UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, et al.,	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	
v.	:	**Case No. 03-2006 (EGS/JMF)**
RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS, et al.,	:	
Defendants.	:	

DEFENDANT FELD ENTERTAINMENT INC.'S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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LAFFEY MATRIX 2003 - 2006

Years (Rate for June 1 - May 31, based on prior year's CPI-U)

Experience	03-04	04-05	05-06
20+ years	380	390	405
11-19 years	335	345	360
8-10 years	270	280	290
4-7 years	220	225	235
1-3 years	180	185	195
Paralegals & Law Clerks	105	110	115

Explanatory Notes

1. This matrix of hourly rates for attorneys of varying experience levels and paralegals/law clerks has been prepared by the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. The matrix is intended to be used in cases in which a "fee-shifting" statute permits the prevailing party to recover "reasonable" attorney's fees. *See, e.g.,* 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(k) (Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act); 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E) (Freedom of Information Act); 28 U.S.C. § 2412 (b) (Equal Access to Justice Act). The matrix does not apply in cases in which the hourly rate is limited by statute. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

2. This matrix is based on the hourly rates allowed by the District Court in *Laffey v. Northwest Airlines, Inc.*, 572 F. Supp. 354 (D.D.C. 1983), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds*, 746 F.2d 4 (D.C. Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, 472 U.S. 1021 (1985). It is commonly referred to by attorneys and federal judges in the District of Columbia as the "Laffey Matrix" or the "United States Attorney's Office Matrix." The column headed "Experience" refers to the years following the attorney's graduation from law school. The various "brackets" are intended to correspond to "junior associates" (1-3 years after law school graduation), "senior associates" (4-7 years), "experienced federal court litigators" (8-10 and 11-19 years), and "very experienced federal court litigators" (20 years or more). *See Laffey*, 572 F. Supp. at 371.

3. The hourly rates approved by the District Court in *Laffey* were for work done principally in 1981-82. The Matrix begins with those rates. *See Laffey*, 572 F. Supp. at 371 (attorney rates) & 386 n.74 (paralegal and law clerk rate). The rates for subsequent yearly periods were determined by adding the change in the cost of living for the Washington, D.C. area to the applicable rate for the prior year, and then rounding to the nearest multiple of $5 (up if within $: of the next multiple of $5). The result is subject to adjustment if appropriate to ensure that the relationship between the highest rate and the lower rates remains reasonably constant. Changes in the cost of living are measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, as announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for May of each year.

4. Use of an updated *Laffey* Matrix was implicitly endorsed by the Court of Appeals in *Save Our Cumberland Mountains v. Hodel*, 857 F.2d 1516, 1525 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (en banc). The Court o Appeals subsequently stated that parties may rely on the updated *Laffey* Matrix prepared by the United States Attorney's Office as evidence of prevailing market rates for litigation counsel in the Washington, D.C. area. See *Covington v. District of Columbia*, 57 F.3d 1101, 1105 & n. 14, 1109 (D.C. Cir. 1995), *cert. denied*, 516 U.S. 1115 (1996). Lower federal courts in the District of Columbia have used this updated *Laffey* Matrix when determining whether fee

awards under fee-shifting statutes are reasonable. *See, e.g.*, *Blackman v. District of Columbia*, 59 F. Supp. 2d 37, 43 (D.D.C. 1999); *Jefferson v. Milvets System Technology, Inc.*, 986 F. Supp. 6, 11 (D.D.C. 1997); *Ralph Hoar & Associates v. Nat'l Highway Transportation Safety Admin.*, 985 F. Supp. 1, 9-10 n.3 (D.D.C. 1997); *Martini v. Fed. Nat'l Mtg Ass'n*, 977 F. Supp. 482, 485 n.2 (D.D.C. 1997); *Park v. Howard University*, 881 F. Supp. 653, 654 (D.D.C. 1995).

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