

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

MERRIMACK, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT

Docket No. 03-E-0106

**In the Matter of the Liquidation of
The Home Insurance Company**

**AFFIDAVIT OF PETER A. BENGELSDORF, SPECIAL DEPUTY
LIQUIDATOR, IN SUPPORT OF APPROVAL OF 2005 COMPENSATION PLANS**

I, Peter A. Bengelsdorf, hereby depose and say:

1. I was appointed Special Deputy Liquidator of The Home Insurance Company (“Home”) and U.S. International Reinsurance Company (“USI Re”) (collectively, the “Companies”), by the Commissioner of Insurance for the State of New Hampshire, as Liquidator (“Liquidator”) of the Companies. I submit this affidavit in support of the Liquidator’s Motion for Approval of 2005 Compensation Plans (“Motion”). The facts and information set forth below are either within my own knowledge gained through my involvement with this matter, in which case I confirm that they are true, or are based on information provided to me by others, in which case they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

2. The Motion requests approval of three integrated compensation plans for employees of The Home in 2005 consisting of a Retention Incentive Plan, an Annual Incentive Plan and a Collection Incentive Plan (the “Plans”). Summaries of the Plans are attached as Exhibits A to C to the Motion. The Plans are intended to reward performance and reinforce retention of essential employees. The Plans and their estimated 2005 cost have been reviewed with the National Conference of Insurance Guaranty Fund’s Subcommittee on The Home which has advised it has no objection to the proposed Plans.

3. As described in the Liquidator's reports and the Liquidator's Motion for Approval of Compensation Plans dated April 5, 2004 (concerning the 2004 compensation plans) (the "2004 Compensation Motion"), shortly after the liquidation proceeding began in June 2003, the Liquidator determined that the most efficient way to organize the liquidation process was to hire the most critical Risk Enterprise Management ("REM") employees. This permitted the Liquidator to benefit from the continued involvement of experienced employees with prior involvement with The Home runoff. The Liquidator hired 93 employees to handle the liquidation of The Home (and of USI Re). During 2004, four employees voluntarily terminated their employment with Home. The liquidation is presently staffed by 90 employees, 73 of whom are located at The Home's former headquarters in New York City and 17 in Manchester, New Hampshire. I was also appointed the Special Deputy Liquidator to manage the operations of the liquidation. I am a consultant to the Liquidator, not an employee of The Home, and I am not covered by the proposed Plans.

4. The Home operated internationally and specialized in affording complex forms of insurance to large enterprises. Due to the sophisticated nature of The Home's insurance products, operations and supporting reinsurance programs, an experienced and stable liquidation staff will materially contribute to the efficient collection of assets. This is illustrated by the increase in The Home's liquid assets from the day the Order of Rehabilitation was entered, approximately \$3 million, to approximately \$640 million at November 30, 2004. Most of this increase is attributable to a combination of reinsurance recoveries and other financial settlements negotiated by The Home's experienced staff. Maximizing the prompt collection of assets is one of the principal statutory goals of the liquidation. RSA 402-C:25, VI. The Liquidator believes

that this objective can be facilitated through an alignment of creditor interests with the interests of The Home's employees.

5. As set forth in the 2004 Compensation Motion, the Liquidator engaged nationally recognized compensation consultants to assist in the design of employee compensation plans for 2004. The consultants had extensive experience in the design of compensation plans for large insurers, like The Home, in liquidation. The consultants concluded that The Home's base salaries were approximately at the 50th percentile among comparable companies and recommended that total direct compensation (base salary and incentive bonuses) range between the 50th and 75th percentile.

6. The Liquidator accordingly developed and requested approval for three integrated compensation plans for 2004: a Retention Plan for non-exempt full time employees, an Annual Incentive Plan for exempt full time employees including executives, and a Collection Incentive Plan for executives. As set forth in the 2004 Compensation Motion, the Liquidator's consultants advised that the plans represented best practices with respect to compensation in insurance company liquidations, provided competitive annual and long-term earnings opportunities, and balanced performance-based rewards with short term and long-term retention. The individual programs were integrated across employee levels and would provide, if performance goals were met or exceeded, total direct compensation between the 50th and 75th percentile market levels. This was the level of compensation recommended by the Liquidator's consultants in order to retain experienced employees. The Court approved the compensation plans for 2004 by order issued April 21, 2004.

7. After consulting with Ernst & Young LLP, the Liquidator proposes to implement essentially the same compensation plans for 2005. The Retention Incentive Plan ("Retention

Plan”) will provide a cash incentive to The Home’s fifteen non-exempt (Federal Wage and Hour Law) full time employees as of January 1, 2005 to stay with The Home. Subject to continuing employment, these employees would receive three additional bonus checks, one each in June, September and December. If an employee voluntarily leaves or is terminated for cause, then no Retention Plan payment would be made. In the event of death, disability or an involuntary termination, the employee will be entitled to the pro rata portion of the payment that would next be made. The estimated 2005 cost for the Retention Plan is approximately \$56,700 (compared to \$79,000 in 2004).

8. All seventy-five exempt (Federal Wage and Hour Law) full time employees as of January 1, 2005, would be eligible to participate in the Annual Incentive Plan (“Annual Plan”). This plan is designed to provide additional cash compensation based on the overall performance of The Home’s liquidation and the individual employee during the annual plan cycle. The Liquidator will determine the annual goals, performance measures and payouts. Annual cash payments will be made after the close of the performance year (no later than March 15, 2006). If an employee voluntarily leaves or is terminated for cause, then no Annual Plan payment would be made. In the event of death, disability or an involuntary termination, the employee will be entitled to a pro rata share of any Annual Plan payment. The estimated 2005 cost for the Annual Plan is approximately \$2.3 million (compared with \$3.2 million in 2004).

9. At the discretion of the Liquidator, the ten senior executives of The Home would be eligible to participate in the Collection Incentive Plan (“Collection Plan”). The Collection Plan is designed to provide focused incentives for the collection of assets. Awards under this plan will be based on the accomplishment of annual collection targets but may also vary, at the discretion of the Liquidator, based on achievement of individual performance goals. The twin

goals of the Collection Plan are to maximize the collection of assets and retain senior and experienced executives as long as deemed necessary by the Liquidator. Therefore, any Collection Plan award will be deferred and funded into a trust account. The employee will actually receive those funds only upon the termination of the liquidation proceeding, involuntary termination of employment other than for cause, or at the discretion of the Liquidator if an interim payout is deemed appropriate (e.g., an interim 40% payout at July 2007 and 60% payout at July 2009). If an employee voluntarily terminates or is terminated for cause, then all Collection Plan amounts are forfeited. In the event of death or disability, the Collection Plan amounts will be distributed. Collections beyond goals in 2004 will carry forward into 2005. The estimated 2005 cost for the Collection Plan is approximately \$1.5 million (compared with \$1.4 million in 2004).

10. There will be no salary increase program in 2005, and thus employee base salaries will continue to be at approximately the 50th percentile. Because Home is a company in liquidation, its employees have less career potential than they would if they were to leave Home and become employed with a “healthy” insurance company. Further, previously available perquisites and company-sponsored portions of benefits plans have been restructured or reduced. The Home has no retirement plan or company-matched 401(k) plan (as discussed below, a safe harbor 401(k) plan will be effective in 2005). To address these issues, the Liquidator proposes to continue to provide incentive/retention compensation to all The Home’s employees. Each of the three proposed 2005 plans is annually renewable and is therefore subject to prospective modification or termination by the Liquidator.

11. The Liquidator seeks to continue to provide compensation consistent with best practices with respect to compensation in insurance company liquidations, provide competitive

annual and long-term earnings opportunities and balance performance-based rewards with short term and long-term retention. The individual programs are integrated across employee levels and, if performance goals are met or exceeded, will provide total direct compensation between the 50th and 75th percentile market levels. This is the level of compensation recommended by the Liquidator's consultant in order to retain experienced employees.

12. The total incentive compensation budget (assuming performance goals are met) for 2005 has been reduced to reflect a safe harbor payment to permit full participation by employees in The Home's 401(k) plan. As described in the Liquidator's reports, The Home adopted a non-contributory 401(k) plan effective October 1, 2004. Further, effective January 1, 2005, The Home adopted the safe harbor provision under Internal Revenue Service rules so that all employees who wish to do so may contribute the maximum amount to the 401(k) plan. The cost of adopting the safe harbor provision is three percent of employees' earnings (up to an individual employee earnings cap of \$205,000). The cost for 2005 is estimated at \$298,000, which has been applied to reduce the budget for the Annual and Collection Plans to the amounts set forth above.

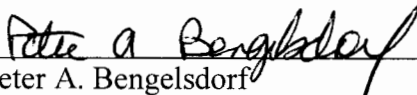
13. The Liquidator also determined to extend the present severance benefit program (which was in place only until June 30, 2005) until June 30, 2007. That program excludes executives eligible for the Collection Plan, which addresses severance issues for them. Under the severance program, eligible employees may receive three or six months of severance benefits. The estimated costs of the severance program have previously been applied against the total 2004 incentive compensation budget to reduce incentive payments under the 2004 Annual Plan.

14. The Liquidator's consultant, Ernst & Young, advises that the 2005 compensation proposal is appropriate and consistent with typical market practices among insurance companies in liquidation. It further advises that the individual plan designs and mechanics are based upon commonly accepted compensation practices for insurance companies in liquidation, and that the levels of pay provided by the individual plans, as well as the overall total compensation, represent market competitive compensation levels. A copy of Ernst & Young's advisory letter dated December 3, 2004 is attached as Exhibit D to the Motion.

15. I believe that without the adoption of these three plans that the liquidation effort would be harmed because key employees would seek better, more long-term career opportunities elsewhere.


16. For the reasons described above, I believe that the Plans are fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the liquidation and of the policyholders and other creditors of The Home.

Signed under the penalties of perjury this 10th day of January, 2005.


Peter A. Bengelsdorf
Special Deputy Liquidator of The Home Insurance
Company

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 10th day of January, 2005.


Notary Public Justice of the Peace

NELLY M. GOMEZ
Notary Public, State of New York
No. ~~060~~ 5005271
Qualified in NY County
Certificate Filed in NY County
Commission Expires December 7, 2006