RUTH BELCHE MAY, Individually and as Executrix of the Estate of PHILIP ROYCE MAY,

- IN THE
- COURT OF APPEALS

Appellant,

OF MARYLAND

v.

NO. 5

AIR & LIQUID SYSTEMS CORP., et al.,

September Term, 2015

Appellees.

MOTION TO STRIKE AMICI CURIAE BRIEF OF MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MANUFACTURERS' ALLIANCE OF MARYLAND, COALITION FOR LITIGATION JUSTICE, INC., CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN AND NFIB SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL CENTER

Appellant, by her undersigned counsel, files the following Motion to Strike the Amici Curiae brief of Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturers' Alliance of Maryland, Coalition for Litigation Justice, Inc., Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America. National Association of Manufacturers, American Tort Reform Association, American Insurance Association, Property Casualty Insurers Association of American and NFIB Small Business Legal Center authored by Mark A. Behrens (the "Behrens Brief"). As grounds therefore, Appellate states as follows:

- 1. On June 4, 2015, various alleged amici curiae filed the Behrens Brief.
- 2. The brief is an ad hominen attack piece authored by a well-known asbestos industry lobbyist that nearly exclusively is devoted to citing other asbestos industry consultants. lawyers and lobbyists' position pieces. The issues raised in the brief are reckless and scandalous, beyond the record in this case, irrelevant to the matter being considered, and a blatant attempt to smear all lawyers who represent victims of asbestos poisoning.

- 3. Moreover, the purported *amici curiae* fail to advise the Court that at least some of them have a direct stake in the outcome of this matter. Specifically, as demonstrated by the record in this case and by published caselaw, the Appellees had insurance available to them to cover the risks that arose from the use of their products the pumps in question in this appeal. *See* Appellant's brief at p. 30-31 and cases cited therein and below.
- 4. On June 8, 2015, counsel for the Appellants was provided with the identity of the members of the Coalition for Litigation Justice from counsel for the Coalition in a different lawsuit. **Exhibit A**, May 29, 2015 e-mail from William Anderson, Crowell & Moring, LLP, counsel for the Coalition for Litigation Justice identifying members. There, counsel for the Coalition for Litigation Justice identified the following insurance companies as members of the Coalition for Litigation Justice:
 - a. Century Indemnity Company;
 - b. Chubb & Son, a division of Federal Insurance Company;
 - c. Fireman's Fund Insurance Company;
 - d. Great American Insurance Company:
 - e. Nationwide Indemnity Company;
 - f. Resolute Management, Inc. a third-party administrator for numerous insurers;¹ and
 - g. TIG Insurance company
- 5. Examination of the information from published cases and articles involving insurance coverage of Appellees, Warren Pumps, IMO Industries, Inc. and Air & Liquid Systems reflects that many of these insurers have potential liability for the claims in this case.

¹ Resolute is a third party administrator for a company in the Berkshire Hathaway group of companies. Resolute has claims management authority for asbestos policies for which Underwriters at Lloyds, AIG, CNA and other insurers are contractually liable. A description of how Resolute works and various lawsuits about it can be found on the website of the American Bar Association.

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/litigation/materials/2014_inscle_materials/written_materials/b14_2_policyholder_litigation_involving_claims.authcheckdam.pdf. See also, e.g., Greenblatt, Berkshire Hathaway subsidiaries deny, delay asbestos, hazard claims, suits, insiders allege, October 7, 2013, http://www.wptv.com/news/local-news/investigations/berkshire-hathaway-subsidiaries-deny-delay-asbestos-hazard-claims-suits-insiders-allege_20140102230128180.

- 6. In re Viking Pump, Inc. and Warren Pumps, LLC Insurance Appeals, 2015 Del. LEXIS 278 (Del. June 10, 2015), lists TIG Insurance Company and Century Indemnity Company and Underwriters at Lloyds as having issued excess insurance policies that may be available to cover Warren Pumps' liabilities in cases like the May case. All three are members of the Coalition for Litigation Justice directly or through Resolute.
- 7. IMO Industries, Inc. v. Transamerica Corporation et. al., 101 A.3d 1085 (N.J. Super. 2014), lists Century Indemnity Company, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and TIG Insurance Company, as insurers who provide portions of the \$1.85 billion dollars in insurance coverage available to IMO for asbestos related personal injury claims such as the May case. All three are members of the Coalition for Litigation Justice. Importantly, IMO Industries, Inc. v. Transamerica Corporation et. al. makes clear that the only parties with a financial interest in the May case with respect to IMO's liability are IMO's insurers, because IMO is fully covered not only for any liability in the May case, but for its entire expected asbestos litigation liability.

Over the years, IMO purchased a total of \$1.85 billion in insurance coverage from all the defendant insurers. That amount is sufficient to pay for its anticipated liabilities and defense costs for asbestos-related personal injury claims.

Id. 101 A.3d at 1091.

8. Air & Liquid Systems et al. v. Allianz Underwriters et al., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 117827 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 15, 2014) lists TIG Insurance Company and Underwriters at Lloyds as insurers with coverage for Air & Liquid Systems in this case. Both are members of the Coalition for Litigation Justice, directly or through Resolute. Additionally, the article discussed in Footnote 1, herein, notes that Air & Liquid Systems sued Utica Mutual Insurance Company and Resolute regarding insurance coverage by Utica now apparently managed by Resolute. See Sylvester, Policyholder Litigation Involving Claims Handling by Resolute Management Inc.,

ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Seminar at p. 7. As such, it would appear that Resolute also has a direct financial stake in the outcome of this case regarding Air & Liquid Systems through policies issued by both Underwriters and Lloyds and though Utica Mutual Insurance Company.

9. Moreover, the Behrens Brief is purportedly also filed on the behalf of the American Tort Reform Association ("ATRA"), the members of whom are substantially overlapping with the members of the Product Liability Advisory Counsel ("PLAC"), which also filed an *amicus curiae* brief in this matter. Compare **Exhibit B** (membership list of PLAC) with **Exhibit C** ("Sample List of ATRA Members"). While Appellants have no access to the full list of the members of ATRA, at a minimum the following companies are members of both purported *amici* who have filed briefs in this case:

- a. Altria Client Services
- b. Caterpillar
- c. Chrysler Group
- d. Ford Motor Company
- e. Emerson Electric Company
- f. ExxonMobil
- g. General Electric
- h. Hyundai Motor America
- i. Johnson & Johnson
- j. Merck & Company
- k. Pfizer
- 1. Shell Oil Company²

Indeed, in addition to the corporate overlap, Behrens himself is a member of the PLAC. http://www.shb.com/professionals/b/behrens-mark.

10. It is fundamentally inappropriate for entities with direct financial stakes in the outcome of litigation to masquerade as *amicus curiae* – particularly when that interest is not

² Although Appellant is concerned about the overlap of *amici*, Appellant does not ask the Court to strike the brief of the PLAC. While Appellant believes that the brief of the PLAC is misguided regarding Maryland law and ignores critical facts in the record in this case, the brief discusses issues that are before the Court and that were briefed and/or argued below, is free of the inappropriate accusations of the Behrens Brief, and none of the insurers who appear to be on the risk in the *May* case are members of the PLAC.

disclosed up front. Furthermore, it is inappropriate and unfair when the same group of entities and lawyers file multiple briefs purporting to be from different viewpoints or entities.

- 11. The Behrens Brief should also be stricken because it is grossly inappropriate in numerous ways.
- 12. The Behrens Brief is rife with direct and thinly veiled accusations of impropriety at any and all lawyers who dare have the audacity to represent victims of asbestos disease. See e.g., Behrens Brief, p. 7, n. 11 (discussing internet search term prices); p. 11 (simultaneously accusing "plaintiffs' firms" of sinisterly "refreshing their clients' recollections" and failing to do so; p. 11, suggesting "plaintiffs" of widespread perjurious "I don't recall" testimony; p. 11 accusing "plaintiffs' firms" of "manipulate[ing] the timing of bankruptcy filings". None of these sweeping accusations are addressed to the facts of this case or the facts or issues before the Court. As such, the sole possible purpose for these reckless and baseless accusations can only be to try to poison the Court with irrelevant and scandalous material.
- 13. These accusations are inappropriate and reckless. Furthermore, the sources quoted as the basis for most of these accusations are lawyers and firms who represent asbestos defendants, such as publications by Behrens himself and his partner at Shook Hardy & Bacon, Victor E. Schwartz; the firm of Bates White (who lobbied for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Texas regarding an asbestos product liability bill in the spring of 2015, http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/pdf/ba84R/HB1492.PDF); former judge Peggy L. Ableman (now "special counsel" at national asbestos defense law firm, http://www.mccarter.com/Peggy-L-Ableman/); Lester Brickman (consultant to asbestos defense law firms, http://www.cardozo.yu.edu/directory/lester-brickman); Mark D. Plevin from Crowell & Moring (counsel for the Coalition for Litigation Justice, https://www.crowell.com/Professionals/Mark-

Plevin); and William P. Shelley from Gordon Rees (national coordinating counsel for "a top

property and casualty insurer" on asbestos bankruptcy,

http://www.gordonrees.com/lawyers/w/william-p-shelley#tab2). In fact, Mr. Shelley is listed as

counsel for Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. and Federal Insurance Company, insurers of one

of the Appellees. See, Air & Liquid Systems et al. v. Allianz Underwriters et al., 2014 U.S. Dist.

LEXIS 117827 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 15, 2014).

14. Second, the Behrens Brief's fundamental premise is that the existence of various

bankruptcy trusts and the potential recovery therefrom makes it unfair that persons sickened

while performing required maintenance on products like Appellees' pumps seek compensation

from the manufacturers of those pumps for their injuries. This argument is both baseless and

specious. Furthermore, responding to these issues and the mudslinging and suggestions of

impropriety unrelated to the case at bar – would require substantial additional briefing by the

Appellees. Furthermore, given the widespread suggestions of impropriety levied at all

"plaintiffs' firms" allowing this scandalous brief to stand would unfairly tarnish parties and

lawyers who are not before the Court and who are unable to respond to the accusations.

WHEREFORE, Appellant requests that the Court strike the Behrens Brief in its entirety

from the record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ruckdeschel

Z. Stephen Horvat

Jacqueline G. Badders

THE RUCKDESCHEL FIRM, LLC

8357 Main Street

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-750-7825

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Jeffrey A. O'Connell (Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*) The Nemeroff Law Firm 2626 Cole Ave., Suite 450 Dallas, Texas 75204 214-774-2258

Attorneys for Appellants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of July 2015, a copy of the foregoing Notice was sent via U.S. Mail to:

F. Ford Loker Miles & Stockbridge, PC 10 Light Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-385-3840

Counsel for Respondent Air & Liquid Systems Corp., Successor By merger to Buffalo Pumps

Joel Newport Moore & Jackson, LLC 305 Washington Avenue, Ste. 401 Towson, Maryland 21204 410-583-5241

Counsel for Respondent IMO Industries, Inc.

Thomas M. Goss Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP One South Street, 20th Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21202 410-783-4000

Counsel for Respondent Warren Rumps LLC

Jonathan Ruckdeschel

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v.						*	NO. 5						
AIR & LIQUID SYSTEMS CORP., et al.,						*	September Term, 2015						
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								Judge	, Court	of App	eals		
								-	-	A. I.			

EXHIBIT A

From: Christian Hartiey CHartiey@mrhfmlaw.com

Subject: Fwd; Scapa v. Knight Date: July 8, 2015 at 9:11 AM

To: Jonathan Ruckdeschel ruck@rucklawfirm.com

See below

Christian

Christian Hartley
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd, LLC
300 West Coleman Boulevard
Suite 200
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29484
Office: 843.388.1330

Direct: 843.388.8210 Mobile: 843.834.4732 Fax: 803.753.9931

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Anderson, William" < WAnderson@crowell.com>

Date: May 29, 2015 at 11:58:27 AM EDT To: Rob Buck ribuck@buckfirm.com

Cc: Christian Hartley CHartley@mrhfmlaw.com>

Subject: RE: Scape v. Knight

Rob and Christian, you asked for the membership of the Coalition — the members are Century Indemnity Company; Chubb & Son, a division of Federal Insurance Company; Fireman's Fund Insurance Company; Great American Insurance Company; Nationwide Indemnity Company; Resolute Management, Inc. a third-party administrator for numerous insurers; and TIG Insurance Company. As the cover page of the brief notes, Crowell & Moring's client for purposes of this brief is the Coalition. Crowell & Moring does not represent the other entities who joined the brief.

From: Rob Buck [mailto:rbuck@buckfirm.com]

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 10:03 AM

To: Anderson, William **Cc:** Christian Hartley

Subject: Re: Scapa v. Knight

Mr. Anderson:

Please let me know if you will be providing answers to the questions raised in my email below. I intend to file a Response to your brief as early as today and will be also seeking discovery on the identity and interest of your clients if you will not willingly disclose their identities.

Because time is of the essence, I will proceed with discovery if I do not receive a reply to the below email by 3pm today.

Please let me know your position at your earliest convenience.

All the best.

Rob Buck

BuckLogoAtlanta_b



Suite 940
1050 Crown Pointe Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30338
(678) 338-4999 main
(678) 338-4994 direct dial
(888) 338-2600 toll free
(678) 338-4990 facsimile
rbuck@buckfirm.com
rbuck@mesogeorgia.com

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From: Robert Buck < rbuck@buckfirm.com > Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 2:14 PM

To: "Anderson, William" <<u>WAnderson@crowell.com</u>>
Cc: Christian Hartley <<u>CHartley@mrhfmlaw.com</u>>

Subject: Re: Scapa v. Knight

Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for your reply email. Since you did not answer my inquiry regarding whether or not any of the constituent members of your client organizations are financially responsible for the Scapa judgment at issue, I provide you with the following list of insurers that Scapa has identified (in response to post judgment discovery) as having what it believes to be responsibility to pay the judgment:

- 1) Hartford A&I,
- 2) The Phoenix Ins. Co. (now part of Travelers),
- 3) Aetna C&S,
- 4) Travelers Indem. Co.,
- 5) Bituminous Casual. Corp.,
- 6) Maryland Casualty,
- 7) Royal Globe Ins. Co.,
- 8) National Union Ins. Co.,
- 9) Continental Casualty,
- 10) U.S. Fire Ins. Co.,
- 11) Mission,
- 12) Transit Casualty Co.,
- 13) International Ins. Co. (Crum & Forster), and
- 14) New Hampshire Ins. Co.
- 15) Resolute

In regards to the fifteen above-listed insurance companies that hold liability for payment of the Knight judgment, are any of the listed entities (including their parent companies) members of, or affiliated with your

CHAMBER OF CUALITION FOR LITIGATION JUSTICE, INC.; THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION; OF THE NFIB SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL CENTER?

I would appreciate a prompt reply to this inquiry so that we can avoid the necessity of serving your clients with post judgment discovery to obtain truthful information in response to my questions.

Thank you.

Rob Buck BuckLogoAtlanta_b



Suite 940
1050 Crown Pointe Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30338
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(678) 338-4994 direct dial
(888) 338-2600 toll free
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From: <Anderson>, William <WAnderson@crowell.com>

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 9:34 AM To: Robert Buck < rbuck@buckfirm.com>

Subject: RE: Scapa v. Knight

Mr. Buck: The interest of my client the Coalition for Litigation Justice is not specific to this case but the same as its interest in other amici briefs the Coalition has filed in similar appellate matters across the country for the last fifteen years. The Coalition is composed of a group of insurance company members whose briefs are intended to assist courts in making these sorts of important causation and other asbestos and toxic tort case determinations. I am not aware of the nature of Scapa's insurance coverage - you may want to pose that question to Scapa's counsel.

From: Rob Buck [mailto:rbuck@buckfirm.com]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 5:36 PM
To: Anderson, William
Cc: Christian Hartley

Subject: Scapa v. Knight

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I received a copy of the joint amicus brief for your clients COALITION FOR LITIGATION JUSTICE, INC., CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION, AND NFIB SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL CENTER.

In reading the Interest of the Amici section, I see that you argue that if the verdict is upheld, it will adversely impact Amici's members. Would you please identify any specific members that have suffered, or will suffer, an adverse impact? Please also let me know if any of your members have an actual financial stake in the outcome of the case? I know that Scapa considers itself defunct and basically only exists through its insurance companies and their lawyers. Are any of Scapa's insurance companies, their lawyers, or law firms members? Is there publicly available information about the membership of each group that you represent that you could refer me to?

Please advise as soon as possible.

Thanks in advance,

Rob Buck BuckLogoAtlanta b



Suite 940
1050 Crown Pointe Parkway
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(678) 338-4994 direct dial
(888) 338-2600 toll free
(678) 338-4990 facsimile
rbuck@buckfirm.com
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EXHIBIT B



Sample List of ATRA Members

AEGIS Insurance Services

Advance Medical Technology Association

Altria Client Services

ASFE

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

American Institute of Architects

American Insurance Association

American Legislative Exchange Council

American Medical Association

American Suzuki Motor Company

American Trucking Associations

Associated Wire Rope Fabricators

Bayer Pharmaceutical Corporation

CNA Financial Corporation

CSX Corporation

Caterpillar

Chrysler Group

Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association Cybex International Doctors' Company Eli Lilly and Company Farmers Insurance Ford Motor Company **Emerson Electric Company** ExxonMobil General Electric **Great American Insurance Companies** Hyundai Motor America Johnson & Johnson Koch Industries, Inc. Medical Mutual Merck & Company MetLife Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association National Association of Home Builders National Federation of Independent Business National Fuel Gas Distribution Nationwide Pfizer Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Physician Insurers Association of America **PPG Industries**

Preferred Physician Medical

Prudential Insurance Company of America

SeamCraft, Inc.

Shell Oil Company

State Farm

Taussig Corporation

Unimin Corporation

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EXHIBIT C

APPENDIX A

CORPORATE MEMBERS OF THE PRODUCT LIABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC. as of May 15, 2015

Total: 104

3	M

Altec, Inc.

Altria Client Services Inc.

Ansell Healthcare Products LLC

Astec Industries

Bayer Corporation

BIC Corporation

Biro Manufacturing Company, Inc.

BMW of North America, LLC

The Boeing Company

Bombardier Recreational Products, Inc.

Boston Scientific Corporation

Bridgestone Americas, Inc.

C. R. Bard, Inc.

Caterpillar Inc.

CC Industries, Inc.

Celgene Corporation

Chevron Corporation

Chrysler Group LLC

Cirrus Design Corporation

Continental Tire the Americas LLC

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

Crane Co.

Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc.

Crown Equipment Corporation

Daimler Trucks North America LLC

Deere & Company

Delphi Automotive Systems

Discount Tire

The Dow Chemical Company

B.L. duPont de Nemours and Company

Hisai Inc.

Emerson Electric Co.

Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Exxon Mobil Corporation

Ford Motor Company

Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC

General Electric Company

General Motors LLC

Georgia-Pacific Corporation

GlaxoSmithKline

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Great Dane Limited Partnership

Harley-Davidson Motor Company

The Home Depot

Honda North America, Inc.

Hyundal Motor America

Illinois Tool Works Inc.

Isuzu North America Corporation

Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC

Jarden Corporation

Johnson & Johnson

Johnson Controls, Inc.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

KBR, Inc.

Kia Motors America, Inc.

Appendix A - I

APPENDIX A

CORPORATE MEMBERS OF THE PRODUCT LIABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC. as of May 15, 2015

Total: 104

Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc.

Lincoln Electric Company

Magna International Inc.

Mazak Corporation

Mazda Motor of America, Inc.

Medironic, Inc.

Merck & Co., Inc.

Meritor WABCO

Michelin North America, Inc.

Microsoft Corporation

Mine Safety Appliances Company

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.

Mueller Water Products

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

Novo Nordisk, Inc.

NuVasive, Inc.

Pella Corporation

Pfizer Inc.

Pirelli Tire, LLC

Polaris Industries, Inc.

Porsche Cars North America, Inc.

RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company

Robert Bosch LLC

SABMiller Plc

Shell Oil Company

The Sherwin-Williams Company

St. Jude Medical, Inc.

Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

Subaru of America, Inc.

Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A., Inc.

TAMKO Building Products, Inc.

TASER International, Inc.

Techtronic Industries North America, Inc.

Teleflex Incorporated

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

TK Holdings Inc.

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.

TRW Automotive

Vermeer Manufacturing Company

The Viking Corporation

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Volvo Cars of North America, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Western Digital Corporation

Whirlpool Corporation

Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.

Ç

Yokohama Tire Corporation

Zimmer, Inc.