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11 Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors-in-Possession

12  
 13 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
 14 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

14 In re:  
 15 USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE COMPANY,  
 Debtor.

Case No. BK-S-06-10725 LBR  
 Case No. BK-S-06-10726 LBR  
 Case No. BK-S-06-10727 LBR

16 In re:  
 17 USA CAPITAL REALTY ADVISORS, LLC,  
 Debtor.

Case No. BK-S-06-10728 LBR  
 Case No. BK-S-06-10729 LBR

18 In re:  
 19 USA CAPITAL DIVERSIFIED TRUST DEED FUND, LLC,  
 Debtor.

Chapter 11  
 Jointly Administered Under  
 Case No. BK-S-06-10725 LBR

20 In re:  
 21 USA CAPITAL FIRST TRUST DEED FUND, LLC,  
 Debtor.

22 In re:  
 23 USA SECURITIES, LLC,  
 Debtor.

**DEBTORS' MOTION FOR  
 AN ORDER PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C.  
 §§ 105(a), 327(a) AND 331  
 AUTHORIZING RETENTION OF  
 PROFESSIONALS UTILIZED BY  
 DEBTORS IN THE ORDINARY  
 COURSE OF BUSINESS  
 (AFFECTS ALL DEBTORS)**

- 24 Affects:
- 25  All Debtors
  - 26  USA Commercial Mortgage Company
  - 27  USA Securities, LLC
  - 28  USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC
  - USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC
  - USA First Trust Deed Fund, LLC

Date: September 28, 2006  
 Time: 9:30 a.m.

1 USA Commercial Mortgage Company, USA Securities, LLC, USA Capital Realty  
2 Advisors, LLC, USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC, and USA Capital First Trust  
3 Deed Fund, LLC (collectively, the “Debtors”) hereby respectfully move this Court, pursuant to  
4 sections 105(a), 327(a) and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), for  
5 entry of an Order authorizing the retention and payment of professionals utilized by the Debtors in  
6 the ordinary course of business (the “Motion”). In support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully  
7 represent as follows:

8 **FACTS**

9 1. On April 13, 2006 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in this  
10 Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors continue to operate their  
11 businesses and manage their properties as debtors-in-possession pursuant to §§ 1107(a) and 1109  
12 of the Bankruptcy Code.

13 2. On April 14, 2006, the Debtors moved this Court for an order for joint  
14 administration of the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (“Motion for Joint Administration”)  
15 (Docket No. 4). An order granting the Motion for Joint Administration was entered on May 9,  
16 2006 (Docket No. 184).

17 3. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in this case.

18 4. The Debtors seek to retain the services of various attorneys to act as local counsel  
19 for one or more of the Debtors with respect to negotiations, bankruptcies, foreclosures, and  
20 litigation arising from Debtors’ loan portfolios which are secured by real property in numerous  
21 states across the country. Many local issues arise due to the location of the real property or the  
22 borrowers, and the use of local counsel (“Foreclosure Attorneys”) to represent Debtors in these  
23 matters arising in the ordinary course of business will be necessary. The Debtors propose to pay  
24 Foreclosure Attorneys out of the collection on the loans as allowed under the loan servicing  
25 agreements. If there are no current collections on these loans, Debtors may either request that  
26 Direct Lenders advance such cost, as provided under the loan servicing agreements, or Debtors  
27 may advance the money from estate funds, to be reimbursed by Direct Lenders or out of the loan  
28 collections made on that loan at a later time.



1 Professionals that may be required to effectively resolve such issues, however, would render it  
2 costly and inefficient for the Debtors to submit individual applications and proposed retention  
3 orders to the Court for each such Ordinary Course Professional. The Debtors submit that the  
4 retention of the Ordinary Course Professionals and the payment of compensation on the basis set  
5 forth herein is in the best interest of the Debtors' estates. Ordinary Course Professionals may be  
6 unwilling to become involved in providing post-petition services to the Debtors if they may be  
7 paid only after a formal employment and fee application process. Consistent with the dimensions  
8 of these cases, the Debtors request that they be permitted to employ and retain Ordinary Course  
9 Professionals subject to the terms described below.

10 A. Payment of Fees and Expenses

11 1. The Debtors propose that they be permitted to pay, without formal application to the  
12 Court by any Ordinary Course Professional, 100% of the post-petition interim fees and expenses  
13 of each Ordinary Course Professional upon the submission to the Debtors of an appropriate  
14 invoice setting forth in reasonable detail the nature of the services rendered after the Petition Date.

15 2. Debtors will not pay more than a total of **\$50,000.00**, including both fees and costs,  
16 per Ordinary Course Professional under this procedure. The Debtors propose that all payments of  
17 compensation to any Ordinary Course Professional will become subject to approval for all  
18 amounts in excess of \$50,000 upon application to the Court for allowance of compensation and  
19 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to section 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code after total  
20 fees and costs reaches \$50,000.00 for that Ordinary Course Professional.

21 3. The Debtors propose that to the extent that fees and costs payable to any Ordinary  
22 Course Professional exceed the \$50,000.00 limit, that Ordinary Course Professional shall, on or  
23 before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the month for which compensation is sought (the  
24 "Monthly Statement Date"), submit a monthly statement for the additional compensation sought to  
25 counsel to each of the official committees formed in these cases and to the United States Trustee  
26 (collectively, the "Interested Parties"). This monthly statement will include a summary and  
27 itemized statements of all fees and costs previously requested or paid to such Ordinary Course  
28 Professional.

1           4.    The Interested Parties will have twenty (20) days after the monthly Statement Date to  
2 review the statement for the additional compensation and object to the fees requested by the  
3 Ordinary Course Professionals. If any of the Interested Parties object to the payment of fees, then  
4 the Ordinary Course Professionals will be required to submit a formal application to the Court for  
5 the additional compensation.

6    B.    The Submission of Rule 2014 Affidavits

7           5.    Pursuant to this Motion, the Debtors therefore request that Ordinary Course  
8 Professionals be excused from submitting separate applications for proposed retention. The  
9 Debtors recognize, however, the importance of providing information regarding each Ordinary  
10 Course Attorney to the Court and the United States Trustee.

11          6.    The Debtors therefore propose that each Ordinary Course Attorney be required to file  
12 with the Court and serve upon the United States Trustee an Affidavit of Ordinary Course  
13 Professional (the “Affidavit”) within twenty (20) days after the professional’s post-petition  
14 engagement by the Debtors.

15    C.    Objections to the Retention of an Ordinary Course Professional

16          7.    The Debtors propose that any Interested Party shall have twenty (20) days after the  
17 receipt of each Ordinary Course Professional’s Affidavit (the “Objection Deadline”) to object to  
18 the retention of such Ordinary Course Professional. The objecting party shall serve any objections  
19 upon the Ordinary Course Professional and the Interested Parties on or before the Objection  
20 Deadline.

21          8.    If any such objection cannot be resolved within twenty (20) days, the matter shall be  
22 scheduled for hearing before the Court at the next regularly scheduled omnibus presentment date  
23 or date otherwise agreeable to the Ordinary Course Professional, the Debtors, and the United  
24 States Trustee. If no objection is received within twenty (20) days after the filing of an Ordinary  
25 Course Professional’s Affidavit, the Debtors shall be deemed authorized to retain such  
26 Professional as a final matter.

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1 D. Statement of Ordinary Course Professionals

2 9. The Debtors further propose to file a statement with the Court approximately every  
3 120 days, or such other period as the Court shall order, and serve such statement upon the  
4 Interested Parties, a statement that includes the following information for each Ordinary Course  
5 Professional: (a) the name of such Ordinary Course Professional; (b) the aggregate amounts paid  
6 as compensation for services rendered and reimbursements of expenses incurred by such Ordinary  
7 Course Professional during the 120 days; and (c) a general description of the services rendered by  
8 each Ordinary Course Professional.

9 E. Prior Employment of Ordinary Course Professional Not a Bar

10 10. The Debtors further propose that the fact that an Ordinary Course Professional (a) was  
11 previously employed by any of the Debtors or one of their affiliates or (b) is a creditor of any of  
12 the Debtors for fees and costs incurred pre-petition shall not be a bar to the employment of such  
13 Ordinary Course Professional if such attorney does not represent or hold any interest adverse to  
14 the debtor or to the estate with respect to the matter on which such attorney is to be employed.

15 APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

16 11. Because the nature of the work performed by the Ordinary Course Professionals is  
17 only indirectly related to bankruptcy cases of the Debtors, because the degree of discretion  
18 afforded the Ordinary Course Professionals in performing such work is marginal, and because the  
19 Ordinary Course Professionals will not be involved in the administration of these chapter 11 cases,  
20 the Debtors do not believe that the Ordinary Course Professionals are necessarily “professionals”  
21 within the meaning of section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code, whose retention must be approved by  
22 the Court. Elstead v. Nolden, 168 B.R. 226, 230 (N.D. Cal. 1994) (stating that only the retention  
23 of professionals whose duties are central to the administration of the estate requires prior court  
24 approval under section 327).

25 12. For purposes of interpreting § 327, a person’s status as a “professional” is not  
26 determinative of whether the person is a professional requiring court approval. “[T]he term  
27 ‘professional persons,’ is a ‘term of art reserved for those persons who play an intimate role in the  
28 reorganization of a debtor’s estate.” Id. The inquiry “focuses on that person’s duties.” Id. If the

1 duties provided are “central to the administration of the estate, such duties are professional in  
2 nature.” Id.

3 13. Courts have recognized the following as duties central to the administration of the  
4 estate: “assisting in the negotiation of the debtor’s plan, assisting in the adjustment of the  
5 debtor/creditor relationship, disposing of the assets of the estate and acquiring assets on behalf of  
6 the estate.”

7 14. The Ordinary Course Attorneys in the instant case will not be required to perform any  
8 duties “central to the administration of the estate.” Rather, they will act as local counsel for  
9 Debtors and advise Debtors regarding local rules, laws, and procedures. Further, the Ordinary  
10 Course Accountants will not be required to perform any duties “central to the administration of the  
11 estate.” Rather, they will act as accountants for Debtors with respect to Debtors’ state and federal  
12 taxes and will prepare tax documents for filing.

13 15. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the Debtors seek the relief requested  
14 herein to avoid any subsequent controversy as to the Debtors’ employment and payment of the  
15 Ordinary Course Professionals during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases. The Debtors shall  
16 seek specific Court authority under section 327 to employ any other professionals involved in  
17 activities that are central to the administration of the above-captioned chapter 11 cases.

18 16. Section 327 (e) provides for the employment of counsel which was previously  
19 employed by a debtor and who is owed pre-petition fees. It provides:

20 The trustee, with the court’s approval, may employ, for a specified special  
21 purpose, other than to represent the trustee in conducting the case, an attorney that  
22 has represented the debtor, if in the best interest of the estate, and if such attorney  
23 does not represent or hold any interest adverse to the debtor or to the estate with  
24 respect to the matter on which such attorney is to be employed.

25 17. The Debtors submit that their proposed employment of the Ordinary Course  
26 Professionals and the payment of compensation on the basis set forth above is in the best interests  
27 of the Debtors’ estate and creditors.

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**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the foregoing, the Debtors respectfully request that this Motion be granted and the Court enter an order allowing the employment of Ordinary Course Professionals pursuant to the terms set forth above and such relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2006.

/s/ Jeanette E. McPherson

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