

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO

CITATION: Bank of Nova Scotia v. Diemer, 2014 ONCA 851

DATE: 20141201

DOCKET: C58381

Hoy A.C.J.O., Cronk and Pepall JJ.A.

BETWEEN

The Bank of Nova Scotia

Plaintiff (Respondent)

and

Daniel A. Diemer o/a Cornacre Cattle Co.

Defendant (Respondent)

Peter H. Griffin, for the appellant PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

James H. Cooke, for the respondent Daniel A. Diemer

No one appearing for the respondent The Bank of Nova Scotia

Heard: June 10, 2014

On appeal from the order of Justice Andrew J. Goodman of the Superior Court of Justice, dated January 22, 2014, with reasons reported at 2014 ONSC 365.

Pepall J.A.:

[1] The public nature of an insolvency which juxtaposes a debtor's financial hardship with a claim for significant legal compensation focuses attention on the cost of legal services.

[2] This appeal involves a motion judge's refusal to approve legal fees of \$255,955 that were requested by a court appointed receiver on behalf of its counsel in a cattle farm receivership that spanned approximately two months.

[3] For the reasons that follow, I would dismiss the appeal.

Facts

(a) Appointment of Receiver

[4] The respondent, Daniel A. Diemer o/a Cornacre Cattle Co. (the "debtor"), is a cattle farmer. The Bank of Nova Scotia ("BNS") held security over his farm operations which were located near London, Ontario. BNS and Maxium Financial Services Inc. were owed approximately \$4.9 million (approximately \$2 million and \$2.85 million respectively). BNS applied for the appointment of a receiver pursuant to s. 243(1) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3 ("*BIA*") and s. 101 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. 43. The debtor was represented by counsel and consented to the appointment.

[5] On August 20, 2013, Carey J. granted the request and appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. ("PWC" or the "Receiver") as receiver of the debtor. The initial appointment order addressed various aspects of the receivership. This included the duty of the debtor to cooperate with the Receiver and the approval of a sales process for the farm operations described in

materials filed in court by BNS. The order also contained a come-back provision allowing any interested party to apply to vary the order on seven days' notice.

[6] Paragraphs 17 and 18 of the appointment order, which dealt with the accounts of the Receiver and its counsel, stated:

17. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver and counsel to the Receiver shall be paid their reasonable fees and disbursements, in each case at their standard rates and charges, and that the Receiver and counsel to the Receiver shall be entitled to and are hereby granted a charge (the "Receiver's Charge") on the Property, as security for such fees and disbursements, both before and after the making of this Order in respect of these proceedings, and that the Receiver's Charge shall form a first charge on the Property in priority to all security interests, trusts, liens, charges and encumbrances, statutory or otherwise, in favour of any Person, but subject to sections 14.06(7), 81.4(4), and 81.6(2) of the BIA.

18. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Receiver and its legal counsel shall pass its accounts from time to time, and for this purpose the accounts of the Receiver and its legal counsel are hereby referred to a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

There is no suggestion that the materials filed in support of the request for the appointment of the Receiver provided specifics on the standard rates and charges referred to in para. 17 of the initial appointment order.

[7] Counsel to the Receiver was Borden Ladner Gervais LLP ("BLG") and the lead lawyer was Roger Jaipargas. Mr. Jaipargas was called to the Ontario bar in 2000, practises out of BLG's Toronto office, and is an experienced and capable

insolvency practitioner. Among other things, at the time of the receivership, he was the Chair of the Insolvency Section of the Ontario Bar Association.

(b) Receiver's Activities

[8] The activities of the Receiver and, to a certain extent, those of its counsel, were described in reports dated September 11 and October 15, 2013 filed in court by the Receiver. Both reports were subsequently approved by the court.

[9] The reports revealed that:

- Following the granting of the initial appointment order, the Receiver entered into an agreement with the debtor pursuant to which the latter was to manage the day-to-day operations of the farm and the Receiver would provide oversight.
- After the Receiver was appointed, the debtor advised the Receiver of an August 13, 2013 offer he had received. It had resulted from a robust sales process conducted by the debtor. On learning of this offer, the Receiver negotiated an agreement of purchase and sale with the offeror for the purchase of the farm for the sum of \$8.3 million. The purchase price included 170 milking cows.
- On September 17, 2013, the Receiver obtained, without objection from the debtor, a court order setting aside the sales process approved in the initial appointment order, approving the agreement of purchase and

sale it had negotiated, and approving the Receiver's September 11, 2013 report outlining its activities to date.

- The agreement of purchase and sale required that over 150 cows be removed from the farm (not including the 170 milking cows that were the subject of the agreement of purchase and sale). Complications relating to these cows and an additional 60 cows which the debtor wanted to rent to increase his milking quota arose to which the Receiver and its counsel were required to attend.
- The Receiver and BLG also negotiated an access agreement to permit certain property to remain on the farm after the closing date of the agreement of purchase and sale at no cost to the debtor. Unbeknownst to the Receiver, the debtor then removed some of that property.
- The Receiver and its counsel also had to consider numerous claims to the proceeds of the receivership by other interested creditors and an abandoned request by the debtor to change the venue of the receivership from London to Windsor.

[10] After approximately two months, the debtor asked that the Receiver be replaced. Accordingly, PWC brought a motion to substitute BDO Canada Ltd. as receiver and to approve its second report dated October 15, 2013.

(c) Application to Approve Fees

[11] The Receiver also asked the court to approve its fees and disbursements and those of its counsel including both of their estimates of fees to complete.

[12] The Receiver's fees amounted to \$138,297 plus \$9,702.52 in disbursements. The fees reflected 408.7 hours spent by the Receiver's representatives at an average hourly rate of \$338.38. The highest hourly rate charged by the Receiver was \$525 per hour. Fees estimated to complete were \$20,000.

[13] The Receiver's counsel, BLG, performed a similar amount of work but charged significantly higher rates. BLG's fees from August 6 to October 14, 2013 amounted to \$255,955, plus \$4,434.92 in disbursements and \$33,821.69 in taxes for a total account of \$294,211.61. The fees reflected 397.60 hours spent with an average hourly rate of \$643.75. Mr. Jaipargas's hours amounted to 195.30 hours at an hourly rate of \$750.00. The rates of the other 10 people on the account ranged from \$950 per hour for a senior lawyer to \$195 for a student and \$330 for a law clerk.

[14] Fees estimated to complete were \$20,000.

[15] In support of the request for approval of both sets of accounts, the Receiver filed an affidavit of its own representative and one from its counsel, Mr. Jaipargas.

[16] As is customary in receiver fee approval requests, the Receiver's representative stated that, to the best of his knowledge, the rates charged by its counsel were comparable to the rates charged by other law firms for the provision of similar services and that the fees and disbursements were fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

[17] In his affidavit, Mr. Jaipargas attached copies of BLG's accounts and a summary of the hourly rates and time spent by the eleven BLG timekeepers who worked on the receivership. The attached accounts included detailed block descriptions of the activities undertaken by the BLG timekeepers with total daily aggregate hours recorded. Usually the entries included multiple tasks such as e-mails and telephone calls. Time was recorded in six minute increments. Of the over 160 docket entries, a total of 11 entries reflected time of .1 (6 minutes) and .2 (12 minutes).

[18] On October 23, 2013, the motion judge granted a preliminary order. He ordered that:

- BDO Canada Ltd. be substituted as receiver;
- PWC's fees and disbursements be approved;
- the Receiver's October 15, 2013 report and the activities of the Receiver set out therein be approved;
- \$100,000 of BLG's fees be approved; and

- the determination of the approval of the balance of BLG's fees and disbursements be adjourned to January 3, 2014.

[19] Prior to the January return date, the debtor filed an affidavit of a representative from his law firm. The affiant described the billing rates of legal professionals located in the cities of London and Windsor, Ontario. These rates tended to be significantly lower than those of BLG. For example, the highest billing rate was \$500 for the services of a partner called to the bar in 1988. Mr. Jaipargas replied with an affidavit that addressed Toronto rates in insolvency proceedings in Toronto with which BLG's rates compared favourably. He also revised BLG's estimate to complete to \$30,000.

Motion Judge's Decision

[20] On January 3, 2014, the motion judge heard the motion relating to approval of the balance of BLG's fees and disbursements. He refused to grant the requested fee approval and provided detailed reasons for his decision dated January 22, 2014.

[21] In his reasons, the motion judge considered and applied the principles set out in *Re Bakemates International Inc.* (2002), 164 O.A.C. 84 (C.A.), leave to appeal refused, [2002] S.C.C.A. No. 460 (also referred to as *Confectionately Yours Inc., Re*); *BT-PR Realty Holdings Inc. v. Coopers & Lybrand* (1997), 29 O.T.C. 354 (S.C.); and *Federal Business Development Bank v. Belyea* (1983), 44 N.B.R. (2d) 248 (C.A.). The motion judge considered the nature, extent and

value of the assets handled, the complications and difficulties encountered, the degree of assistance provided by the debtor, and the cost of comparable services.

[22] The motion judge took into account the challenges identified by the Receiver in dealing with the debtor. However, he found that the debtor had co-operated and that there was little involvement by the Receiver and counsel that required either day-to-day management or identification of a potential purchaser.

[23] He noted, at para. 17 of his reasons, that although counsel for the debtor took specific issue with BLG counsel's rates: "I glean from submissions that the thrust of his argument evolved from a complaint about the rates being charged to an overall dispute of the unreasonableness of the entirety of the fees (and by extension – the hours) submitted for reimbursement."

[24] The motion judge considered the hourly rates, time spent and work done. He noted that the asset was a family farm worth approximately \$8.3 million and that the scope of the receivership was modest. In his view, the size of the receivership estate should have some bearing on the hourly rates. He determined that the amount of counsel's efforts and the work involved was disproportionate to the size of the receivership. After the size of the estate became known, the usual or standard rates were too high. He expressly referred to paras. 17 and 18 of the initial appointment order.

[25] The motion judge also took issue with the need for, and excessive work done by, senior counsel on routine matters. He rejected the Receiver's opinion endorsing its counsel's fees, found that the number of hours reflected a significant degree of inefficiency, and that some of the work could have been performed at a lower hourly rate. He concluded: "I have concerns about the fees claimed that involve the scope of work over the course of just over two months in what appears to be a relatively straightforward receivership. Frankly, the rates greatly exceed what I view as fair and reasonable."

[26] He acknowledged that there were several methods to achieve what he believed to be a just and reasonable amount including simply cutting the overall number of hours billed. Instead, so as to reduce the amount claimed, he adopted the average London rate of \$475 for lawyers of similar experience and expertise as shown in the affidavit filed by the debtor. He also expressly limited his case to the facts at hand, noting that his reasons should not be construed as saying that Toronto rates have no application in matters in the Southwest Region.

[27] The motion judge concluded that BLG's fees were "nothing short of excessive." He assessed them at \$157,500 from which the \$100,000 allowed in his October 23, 2013 order was to be deducted. He also allowed disbursements of \$4,434.92 and applicable HST.

Grounds of Appeal

[28] The appellant advances three grounds of appeal. It submits that the motion judge erred: (1) by failing to apply the clear provisions of the appointment order which entitled BLG to charge fees at its standard rates; (2) by reducing BLG's fees in the absence of evidence that the fees were not fair and reasonable; and (3) by making unfair and unsupported criticisms of counsel.

Burden of Proof

[29] The receiver bears the burden of proving that its fees are fair and reasonable: *HSBC Bank Canada v. Lechier-Kimel*, 2014 ONCA 721, at para. 16 and *Bakemates*, at para. 31.

Analysis

(a) Appointment of a Receiver

[30] Under s. 243(1) of the *BIA*, the court may appoint a receiver and under s. 243(6), may make any order respecting the fees and disbursements of the receiver that the court considers proper. Similarly, s.101 of the *Courts of Justice Act* provides for the appointment of a receiver and that the appointment order may include such terms as are considered just. As in the case under appeal, the initial appointment order may provide for a judicial passing of accounts. Section 248(2) of the *BIA* also permits the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, the debtor, the trustee in bankruptcy or a creditor to apply to court to have the receiver's

accounts reviewed. The court also relies on its supervisory role and inherent jurisdiction to review a receiver's requests for payment: *Bakemates*, at para. 36 and Kevin P. McElcheran, *Commercial Insolvency in Canada*, 2d ed. (Markham: LexisNexis, 2011), at pp. 185-186.

[31] The receiver is an officer of the court: *Bakemates*, at para. 34. As stated by McElcheran, at p.186:

The receiver, once appointed, is said to be a “fiduciary” for all creditors of the debtor. The term “fiduciary” to describe the receiver's duties to creditors reflects the representative nature of its role in the performance of its duties. The receiver does not have a financial stake in the outcome. It is not an advocate of any affected party and it has no client. As a court officer and appointee, the receiver has a duty of even-handedness that mirrors the court's own duty of fairness in the administration of justice. [Footnotes omitted.]

(b) Passing of a Receiver's Accounts

[32] In *Bakemates*, this court described the purpose of the passing of a receiver's accounts and also discussed the applicable procedure. Borins J.A. stated, at para. 31, that there is an onus on the receiver to prove that the compensation for which it seeks approval is fair and reasonable. This includes the compensation claimed on behalf of its counsel. At para. 37, he observed that the accounts must disclose the total charges for each of the categories of services rendered. In addition:

The accounts should be in a form that can be easily understood by those affected by the receivership (or by the judicial officer required to assess the accounts) so that such person can determine the amount of time spent by the receiver's employees (and others that the receiver may have hired) in respect to the various discrete aspects of the receivership.

[33] The court endorsed the factors applicable to receiver's compensation described by the New Brunswick Court of Appeal in *Belyea: Bakemates*, at para. 51. In *Belyea*, at para. 9, Stratton J.A. listed the following factors:

- the nature, extent and value of the assets;
- the complications and difficulties encountered;
- the degree of assistance provided by the debtor;
- the time spent;
- the receiver's knowledge, experience and skill;
- the diligence and thoroughness displayed;
- the responsibilities assumed;
- the results of the receiver's efforts; and
- the cost of comparable services when performed in a prudent and economical manner.

These factors constitute a useful guideline but are not exhaustive: *Bakemates*, at para. 51.

[34] In Canada, very little has been written on professional fees in insolvency proceedings: see Stephanie Ben-Ishai and Virginia Torrie, "A 'Cost' Benefit

Analysis: Examining Professional Fees in CCAA Proceedings” in Janis P. Sarra, ed., *Annual Review of Insolvency Law* (Toronto: Carswell, 2010) 141, at p.151.

[35] Having said that, it is evident that the fairness and reasonableness of the fees of a receiver and its counsel are the stated lynchpins in the *Bakemates* analysis. However, in actual practice, time spent, that is, hours spent times hourly rate, has tended to be the predominant factor in determining the quantum of legal fees.

[36] There is a certain irony associated with this dichotomy. A person requiring legal advice does not set out to buy time. Rather, the object of the exercise is to buy services. Moreover, there is something inherently troubling about a billing system that pits a lawyer’s financial interest against that of its client and that has built-in incentives for inefficiency. The billable hour model has both of these undesirable features.

(c) The Rise and Dominance of the Billable Hour

[37] For many decades now, the cornerstone of legal accounts and law firms has been the billable hour. It ostensibly provides an objective measure for both clients and law firms. For the most part, it determines the quantum of fees. From an internal law firm perspective, the billable hour also measures productivity and is an important tool in assessing the performance of associates and partners alike.

[38] The billable hour traces its roots to the mid-20th century. In 1958, the American Bar Association (“ABA”)’s Special Commission on the Economics of Law Practice published a study entitled “The 1958 Lawyer and his 1938 Dollar”. The study noted that lawyers’ incomes had not kept pace with those of other professionals and recommended improved recording of time spent and a target of 1,300 billable hours per year to boost lawyers’ profits: see Stuart L. Pardau, *“Bill, Baby, Bill: How the Billable Hour Emerged as the Primary Method of Attorney Fee Generation and Why Early Reports of its Demise May be Greatly Exaggerated”* (2013) 50 Idaho L. Rev. 1, at pp. 4-5. By 2002, in its Commission on Billable Hours, the ABA revised its proposed expectation to 2,300 hours docketed annually of which 1,900 would represent billable work: see Pardau, at p. 2. And that was in 2002.

[39] Typically, a lawyer’s record of billable hours is accompanied by dockets that record and detail the time spent on a matter. In theory, this allows for considerable transparency. However, docketing may become more of an art than a science, and the objective of transparency is sometimes elusive.

[40] This case illustrates the problem. Here, the lawyers provided dockets in blocks of time that provide little, if any, insight into the value provided by the time recorded. Moreover, each hour is divided into 10 six-minute segments, with six minutes being the minimum docket. So, for example, reading a one line e-mail could engender a 6 minute docket and associated fee. This segmenting of the

hour to be docketed does not necessarily encourage accuracy or docketing parsimony.

(d) Fees in Context of Court Appointed Receiver

[41] The cost of legal services is highlighted in the context of a court-supervised insolvency due to its public nature. In contrast, the cost of putting together many of the transactions that then become unravelled in court insolvency proceedings rarely attract the public scrutiny that professional fees in insolvencies do. While many of the principles described in these reasons may also be applicable to other areas of legal practice, the focus of this appeal is on legal fees in an insolvency.

[42] Bilateral relationships are not the norm in an insolvency. In a traditional solicitor/client relationship, there are built-in checks and balances, incentives, and, frequently, prior agreements on fees. These sorts of arrangements are less common in an insolvency. For example, a receiver may not have the ability or incentive to reap the benefit of any pre-agreed client percentage fee discount of the sort that is incorporated from time to time into fee arrangements in bilateral relationships.

[43] In a court-supervised insolvency, stakeholders with little or no influence on the fees may ultimately bear the burden of the largesse of legal expenditures. In the case under appeal, the recoveries were sufficient to discharge the debt owed

to BNS. As such, it did not bear the cost of the receivership. In contrast, had the receivership costs far exceeded BNS's debt recovery such that in essence it was funding the professional fees, BNS would hold the economic interest and other stakeholders would be unaffected.

[44] In a receivership, the duty to monitor legal fees and services in the first instance is on the receiver. Choice of counsel is also entirely within the purview of the receiver. In selecting its counsel, the receiver must consider expertise, complexity, location, and anticipated costs. The responsibility is on the receiver to choose counsel who best suits the circumstances of the receivership. However, subsequently, the court must pass on the fairness and reasonableness of the fees of the receiver and its counsel.

[45] In my view, it is not for the court to tell lawyers and law firms how to bill. That said, in proceedings supervised by the court and particularly where the court is asked to give its *imprimatur* to the legal fees requested for counsel by its court officer, the court must ensure that the compensation sought is indeed fair and reasonable. In making this assessment, all the *Belyea* factors, including time spent, should be considered. However, value provided should pre-dominate over the mathematical calculation reflected in the hours times hourly rate equation. Ideally, the two should be synonymous, but that should not be the starting assumption. Thus, the factors identified in *Belyea* require a consideration of the overall value contributed by the receiver's counsel. The focus of the fair

and reasonable assessment should be on what was accomplished, not on how much time it took. Of course, the measurement of accomplishment may include consideration of complications and difficulties encountered in the receivership.

[46] It is not my intention to introduce additional complexity and cost to the assessment of legal fees in insolvency proceedings. All participants must be mindful of costs and seek to minimize court appearances recognizing that the risk of failing to do so may be borne on their own shoulders.

(e) Application to This Case

[47] Applying these principles to the grounds raised, I am not persuaded that the motion judge erred in disallowing counsel's fees.

[48] The initial appointment order stating that the compensation of counsel was to be paid at standard rates and the subsequent approval of the Receiver's reports do not oust the need for the court to consider whether the fees claimed are fair and reasonable.

[49] As stated in *Bakemates*, at para. 53, there may be cases in which the fees generated by the hourly rates charged by a receiver will be reduced if the application of one or more of the *Belyea* factors so requires. Furthermore, although they would not have been determinative in any event, there is no evidence before this court that the standard rates were ever disclosed prior to the appointment of the receiver. In addition, as stated, while the receiver and its

counsel may be entitled to charge their standard rates, the ultimate assessment of what is fair and reasonable should dominate the analysis. I would therefore reject the appellant's argument that the motion judge erred in disallowing BLG's fees at its standard rates.

[50] I also reject the appellant's argument that the motion judge erred in fact in concluding that counsel's fees were not fair and reasonable.

[51] In this regard, the appellant makes numerous complaints.

[52] The appellant submits that the motion judge made a palpable and overriding error of fact in finding that the debtor was cooperative. The appellant relies on the contents of the Receiver's two reports in support of this contention. The first report states that on the date of the initial appointment order, August 20, 2013, the Receiver became aware of an offer to purchase the farm dated August 13, 2013 and reviewed the offer with the debtor's counsel. The report goes on to state that the debtor was not opposed to the Receiver completing that transaction and seeking the court's approval of it. The second report does detail some issues with the debtor such as the movement of certain property and cows to two farms for storage, even though the Receiver had arranged for storage with the purchaser at no cost to the Receiver or the debtor, and the leasing by the debtor of 60 additional cows to increase milk production.

[53] While there are certain aspects of the second report indicating that some negotiation with the debtor was required, based on the facts before him, it was open to the motion judge to conclude, overall, that the debtor cooperated. The Receiver and its counsel never said otherwise. Furthermore, this finding was made in the context of the debtor having agreed to continue to operate the farm pursuant to an August 30, 2013 agreement and in the face of little involvement of the Receiver and its counsel in the day-to-day management of the farm. Indeed, in the first report, the Receiver notes the debtor's willingness to carry on the farming operations on a day-to-day basis.

[54] In my view, it was also appropriate for the motion judge to question why a senior Toronto partner had to attend court in London to address unopposed motions and, further, to find that the scope of the receivership was modest. Indeed, in his reasons at para. 40, the motion judge wrote that, in the proceedings before him, counsel for the Receiver acknowledged that the receivership was not complex. Based on the record, it was open to him to conclude that the receivership involved "the divestment of the farm and assets with some modest ancillary work."

[55] As the motion judge noted at para. 20, the fixing of costs is not an unusual task for the court. Moreover, he was fully familiar with the receivership and was well-placed to assess the value generated by the legal services rendered. He properly considered the *Belyea* factors. While a different judge might have

viewed the facts, including the debtor's conduct, differently, the motion judge made findings of fact based on the record and is owed deference. In my view, the appellant failed to establish any palpable and overriding error.

[56] Nor did the motion judge focus his decision on what remained to the debtor after the creditors, the Receiver and Receiver's counsel had been paid, as alleged by the appellant. In para. 34 of his reasons, which is the focus of the appellant's complaint on this point, the motion judge correctly considered the size of the estate. He stated that he was persuaded that "the amount of counsel's efforts and work involved may be disproportionate to the size of the receivership." After the size of the estate became known, he concluded that the "standard" rates of counsel were too high relative to the size. As observed in *Belyea*, at para. 9, the "nature, extent and value" of an estate is a factor to be considered in assessing whether fees are fair and reasonable. As such, along with counsel's knowledge, experience and skill and the other *Belyea* factors, it is a relevant consideration.

[57] In addition, the motion judge was not bound to accept the affidavit evidence filed by BLG or the two Receiver reports as determinative of the fairness and reasonableness of the fees requested. It is incumbent on the court to look to the record to assess the accounts of its court officer, but it is open to a motion judge to draw inferences from that record. This is just what the motion judge did.

[58] Having said that, I do agree with the appellant that there were some unfair criticisms made of counsel. There was no basis to state that counsel had attempted to exaggerate or had conducted himself in a disingenuous manner. I also agree with the appellant that the Receiver and its counsel cannot be faulted for failing to bring the accounts forward for approval at an earlier stage. Costly court appearances should be discouraged not encouraged.

[59] I also agree with the appellant that it was inappropriate for the motion judge to adopt a mathematical approach and simply apply the rates of London counsel. However, this was not fatal: the motion judge's decision was informed by the factors in *Belyea*. As he noted, he would have arrived at the same result in any event. He was informed by the correct principles, which led him to conclude that the fees lacked proportionality and reasonableness. This is buttressed by the motion judge's concluding comments, in para. 47 of his reasons, where he made it clear that the driving concern in his analysis was the "overall reasonableness of the fees" and that his decision should not be read as saying that Toronto rates have no application in matters in London or its surrounding areas.

[60] While certain of the motion judge's comments were unjustified, I am not persuaded that a different result should ensue.

Disposition

[61] For the foregoing reasons, I would dismiss the appeal. As agreed, the appellant shall pay the respondent's costs of the appeal, fixed in the amount of \$5,500, together with disbursements and all applicable taxes.

Released:

"DEC -1 2014"
"EAC"

"Sarah E. Pepall J.A."
"I agree Alexandra Hoy A.C.J.O."
"I agree E.A. Cronk J.A."