

# **Exhibit A**

## **Supporting Declaration**

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
<b>J.L. FRENCH AUTOMOTIVE CASTINGS</b>	)	Case No. 09-12445 (KG)
<b>INC., <i>et al.</i></b>	)	(Jointly Administered)
	)	
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>		

**DECLARATION OF BILL SONCINI IN SUPPORT OF THE  
DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING  
EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF GREAT AMERICAN GROUP  
ADVISORY & VALUATION SERVICES, LLC  
AS APPRAISER AND COLLATERAL AUDITOR FOR  
THE DEBTORS *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO AUGUST 17, 2009**

Bill Soncini, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declares under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am a Vice President of the Great American Group Advisory & Valuation Services, LLC ("Great American") with offices located at 39 South LaSalle St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60603.
2. The above-captioned debtors (the "Debtors") have requested that Great American provide appraisal services to the Debtors in this proceeding.
3. Great American is one of the country's leading asset disposition and valuation firms. In addition to helping companies maximize the value of their assets, Great American manages human resources, real estate relationships and other critical areas that are affected when companies liquidate assets. For these reasons, I believe that

---

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these cases along with the last four digits of each of the Debtors' federal tax identification numbers are: J.L. French Automotive Castings, Inc. (3670); French Holdings LLC, (0518); Nelson Metal Products LLC (4939); Allotech International LLC (5832); J.L. French LLC (8901); J.L. French Automotive, LLC (7075); Central Die, LLC (7793). The Debtors' headquarters and mailing address is: 3101 South Taylor Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53082.

Great American is well qualified to act as the Debtors' appraiser and collateral auditor in these chapter 11 cases.

4. To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, based on reasonable inquiry, (i) neither I, Great American, or the other principals and directors of Great American (the "Great American Principals") that are anticipated to provide services to the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, nor the employees of Great American who are anticipated to provide such services, hold or represent any interest adverse to any of the Debtors with respect to the matters on which Great American is to be retained in these chapter 11 cases; and (ii) Great American and the Great American Principals have no relationship to the Debtors, any of the Debtors' significant creditors, other parties-in-interest, the United States trustee, or any person employed by the office of the United States trustee, or to the attorneys or other professionals that are known to be assisting the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, except as is described below.

5. From time to time, Great American and its affiliates have provided services, may currently provide services, and likely will continue to provide services, in matters unrelated to these chapter 11 cases, to certain creditors of the Debtors, other parties-in-interest and various other parties potentially adverse to the Debtors. As described in more detail below, Great American has undertaken an internal search to determine whether it is or has been retained by or had other relationships with any entities that were listed on schedules provided to Great American by the Debtors in connection with these chapter 11 cases.

6. To check upon and disclose possible relationships with parties-in-interest in these cases, Great American performed reasonable due diligence to determine

whether it had any relationships with the entities that were listed on schedules provided to Great American by the Debtors. Despite the efforts described above to identify and disclose Great American's connections with parties-in-interest in these chapter 11 cases, because the Debtors are a large enterprise, Great American is unable to state with certainty that every client relationship or other connection has been disclosed. In this regard, if Great American discovers additional material information that it determines requires disclosure, it will promptly file a supplemental disclosure with this Court.

7. From the internal search, Great American has determined that the following relationships should be disclosed:

- Great American has performed appraisal work on matters unrelated to these chapter 11 cases for the following parties-in-interest: Bank of America, Bank of New York, CapitalSource Inc., GE Capital Solutions, Wells Fargo Bank, Wells Fargo Business Credit, GE Capital, and GE Commercial Finance.
- Great American maintains bank accounts with Bank of America and a line of credit with Wells Fargo Bank.
- Credit Suisse is a shareholder of Great American Group, Inc., the parent company of Great American Advisory & Valuation Services, LLC.
- Great American has contracted to work on matters unrelated to this case with Allied Barton Security Service, an unsecured creditor herein.

8. Except as may be disclosed herein, to the best of my knowledge, Great American and the Great American Principals do not hold or represent any interest adverse to the Debtors, or their estates, and I believe that Great American and the Great American Principals are "disinterested persons" as that term is defined in Section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by Section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

9. Subject to this Court's approval and pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Letter, the Debtors have agreed to compensate Great American a fee of \$16,500, inclusive of all out of pocket and administrative costs for the provision of such services.

10. In light of the nature of its proposed engagement, Great American will not be billing the Debtors by the hour and will not be keeping records of time spent for professional services rendered in these chapter 11 cases.

11. Great American has received no promises regarding compensation in these cases other than in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and as set forth in this Declaration. Great American has no agreement with any non-affiliated entity to share any compensation earned in these cases.



---

Bill Soncini  
Vice President