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October 17, 2002

Via Facsimile

Donna U. Grodner, Esq.
GRODNER & ASSOCIATES
2223 Quail Run Drive, Ste. B-1
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Leslie Thomas McClung

Dear Donna:

Following up on our telephone conversation this afternoon wherein you advised that unless the Gauthier Law Firm agrees to pay your client in excess of \$600,000.00 in connection with work done by him while employed by the firm regarding the matter In Re: New Orleans Train Car Leakage Fire Litigation, No. 87-16374 by 4:00 p.m. today, you on behalf of Mr. McClung are going to file pleadings seeking a stay of approval and disbursement of costs in that case. You explained to me that unless we agree to the payment to Mr. McClung you and your client will make allegations that Mr. Gauthier seeks reimbursement for illicit and improper expenses and the Mr. Gauthier has submitted fraudulent claims for time in that matter.

Not only are your allegations false and your client lacks standing to assert any claims in this matter, we believe that your and your client's conduct violate Rule 4.4 and possibly Rule 8.4(h) of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. Unless we receive information from you by the close of business tomorrow, October 18, 2002, showing that your conduct does not violate the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, we will have no alternative but to file the necessary complaint with the Disciplinary Board.

With regard to your client's attempt to extort money from Mr. Gauthier's law firm, I have diligently worked with you to resolve the various outstanding issues that Mr. McClung has raised. As I mentioned to you on more than one occasion, there is no basis in fact or in law for Mr. McClung's demand in the NOTX case. We are willing to continue discussions in this and in the other matters, but we will not react to threats or blackmail. If you continue this course of

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Gauthier, Downing, LaBarre, Sulzer & Dean

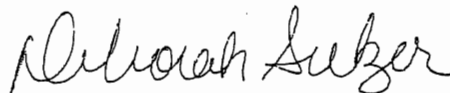
Donna U. Grodner, Esq.

October 17, 2002

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conduct we will cease all discussions and seek resolution of these matters by the various courts involved. I sincerely hope that we can get these discussions back on track.

Very truly yours,



Deborah M. Sulzer

DMS/tpo