

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI DADE-COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CASE NO.: 2021-015089-CA-01

SECTION: CA43

JUDGE: Michael Hanzman

**IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH
COLLAPSE LITIGATION**

APPLICATION FOR FEES

Pursuant to the Court's August 3, 2022 *sua sponte* Order on Supplemental Attorneys' Fees Applications, Brad Sohn Law respectfully moves the Court for supplemental fees as noted in the incorporated declaration. A composite exhibit attached as Exhibit "A" contains a breakdown of Brad Sohn Law's requested lodestar amount. As stated in the declaration, Brad Sohn Law will be providing time and expense printouts supporting Brad Sohn Law's requested lodestar amount for *in camera review*.

WHEREFORE Brad Sohn Law respectfully requests attorneys' fees as reflected in the incorporated declaration.

Dated: August 26, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Bradford Rothwell Sohn

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Counsel for Plaintiff

**DECLARATION OF BRADFORD ROTHWELL SOHN, ESQ. FILED ON BEHALF OF
SOHN LAW PLLC IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND LITIGATION EXPENSES**

I, Bradford Rothwell Sohn, Esq., do hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Sole Member of The Brad Sohn Law Firm, PLLC d/b/a Brad Sohn Law PLLC (“Brad Sohn Law”), based in Coral Gables, Florida, where I am licensed to practice.

2. I submit this declaration in support of my firm’s application for an award of supplemental attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses in connection with the services we rendered in the above-entitled action from June 1, 2022 forward.

3. Principally, my work over this approximately three-month period vectored to the claims submission for Ms. Stephanie McManus, as personal representative of the estate of Elaine Sabino.

4. I note my profound gratitude to the Court, the receiver, and co-class counsel for the assistance provided during this process.

5. Although Brad Sohn Law (in concert with LippSmith LLP and Mr. Shmuelly) had been approached by numerous wrongful death families at the outset of this litigation, we made the decision with our co-counsel Harley Tropin to disengage from all such representations due to concerns espoused by the Court regarding possible conflicts of interest.

6. I was extremely proud to represent members of the economic loss track. But without taking anything away from these victims, I felt very fortunate when—this summer—Ms. Furst contacted me in connection with having the privilege of representing Ms. McManus.

7. This claim focused on very unique non-economic damages, due to the nature of this loss. The services I performed consisted—broadly—of two categories: corralling the relevant information from the client and family; and synthesizing that information with Florida law on damages, as well as with the relevant medical information regarding losses of this variety. Fortunately, I was able to engage one of the world’s leading mental health experts, who graciously waived his fees, to assist the Court in understanding this claim.

8. I am extremely proud to have obtained what the Court determined to have been the full measure of damages for Ms. McManus's loss.

9. Moreover, I cannot underscore enough how gratifying it was to receive the following email from Ms. McManus (which she invited me to share with the Court in connection with this submission):

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Subject: Statement for court

Date: Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 12:58:07 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Stephanie McManus

To: Brad Sohn

Hi Brad,

This is for you to give to the court. I hope it's not too long and that it communicates well what I'm trying to say!

To whom it may concern,

I feel like fate intervened in this terrible tragedy when the lawyer who was suggested to represent me, Brad Sohn, came into my life. Not only is he a phenomenal lawyer (ethical, hard-working, and professional), he has also been a top-notch human being.

When I spoke to him for the first time only a couple months ago, I felt a huge weight lift off of my shoulders. I felt seen, heard, respected, and I felt, finally, some measure of being safe. The chaos of the collapse and the court proceedings, the grief, dealing with a confusing situation with a previous attorney... it was all very chaotic. But, when Brad came into the picture, how he handled everything and was so on top of things helped me to finally have some space to breathe a little.

I had initially been involved with an outside attorney who I had signed on with after the Surfside Collapse. It became a stressful situation I didn't understand how to handle when I found my previous attorney had not communicated judge's orders for victims and how they were to be represented. I reached out to the Receiver when I found out, who got me in touch with an attorney who then recommended Brad, specifically, to me.

I don't know how they knew he was right for me or if it was just luck, but Brad understood my unique situation with compassion and kindness and intelligence like I feel few people could ever understand. He saw the big picture immediately when I told him the story of me and my mom. I believe he probably saw it more clearly than I even do sometimes as someone who has dealt with trauma. It was a difficult, complicated, and also a sad story in ways. It is no small thing to feel seen and supported, especially as someone who has often found it difficult to tell my story.

Brad immediately took over handling the situation with the other attorney and fully resolved it within days. He then negotiated with the other attorney on my behalf previous fees they had charged and drastically reduced them related to a separate matter from the class action. Within weeks I was scheduled to have a hearing at this point, and Brad communicated with me often and told me he was always available should I have any concerns or needs. We talked by text often, had multiple phone calls and a zoom call. He scheduled me with a phenomenal doctor who was to be my expert witness. He connected me with someone I could trust in the event I wanted to structure any settlement and handled discussions of the settlement with compassion. I struggled with complicated emotions surrounding all of it. But, Brad is part of the reason I was able to stay strong and focused and honest with myself during this entire ordeal. He also advocated for me to have my hearing by zoom with me living out in California, because he knew how stressful it would be for me to come to Florida. He was 100% my advocate.

I cannot imagine a better person to have represented me. I feel immeasurably lucky to have had the honor of him being my lawyer, as if the stars aligned suddenly after a difficult and murky path. He fully supported me during this process, connected me to multiple supports like my phenomenal expert witness and the financial advisor, resolved my situation with the past attorney, and he continues to help me even as I settle the estate. He has been so present for me, and I wanted to express to the court in support of him how phenomenal of a lawyer Brad Sohn has been to me. He has gone above and beyond in support of me, providing his compassion and also friendship in a time I needed kindness, and I am so very grateful.

All my best,
Stephanie McManus

10. The information in this declaration regarding my firm's time and expenses is documented and reflected in time and expense printouts and supporting documentation prepared and maintained by my firm in the ordinary course of business. I am the partner who oversaw the day-to-day activities in the litigation for my firm. I have reviewed the printouts (and backup documentation where necessary or appropriate) in connection with the preparation of this declaration. The purpose of this review was to confirm both the accuracy of the entries on the printouts as well as the necessity for, and reasonableness of, the time and expenses committed to the claim. As a result of this review and any adjustments made, I believe that the time reflected in Sohn Law's lodestar calculation and the expenses for which payment is sought as set forth in this declaration are reasonable in amount and were necessary for the effective and efficient presentation of this claim.

11. To that end, I note that my normal billable rate for non-contingent matters is \$850/hour, which is the rate used on my fees.

12. In addition, I believe that the expenses are all of a type that would normally be charged to a fee-paying client in the private legal marketplace.

13. The number of hours spent on this litigation by my firm is 71.2. A breakdown of the lodestar is provided in **Exhibit A**. The lodestar amount based on the firm's current rates is \$60,520. The hourly rates shown in **Exhibit A** are the usual and customary rates set by the firm for each individual attorney, paralegal or other paraprofessional. The chart set forth as **Exhibit A** was prepared from contemporaneous daily time records.

14. Sohn Law's expenses and charges in connection with the prosecution of this litigation total \$1560.11. Those expenses and charges are summarized by expense category in the attached **Exhibit B**.

15. The following additional information further explains certain of these expenses: \$60.11 was spent on transportation to and from the claims hearing; \$1,500 (prorated) was expended on researching comparable verdicts, settlements, and law on non-economic damages.

16. The identification and background of my firm and its participating attorneys has been previously provided.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 26th day of August, 2022 at Miami, Florida.

/s/ Bradford Rothwell Sohn, Esq.

BRADFORD R. SOHN

EXHIBIT A

IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH COLLAPSE LITIGATION

TIME REPORT

FIRM NAME: BRAD SOHN LAW, PLLC

REPORTING PERIOD: Inception through May 31, 2022

Name (Status: P, A, Counsel, Para, Clerk)	Total Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Lodestar
Brad R. Sohn; P	71.2	\$850	\$60,520
TOTALS	66.3		\$56,355.00

EXHIBIT B

IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH COLLAPSE LITIGATION

EXPENSES REPORT

FIRM NAME: Brad Sohn Law PLLC

REPORTING PERIOD: Inception through May 31, 2022

DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	CUMULATIVE EXPENSES
Online research	\$1,500	
Parking / Transportation	\$60.11	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,560.11