

**JOHN B. VAN DE NORTH, JR.**

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December 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

RE: Opioid Litigation Settlement / Backstop Fund Wave 2 / Amended Schedule and Interim Order

Dear Counsel:

Thank you for your recent Fee Applications relating to the Wave 2 Settlements. I have completed an initial review of the Applications, but I need more time to finalize my Interim Order. Under the November 13, 2025, amended schedule for the Wave 2 proceedings, I committed to issuing an Interim Order by December 15, 2025. For several reasons, which include my request for the additional information contained herein, I need to push that December 15 completion date to January 5, 2026. I apologize for this delay.

I am seeking additional facts and argument regarding the difference between the Wave 2 fees your clients are expecting based on estimates from the National Contingent Fee Fund and the fees being sought from the Minnesota Backstop Fund. With one exception, the Wave 2 National fee payments are considerably less than those requested from the state fund. I am asking counsel to submit a short (no more than 2 pages) analysis that explains why it would be reasonable for me to award higher fees from the Minnesota Backstop Fund when the state and national applications are presumably similar (identical?). As Judge Polster and I have previously noted, awarded fees must be "reasonable under all the applicable facts of the case".

Please submit the supplemental filings by close of business on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request.



Sincerely,

LARSON • KING, LLP

*s/ John B. Van de North, Jr.*

**JOHN B. VAN DE NORTH, JR.**

JBV/kal

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