## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

**CASE NO.: 20-CV-81205-RAR** 

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

#### Plaintiff,

v.

COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC. d/b/a/ PAR FUNDING, et al.,

# PLAINTIFF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION'S MOTION TO ALLOW CERTAIN TRIAL WITNESSES TO APPEAR BY ZOOM (OR SIMILAR PLATFORM)

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission respectfully requests that the following witnesses that may be called at trial in this matter be permitted to appear by Zoom or a similar web based platform. The Court has said in previous hearings that it may allow trial witnesses to appear by video platforms such as Zoom for health reasons or for other good cause. The SEC has issued trial subpoenas and heard from several witnesses regarding their inability to travel. The following witnesses have asserted they cannot travel to testify in person due to serious health conditions (or because they are caretakers of those with heath conditions). Thus, the SEC requests that they be permitted to appear by Zoom:<sup>1</sup>

Ronald Lipowski (health conditions)
Steven Weinkranz (health conditions)
Richard Muldawer (health conditions)

Cynthia Clark (sole caretaker to a special needs child)

Similarly, the SEC requests that the following two witnesses, employees of two out-ofstate regulatory agencies, be allowed to testify by Zoom due to their agencies' prohibition on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the interest of the witnesses' privacy, the particular health conditions are not listed herein but will be made available to the Court should it need additional information.

allowing employees to travel due to Covid-19 (in the case of New Jersey) or only in limited circumstances (in the case of Philadelphia). The SEC anticipates that both of these regulators testimony will take less than 60 minutes and will not require the presentation of many documents. Both witnesses would need to fly several hours to Florida to appear, so that in-person testimony would be burdensome compared with the brief testimony they are being asked to present. Thus, the SEC request that the following two witnesses be allowed to appear by Zoom should their testimony be required:

Stephen A. Bouchard, Director of Examinations, New Jersey Bureau of Securities Lori Boyogueno, Sr. Securities Compliance Examiner and Enforcement Administrator

This motion is made in good faith and made in an effort to accommodate those witnesses who have expresses actual hardships (and not those who have expressed reluctance to testify in person due to inconvience-which are many). The SEC anticipates that this list is not exclusive as other witnesses may reach out with medical issues or other good cause, but wanted to file this Motion as to the currently known witnesses with issues so that appropriate arrangements can be arranged.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF CONFERRAL**

Pursuant to Local Rule 3.01(g), undersigned counsel hereby certifies that on Nov. 17 and 18, 2021, they conferred with counsel for Defendants in a good faith effort to resolve the issues presented in this motion by agreement and Defendants state they have no objection to those witnesses with health issues appearing by zoom. However, Defendants do object to the state regulators appearing by Zoom.

November 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

s/Alise Johnson

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#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

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COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GF	ROUP,
INC. d/b/a/ PAR FUNDING, et al.,	

### ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO ALLOW CERTAIN TRIAL WITNESSES TO APPEAR BY ZOOM (OR SIMILAR PLATFORM)

This matter came before the Court upon Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission's Motion to Allow Certain Trial Witnesses to Appear by Zoom (or Similar Platform). After reviewing the Motion and otherwise being duly advised,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion IS GRANTED. The following witnesses may appear at trial via Zoom or similar platform:

Ronald Lipowski
Steven Weinkranz
Richard Muldawer
Cynthia Clark
Stephen A. Bouchard, Director of Examinations, New Jersey Bureau of Securities
Lori Boyogueno, Sr. Securities Compliance Examiner and Enforcement Administrator

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2021.

RODOLFO A. RUIZ II
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies to; Counsel of Record