

ORIGINAL

1 IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

3 In Proceedings Under Chapter 11
4 Case Number: 10-21973

5 In the Matter of:
6 THE KASDEN FUEL COMPANY,
7 Debtor.

8 Adversary Proceeding: 10-02183

9 HMZ ENERGY, LLC,
10 Plaintiff,
11 v.
12 SACK DISTRIBUTORS CORP., ET AL.,
13 Defendants.

14 Excerpt of the Hearing on
15 Doc #43 - Scheduling Order on 4/11/2011
16 (Re:[30] Motion for Summary Judgment filed by
17 Plaintiff HMZ Energy LLC.)
18 May 11, 2011

19 H e l d B e f o r e:
20 The Hon. ALBERT S. DABROWSKI,
21 U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

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25

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1 (The following was transcribed
2 from a digital sound recording.)

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4 * * *

5 12:15 P.M.

6

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 Mr. Feingenbaum, you were going to consult,
9 and I assume everybody has, to the extent
10 possible, with their clients.

11 MR. FEINGENBAUM: I believe
12 so, your Honor. I think the parties have
13 agreed to give brief comments.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, before
16 we get to that, I wanted to raise one point
17 of clarification with respect to the bid
18 procedures and the place of the auction. I
19 had said that we would agree to have the
20 auction in Hartford. I think that your Honor
21 may have been implying that the auction
22 should take place itself in the courtroom.

23 THE COURT: No, not
24 necessarily, but --

25 MR. KLEIN: Okay.

1 THE COURT: -- in Hartford so
2 in the event there's some kind of a dispute,
3 you could come over here.

4 MR. KLEIN: Right.

5 THE COURT: Where --

6 MR. KLEIN: That's perfect.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, your
9 Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Feingenbaum.

11 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Thank you,
12 Judge. Your Honor, obviously, I think --
13 there's been lots of briefs filed. I filed
14 three briefs. Mr. Goldman filed a brief.
15 Mr. White filed a brief on behalf of the
16 trustee. So I don't really think it's
17 appropriate, given the volume that you have
18 to deal with, that it's necessary to repeat
19 all the arguments, and I have no intention of
20 doing so, so I will make a few brief
21 comments, basically, in light of -- because
22 we had simultaneous briefs -- in light of the
23 brief from Sack.

24 Your Honor, there -- it is
25 clear from those briefs that there is no

1 material issue of fact here -- no issue of
2 material fact here. Three parties admit to
3 the documents, the basic documents, the note
4 and security agreement.

5 THE COURT: Well, actually,
6 it's interesting. One of the things that
7 slows me down is the 56(a)(2) statement. The
8 responsive pleading was not specific to admit
9 or deny. It also contained argument to some
10 extent. And that's -- that's a -- this is --
11 this is -- it is a critical observation from
12 a judge's perspective, but it is the usual
13 and it makes it -- when I approach a summary
14 judgment motion, I want the facts, and
15 they're normally teed up in A1 and A2, and
16 then the arguments are set forth separately.
17 And right out of the slot, I find myself
18 slowing down dealing with arguments as to is
19 this relevant, is this not, what's going on
20 here.

21 And then, of course, as you
22 know, there were numerous documents,
23 including the commercial security agreement,
24 which was attached, I believe, to Document ID
25 Number -- ECF Number 22 in the adversary,

1 which appears to the Court to have particular
2 relevance to the resolution of the matter.

3 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Well, your
4 Honor, I think --

5 THE COURT: And you might want
6 to address that.

7 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Yeah. Well,
8 that's exactly what I intend --

9 THE COURT: The definition of
10 collateral contained within Section 1 of
11 the -- page one of that.

12 MR. FEINGENBAUM: I think it's
13 the definition, with all due respect, of
14 liabilities (inaudible) --

15 THE COURT: Well -- and
16 above --

17 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Yes.

18 THE COURT: That incorporates
19 the definition of --

20 MR. FEINGENBAUM: And that's
21 exactly what I intend to address, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. FEINGENBAUM: And I
24 believe there's no dispute between the
25 parties that that is the commercial security

1 agreement involved here, and that -- attached
2 to that --

3 THE COURT: I'm so far -- if
4 it's not, advise me, because I'm treating it
5 as -- as undisputed, and it's certainly
6 worthy of consideration in the context of
7 resolving this motion. Whether it's
8 dispositive or not, as I sit here at this
9 minute, I haven't determined, yet, its
10 importance.

11 MR. FEINGENBAUM: And then
12 there is the note that's attached to it, and
13 I don't believe there's any dispute that
14 those are the written documents that we have
15 here. There is the obligations of Sack --
16 obligations, rather, of the estate to Sack,
17 which are set forth in the Sack claim, and I
18 don't believe there's any dispute that that's
19 the Sack claim in this case against the
20 Debtor. And as a result of looking at that
21 claim, it's clear that anything that was due
22 and owing on December 14, 2005, has been
23 paid.

24 And so, accordingly, the Sack
25 claim is for an amount due after that date,

1 and that December 14, 2005, is a significant
2 date, your Honor, because that's the date
3 which is five years after the date of the
4 note. And I believe there's no dispute.
5 There have been no oral modifications to the
6 security agreement, and modifications that
7 are being attempted to be inferred here are
8 sullied by course of conduct as stated by
9 Sacks' brief.

10 Your Honor, this is solely an
11 issue of state law, and frankly, I'm reminded
12 of my old tort professor's admonishment
13 continually during first year law school,
14 about don't forget the statute, and the
15 statute is what governs here.

16 And there are two statutes in
17 the UCC which are of particular importance,
18 and relevant, and pertinent to this
19 decision -- to this matter:
20 42(a)-9-203(a)(2)(a) and the official comment
21 that interprets that statute states that a
22 security agreement must be authenticated, and
23 a security agreement in this context to be
24 authenticated means it must be in writing;
25 42(a)-9-204(c), and it's official comment

1 number five, is the other statute in the UCC
2 that's so critical here, and that provides
3 that for a security agreement to cover future
4 advances, that language needs to be in the
5 security agreement. And as I'll go
6 through -- as we go through that commercial
7 security agreement, I'll point out that that
8 language isn't in there.

9 Accordingly, there has to be a
10 written security agreement, and there has to
11 be a specific provision for future advances.
12 Here, the security agreement only covers the
13 note and the other obligations then existing,
14 and it's only through, your Honor, a tortuous
15 reading of the granting paragraph of the
16 commercial security agreement that one can
17 even farfetched -- on a farfetched basis
18 conclude that there were future advances that
19 were -- that were contemplated. And the
20 reason is that the Defendant's reading
21 ignores that the term "liabilities," capital
22 L, is a defined term. And if we look to that
23 document, your Honor -- I have copies if
24 people need it or if your Honor needs it --
25 but if we look to that document, it defines

1 "liabilities" in the penultimate sentence,
2 and those liabilities are the liabilities
3 under the note, the commercial reserve
4 credit agreement and note, in consideration
5 of the loan, secure payment and performance
6 of the loan and all other liabilities and
7 obligation of lender -- excuse me --
8 obligations of borrower to lender of every
9 name and nature whatsoever, direct or
10 indirect, absolute and contingent now
11 existing, now existing.

12 It doesn't say, or hereinafter
13 incurred or any other such language. It says
14 now existing, whether as maker, debtor,
15 guarantor, surety, endorser, pledgor or
16 otherwise, hereinafter called the
17 liabilities. So liabilities has a strict
18 defined term. It's obligations under the
19 note and other obligations that may have been
20 then existing. And then it goes on to say,
21 it is the true, clear and express intention
22 of the borrower that the continuing grant of
23 this security interest remain as security for
24 payment and performance of the liabilities
25 now existing and whether or not such

1 liabilities, capital L, are related to the
2 transaction described in Schedule A by class
3 or kind or whether or not contemplated by the
4 parties at the time of the granting of this
5 security interest.

6 There is no way to read that,
7 your Honor, and give -- give credence to the
8 fact that liabilities is a defined term.
9 That there is no way to read this last
10 sentence or the penultimate sentence in any
11 other way that it does not include future
12 advances, and that the only way to include
13 future advances would be by Mr. Goldman's
14 concept of course of conduct, which the law
15 does not permit. The law simply does not
16 permit because it's not in the security
17 agreement. The statute is clear. There has
18 been no modification that's been
19 authenticated, which means in writing, signed
20 by the parties. There's only this security
21 agreement.

22 Accordingly, 9-204(c) is not
23 complied with. That is the import of the
24 Berman case and the cases which discussed
25 Berman, and in fact, it is the import of a

1 case even cited by Sack, the Lackow case,
2 which points out the distinction when you
3 have future advance language. It's critical.
4 It has to be there. That's what the
5 Legislature said.

6 So the Defendant says, okay,
7 well, we modified the note. Well, your
8 Honor, you can't modify the note by course of
9 conduct because then you wouldn't be in
10 compliance with Connecticut General Statute
11 Section 52-550, which is the statute of
12 frauds. Since this was for over \$50,000, any
13 new arrangement for advances of loans after
14 the maturity date had to be in writing, and
15 there's some discussion by Mr. Goldman about
16 maturity date and right to terminate, et
17 cetera.

18 Well, maturity date, your
19 Honor, has -- has a meaning, and the maturity
20 date is the date at which the obligation
21 becomes due. There are a couple of cases
22 that -- that speak to that that I don't think
23 are in the briefs, McIntyre versus Ticor
24 Title Insurance Company, 658 F.Supp. 944
25 District of Alaska 1986, and Virgin Islands

1 versus Brown 221 F.2nd 402 Third Circuit
2 1955. And those cases, your Honor, adopt
3 basically the Black's Law Dictionary
4 definition of maturity date as the date which
5 the obligation becomes due. That date was
6 December 14, 2005, and all of the obligations
7 that were due and owing as of December 14,
8 2005, have been paid, and there's no dispute
9 of fact about that.

10 In order to amend that note
11 consistent with the statute of fraud, there
12 would be a writing. There was no writing.
13 Again, course of conduct under the case law,
14 which I put forth in detail, would require
15 that -- require the writing, and that course
16 of conduct, because this relationship can be
17 explained in another way, that is, the
18 purchase of oil on an open account, simply
19 doesn't hold water as a modification.

20 The note had a defined credit
21 limit of \$2 million and a maturity date of
22 five years. The Defendant claims it could
23 increase, at its discretion, the credit
24 limit, and again, your Honor, that's only if
25 you ignore the definition of credit limit,

1 but that's a defined term, and that's the \$2
2 million, and they claim that the maturity
3 date can be changed at its discretion because
4 somehow that's a waiver of a provision for
5 their benefit, that would turn commercial
6 law on its head. I've never heard of such an
7 argument. In fact, there's no case that says
8 so. There can't be because it would have you
9 -- a unilateral imposition of an obligation
10 on another party in contravention of the
11 statutes of frauds.

12 There is termination language,
13 and termination language, your Honor, is
14 common in lines of credit. Prior to the
15 maturity date, they can be terminated and the
16 parties can pay off the obligation and walk
17 away. Does that mean that the obligation
18 continues beyond the maturity date?

19 Absolutely not, because the obligation was
20 due then, and it can only be -- that due date
21 can only be extended when you have future
22 advances, in other words, new loans, that can
23 only be extended under -- to comply with the
24 statute of frauds in writing.

25 Your Honor, to listen to the

1 Defendant's argument is to come away with a
2 completely different set of agreement than
3 are in evidence and have been agreed to by
4 the parties. The Defendant would have this
5 Court change the credit limit, the maturity
6 date, imply future advance clause, and read
7 out the words "then existing." And that's
8 the only way they can prevail, and you can't
9 do that consistent with the statutes that
10 I've mentioned. If these parties wanted your
11 Honor to have a simple security agreement to
12 cover future purchases, they could have said
13 so. They went into this whole scheme with a
14 note, with a credit limit, et cetera. That's
15 what they agreed to. That's what they're
16 stuck with. If they wanted the -- a security
17 agreement to cover future purchases, they
18 could have said so. They didn't. They could
19 have amended the documents in writing. They
20 didn't. So this is what we're stuck with.

21 There are no cases cited by
22 the Defendant, your Honor, that hold that
23 course of conduct can create a future advance
24 clause where none existed in their written
25 security agreement, and no cases have been

1 cited which hold that a note can be modified
2 by course of conduct and stay within the
3 requirements of the statute of frauds. In
4 fact, your Honor, the main cases cited by the
5 Defendant deal with other statutes, deal with
6 other issues, not the issues before the
7 Court. Of course, there are no cases which
8 hold the way that the Defendant would like to
9 hold because it's just not the law.

10 So therefore, your Honor,
11 based on the briefs, based on these brief
12 comments I've made today, we think that the
13 Court has to grant the summary judgment here
14 in order to be consistent with the statutes
15 involved and in order to give credence to
16 these agreements which the parties executed.
17 Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Hold on,
19 Mr. Goldman.

20 Lisa. (Inaudible.) Okay.
21 Well, if I can't do it, I can't do it. Okay.
22 Thank you.

23 Mr. Goldman.

24 MR. GOLDMAN: Yes, thank you,
25 your Honor. I think --

1 MR. WHITE: Your Honor, did
2 you --

3 THE COURT: Oh, well,
4 actually, you've got a separate motion with
5 regard to Count 2.

6 MR. WHITE: Correct.

7 THE COURT: And you think
8 Count 3 is --

9 MR. WHITE: It's the same
10 argument as Mr. --

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. WHITE: If I have three
13 minutes, I'll sit down -- it's up to you --

14 THE COURT: No. I -- I
15 overlooked you. I shouldn't have.

16 MR. WHITE: That's --
17 that's -- (inaudible) need to. But your
18 Honor, basically, the -- we adopt Attorney
19 Feingenbaum's arguments, papers, and his oral
20 arguments. As we indicated in our papers,
21 the trustee is here essentially with respect
22 to administer to creditors that a finding
23 that Sack is secured would impact not only
24 HMZ, but more to the point -- administer to
25 creditors that it would render the estate

1 insolvent. We adopt the arguments that have
2 been made by counsel that we think the
3 response to the brief that there was really
4 only three issues that I saw that the -- the
5 note, as you indicated, the collateral as
6 security for the payment and performance of
7 borrowers, liabilities, initial "L," to
8 lender. That's paragraph one.

9 Mr. Feingenbaum went over the
10 definition of liabilities. That infers now
11 existing. There is no future advances, and
12 the claims that are being covered under the
13 agreement are invoices from 2008 to 2010 so
14 they're clearly not covered. The explanation
15 of the maturity date has been made and course
16 of conduct is not relevant. The only
17 exception that has been talked about to the
18 writing, something called "the composite
19 document rule," and it's very clear that
20 those documents have to be contemporaneous.
21 There is no dispute as to fact as to the
22 documents that are being relied on. They are
23 bills of lading eight years late. So it
24 doesn't even fit into the narrow exception.

25 Your Honor, just in summary,

1 we would not be here arguing about this had
2 Sack negotiated with Kasden and obtained a
3 writing extending all this. His rights would
4 have been protected. He didn't. He is now
5 the largest unsecured creditor in the case.
6 Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Goldman.

8 MR. GOLDMAN: Thank you, your
9 Honor. Just preliminarily, I wanted to
10 address your Honor's concern about our Rule
11 56 response.

12 THE COURT: That is not --
13 it's not going to affect the disposition of
14 the matter. It's just by way of a general
15 observation, and I know it was your 56(a)(2),
16 but I get them all the time like that, and
17 it's just helpful if they're very precise.
18 You admit you deny, or in some cases, you
19 admitted parts, you bifurcated, which is
20 fine. But you then added --

21 MR. GOLDMAN: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: -- argument to it.

23 MR. GOLDMAN: And I apologize
24 for doing that. I will bear that in mind
25 in --

1 THE COURT: It's just an
2 observation.

3 MR. GOLDMAN: -- future
4 motions, but I did want --

5 THE COURT: It didn't
6 prejudice you in any way.

7 MR. GOLDMAN: I did want to
8 explain to the Court the reason that I did
9 that was because our scheduling order does
10 say that in my statement it shall set forth
11 any alleged new material facts. Now, maybe I
12 went a little beyond on that --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. GOLDMAN: -- to get in the
15 realm of argument, but I inserted --

16 THE COURT: This becomes a
17 problem when I get 300 paragraphs --

18 MR. GOLDMAN: Yeah.

19 THE COURT: -- in statements.
20 This is relatively easy in the context of
21 determining what the facts are as admitted
22 and being undisputed by a comparison of the
23 A1's and A2's.

24 MR. GOLDMAN: Very --

25 THE COURT: It's not a

1 problem. Don't dwell on it.

2 MR. GOLDMAN: Very well.

3 Okay. Thank you.

4 With that, I think there are
5 two fundamental factual inaccuracies that HMZ
6 is attempting to pass off here. The first of
7 which is the -- the fact that the security
8 agreement by its terms does not cover future
9 advances. That is ambiguous at best, but let
10 me -- before I get into that, there is
11 nothing in Section 9-204(c) that requires the
12 magic words "future advances" to be in a
13 security agreement in order to cover future
14 advances. It simply says, the security
15 agreement may provide for future advances,
16 that collateral will cover future advances.
17 So to take away from that that unless the
18 words "future advances" are in a security
19 agreement then you're out of luck is just not
20 supported.

21 Now, to address the actual
22 security agreement as Mr. Feingenbaum has
23 gone through. I first would like to note
24 that the, quote, security agreement that
25 we're dealing with here is not only the

1 actual commercial security agreement that he
2 was quoting from, but it is also the note.
3 The note and the security agreement have to
4 be construed together. In fact, the note is
5 actually incorporated into the security
6 agreement as being attached as Schedule A.
7 So you really have to construe both of those
8 documents together as the security agreement.

9 Now, unlike the Berman case,
10 which has been cited numerous times, the
11 security agreement here covers liabilities
12 other than one specific note. The security
13 agreement in the Berman case just referred to
14 one note. Here, we have a security agreement
15 that covers the loan and all other
16 liabilities, obligations of every name and
17 nature whatsoever. Now, the language
18 following that, Mr. Feingenbaum maintains is
19 an exclusive listing, a bracketing, so to
20 speak, of what those liabilities consist of,
21 but that is not the natural reading of that
22 clause, I would submit. I would submit
23 instead that what follows after the word
24 "whatsoever," comma, direct or indirect,
25 absolute and contingent, now existing as

1 whether maker, debtor, guarantor, surety,
2 endorser, pledgor or otherwise is
3 exemplative. It is an exemplative listing of
4 what the liabilities are. It is not
5 purporting to be exhaustive and to define
6 those liabilities.

7 And the fact that the word --
8 words "hereinafter incurred" are not
9 contained here should not be dispositive,
10 because in the very next sentence, you see
11 that it's -- the parties are clarifying their
12 intent that the liability shall cover those,
13 again, now existing and then you have the
14 word "or," quote, whether or not contemplated
15 by the parties at the time of the signing of
16 this agreement -- or at the granting of this
17 security agreement. So if future advances --
18 and our position is that future advances were
19 contemplated under the note -- it's perhaps
20 an open question as to whether they were
21 contemplated in excess of \$2 million or made
22 after -- or those made after December 14,
23 2005. But even if they weren't contemplated,
24 they are covered by this provision, which
25 says, "or whether or not contemplated by the

1 parties at the time of the granting of the
2 security agreement."

3 At a very minimum, it creates
4 an ambiguity in this agreement precluding the
5 grant of summary judgment. That is not an
6 unreasonable reading of these two companion
7 provisions. I would submit that that
8 interpretation is further supported by the
9 note, which although it defines credit limit
10 in paragraph three as \$2 million, we then
11 have in paragraph five, under the manner of
12 requesting advances, it says you -- all
13 requests for advances by Kasden under this
14 agreement may be, quote, up to the credit
15 limit approved for me. Well, if credit limit
16 is already defined in paragraph three, why do
17 we have the words "approved for me." There
18 is a legitimate reading of this language to
19 mean that Sack could approve a higher credit
20 limit for Kasden under -- under the terms of
21 this agreement.

22 And it would be reasonable for
23 them to contemplate such a -- such discretion
24 in this case. We've presented evidence of
25 the circumstances of the entering into these

1 agreements; that is, that Sack had become the
2 exclusive supplier of Kasden and was expected
3 to remain its exclusive supplier in the
4 future so that the parties should have the
5 flexibility of increasing the credit limit.

6 It is also unreasonable to
7 presume that the parties entered into this
8 voluntary agreement with idea that if Sack
9 was magnanimous enough to increase Kasden's
10 credit at its request, that Sack would be
11 unsecured for that amount. In fact, it's
12 counterintuitive to believe that the parties
13 would enter into this type of arrangement and
14 have that result. So I would submit that the
15 interpretations further if you -- if you look
16 at that language in the note, it at least
17 creates an ambiguity raising a genuine issue
18 of material fact precluding summary judgment.

19 Now, the idea that there is a
20 maturity date in the note, I would dispute
21 and for the reasons that I set forth in my
22 brief. The parties knew how to see how this
23 agreement is terminated. In paragraph 9 and
24 19 of the note, there is a specific way to
25 terminate the agreement, and contrary to what

1 Mr. Feingenbaum has represented, that just
2 doesn't apply to prematurity termination.
3 Paragraph 19 -- paragraph 9 does say that,
4 that you can terminate by paying in full, but
5 paragraph 19 has no limitation of terminating
6 pre -- before the five-year period expires.
7 It just says, I may terminate this agreement
8 at any time by paying you in full all
9 outstanding balances and other charges I owe
10 under this agreement and by sending you the
11 written notice of such intention. And, as
12 we've set forth in Mr. Sack's affidavit, no
13 notice of termination was ever sent.

14 Now, as to the -- as to the
15 legal argument, let me address first the
16 argument that any modification or amendment
17 had to be authenticated, and I would also
18 preliminarily like to note that Sacks first
19 argument here is that course of performance
20 under this agreement amplifies rather than
21 modifies the security agreement. It
22 essentially shows that from day one the
23 parties exceeded the credit limit within --
24 as Mr. Sack set forth two weeks after they
25 entered into the agreement, and really were

1 operating under these documents as if this
2 were a revolving credit facility --

3 THE COURT: Mr. Goldman, would
4 you -- I want to access the note for a
5 moment. I've got a copy of the security
6 agreement, and I just want to interrupt you
7 because I want to give full attention to your
8 argument. And I just wanted to take a quick
9 look at the note so bear with me for a
10 second.

11 (Pause.)

12 THE COURT: I'm looking at
13 2183, which is HMZ Adversary, the lead case,
14 and I'm looking at 22, which is the motion,
15 and there are various exhibits. Three is the
16 commercial security agreement. What exhibit
17 is the note, if you know?

18 MR. GOLDMAN: It's A. Yeah,
19 it's A.

20 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Your Honor,
21 perhaps, I can cut through that. If you look
22 at Document Number 31.

23 THE COURT: All right. Wait a
24 minute.

25 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Which is my

1 memo.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. FEINGENBAUM: It's Exhibit
4 A to that.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank
6 you, Mr. Goldman.

7 MR. GOLDMAN: Okay.

8 THE COURT: And
9 Mr. Feingenbaum, for the reference.

10 MR. GOLDMAN: So if I can turn
11 now to the legal argument, as I was doing,
12 and the argument that any modification or
13 amendment had to be authenticated. Again, as
14 I was saying, our -- our first argument here
15 is that course of performance really just
16 lends interpretative assistance as to the
17 meaning of the security agreement rather than
18 modifying it. Although, we are saying that
19 in the event, if necessary, it also modifies
20 the security agreement, but it does
21 essentially reflect that they -- the parties
22 went beyond the credit limit in paragraph
23 three immediately after the agreement was
24 entered into, functioned as if it was a
25 revolving facility up until April of 2010.

1 And the intent of the parties
2 is -- is basically corroborated by the
3 affidavit that we submitted by Mr. Ide, where
4 in January of 2010, when Kasden was seeking
5 to get new financing, there was a discussion,
6 with Mr. Sack present, about how that was
7 going to be done, because it was going to be
8 primarily for -- to pay down the Sack line,
9 and there was a discussion at that time that
10 Mr. Sack had a lien on the assets.

11 The Deitchs remained silent.
12 I would submit that that is an adoptive
13 admission. Based on the evidentiary portion
14 of my brief, the Court should consider that,
15 at least in determining what the parties
16 intent was concerning the agreement for
17 purposes of the instant motion for summary
18 judgment, and I think it has to be, at least
19 for purposes of this motion, accepted as
20 true. And the course of performance that we
21 say amplifies or modifies the documents is, I
22 would submit, consistent with -- there is a
23 way at least to construe it as being
24 consistent with the terms -- the actual terms
25 of the agreement and note because, as I've

1 stated, the credit limit in paragraph three
2 of the note can be construed as being subject
3 to approval of a higher amount under
4 paragraph five, that there's no term of
5 expiration under the term of the note and
6 only provisions dealing with termination,
7 which weren't exercised, and you also have
8 the -- whether or not contemplated language
9 here would at least create an issue of fact
10 as to whether -- what was done was
11 contemplated or not contemplated.

12 In any event, the argument
13 that the course of performance of the parties
14 can't be considered here where each act of --
15 unless each act of performance is
16 authenticated simply can't be accepted. That
17 essentially asks the Court to engraft an
18 exception to the UCC section of course of
19 performance, and the definition of agreement,
20 which is set forth in Section 1-201(b)(3).
21 And it specifically provides that an
22 agreement -- part of an agreement is -- can
23 be defined as the parties' course of
24 performance under that agreement.

25 What Mr. Feingenbaum is

1 arguing -- arguing is that section should
2 contain an exception for -- unless the
3 agreement is a security agreement and the
4 party is -- and the issue is whether or not
5 the security agreement covers future
6 advances. That exception does not exist in
7 that Article 1 section. And in addition, in
8 Article 1 of the UCC, as adopted in
9 Connecticut, specifically Section 1-102, it
10 specifically states that all sections in
11 Article 1 are applicable to every other
12 article of the Uniform Commercial Code.

13 So in addition, even taking
14 the statute that Mr. Feingenbaum relies on,
15 9-204(c), for the creation of future
16 advances, it still refers to a security
17 agreement may provide. Well, in defining
18 security agreement that just takes you back
19 to course of performance through the
20 definition of agreement in Article 1 and
21 through the definition of course of
22 performance also in Article 1 applicable to
23 all other articles of the Uniform Commercial
24 Code. So I don't think that the provision
25 that's cited here, 9-204(c), in any way cuts

1 off the argument that we've been making here.
2 It just refers you back to course of
3 performance.

4 Now, the -- the -- the
5 argument -- I'd next like to address the
6 argument that the note can't be amended
7 without a writing or -- a part performance.
8 First of all, I don't think it's even
9 necessary to consult the note to reach the
10 conclusion, at least for the purposes of
11 denying the motion for summary judgment, that
12 Sack's current claim is secured, because we
13 have the language in the security agreement
14 that covers liabilities whether or not
15 contemplated by the parties, so you really
16 don't even have to consult the note.

17 But if you are going to
18 consult the note, there are two problems I
19 view with their argument. First is that
20 purposes of determining the scope of the
21 security agreement before the Court, you
22 can't really separate out the note and argue
23 that the parties' postagreement course of
24 performance can't be considered because it
25 wasn't in writing.

1 The note, as I've pointed out,
2 is essentially incorporated into the security
3 agreement by having been attached as Schedule
4 A. So you can't get away from the point that
5 course of performance has to be considered by
6 arguing the statute of frauds. That is
7 simply a disguised argument that the course
8 of performance has to be authenticated in
9 order to be legally effective and should not
10 be accepted.

11 As I've mentioned, Sack's
12 argument doesn't depend on there being an
13 amendment to the note. The note by its terms
14 can be construed as continuing since there
15 was never any termination of the note, and
16 paragraph eight can be interpreted reasonably
17 to simply provide that whatever outstanding
18 balances there were on the five-year
19 anniversary of the note had to be paid as of
20 that date.

21 Now, the argument on part
22 performance, even if the Court accepts the
23 fact, the argument that the note would have
24 to be consulted, they cite the -- the Glazer
25 case for this idea that part performance has

1 to be of such a character that they can be
2 naturally and reasonably accounted for in no
3 other way than by the existence of some
4 contract in relation to the subject matter in
5 dispute.

6 Now, in that case, the court
7 found there was not part performance because
8 the conduct in question -- first of all, they
9 were trying to create a contract. They
10 didn't have an contract, actual contract
11 between the parties. They were trying to
12 create one by part performance. And the
13 court found that several sending out of
14 prebillings, so-called "deferred billing
15 category -- statements" that were relied on
16 in that case as the part performance, the
17 sending out of those statements prior to the
18 time that they say the contract was created
19 prevented that conduct from being part
20 performance. And also, in that case, the
21 plaintiff was trying to establish part
22 performance with the testimony of its own
23 witness that, yes, they intended this to be
24 part performance.

25 We don't have any of that

1 here. We have an existing agreement that was
2 in effect between these parties, and we have
3 a -- virtually identical course of
4 performance post-December 2005 as existed
5 before that period of time.

6 And we also have not only the
7 testimony of Sack, but we have in evidence
8 the intent of the Debtor that Sack remain
9 secured for those post-December 2005 advances
10 by the adoptive admissions that I have cited
11 in the papers. I would also submit that it
12 is illogical to conclude that after December
13 2005, at a time when Kasden owed my client 4
14 to 5 million dollars, that Sack intended to
15 continue to support this company under the
16 terms of these agreements, as it had done
17 from December 2005, without remaining
18 secured.

19 And so the performance that
20 continued after 2005, December 2005, if to
21 the extent the Court considers it necessary
22 to do so, should be considered part
23 performance, because it's illogical to
24 conclude that as Sack continued to support
25 this company and got -- and they got into

1 Sack even further that that would not have
2 been referable to the agreements that were in
3 -- that are in effect as of December 2005.

4 And that's all I have, your
5 Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Feingenbaum.

7 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Your Honor,
8 just a brief rebuttal. It's exactly these
9 tortured analyses and illogical or not
10 illogical kind of discussions is what the
11 statutes of frauds and what Uniform
12 Commercial Code is designed to protect
13 against. You're supposed to have precision.
14 You're supposed to have certainty in the law
15 of commercial transactions. It's what the
16 Berman talks about. It's what treatises talk
17 about and all the cases talk about. And we
18 start with the security agreement. We went
19 through the language. Mr. Goldman would like
20 to see the "not existing" read out of it, but
21 you can't do that. That's what it says.
22 That's the best evidence.

23 THE COURT: You mean -- you
24 said not existing, you mean --

25 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Now

1 existing --

2 THE COURT: -- now existing.

3 MR. FEINGENBAUM: -- cannot be
4 read out of that agreement. It says what it
5 says with regard to that. There's no
6 indication anywhere in that agreement that it
7 covers future advances whatsoever. With
8 respect that "or not contemplated by the
9 parties," well, that could be other
10 obligations that are owed at that time. For
11 example, what if that -- that the parties
12 weren't thinking about -- for example, what
13 if there was a Sack truck -- excuse me -- a
14 Kasden truck that caused damage to a Sack
15 terminal. Well, and maybe the parties didn't
16 know about it. That could be -- that would
17 be covered by that because that would be an
18 obligation then existing that the parties
19 haven't contemplated.

20 It doesn't say contemplated in
21 the future or future advances or anything
22 like that. Nowhere it says that. It just
23 says now existing, period, end of story. You
24 have to read everything in accordance with
25 the definition of liabilities, which is

1 limited by now existing, and anything that is
2 secured here is only the liabilities.

3 Your Honor, with respect to
4 that future advances language, it doesn't
5 have to be in writing. Well, that would be
6 contrary to every case and every treatise
7 that's ever discussed this issue, and I would
8 just leave it at that. With respect to the
9 note and these different readings of the
10 note, I just want to point out a couple of
11 things. I just want to get it in front of
12 me.

13 THE COURT: Well, you've
14 stipulated that the language of the note is
15 what it is, so to speak.

16 MR. FEINGENBAUM: The written
17 words are what they are and --

18 THE COURT: Stipulate the
19 obvious. So you're talking about his
20 interpretation of the language --

21 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Exactly,
22 your Honor.

23 THE COURT: -- not the
24 language. Okay.

25 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Because for

1 example, if you look at paragraph 19,
2 paragraph 19, which he points to several
3 times about the right to terminate, it says,
4 paying you full for all outstanding advance
5 balances, capital "A," advanced balances.
6 Okay. What is that? Well, an advance
7 balance is defined -- and advance is defined
8 in paragraph two, and it says, "made during
9 the period that this agreement is in effect."
10 The agreement is in effect until it's due.
11 The obligations were due on December 14,
12 2005. There was no writing or no other
13 indication otherwise.

14 The purchase of oil after that
15 date could have been on open account. If the
16 parties wanted to put that in the terms of a
17 note or a new security agreement, they could
18 have done that. They could have modified
19 these documents. They didn't. And that
20 would -- what would be required in this
21 situation.

22 So therefore, based on what is
23 truly a fair reading of -- of these documents
24 with respect to giving credence to all of its
25 words and to all of the defined terms, as

1 well as the statutes and cases involved, that
2 summary judgment in favor of the Plaintiff,
3 your Honor, is appropriate. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, I have
6 nothing further. I would just join that
7 summary judgment should be granted.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Goldman, last
9 and final word.

10 MR. GOLDMAN: Yes, I just
11 wanted to add, your Honor. I did not say
12 that future advance -- future advance clauses
13 didn't have to be in writing. What I said
14 was the exact words "future advances" didn't
15 have to be used not that they -- clauses
16 don't have to be in writing, and I believe
17 this one was.

18 THE COURT: All right. Thank
19 you. I'll take the matter under advisement.
20 So you will all be pleased I was advised,
21 about an hour ago that the temperature
22 problem has been resolved.

23 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Good to
24 know.

25 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, your

1 Honor.

2 MR. FEINGENBAUM: Thank you,
3 Judge.

4 THE CLERK: All rise. The
5 court is adjourned.

6 (Whereupon, the above
7 proceedings were adjourned at 1:04 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 41 pages are a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording taken of the Excerpt on the Hearing on DOC#43 - SCHEDULING ORDER ON 4/11/2011 (RE:[30] MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT FILED BY PLAINTIFF HMZ ENERGY LLC), which was held in Adversary Proceeding Number 10-02183, HMZ ENERGY LLC, Plaintiff, versus, SACK DISTRIBUTORS CORP., ET AL., Defendants, held in Lead Case Number 10-21973, THE KASDEN FUEL COMPANY, Debtor, which was before The Hon. ALBERT S. DABROWSKI, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, at the Federal Building, 450 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on May 11, 2011.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of United Reporters, Inc., under my direction.

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