BFAM Asian Opportunities Master Fund, LP v Glory Health Indus. Ltd

2024 NY Slip Op 34395(U)

December 16, 2024

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 651863/2023

Judge: Joel M. Cohen

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 123

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 12/16/2024

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK: COMMERCIAL DIVISION PART 03M

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BFAM ASIAN OPPORTUNITIES MASTER FUND. LP. BURLINGTON LOAN MANAGEMENT DAC, PARTNER REINSURANCE ASIA PTE LTD, PARTNER REINSURANCE COMPANY LTD, PINNACLE SMART LIMITED, QUANTUM EXPRESS HOLDINGS LIMITED,

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MOTION DATE

09/16/2024

MOTION SEQ. NO. 004

Plaintiffs.

- V -

DECISION + ORDER ON MOTION

GLORY HEALTH INDUSTRY LIMITED, ALL AFFLUENT HOLDINGS LIMITED, ALL AFFLUENT HOLDINGS (HK) LIMITED, GLORY (HK) INVESTMENT LIMITED, STATE WEALTH HOLDINGS LIMITED, STATE WEALTH HOLDINGS (HK) LIMITED, WELL AMPLE HOLDINGS LIMITED, WELL AMPLE HOLDINGS (HK) LIMITED

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HON. JOEL M. COHEN:

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 004) 73, 76, 78, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113 SEAL were read on this motion to

Plaintiffs move for an order sealing and/or redacting certain portions of NYSCEF 73, 76, and 78 filed in connection with Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment. Defendants partially oppose this motion to the extent it seeks to redact information concerning the prices at which Plaintiffs purchased their respective holdings in the Notes and subsequent market prices and performance of those Plaintiffs' respective holdings in the Notes (NYSCEF 107). For the following reasons, Plaintiffs' motion is **granted**.

Pursuant to § 216.1 (a) of the Uniform Rules for Trial Courts, this Court may seal a filing "upon a written finding of good cause, which shall specify the grounds thereof. In determining

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whether good cause has been shown, the court shall consider the interests of the public as well as of the parties" (22 NYCRR § 216.1 [a]).

The Appellate Division has emphasized that "there is a broad presumption that the public is entitled to access to judicial proceedings and court records" (*Mosallem v Berenson*, 76 AD3d 345, 348 [1st Dept 2010]). "Since the right [of public access to court proceedings] is of constitutional dimension, any order denying access must be *narrowly tailored to serve compelling objectives*, such as a need for secrecy that outweighs the public's right to access" (*Danco Labs., Ltd. v Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter, Ltd.*, 274 AD2d 1, 6 [1st Dept 2000] [emphasis added]; *see also, e.g. Gryphon Dom. VI, LLC v APP Intern. Fin. Co., B.V.*, 28 AD3d 322, 324 [1st Dept 2006]). "Furthermore, because confidentiality is the exception and not the rule, 'the party seeking to seal court records has the burden to demonstrate compelling circumstances to justify restricting public access" (*Maxim, Inc. v Feifer*, 145 AD3d 516, 517 [1st Dept 2016] [citations omitted]).

The Court has reviewed the proposed redactions for NYSCEF 73, 76, 78 (proposed redactions filed at NYSCEF 99, 100, and 101; public redacted versions at NYSCEF 74, 77, and 79) and finds that they comport with the applicable sealing standards as laid out in *Mosallem*, 76 AD3d at 348-50, and its progeny, in that the information proposed to be redacted contains confidential, commercially-sensitive non-public financial information such as Plaintiffs' investment objectives, investment performance data, and account numbers, the disclosure of which could cause competitive harm. Plaintiffs have proposed and justified targeted redactions that satisfy the requirements of 22 NYCRR § 216.1 (a).

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At this stage, Defendants' argument that the public interest in the pricing information outweighs the potential harm to Plaintiffs is unavailing. Defendants have not demonstrated that this information is relevant, nor have Defendants disputed that Plaintiffs' businesses involve trading in notes and other securities in secondary markets or that this information is commercially sensitive.

This Court reserves the right to revisit this ruling after summary judgment, if necessary.

Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that the Motion is **GRANTED**; it is further

ORDERED that the County Clerk shall maintain NYSCEF Document Numbers 74, 77, and 79 in their current, redacted form; it is further

ORDERED that the County Clerk shall maintain NYSCEF Document Numbers 73, 76, 78, 99, 100, and 101 under seal, so that the documents may only be accessible by the parties, their counsel, and authorized court personnel; it is further

ORDERED as it related to future submissions, made by any party, that contain subject matter that the Court has authorized to be sealed by this Order, parties may file a joint stipulation, to be So Ordered, which will authorize the filing of such future submissions to be filed in redacted form on NYSCEF, provided that an <u>unredacted</u> copy of any redacted document is contemporaneously filed under seal; and it is further

ORDERED that the moving party shall serve a copy of this Order with notice of entry upon the County Clerk's office; such service upon the County Clerk shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Protocol on Courthouse and County Clerk Procedures for Electronically Filed Cases* (accessible at the "E-Filing" page on the court's website)]; and it is further

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ORDERED that nothing in this Order shall be construed as authorizing the sealing or redactions of any documents or evidence to be offered at trial.

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DATE					JOEL M. COH	EN, J.S.C.
CHECK ONE:		CASE DISPOSED		Х	NON-FINAL DISPOSITION	
	Х	GRANTED	DENIED)	GRANTED IN PART	OTHER
APPLICATION:		SETTLE ORDER	<u></u>		SUBMIT ORDER	<u>—</u>
CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:		INCLUDES TRANSF	ER/REASSIGN		FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT	REFERENCE