#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

In re:	) Chapter 11
CBL & ASSOCIATES PROPERTIES, INC., et al,	) Case No. 20-35226 (DRJ)
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	) (Jointly Administered) )

#### DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF EMPLOYMENT OF HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP AS PROFESSIONAL UTILIZED IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS

- I, Ronald I. Feldman, declare that the following is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:
- 1. I am a partner of the law firm of Husch Blackwell LLP, located at 736 Georgia Avenue, Suite 300, Chattanooga, TN 37402 (the "Firm"), which has been employed by the debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned cases (collectively, the "Debtors") in the ordinary course of the Debtors' business. The Debtors wish to retain the Firm to continue providing ordinary course services during these chapter 11 cases, and the Firm has agreed to provide such services. This Declaration is submitted in compliance with the Order Authorizing Debtors to Employ Professionals Used in the Ordinary Course of Business Effective as of the Petition Date [ECF No. 328].
- 2. The Firm may have performed services in the past and may perform services in the future, in matters unrelated to these chapter 11 cases, for persons that are parties in interest in the

A complete list of the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' proposed claims and noticing agent at https://dm.epiq11.com/CBLProperties. The Debtors' service address for the purposes of these chapter 11 cases is 2030 Hamilton Place Blvd., Suite 500, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421.

Debtors' chapter 11 cases. As part of its customary practice, the Firm is retained in cases, proceedings, and transactions involving many different parties, some of whom may represent or be claimants or employees of the Debtors, or other parties-in-interest in these chapter 11 cases. The Firm does not perform services for any such person in connection with these chapter 11 cases. In addition, the Firm does not have any relationship with any such person, their attorneys, or accountants that would be adverse to the Debtors or their estates with respect to the matters on which the Firm is to be retained.

- 3. The Firm may have performed services in the past, may currently perform services, and may perform services in the future in matters unrelated to these chapter 11 cases for persons that are parties in interest in these chapter 11 cases. The Firm does not perform services for any such person in connection with these chapter 11 cases, or have any relationship with any such person, their attorneys, or their accountants that would be adverse to the Debtors or their estates; except as set forth in this Declaration.
- 4. The Debtors have requested that the Firm provide general corporate, securities, real estate, real estate finance, leasing, landlord-tenant and bankruptcy services (principally as creditors/landlords in tenant/vendor bankruptcies) to the Debtors, and the Firm has agreed to provide such services. The Firm has not been engaged to be general bankruptcy counsel in this bankruptcy case. The Firm's rates are subject to annual increases effective January 1 of each year and have been negotiated and agreed to by the Debtors for calendar year 2021.
- 5. The Firm provided such services to the Debtors prior to the commencement of these chapter 11 cases.

- 6. As part of its customary practice, the Firm is retained in cases, proceedings and transactions involving many different parties, some of whom may represent or be employed by the Debtors, claimants, and parties in interest in these chapter 11 cases.
- 7. In the ordinary course of its business, the Firm maintains a database for purposes of performing a "conflicts check." The Firm's database contains information regarding the Firm's present and past representations. Pursuant to FED. R. BANKR. P. 2014(a), I obtained a list of the persons for purposes of searching the aforementioned database and determining the connection(s) which the Firm has with such entities. The Firm searched the following lists:
  - A. All of the Debtors, subsidiaries and affiliates as identified on Exhibit A-1;
  - B. The Debtors' Officers and Directors as identified on Exhibit A-2;
  - C. The Debtors' Equity Security Holders holding a 1% or greater interest as identified on Exhibit A-3;
  - D. The Secured Lenders as identified on Exhibit A-4;
  - E. The Top 30 unsecured creditors as identified on Exhibit A-5;
  - F. Bankruptcy Judges for Southern District of Texas as identified on Exhibit A-6;
  - G. Lawyers and staff of the Office of the United States Trustee as identified on Exhibit A-7;
  - 8. The Firm's search of the database identified the following connections:
    - A. The Firm represents the following creditors or parties in interest in matters unrelated to its work for the Debtors:

Associated Bank, NA	
Cadence Bank	
Citigroup Commercial Mortgage Securities Inc.	
Citizens Bank, N.A.	
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas	
ERMC, LLC	

Goldman Sachs
Iberia Bank
JP Morgan Chase Bank, National Association
KeyBank National Association
New York Life Insurance Company
PNC Bank, National Association
Regions Bank
Schindler Elevator Corporation
SecurAmerica, LLC
Subway Restaurants, Inc.
Truist Bank
US Bank, N.A.
Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Western Specialty Contractors

- B. The Firm represents Charles Lebovitz, various companies owned by Mr. Lebovitz, and members of his family with respect to those companies: CBL & Associates, Inc. (non-debtor, private company), CBL Peripheral Properties, L.P., Snowmass Ventures, LLC, BAMS Enterprises, and BDBC, LLC.
- C. The Firm represents Charles Lebovitz, Stephen Lebovitz, Michael Lebovitz, Alan Lebovitz and Beth Lebovitz with respect to tax and estate planning matters.
- D. The Firm represents Farzana Khaleel, CFO of the Debtors on estate planning matters.
- E. The Firm previously represented certain members of the Board: Charles Lebovitz, Stephen Lebovitz, A. Larry Chapman, Matthew S. Dominski, John D. Griffith, Richard J. Lieb and Kathleen M. Nelson in their capacity as board members as co-defendants with the Debtors in a shareholder derivative action styled *Henry Shebitz v. CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.*, et. al, in Hamilton County, Tennessee which matter concluded in 2017.

- F. Randall Rios, a partner in the Firm's Houston office, was previously a partner in a law firm in which Judge Jones was a partner prior to Judge Jones taking the bench. That association ended more than 16 years ago.
- 9. Neither I nor any principal, partner, director, or officer of, or professional employed by, the Firm, has agreed to share or will share any portion of the compensation to be received from the Debtors with any other person other than the principal and regular employees of the Firm.
- 10. Neither I nor any principal, partner, director or officer of, or professional employed by, the Firm, insofar as I have been able to ascertain, holds or represents any interest adverse to the Debtors or their estates with respect to the matter(s) upon which the Firm is to be employed.
- 11. The Debtors owe the Firm \$205,469.28 for fees and expenses incurred prior to and unpaid ("Outstanding Prepetition Fees and Expenses") as of the date these chapter 11 cases were commenced (the "Petition Date"), the payment of which is subject to the limitations contained in the Bankruptcy Code. The Firm understands that if it is a law firm it must file a proof of claim for such fees and expenses unless the amount thereof is properly listed in the Debtors' schedules of liabilities and is not designated therein as contingent, unliquidated or disputed. If the Firm is not a law firm, then the Firm may be required to waive its Outstanding Prepetition Fees and Expenses unless the consent of the Office of the United States Trustee is granted or the Court otherwise rules that such Firm need not waive its Outstanding Prepetition Fees and Expenses.
- 12. The Firm is conducting further inquiries regarding its retention by any creditors of the Debtors, and upon conclusion of such inquiries, or at any time during the period of its employment, if the Firm should discover any facts bearing on the matters described herein, the Firm will supplement the information contained in this Declaration.

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# SIGNATURE PAGE FOR DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF EMPLOYMENT OF HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP AS PROFESSIONAL UTILIZED IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: <u>Dec. 24, 2020</u>

RONALD I. FELDMAN

Partner

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP 736 Georgia Avenue, Suite 300 Chattanooga, TN 37402

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ron.feldman@huschblackwell.com

#### **Lead Debtor**

CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.

#### **Related Debtors**

Akron Mall Land, LLC

Alamance Crossing II, LLC

Alamance Crossing, LLC

APWM, LLC

Arbor Place Limited Partnership

Asheville, LLC

**Brookfield Square Joint Venture** 

Brookfield Square Parcel, LLC

**CBL & Associates Limited Partnership** 

CBL & Associates Management, Inc.

CBL Eagle Point Member, LLC

CBL Holdings I, Inc.

CBL Holdings II, Inc.

CBL HP Hotel Member, LLC

CBL RM-Waco, LLC

CBL SM-Brownsville, LLC

CBL Statesboro Member, LLC

CBL Walden Park, LLC

CBL/Brookfield I, LLC

CBL/Brookfield II, LLC

CBL/Cherryvale I, LLC

CBL/Citadel I, LLC

CBL/Citadel II, LLC

CBL/EastGate I, LLC

CBL/EastGate II, LLC

CBL/EastGate Mall, LLC

CBL/Fayette I, LLC

CBL/Fayette II, LLC

CBL/GP Cary, Inc.

CBL/GP II, Inc.

CBL/GP V, Inc.

CBL/GP VI, Inc.

CBL/GP, Inc.

CBL/Gulf Coast, LLC

CBL/Imperial Valley GP, LLC

CBL/J I, LLC

CBL/J II, LLC

CBL/Kirkwood Mall LLC

CBL/Madison I, LLC

CBL/Monroeville Expansion I, LLC

CBL/Monroeville Expansion II, LLC

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CBL/Monroeville Expansion III, LLC

CBL/Monroeville Expansion Partner, L.P.

CBL/Monroeville Expansion, L.P.

CBL/Monroeville I, LLC

CBL/Monroeville II. LLC

CBL/Monroeville III, LLC

CBL/Monroeville Partner, L.P.

CBL/Monroeville, L.P.

CBL/Nashua Limited Partnership

CBL/Old Hickory I, LLC

CBL/Old Hickory II, LLC

CBL/Parkdale Crossing GP, LLC

CBL/Parkdale Crossing, L.P.

CBL/Parkdale Mall GP, LLC

CBL/Parkdale, LLC

CBL/Penn Investments, LLC

CBL/Richland G.P., LLC

CBL/Sunrise Commons GP, LLC

CBL/Sunrise Commons, L.P.

CBL/Sunrise GP, LLC

CBL/Sunrise Land, LLC

CBL/Sunrise XS Land, L.P.

CBL/Westmoreland I, LLC

CBL/Westmoreland II, LLC

CBL/Westmoreland, L.P.

CBL-840 GC, LLC

Charleston Joint Venture

CherryVale Mall, LLC

Coolsprings Crossing Limited Partnership

Cross Creek Anchor S GP, LLC

Cross Creek Anchor S, LP

CW Joint Venture, LLC

Dakota Square Mall CMBS, LLC

Development Options, Inc.

D'Iberville CBL Land, LLC

Dunite Acquisitions, LLC

East Towne Parcel I, LLC

EastGate Anchor S, LLC

EastGate Company

Eastland Anchor M, LLC

Eastland Holding I, LLC

Eastland Holding II, LLC

Eastland Mall, LLC

Eastland Member, LLC

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Fayette Middle Anchor, LLC

Fayette Plaza CMBS, LLC

Frontier Mall Associates Limited Partnership

GCTC Peripheral IV, LLC

Gunbarrel Commons, LLC

Hamilton Place Anchor S, LLC

Hammock Landing/West Melbourne, LLC

Hanes Mall Parcels, LLC

Harford Mall Business Trust

Henderson Square Limited Partnership

Hickory Point Outparcels, LLC

Hixson Mall, LLC

Imperial Valley Commons, L.P.

Imperial Valley Commons, L.P.

Imperial Valley Mall II, L.P.

Imperial Valley Mall, L.P.

Imperial Valley Peripheral L.P.

IV Commons, LLC

IV Outparcels, LLC

Jefferson Anchor M, LLC

Jefferson Anchor S, LLC

Jefferson Mall Company II, LLC

JG Gulf Coast Town Center LLC

JG Winston-Salem, LLC

Kirkwood Mall Acquisition LLC

Kirkwood Mall Mezz LLC

Laurel Park Retail Holding LLC

Laurel Park Retail Properties LLC

Layton Hills Mall CMBS, LLC

Lexington Joint Venture

LHM-Utah, LLC

Madison Joint Venture, LLC

Madison/East Towne, LLC

Madison/West Towne, LLC

Mall del Norte, LLC

Mayfaire GP, LLC

Mayfaire Town Center, LP

MDN/Laredo GP, LLC

Meridian Mall Limited Partnership

Mid Rivers Land LLC

Mid Rivers Mall CMBS, LLC

Monroeville Anchor Limited Partnership

Montgomery Partners, L.P.

Mortgage Holdings, LLC

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Multi-GP Holdings, LLC

North Charleston Joint Venture II, LLC

Northgate SAC, LLC

Northpark Mall/Joplin, LLC

Old Hickory Mall Venture

Old Hickory Mall Venture II, LLC

Parkdale Anchor M, LLC

Parkdale Crossing Limited Partnership

Parkdale Mall Associates, L.P.

Parkdale Mall, LLC

Parkway Place Limited Partnership

Parkway Place SPE, LLC

Pearland Ground, LLC

Pearland Town Center GP, LLC

Pearland Town Center Limited Partnership

Pearland-OP Parcel 8, LLC

POM-College Station, LLC

Port Orange Holdings II, LLC

Seacoast Shopping Center Limited Partnership

Shoppes at St. Clair CMBS, LLC

South County Shoppingtown LLC

Southaven Town Center, LLC

Southaven Towne Center II, LLC

SouthPark Mall, LLC

SouthPark Mall-DSG, LLC

St. Clair Square GP I, LLC

St. Clair Square Limited Partnership

St. Clair Square SPE, LLC

Stroud Mall, LLC

Tenn-GP Holdings, LLC

The Courtyard at Hickory Hollow Limited Partnership

The Landing at Arbor Place II, LLC

The Pavilion at Port Orange, LLC

TN-Land Parcels, LLC

Turtle Creek Limited Partnership

TX-Land Parcels, LLC

Valley View Mall SPE, LLC

Volusia Mall GP, Inc.

Volusia Mall Limited Partnership

Volusia SAC, LLC

Volusia-OP Peripheral, LLC

West Towne District, LLC

Westgate Crossing Limited Partnership

WestGate Mall II, LLC

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WestGate Mall Limited Partnership WI-Land Parcels, LLC York Galleria Limited Partnership

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#### **Board Members**

Charles B. Lebovitz
Stephen D. Lebovitz
A. Larry Chapman
Matthew S. Dominski
John D. Griffith
Richard J. Lieb
Kathleen M. Nelson
Carolyn B. Tiffany
Scott D. Vogel

#### **C-Level Executives and Corporate Officers**

Charles B. Lebovitz Chairman of the Board Stephen D. Lebovitz Chief Executive Officer

Jeffery V. Curry Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

Michael C. Harrison, Jr. Executive VP-Operations

Farzana Khaleel Executive VP-Chief Financial Officer

Alan L. Lebovitz Executive VP-Management

Michael I. Lebovitz President

Katie Reinsmidt Executive VP-Chief Investment Officer

### Case 20-35226 Document 373 Filed in TXSB on 12/30/20 Page 13 of 18 <u>Debtor's Equity Security Holders</u>

Charles B. Lebowitz
Exeter Capital Investors, L.P.
Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc.

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Associated Bank, NA

Bank of America, NA

Cadence Bank

Capital One, National Association

CF Bank, National Association

Citigroup Commercial Mortgage Securities Inc.

Citizens Bank, N.A.

CW Capital Asset Management

Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas

Deutsche Mortgage & Asset Receiving Corporation

First Carolina Bank

First Horizon Bank National Association

First Tennessee Bank, N.A.

Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs Commercial Mortgage Capital, LP

Goldman Sachs Mortgage Company

GS Mortgage Securities Corporation II

Hancock Whitney Bank

Hanover Street Capital

Iberia Bank

J.P. Morgan Chase Commercial Mortgage Securities Corp.

JP Morgan Chase Bank (CMBS)

JP Morgan Chase Bank, National Association

Key Bank National Association (CMBS)

KeyBank National Association

LNR Partners

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

MidFirst Bank

Midland Loan Services

New York Life Insurance Company

PNC Bank, National Association

Regions Bank (CMBS)

Rialto Capital Advisors

Simmons Bank

Starwood Mortgage Capital, LLC

Synovus Bank

TD Bank, N.A.

Teachers Insurance & Annuity Association of America

**Torchlight Investors** 

Truist Bank

Truist Central Pennsylvania

Trustmark National Bank

U.S. Bank, National Association

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UNUM Life Insurance Company of America
US Bank, N.A.
Wells Commercial Mortgage Trust 2016-C37
Wells Fargo Bank, National Association
Wells Fargo Commercial Mortgage Securities Inc.
Wells Fargo Commercial Mortgage Servicing
West Suburban Bank
Wilmington Trust, National Association

### Case 20-35226 Document 373 Filed in TXSB on 12/30/20 Page 16 of 18 Unsecured Creditors

Delaware Trust Company as Indenture Trustee

Husch Blackwell LLP

CCI Construction of SC Inc.

**ERMC LLC** 

Recycling & Waste Solutions LLC

SecurAmerica LLC

Charleston County

Subway Real Estate LLC

Miller-McCoy, Inc.

Jones Lang LaSalle Brokerage Inc.

Boen Plumbing Inc.

KONE Inc.

Western Specialty Contractors

Piedmont Property Services, Inc.

Palmetto Door Controls & Glass LLC

Brite Ideas Contracting, LLC

Trane U.S. Inc.

Champions Real Estate Group LLC

Trimmers Holiday Décor

Foxhill Construction LLC

Florida Bulb & Ballast Inc.

Schindler Elevator Corporation

A & H Mechanical Contracting, Inc.

SoCo Services, LLC

AFL Network Services Inc.

DCO Construction LLC

The Wilbert Group

JennMack Group LLC

Gettle Incorporated

Nauman Mechanical Inc.

## Case 20-35226 Document 373 Filed in TXSB on 12/30/20 Page 17 of 18 <u>Bankruptcy Judges</u>

Chief Judge David R. Jones, Southern District Texas Judge Marvin Isgur, Southern District Texas Judge Christopher M. Lopez, Southern District Texas Judge Jeffrey P. Norman, Southern District Texas Judge Eduardo V. Rodriguez, Southern District Texas

### Case 20-35226 Document 373 Filed in TXSB on 12/30/20 Page 18 of 18 Office of the United States Trustee - Lawyers and Staff

#### **Southern District of Texas**

Henry G. Hobbs, Jr. (U.S. Trustee) (Trial Attorney) Alicia McCullar

(Bankruptcy Analyst) Barbara Griffin **Christy Simmons** (Bankruptcy Analyst) Clarissa Waxton (Bankruptcy Analyst) Glenn Otto (Bankruptcy Analyst)

(Legal Assistant (Bankruptcy/OA) Gwen Smith

(Trial Attorney) **Hector Duran** 

(Legal Data Technician) Jacqueline Boykin

(Trial Attorney) Jana Whitworth Jayson B. Ruff (Trial Attorney)

(Paralegal Specialist) Linda Motton (Paralegal Specialist) Luci Johnson-Davis

(Legal Assistant (Bankruptcy/OA)) Patricia Schmidt

(Trial Attorney) Stephen Statham