -- everyone's standing 2 If you would, Ms. Buckley, maybe just shoot Mr. 3 in their place and talking, but I don't find that in rem 3 Garcia an e-mail or however you notify Mr. Jackson, just let 4 Mr. Garcia and Mr. Kaufman know as well. 4 relief is appropriate. 5 With respect to moving forward under the consent 5 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Okay. I will do that. 6 order, certainly this stay relief for you to go back to the 6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 7 Superior Court and continue that action is granted. MR. GARCIA: If I could make one further inquiry, 8 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Your Honor. 8 Your Honor. 9 9 THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else THE COURT: Yes, sir. 10 that we need to address today, Mr. Kaufman? 10 MR. GARCIA: So just to be clear that there'll be 11 MR. KAUFMAN: I'm just wondering, Your Honor --11 no evidentiary hearing on the 6th, and I also wanted -- if 12 and I appreciate the Court's indulgence. There's a first 12 our could provide maybe some guidance on December 14th given 13 meeting of the creditors. Is the existing progression order 13 that that is a motion that we anticipated filing a response 14 still in place? That hasn't changed? 14 on. We may not necessarily need to based on the relief that 15 THE COURT: That does not change. 15 you provided today. 16 MR. KAUFMAN: Okay. 16 THE COURT: And you don't have to file a response THE COURT: It does not change. All right. Mr. 17 17 to that. That's entirely up to you. 18 Jackson --With respect to the 363(k) issue, that's not going 19 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: Your Honor, if I --19 to be an evidentiary hearing date either. I'm setting that 20 THE COURT: Go ahead. 20 over to allow Mr. Jackson to consider what 363(k) requires 21 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: I'm sorry, Your Honor. 21 and what damage or injury he actually suffered from the 22 THE COURT: That's okay. 22 tweak to that consent order. And he may determine there was 23 MS. BUCKLEY GORDON: If I could make an 23 nothing. He may come up with certain things, but it's just 24 announcement. The meeting of creditors is scheduled for 24 to give him time -- there's been a lot today -- to think

25 about that and see where he comes down on that.

25 tomorrow, but in looking at the schedule, the Chapter 13

	Page 78		Page 80
1	MR. GARCIA: That's on the 14th.	1	- 1
2		2	
3	THE COURT: Yes.	3	
4	MR. KAUFMAN: Okay.	4	transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
5	THE COURT: There's already the hearing on the	5	-
6	motion to extend the stay, so we'll just put that at the	6	1
	same time.	7	
8	MR. GARCIA: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.	8	Sonya Ledanski Hyde
9		9	
10	questions I can answer for you?	10	
11	MR. JACKSON: No. I'm good. Thank you.	11	
12		12	
13	and we'll be adjourned.	13	
14		14	
15		15	
16	_	16	
17	1:47 PM)	17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	Veritext Legal Solutions
21		21	330 Old Country Road
22		22	Suite 300
23		23	Mineola, NY 11501
24		24	
25		25	Date: December 13, 2022
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usufruct 36:23	40:2,5 41:25	work 18:15	
utilities 51:10	40.2,3 41.23	50:18 65:12,12	
	72.11 40.3,11		

EXHIBIT C



IT IS ORDERED as set forth below:

Date: December 1, 2022

Barbara Ellis-Monro U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

IN RE:	
DERRICK BERNARD JACKSON,	CASE NO. 22-58536-BEM
Debtor.	CHAPTER 13
ARTHUR M. MCCRACKEN, JULIA MCCRACKEN, and PARAMOUNT PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC,	
Movants,	
v. DERRICK BERNARD JACKSON,	Contested Matter
Respondent.	

ORDER

Movants' *Motion for Relief From the Automatic Stay, and Brief in Support Thereof*[Doc. 21] came before the Court for hearing on November 30, 2022. Robert J. Kaufman and Nicholas J. Garcia appeared for Movants, Debtor appeared pro se, and Sonya Buckley Gordon

appeared for the Chapter 13 Trustee. For the reasons announced on the record, the Court finds that the *Lease for Residential Property* at 955 Tiverton Lane, City of Johns Creek, Georgia, 30022 (the "Property") and the *Purchase and Sale Agreement* between Debtor and the McCrackens [Docs. 21-3 Ex. C and 21-4 Ex. D] terminated prior to the filing of the bankruptcy case and that the Property is not property of the bankruptcy estate. As a result, Movants are entitled to relief from the automatic stay. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the automatic stay is modified to allow Movants to pursue the action pending in the Superior Court of Fulton County (Paramount Properties Management Group v. Jackson, case no. 2022-cv-365529), to obtain possession of the Property, and to obtain the funds held in the registry of the Superior Court should the Superior Court determine Movants are entitled to those funds; it is further

ORDERED that the request for in rem relief under 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(4) is denied; it is further

ORDERED that 14-day stay in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived.

END OF ORDER

Distribution List

Derrick Bernard Jackson 955 Tiverton Lane Johns Creek, GA 30022

K. Edward Safir Standing Chapter 13 Trustee Suite 1600 285 Peachtree Center Ave. NE Atlanta, GA 30303

Robert J. Kaufman Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Suite 200 2710 Old Milton Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30009

Nicholas Joseph Garcia Hall Booth Smith, P.C. P.O. Box 2707 Columbus, GA 31902

EXHIBIT D

Case 22-58536-bem Doc 56 Filed 12/14/22 Entered 12/14/22 12:37:45 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 3



IT IS ORDERED as set forth below:

Date: December 14, 2022

Barbara Ellis-Monro U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge

CASE NO. 22-58536-BEM

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

ATLANTA DIVISION

IN RE:

DERRICK BERNARD JACKSON,

Debtor. CHAPTER 13

ORDER TEMPORARILY EXTENDING THE AUTOMATIC STAY AND NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED HEARING

It is ORDERED and NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the hearing on Debtor's *Motion to Extend or Impose Automatic Stay and Request for Emergency Hearing Pursuant to 11 USC 362(c)(3)(B)* [Doc. 34] is rescheduled to **January 11, 2023, at 10:30 AM**, COURTROOM 1402, UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, RICHARD B. RUSSELL FEDERAL BUILDING, 75 TED TURNER DRIVE (f/k/a SPRING STREET), SW, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. It is further

ORDERED that the automatic stay is temporarily extended until the conclusion of the foregoing hearing as to all creditors except Paramount Properties Management Group, LLC and Arthur M. and Julie McCracken.¹

The calendar call will be telephonic and matters to heard will be heard in Judge Ellis-Monro's virtual hearing room. However, in person appearances will be permitted. Please check Judge Ellis-Monro's website https://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/content/honorable-barbara-ellis-monro-chief-judge) prior to the hearing for information about procedures.

END OF ORDER

¹ The Court previously granted stay relief to these parties. [Doc. 44]. The order granting stay relief is subject of a motion by Debtor for stay pending appeal [Doc. 54], which will be addressed by separate order.

Distribution List

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Juan S. Patino Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Suite 200 2710 Old Milton Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30009

ALL CREDITORS AND PARTIES

EXHIBIT E













This motion is made simultaneously with the notice of appeal.

Wednesday 4:32 PM



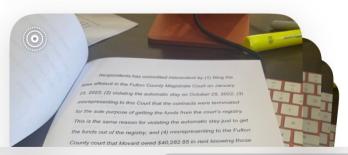
Dow falls more than 300 points as Fed raises rates and signals more hikes next year

cnbc.com

The feds just chipping away at the home value.

Thursday 12:51 PM

4 Photos







iMessage















