

Exhibit 7

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA DIVISION**

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 98
PENSION FUND on behalf of itself and all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, LLP;
DELOITTE LLP,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:19-cv-3304-JDA

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF DARYL G. HAWKINS IN SUPPORT OF LEAD COUNSEL'S
MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND PAYMENT OF
LITIGATION EXPENSES, FILED ON BEHALF OF THE LAW OFFICE OF
DARYL G. HAWKINS, LLC**

I, Daryl G. Hawkins, declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am Daryl G. Hawkins of the Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC (“Hawkins,” my Firm,” or “Additional Counsel”). I respectfully submit this declaration in support of Lead Counsel’s Motion for Award of Attorneys’ Fees and Payment of Litigation Expenses incurred by my Firm in connection with the Action. I have knowledge of the matters set forth herein based on personal knowledge and my review of my Firm’s records.¹
2. My Firm, as Additional Counsel for Lead Plaintiff International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 Pension Fund (“Lead Plaintiff”) and the Class, was involved in aspects of the prosecution and resolution of the Action and served at the direction of Lead Counsel.
3. As laid out in detail in Exhibit 1 attached to this Declaration, herein, I am providing an accounting of my Firm’s time, which was based on daily time records that my Firm maintains as standard practice and in the ordinary course of business. Those records are kept contemporaneously throughout the year, staff’s time entries are supervised to ensure accurate accounting. I oversaw my Firm’s activities in the Action, and I, together with those attorneys and other personnel working under my direction, reviewed these records to confirm their accuracy.
4. Based on that review, I am assured of the accuracy of the time accounting and that the time spent on this Action was necessary and reasonable for the diligent but efficient prosecution and resolution of this Action. The accounting includes only time that inured to the benefit of Lead Plaintiff and the Class, including time that advanced the claims toward resolution, in my Firm’s lodestar calculation. Accordingly, some reductions were made to time in the exercise of billing judgment. For example, time expended prior to the date of November 22, 2019, when the initial

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all capitalized terms herein shall have the same meanings as in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement, dated October 17, 2025 (ECF No. 315-2).

complaint in this case was filed, and after the date of November 18, 2025, when this Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement—including time spent preparing Lead Counsel’s Motion for Award of Attorneys’ Fees and Payment of Litigation Expenses—has not been included in this report.

5. The time invested in this Action, reflected in these lodestar calculations, was reasonable in amount and was necessary for the effective and efficient prosecution and resolution of this litigation. The total number of hours expended on this Action by myself and my Firm’s professional support staff employees from November 22, 2019, through November 18, 2025, was 237.4 hours. Based on prevailing rates, that produces a total lodestar of \$40,530.00, and a blended hourly rate of \$289.91. Exhibit 1 provides a summary of the time spent by of my Firm’s employees who were involved in the Action.
6. The hourly rates shown in Exhibit 1 reflect current hourly rates set by my Firm for each individual. These hourly rates reflect the prevailing hourly rates accepted by this and other courts in class action litigation, securities litigation or shareholder litigation. Hawkins sets these rates based on periodic analysis of rates charged by firms similar in size and practice and performing comparable work that have been approved by courts in other securities class actions and complex actions.
7. As to expenses, the lodestar calculations do not include expense items. Those items are separately reflected in Exhibit 2.
8. My Firm has incurred a total of \$996.10 in unreimbursed litigation expenses in connection with this Action from the beginning of Hawkins’s involvement in the Action through November 18, 2025, the details of which are catalogued in Exhibit 2 attached hereto.
9. The litigation expenses in this Action are reflected in the books and records of Hawkins, which are regularly prepared and maintained in the ordinary course of business. These records are

prepared from expense vouchers, check records, and other source materials and are an accurate record of the monetary value of the expenses incurred.

10. With respect to the standing of my Firm, attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is Hawkins's Firm Resume, as well as copies of the biographies for Robin Barr and myself.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 21st day of January, 2026, at Columbia, South Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Daryl G. Hawkins

LAW OFFICES OF DARYL G. HAWKINS, LLC
Daryl G. Hawkins (SC Bar #002844)
P.O. Box 11906
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 733-3531
dgh@dghlaw.net

EXHIBIT 1

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 Pension Fund v. Deloitte & Touche, LLP, et al., 3:19-cv-3304-JDA (D.S.C.)

LODESTAR REPORT

FIRM: The Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC

REPORTING PERIOD: November 22, 2019, THROUGH November 18, 2025

PROFESSIONAL	CURRENT RATE	HOURS	LODESTAR
Partners			
Hawkins, Daryl G.	\$350.00	174	\$34,080.00
Assistants			
Barr, Robbin	\$125.00	63.4	\$6,450.00
TOTALS:		237.4	\$40,530.00

EXHIBIT 2

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 Pension Fund v. Deloitte & Touche, LLP, et al., 3:19-cv-3304-JDA (D.S.C.)

EXPENSE REPORT

FIRM: The Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC

REPORTING PERIOD: November 22, 2019 THROUGH November 18, 2025

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Filing fee for Summons and Complaint	\$400.00
Filing fee for <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> Application	\$250.00
Service of Process for Summons and Complaint	\$290.30
Status Conference Hearing Transcript	\$55.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$996.10

EXHIBIT 3

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 Pension Fund v. Deloitte & Touche, LLP, et al., 3:19-cv-3304-JDA (D.S.C.)

**THE LAW OFFICE OF DARYL G. HAWKINS, LLC FIRM RESUME & ATTORNEY
BIOGRAPHY**

BIOGRAPHY OF DARYL G. HAWKINS

Born: Charleston, South Carolina, October 2, 1954

Law School: University of South Carolina, J.D., 1983

College: Wofford College, B.A. in Economics, 1976

Mr. Hawkins was a Law Clerk to Chief Justice C. Bruce Littlejohn, 1983 – 1984, and maintains memberships in the following: Richland County Bar Association (President, 2007); American Bar Association; South Carolina Bar (Member of the House of Delegates 2013 - 2025); South Carolina Association for Justice (formerly South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association); Chairman, SCTLA Ad Hoc Medical Malpractice Committee, 2002; The American Association for Justice (formerly The Association of Trial Lawyers of America); South Carolina Committee on Judicial Continuing Legal Education, 1985-1992; South Carolina Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization, 1992-1996; South Carolina Secretary of State Corporation Blue Ribbon Committee, 1991-2002 (Committee to review and recommend revisions to the South Carolina Business Corporation Act); Board of Commissioners, South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Handicapped, 1986-1987; Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference; and John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court (President, 2004-2005); Former Chairman of The Foundation for the Multi-Handicapped, Blind and Deaf of South Carolina, Inc..

Mr. Hawkins has taught and has been a guest lecturer in the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He has presented, spoken, and appeared in other roles in numerous Continuing Legal Education seminars as part of the South Carolina Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Program and the John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court. He has authored numerous articles on various legal topics. Mr. Hawkins has been named to the list of lawyers recognized as Super Lawyers in South Carolina.

Other Biographical Information: Phi Delta Phi (Magister); The Order of Barristers; Moot Court; Member, S.C. Secretary of State Corporation Blue Ribbon Committee, 1991-2002 (Committee to review and recommend revisions to SC Business Corporation Act). Member, Board of

Commissioners, South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Handicapped, 1986-1987; Chairman, The Foundation for the Multi-Handicapped, Blind and Deaf of South Carolina, Inc., 1989; Member, Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference; Member, President, 2004-2005, John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court.

Reported Cases Include: Sentry Select Insurance Company v. Maybank Law Firm, LLC and Roy P. Maybank, 826 S.E.2d 270 (S.C. 2019); Widewater Square Associates v. Opening Break of America, Inc., 460 S.E.2d 396 (S.C. 1995); Sierra Club v. Kiawah Resort Associates, 456 S.E.2d 397 (S.C. 1995); Anonymous v. S.C. Board of Medical Examiners, 496 S.E.2d 17 (SC 1998); Holy Loch Distributors, Inc. v. Hitchcock, 503 S.E.2d 787 (S.C. App. 1998); Holy Loch Distributors, Inc. v. Hitchcock, 521 S.E.2d 282 (S.C. 2000); Trousdell v. Cannon, 572 S.E.2d 264 (SC 2002); Jeter v. S.C. Dept. Transp., 369 S.C. 433, 633 S.E.2d 143 (S.C. 2006); Brouwer v. Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals, 409 S.C. 514, 763 S.E.2d 200 (S.C. 2014); Ranucci v. Crain, 409 S.C. 493, 763 S.E.2d 189 (S.C. 2014); In Re: Johnson, 375 S.C. 499, 654 S.E.2d 272 (S.C. 2007); Sullivan v. Brown (In re: Estate of Kay), 418 S.C. 400, 792 S.E.2d 907 (S.C. App. 2016) (cert. granted, pending decision), and most recent decision in Sentry Select Insurance Company v. Maybank Law Firm, LLC and Roy P. Maybank, Op. No. 27806 (S.C. 2018).