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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re:

DEBTOR(S)' SIGNATURES ON
ELECTRONIC FILINGS.

GENERAL ORDER 39

**ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN ORIGINAL
SIGNATURES FROM DEBTORS FOR ELECTRONIC FILINGS**

WHEREAS, for reasons stated in General Order 38, the entire Bay Area is subject to Shelter in Place orders arising from the Coronavirus Disease outbreak;

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of the documents and pleadings filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California are filed electronically under the court's Electronic Case Filing Procedures ("ECF Procedures");

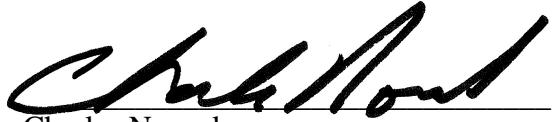
WHEREAS, section 7 of the ECF Procedures provides in pertinent part that "The electronic filing of a Verified Pleading constitutes a representation by the Registered Participant who files it that at the same time of filing he or she possesses the fully executed original, signed pleading or document;" and

WHEREAS, the Shelter In Place orders may prevent attorneys from timely obtaining original signatures, thereby interfering with their ability to provide appropriate bankruptcy relief or measures;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective upon the date of this Order and until further

1 notice, the Court hereby suspends, **subject to the conditions stated below**, the ECF Procedures'
2 requirement that a Registered Participant possess the signatory's original, physical signature before
3 electronically filing a pleading or document. This suspension is **expressly conditioned** on the
4 following: that before filing the document or pleading in question, the Registered Participant has
5 either (a) obtained a digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software that
6 provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document or pleading
7 in his or her case file; or (b) obtains express written permission from the signatory to file the
8 document or pleading in question. The filing of a document or pleading under this General Order
9 constitutes a certification that the Registered Participant either has obtained the signatory's original,
10 physical signature or has complied with the foregoing conditions. The electronic signature or the
11 written permission shall have the same force and effect as if the Registered Participant possesses the
12 paper original of such document or pleading. This General Order does not waive, suspend, limit or
13 alter any other ECF Procedures requirement, and any Bankruptcy Local Rule, Bankruptcy Code
14 section, or Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure.

15 Dated: March 18, 2020

16 
17 Charles Novack
18 Chief Bankruptcy Judge

19 ***END OF ORDER***
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