UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 21-2989-MDL-ALTONAGA/Torres

In re:

JANUARY 2021 SHORT SQUEEZE TRADING LITIGATION
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This Document Relates to All Actions

ORDER

In the April 19, 2021 Case Management Order [ECF No. 209], the Court invited attorneys involved in the non-federal securities actions to submit applications for Plaintiffs' lead counsel by April 26, 2021. (*See id.* 2). Thereafter, the Court followed the procedure outlined in that Order and entered a Case Management Order [ECF No. 310], establishing Plaintiffs' claim and leadership structure; appointing counsel to designated leadership roles in this multidistrict litigation; and assigning Plaintiffs' leadership duties. (*See generally* May 18, 2021 Order). Relevant here, the Court appointed Mr. Dennis S. Ellis of Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis to the Steering Committee. (*See id.* 3).

Presently, Mr. Ellis apprises the Court he "respectfully decline[s] the appointment[,]" stating he "typically reserves that level of commitment to acting in a first-chair capacity in high-stakes commercial litigation matters[.]" (Appl. Replace Mr. Ellis with Matthew L. Venezia on Pls.' Steering Committee [ECF No. 312] 1 (alterations added)). Mr. Ellis asks the Court "[a]s an alternative, . . . that Mr. [Matthew L.] Venezia replace [him] on the [Steering Committee]." (*Id.* 2 (alterations added)). In addition, Jason S. Rathod of Migliaccio & Rathod LLP submitted an Application [ECF No. 313] for the "vacated seat" on the Steering Committee (Rathod's Appl. 2),

and Melissa R. Emert submitted a Renewed Application [ECF No. 314] for a Steering Committee position.

The Court declines to entertain *new* applicants seeking appointment to the Steering Committee. The Committee has not expressed a need to fill Mr. Ellis's previously held position.

Accordingly, the Court **ACCEPTS** Dennis S. Ellis's resignation. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of those attorneys previously appointed:

Committee Chair:

Roy T. Willey, IV
Anastopoulo Law Firm, LLC
32 Ann Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Committee Members:

Gabriel A. Assaad
McDonald Worley, PC 1770
St. James St., Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77056

Jeffrey A. Klafter
Klafter Lesser LLP
2 International Drive, Suite 350
Rye Brook, New York 10573

Maurice D. Pessah
Pessah Law Group, PC
661 N Harper Avenue, Suite 208
West Hollywood, California 90048

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 21st day of May, 2021.

Cecilia M. Altonaga

CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cc: counsel of record; *pro se* Plaintiffs