## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

In Re:	§	
	§	
TODAY'S DESTINY, INC.	§	CASE NO. 05-90080
	§	
Debtor	§	CHAPTER 7
	§	
JOSEPH M. HILL, TRUSTEE IN	§	
BANKRUPTCY FOR DEBTOR,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff	§	
	ş	
VS.	ş	Adversary 06-03285
	§	•
MICHAEL DAY, ET AL.	ş	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

# TRUSTEE'S MOTION AGAINST PIONEER FOR TURNOVER OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE BANKRUPTCY ESTATE OR, <u>ALTERNATIVELY, MOTION TO ENFORCE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT</u>

### TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Joseph M. Hill, Trustee for the Bankruptcy Estate of Today's Destiny, Inc., files this

Motion against Pioneer for Turnover of Property Belonging to the Bankruptcy Estate or,

Alternatively, Motion to Enforce Settlement Agreement, and in support thereof would

respectfully show the Court:

### I. FACTUAL OVERVIEW

On or about February 27, 2009, Joseph M. Hill, Trustee for the Bankruptcy Estate of Today's Destiny, Inc. (hereinafter "Trustee"), entered into a Settlement Agreement (*see* Exhibit A) with Pioneer Capital Corporation (hereinafter "Pioneer"), which was approved by this Court on April 27, 2009 (*see* Order granting Trustee's Motion to Compromise Controversy (Doc. 659)). The terms of the Settlement Agreement stipulated that in exchange for \$8,000.00

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paid in two installments of \$4,000.00 due April 1, 2009 and May 1, 2009, Trustee would release

any and all claims against Pioneer and dismiss it from this litigation.

2. Pioneer paid the first installment of \$4,000.00 on June 11, 2009, over two months

late.

3. Pioneer has refused to comply with the May 1 payment deadline and has not made

the second payment of \$4,000.00 as specified in the Settlement Agreement.

## **II. ARGUMENT**

4. Bankruptcy Code Section 542(b) provides:

"Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d) of this section, an entity that owes a debt that is property of the estate and that is matured, payable on demand, or payable on order, shall pay such debt to, or on the order of, the trustee, except to the extent that such debt may be offset under section 553 of this title against a claim against the debtor."

11 U.S.C. § 542(b).

5. In accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 541(a)(7), the benefits of the Settlement

Agreement entered into by the Trustee and Pioneer constitute property which has accrued to the

estate. Therefore, the \$8,000.00 amount that Pioneer agreed to pay constitutes property of the

estate.

6. The outstanding payment of \$4,000.00 constitutes a debt pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §

103(5)(A).

7. Based on the plain terms of the Settlement Agreement and its subsequent approval by this Court, the debt is mature, immediately and currently due, and should be payable upon the order of the Trustee. *See In re Corland Corp.*, 967 F.2d 1069, 1078 (5th Cir. 1992).

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8. Neither 11 U.S.C. § 542(c) nor 11 U.S.C. § 542(d) is applicable. Additionally, no right of set-off is applicable under 11 U.S.C. § 553.

9. The Trustee has demanded payment of the outstanding \$4,000.00 to no avail. See **Exhibit B**, letter from Trustee's Counsel. Pioneer is indebted to the bankruptcy estate in the amount of \$4000.00, and that debt is mature and payable upon the order of the Trustee. Therefore, Trustee requests that the Court enforce the Settlement Agreement and order that Pioneer pay the \$4,000.00, which constitutes property of the estate. *See Saddle Creek Energy Development v. Eagle Domestic Drilling Operations*, Civ. Act. No. H-07-MC-217, 2007 WL 1702398 (S.D. Tex. June 12, 2007).

#### **III. RESCISSION**

10. Alternatively, Trustee requests rescission. Because Pioneer has materially breached the terms of the Settlement Agreement by nonpayment, this Court should order the Settlement Agreement rescinded and reinstate Pioneer as a party to this litigation. If the Court orders rescission, Trustee will tender the \$4,000.00 previously paid by Pioneer.

#### **IV. ARGUMENT FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES**

11. Trustee attaches correspondence from Pioneer's counsel showing that Pioneer's failure to pay the final \$4,000.00 is deliberate. **See Exhibit C**, emails. Pioneer obviously hopes that the amount in controversy is sufficiently low that Trustee will not pursue it. Trustee respectfully requests that the Court award Trustee attorney's fees based on Pioneer's deliberate noncompliance with the Settlement Agreement, based on Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and the inherent discretionary power of the Bankruptcy Court.

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#### V. PRAYER

12. For the above reasons, Trustee respectfully requests that the Court enforce the Settlement Agreement and order Pioneer to deliver the \$4,000.00 that is property of the bankruptcy estate. Alternatively, Trustee requests that the Court rescind the Settlement Agreement and reinstate Pioneer as an active party to this litigation. Trustee further requests an order awarding Trustee attorney's fees, costs, and such other relief to which the Trustee is justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Ernest W. Boyd</u> Ernest W. Boyd State Bar of Texas 00783694 SD Texas ID # 23211 500 Dallas, Suite 1200 Houston, Texas 77002 Phone: (713) 655-1200 Fax: (713) 655-0222

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and

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2009, I served a true and correct copy of this document on the parties listed below (i) by First Class, U.S. mail or, (ii) where indicated, electronically on those persons who receive electronic notification.

/s/ Jeremy R. Stone Jeremy R. Stone

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