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Judge approves Penn National's purchase of Rosecroft

Jilted bidder could appeal

By Hanah Cho, The Baltimore Sun

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A federal judge approved Wednesday the sale of bankrupt Rosecroft Raceway to casino operator Penn National Gaming for \$11 million in cash over the objection of a group led by former state Democratic Party Chairman Nathan Landow.

Wednesday's hearing essentially turned into another auction with both parties upping their bids for the Prince George's County harness track before Penn National made its final \$11 million offer.

The proceedings also included the testimony of Democratic Sen. C. Anthony Muse, who said he supports Landow Partners as the track's new owner because they would have the backing of the community and local and state lawmakers.

The Landow group has 14 days to appeal after Judge Paul Mannes signs his decision.

Asked after the hearing if the group plans to appeal, Landow said, "I have no idea."

At last week's auction, Penn National's \$10.25 million cash offer, plus \$3 million if the General Assembly approves a bond issue to help finance the track's operations, had emerged as the winning bid.

Landow Partners objected to Penn National's bid, arguing that it had the higher and better offer.

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