

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Securities and Exchange Commission v. Gina Champion-Cain and
ANI Development, LLC

Champion-Cain · No. 19-CV-1628 TWR (AHG · Decided October 16, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted a motion to seal a portion of the fifteenth interim fee application of Receiver's counsel. The court also approved, on an interim basis, the Receiver's and Allen Matkins's requested fees and expenses and authorized payment from receivership assets.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Todd W. Robinson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	October 16, 2025
DOCKET	19-CV-1628 TWR (AHG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered an unopposed motion to seal and the Receiver's and General Counsel's fifteenth interim applications for payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses in an ongoing federal receivership. The matters were submitted on the papers without oral argument.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the motion-to-seal materials and fee applications under the applicable good-cause and receivership-fee approval standards; the order does not articulate a separate formal standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- equitable relief
- commercial litigation
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

remedies

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether good cause supported sealing the portion of Allen Matkins's fifteenth interim fee application lodged under seal.
2. Whether the Receiver's and Allen Matkins's fifteenth interim applications for fees and reimbursement of expenses should be approved on an interim basis.
3. Whether the Receiver should be authorized to pay herself and Allen Matkins the specified interim amounts from receivership-estate assets.

HOLDINGS

1. The motion to seal was granted because the court reviewed the document and found good cause to maintain it under seal.
2. The court approved the Receiver's and Allen Matkins's fifteenth interim fee applications and allowed the specified fees and costs on an interim basis.
3. The Receiver was authorized and directed to pay herself \$19,620.12 in fees and \$1,871.93 in costs, and to pay Allen Matkins \$102,204.72 in fees and \$7,476.15 in costs, from receivership-estate assets.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court GRANTS the Motion. Accordingly, the Clerk SHALL FILE UNDER SEAL the document previously lodged under seal at ECF No. 1089.” (at 1)

“The Receiver’s fees and costs for the Fifteenth Application Period are ALLOWED AND APPROVED, on an interim basis” (at 2)

“The Receiver is AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to pay herself \$19,620.12 in fees and \$1,871.93 in costs from assets of the Receivership Estate” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Krista L. Freitag served as the court-appointed receiver, and Allen Matkins served as the Receiver's general counsel. They submitted fifteenth interim applications seeking payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses, and Allen Matkins sought to file a portion of its application under seal. The applications were unopposed, and the court reviewed them and the record before approving interim fees, costs, and payments from the receivership estate.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Securities and Exchange Commission action was pending before the Southern District of California, which had appointed Krista L. Freitag as receiver. The Receiver and Allen Matkins filed fifteenth interim fee applications, and Allen Matkins moved to seal part of its application. The court granted the motion to seal and approved the interim fee applications, authorizing specified payments from receivership-estate assets.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1099 (9th Cir. 2016)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Case No.: 19-CV-1628 TWR (AHG)
COMMISSION, 12 ORDER (1) GRANTING MOTION Plaintiff, 13 TO SEAL, AND (2)
APPROVING v. FIFTEENTH INTERIM FEE 14 APPLICATIONS GINA CHAMPION-CAIN
and ANI 15 DEVELOPMENT, LLC, (ECF Nos. 1085, 1086, 1088, 1089) 16 Defendants, 17
AMERICAN NATIONAL 18 INVESTMENTS, INC., 19 Relief Defendant.

20 21 Presently before the Court are the unopposed Fifteenth Interim Fee Applications of 22
Krista L. Freitag, Court-Appointed Receiver (ECF No. 1085), and Allen Matkins Leck 23 Gamble
Mallory & Natsis LLP (“Allen Matkins”), General Counsel to the Receiver, Krista 24 L. Freitag
(ECF Nos. 1086 (public), 1089 (lodged sealed version)), for Payment of Fees 25 and
Reimbursement of Expenses (together, the “Fee Applications”), as well as a Motion 26 for
Permission to File Portion of Fifteenth Interim Fee Application of Allen Matkins Under 27 Seal
 (“Mot. to Seal,” ECF No. 1088).

The Court vacated the hearing and took the 28 / / / 1 Applications and Motion to Seal under
submission on the papers without oral argument 2 || pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7.1(d)(1). (See
ECF No. 1090.) 3 With regard to the Motion to Seal, having reviewed the document in question
and 4 || good cause appearing, see Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1099
5 || (9th Cir.

2016); (see also ECF Nos. 310, 537, 639, 723, 774, 780, 908, 946, 962, 968, 1008, 6 ||/1016, 1048,
1080), the Court GRANTS the Motion. Accordingly, the Clerk SHALL 7 || FILE UNDER SEAL
the document previously lodged under seal at ECF No. 1089. 8 As for the Fee Applications,
having carefully reviewed the Fee Applications and the 9 || record, the Court GRANTS the Fee
Applications.

Accordingly, the Court ORDERS: 10 1. The Receiver’s fees and costs for the Fifteenth
Application Period are 11 || ALLOWED AND APPROVED, on an interim basis, in the amounts of
\$24,525.15 and 12 ||\$1,871.93, respectively; 13 2. Allen Matkins’s fees and costs for the Fifteenth
Application Period are 14 || ALLOWED AND APPROVED, on an interim basis, in the amounts of
\$127,755.90 and 15 \$7,476.15, respectively; 16 3.

The Receiver is AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to pay herself 17 ||\$19,620.12 in fees and \$1,871.93 in costs from assets of the Receivership Estate, which 18 ||}amounts reflect an interim payment of 80% of the allowed fees and 100% of the allowed 19 || costs; and 20 4.

The Receiver is AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to pay Allen Matkins 21 \$102,204.72 in fees and \$7,476.15 in costs from assets of the Receivership Estate, which 22 ||amounts reflect an interim payment of 80% of the allowed fees and 100% of the allowed 23 || costs. 24 IT IS SO ORDERED. 25 ||Dated: October 16, 2025 ——— (2 26 [on \ % (re 27 Honorable Todd W. Robinson 38 United States District Judge