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and the Class*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **WESTERN DIVISION**

13 KELLIE BLACK, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 SNAP INC., EVAN SPIEGEL, and
17 JEREMI GORMAN,

18 Defendants.

) No. 2:21-cv-08892-GW (RAO)

) CLASS ACTION

) DECLARATION OF LESTER R.
) HOOKER IN SUPPORT OF LEAD
) PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL
) APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
) SETTLEMENT AND PLAN OF
) ALLOCATION, AND LEAD
) COUNSEL'S MOTION FOR AN
) AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES
) AND REIMBURSEMENT OF
) LITIGATION EXPENSES

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EXHIBIT LIST

EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION
A	Declaration Of Chase Rankin On Behalf Of Oklahoma Firefighters’ Pension And Retirement System In Support Of Lead Plaintiff’s Motion For Final Approval Of Class Action Settlement, The Plan Of Allocation, And Request For Attorneys’ Fees And Expenses (“Rankin Declaration”)
B	Declaration Of Kathleen Brauns Regarding (A) Mailing Of The Postcard Notice; (B) Publication Of Summary Notice; (C) Establishment of Settlement Website and Call Services; And (D) Report On Exclusions And Objections (“A.B. Data Declaration”)
C	Joint Declaration Of Former United States District Court Judge Layn R. Phillips And Seth Aronson In Support Of (I) Lead Plaintiff’s Motion For Final Approval Of Class Action Settlement And Plan Of Allocation; And (II) Lead Counsel’s Motion For An Award Of Attorneys’ Fees And Reimbursement Of Litigation Expenses (“Joint Mediator Declaration”)
D	Declaration of Lester R. Hooker In Support Of Lead Counsel’s Motion For An Award of Attorneys’ Fees And Reimbursement Of Litigation Expenses, filed on behalf of Saxena White P.A. (“Saxena White Fee Declaration”)
E	Declaration Of John L. Littrell In Support Of Lead Counsel’s Motion For An Award Of Attorneys’ Fees And Reimbursement Of Litigation Expenses, filed on behalf of Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP (“BKLW Fee Declaration”)
F	Declaration Of Rachel M. Cherington In Support Of Lead Counsel’s Motion For An Award Of Attorneys’ Fees And Reimbursement Of Litigation Expenses, filed on behalf of Joseph Hage Aaronson LLC (“JHA Fee Declaration”)

1 I, Lester R. Hooker, of the law firm Saxena White P.A. (“Saxena White” or
2 “Lead Counsel”), respectfully submit this declaration in support of Lead Plaintiff’s
3 motion for final approval of the proposed Settlement with Defendants and approval
4 of the Plan of Allocation (“Final Approval Motion”), as well as Lead Counsel’s
5 motion for approval of attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses
6 (“Fee Motion”).¹

7 **I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

8 1. Saxena White is the Court-appointed Lead Counsel in this action for
9 Court-appointed Lead Plaintiff Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement
10 System (“Oklahoma Fire” or “Lead Plaintiff”). I am a Director of my firm and have
11 actively supervised and participated in the prosecution of this Action.

12 2. On December 4, 2025, the Court granted preliminary approval of the
13 proposed \$65 million cash settlement with Defendants. ECF Nos. 187, 188, 190.
14 Since then, the Court-approved Claims Administrator has notified potential
15 members of the Settlement Class of the Settlement by mail, email, and publication
16 in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order. Defendants have also caused
17 the \$65 million Settlement Amount to be deposited into an escrow account for the
18 benefit of the Settlement Class.

19 3. The Court, having presided over this complex securities class action for
20 over four years, is familiar with the claims and defenses asserted. Accordingly, this
21 declaration does not seek to detail every event that has occurred so far in the
22 litigation. Rather, it highlights certain pertinent events leading to the Settlement,
23 and the basis upon which Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel recommend its approval.

24
25 ¹ When not defined herein, capitalized terms are defined in the Stipulation of
26 Settlement (ECF No. 183-2, the “Stipulation”), all emphasis has been added, and
27 internal quotation marks have been omitted. All references to “Ex.” are to the
28 exhibits hereto. All references to the “Final Approval Memorandum” are to the
memorandum in support of the Final Approval Motion. All references to the “Fee
Memorandum” are to the memorandum in support of the Fee Motion.

1 4. Under any measure, the Settlement is exceptional. Indeed, the
2 \$65,000,000 Settlement is more than six times the \$10 million median settlement
3 amount in securities class actions in the Ninth Circuit over the past decade and falls
4 well within the range of settlements courts in this Circuit regularly approve. The
5 recovery is even more noteworthy when weighed against the risks of continued
6 litigation. As set forth more fully below, at the time of the Settlement, this Court
7 had dismissed all but one of the statements that Lead Plaintiff had challenged in the
8 SAC, and Defendants had credible arguments that the sole remaining April 22, 2021
9 statement was not false or misleading, and that the resulting October 22, 2021 stock
10 drop was impacted by factors unrelated to any alleged fraud.

11 5. While Lead Plaintiff believed that it had strong arguments to respond
12 to these points, there is no question that Defendants' arguments could easily have
13 been accepted by this Court at class certification, summary judgment or by a jury at
14 trial. And if the Court or jury ultimately concluded that Defendants' statement
15 regarding the Apple privacy changes and the implementation of SKAN by Snap's
16 advertisers was not material or otherwise actionable, or that all (or a substantial
17 portion) of the stock price decline that occurred at the end of the Class Period was
18 not attributable to the alleged fraud, the potential recovery would be reduced
19 dramatically—and potentially to zero. Even a favorable jury verdict would have
20 been subjected to an inevitable and lengthy appeals process, the conclusion of which
21 would have been highly uncertain. Accordingly, even if Lead Plaintiff had prevailed
22 at trial, it is highly questionable as to whether Lead Plaintiff would have recovered
23 more than (or even as much as) the substantial Settlement Amount.

24 6. Considering these arguments and the other risks inherent in continued
25 litigation, Lead Counsel respectfully submits that the Settlement represents an
26 outstanding recovery for the Settlement Class that is supported by each of the factors
27 that the Ninth Circuit advises courts to consider in the settlement approval process,
28 as set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, *Churchill Vill., L.L.C. v. Gen.*

1 *Elec.*, 361 F.3d 566, 575-76 (9th Cir. 2004) and *In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab.*
2 *Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 946-47 (9th Cir. 2011).

3 7. In addition, the Settlement is the result of Lead Plaintiff’s and Lead
4 Counsel’s extensive litigation efforts, including: (i) an in-depth investigation into
5 the claims giving rise to the complaints; (ii) the preparation of detailed complaints,
6 including the operative Third Amended Class Action Complaint (the “Complaint”
7 or “TAC”); (iii) consultation with experts, including on advertising, SKAN,
8 materiality, loss causation and damages; (iv) successfully opposing Defendants’
9 motion to dismiss the TAC on appeal to the Ninth Circuit; (v) moving for class
10 certification and engaging in extensive class certification discovery; (vi) engaging
11 in comprehensive fact discovery, including obtaining, reviewing, and analyzing over
12 63,000 pages of documents; (vii) defending depositions of Lead Plaintiff, Lead
13 Plaintiff’s investment manager, Lead Plaintiff’s investment consultant, a
14 confidential witness cited in the Complaint, and Lead Plaintiff’s expert on market
15 efficiency, and preparing for fact witness depositions; (viii) the submission of
16 detailed mediation statements setting forth Lead Plaintiff’s positions on the hotly
17 disputed issues in the case; and (ix) preparing for and attending a day-long mediation
18 session before prominent mediators involving rigorous and extensive negotiations.

19 8. The Parties reached an agreement to settle only after the Ninth Circuit
20 reversed the Court’s order granting the motion to dismiss the TAC, and the Parties
21 had engaged in significant document discovery, arms’-length settlement
22 negotiations and an all-day mediation session before independent mediators, the
23 Hon. Layn R. Phillips and Seth Aronson of Phillips ADR Enterprises, P.C.

24 9. Lead Plaintiff supervised Lead Counsel, participated in all aspects of
25 the Litigation, remained informed throughout the settlement negotiations, and
26 ultimately approved the Settlement.

27 10. In addition to seeking the Court’s final approval of the Settlement, Lead
28 Plaintiff seeks approval of the proposed Plan of Allocation as fair and reasonable.

1 To prepare the Plan of Allocation, Lead Plaintiff engaged Peregrine Economics,
2 LLC, a well-recognized firm of financial consulting professionals with extensive
3 experience in preparing similar plans. Under the proposed Plan of Allocation, the
4 Net Settlement Fund will be distributed on a *pro rata* basis to members of the
5 Settlement Class who timely submit valid proofs of claim based on their
6 “Recognized Loss” amount as calculated pursuant to the Plan.

7 11. Lead Counsel also requests an award of attorneys’ fees for Plaintiff’s
8 Counsel’s efforts, which resulted in a substantial recovery for the Class in the face
9 of significant risks, and for reimbursement of its litigation expenses. Specifically,
10 Lead Counsel is applying for an attorneys’ fee award of 30% of the Settlement Fund
11 (*i.e.*, 30% of the Settlement Amount, plus interest earned thereon), to be paid from
12 the Settlement Fund. Lead Counsel’s requested fee is well within the range of fees
13 routinely approved by courts in this Circuit and nationwide in comparable securities
14 class actions and is amply supported by each of the factors set forth in *Vizcaino v.*
15 *Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1048-50 (9th Cir. 2002).

16 12. The reasonableness of Lead Counsel’s requested 30% fee is also
17 confirmed by a lodestar cross-check, which yields a multiplier of 1.86. This too is
18 well within the range of multipliers routinely approved within the Ninth Circuit.

19 13. Likewise, Plaintiff’s Counsel’s requested out-of-pocket litigation costs
20 of \$602,359.78, plus interest thereon, and Lead Plaintiff’s requested reimbursement
21 of costs pursuant to the PSLRA, including lost wages and time, in the amount of
22 \$10,531.75 to Lead Plaintiff, are also fair and reasonable. Accordingly, for the
23 reasons set forth in the Fee Memorandum and for the additional reasons set forth
24 herein, Lead Counsel respectfully submits that the request for attorneys’ fees and
25 reimbursement of litigation expenses should be approved.

26 **II. OVERVIEW OF THE ALLEGATIONS**

27 14. As alleged in the Complaint, Snap is a social media company whose
28 primary product is a free mobile chatting application called Snapchat. Snap

1 relied almost entirely on advertising revenue from Snapchat, especially “direct
2 response” ads that depend on tracking user activity for targeting and measurement.

3 15. Before 2021, Snap used Apple’s Identifier for Advertisers (IDFA) to
4 collect app user data on iOS devices. Apple’s App Tracking Transparency (ATT)
5 initiative, announced in 2020 and implemented in April 2021, required users to opt
6 in to tracking, sharply limiting Snap’s access to data and threatening its ad
7 business. Absent user opt-in, the Company would no longer be able to share a user’s
8 identifying information with advertisers and would no longer have access to that
9 user’s IDFA.

10 16. The Complaint alleges that Apple promoted an alternative tool,
11 SKAdNetwork (SKAN), but SKAN offered only aggregated—not individualized—
12 measurement. Beginning in February 2021, Defendants assured investors that the
13 Company’s advertising business was prepared for Apple’s ATT changes and would
14 continue delivering the record-level advertising and revenue growth it had recently
15 achieved.

16 17. The Complaint further alleged that Snap’s Chief Business Officer
17 Jeremi Gorman told investors that the majority of Snap’s direct-response advertisers
18 had already successfully implemented SKAN for their ad campaigns and that
19 the Company was well positioned to withstand the ATT changes. Specifically, on
20 April 22, 2021, during Snap’s Q1 2021 earnings call, Gorman stated that
21 “[a]dvertisers that represent a majority of our direct response advertising revenue
22 have successfully implemented [SKAN] for their Snap campaigns.” Snap’s stock
23 rose from \$57.05 on April 22, 2021, to a high of \$83.11 on September 24, 2021.

24 18. As alleged, on October 21, 2021, the “truth emerged” when Snap
25 announced that it had missed the lower end of its third quarter revenue—the first
26 time in Snap’s history that it had failed to meet this threshold—attributing the
27 shortfall to ATT-related “headwinds.” According to the TAC, the
28 Company’s Form 10-Q confirmed that Apple’s changes had harmed Snap’s ad

1 targeting, measurement, and optimization, reducing demand and pricing for its ad
2 products. The next day, Snap’s stock price fell over 26%, or \$19.97 per share, to
3 close at \$55.14 per share.

4 19. As explained herein and in the memoranda filed herewith, Defendants
5 vigorously deny that they violated the federal securities laws in connection with the
6 allegations described above and asserted myriad defenses in response to Lead
7 Plaintiff’s claims. Defendants asserted aggressive defenses throughout the litigation
8 and would have continued to do so.

9 20. Notably, following the rulings on the motions to dismiss and
10 subsequent appeal, Plaintiff’s claims had been narrowed to a single alleged
11 misstatement, namely Defendant Gorman’s April 22, 2021 statement, for which
12 Plaintiff would have continued to face significant challenges. Indeed, Defendants
13 appeared prepared to vigorously argue that Gorman’s remaining statement was not
14 false when read according to its plain meaning, considered in context, and evaluated
15 in light of its pre-ATT timing. Defendants thus would have vigorously defended the
16 case on the merits and would have made numerous arguments regarding both
17 liability and damages that could have defeated Plaintiff’s claims at class
18 certification, summary judgment, or trial, thus reducing or even eliminating the
19 damages available to the Class.

20 21. The technical and factually complex nature of the issues in this case
21 also created obstacles to establishing scienter, as reflected in the motion to dismiss
22 proceedings. Defendants would further contend that Gorman lacked scienter when
23 making the April 22 statement because she repeatedly acknowledged that ATT could
24 affect Snap’s business; Gorman had no financial motive; and scienter is more
25 difficult to prove when a challenged statement is open to multiple reasonable
26 interpretations. Defendants would have also disputed the allegations attributed to
27 confidential witnesses, including the basis for those witnesses’ claims.

28

1 22. Moreover, Defendants would have challenged whether the alleged
2 corrective disclosure was sufficiently connected to the sole remaining false
3 statement and thus caused any damages. Defendants would have had several
4 opportunities to raise these challenges—including on price-impact grounds at class
5 certification and on loss-causation grounds at summary judgment and trial. They
6 would argue that Plaintiff cannot show that the April 22 statement affected Snap’s
7 stock price, nor that Snap ever “corrected” the statement by later reporting that
8 advertisers responsible for most of its DR revenue had not implemented SKAN as
9 of April 2021. As to the October 22, 2021 stock drop, Defendants would contend
10 that Snap’s disappointing results were driven by factors unrelated to the alleged
11 fraud, such as macroeconomic factors, supply chain disruptions and labor
12 shortages—none of which were tied to SKAN.

13 **III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

14 **A. The Commencement of the Action and Lead Plaintiff**
15 **Appointment**

16 23. Plaintiff Kellie Black commenced this Action on November 11, 2021.
17 ECF No. 1.

18 24. On January 10, 2022, Oklahoma Fire moved the Court for entry of an
19 order appointing it as Lead Plaintiff in the Action and approving their selection of
20 Saxena White P.A. (“Saxena White”) as Lead Counsel and Bienert Katzman Littrell
21 Williams LLP (“BKLW”) as Liaison Counsel. ECF No. 28.

22 25. On January 18, 2022, Oklahoma Fire filed its response in further
23 support of its motion for appointment as Lead Plaintiff and in opposition to the four
24 remaining competing motions. ECF No. 40.

25 26. On January 31, 2022, following a telephonic hearing with the Court,
26 the Court consolidated this Action with *Buscaglia v. Snap Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00175
27 (C.D. Cal.), and appointed Oklahoma Fire as Lead Plaintiff pursuant to the
28

1 requirements of the PSLRA and approved Lead Plaintiff's selection of Lead
2 Counsel. ECF Nos. 54-55.

3 **B. Lead Plaintiff's Investigation to Prepare the Consolidated**
4 **Complaint and Amended Complaints, Filing of the Complaints,**
5 **And Defendants' Motions to Dismiss**

6 27. Prior to filing the consolidated complaint, Lead Counsel had begun an
7 exhaustive investigation into the facts underlying the Action. This investigation
8 continued as the litigation progressed and included a comprehensive review and
9 analysis of: (i) Snap's public filings with the SEC and materials posted on the
10 Company's website; (ii) press releases and other public statements issued by Snap,
11 including during earnings calls and conference calls with analysts and investors; (iii)
12 research reports by securities analysts covering Snap; (iv) publicly available news
13 articles, press releases, documents, and other information regarding Snap and the
14 industry in which Snap operates; (v) data and other information regarding Snap
15 securities; (vi) expert economic analyses; (vii) expert advertising analyses; (viii)
16 expert social media and digital technology analyses; and (ix) interviews of numerous
17 former Snap employees and Company partners.

18 28. On March 18, 2022, Plaintiff filed its consolidated complaint. ECF No.
19 65. Defendants moved to dismiss on May 3, 2022. ECF No. 78. After the filing of
20 Defendants' motion to dismiss, Plaintiff amended the consolidated complaint and
21 thereafter filed the SAC on August 3, 2022. ECF Nos. 90, 92, 94, 95.

22 29. After full briefing and a hearing on Defendants' motion to dismiss, on
23 March 13, 2023, the Court granted Defendants' motion, with leave to amend. ECF
24 Nos. 114-115. The Court held that "Plaintiff ha[d] plausibly alleged a material
25 misrepresentation" as to the April 22, 2021 statement that "[a]dvertisers that
26 represent a majority of [Snap's] direct response advertising revenue have
27 successfully implemented SKAdNetwork for their Snap campaigns." *Id.* at 5, 32.
28 The Court found that Plaintiff failed to adequately allege scienter. *Id.* at 38.

1 30. On April 21, 2023, Plaintiff filed the TAC. ECF No. 120. Defendants
2 moved to dismiss on June 9, 2023. ECF No. 121. The motion was fully briefed on
3 August 25, 2023. ECF Nos. 125-26. Following full briefing and oral argument, the
4 Court took Defendants’ motion under submission. ECF No. 130. On September 26,
5 2023, the Court granted the motion with leave to amend. ECF No. 135. On October
6 27, 2023, the Lead Plaintiff filed a notice of intent not to amend the complaint. ECF
7 No. 137. On October 30, 2023, the Court entered final judgment dismissing the case
8 with prejudice. ECF No. 138.

9 **C. Appeal to the Ninth Circuit**

10 31. On November 28, 2023, Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal. ECF No. 139.
11 On December 4, 2023, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opened Case No. 23-3932.
12 ECF No. 1. On February 26, 2024, Lead Plaintiff filed the Appellant’s Opening
13 Brief and appellate briefing concluded on June 17, 2024. ECF Nos. 24, 29, 41. Oral
14 argument was held on December 5, 2024. ECF No. 48.

15 32. On December 20, 2024, the Ninth Circuit reversed the dismissal of the
16 Action. *Oklahoma Firefighters Pension & Ret. Sys. v. Snap Inc.*, 2024 WL 5182634
17 (9th Cir. Dec. 20, 2024). The Appellate Court ruled that Lead Plaintiff had
18 adequately alleged scienter under both the holistic inquiry and core operations
19 theory, adequately alleged the falsity of Defendants’ April 22, 2021 statement, and
20 reversed the dismissal of the § 20(a) claims.

21 33. Defendants filed their Answer to the Amended Complaint on February
22 21, 2025. ECF No. 161.

23 **D. Discovery and Class Certification**

24 34. The Parties thereafter engaged in discovery. Lead Plaintiff submitted a
25 First Set of Requests for Production of Documents to All Defendants on February 4,
26 2025 and Subpoenas to Produce Documents to multiple third parties, including
27 Apple and Branch (May 14, 2025), Adjust, Singular, and Kochava (May 15, 2025),
28 AppsFlyer (May 20, 2025), and adMixt (June 26, 2026).

1 35. Defendants served their responses and objections to the Requests on
2 March 6, 2025 and produced documents in rolling productions responsive to the
3 Requests with an initial production in May 2025 and final production in August
4 2025.

5 36. On February 14, 2025, Defendants submitted their First Request for the
6 Production of Documents Directed to Lead Plaintiff and their First Set of
7 Interrogatories Directed to Lead Plaintiff. Lead Plaintiff served its responses and
8 objections on March 24, 2025. Lead Plaintiff served its Supplemental Responses
9 And Objections To Defendants' First Set Of Interrogatories on May 15, 2025.

10 37. Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with notice of their document
11 subpoena to Lead Plaintiff's money manager, Fred Alger Management LLC ("Fred
12 Alger"), on March 10, 2025, with notice of their deposition subpoena to Fred Alger
13 on May 23, 2025, and with their amended notice of deposition to Fred Alger on
14 August 14, 2025.

15 38. Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with notice of their document
16 subpoenas to confidential witnesses on April 10, 2025, with notice of their
17 deposition subpoena to one of Plaintiff's confidential witnesses on June 6, 2025, and
18 with their amended notice of deposition subpoena to the same confidential witness
19 on June 20, 2025.

20 39. Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with notice of their document
21 subpoena to an additional confidential witness on April 15, 2025, and with notice of
22 their document subpoena to another confidential witness on April 30, 2025.
23 Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with their notice of deposition subpoena to one of
24 Plaintiff's confidential witnesses on June 23, 2025, and with their amended notice
25 of deposition subpoena to that same confidential witness on August 4, 2025.

26 40. Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with notice of their document
27 subpoena to Lead Plaintiff's investment consultant, Mariner Institutional, LLC
28 ("Mariner"), on May 16, 2025, with notice of their deposition subpoena to Mariner

1 on May 23, 2025, and with their amended notice of deposition to Mariner on August
2 14, 2025.

3 41. Defendants served Lead Plaintiff with a notice of deposition on May
4 23, 2025, with their amended notice of deposition on July 18, 2025, and Lead
5 Plaintiff was deposed by Defendants on July 31, 2025.

6 42. Lead Plaintiff served its First Set of Interrogatories on All Defendants
7 on June 16, 2025. Defendants served their responses and objections on July 16,
8 2025.

9 43. Lead Plaintiff served Snap with a notice of deposition on July 18, 2025,
10 and Defendants served their responses and objections on August 15, 2025.

11 44. One of Plaintiff's confidential witnesses was deposed on August 5,
12 2025, Mariner was deposed on August 18, 2025, and Fred Alger was deposed on
13 August 26, 2025.

14 45. Lead Plaintiff served Defendants with its notice of deposition to
15 Plaintiff's confidential witness on September 2, 2025.

16 46. The Parties exchanged numerous discovery correspondence between
17 March and September; and engaged in multiple meet and confer conferences in an
18 attempt to come to an agreement on, among other things, the Parties' respective
19 scope of discovery, including, for example, preservation, custodians, search terms,
20 sources of ESI, and complex particular ESI issues like the production of hyperlinked
21 documents and ephemeral messages.

22 47. In total, Defendants produced, and Lead Plaintiff reviewed,
23 approximately 27,000 pages of documents in eight (8) separate productions and an
24 additional four (4) overlay productions over the course of approximately three (3)
25 months. Additionally, nine (9) third parties produced, and Lead Plaintiff reviewed,
26 over 36,000 pages of documents. The amount of work done by Lead Plaintiff during
27 this short time period is evidence of Lead Plaintiff's vigorous prosecution of and
28 commitment to this Action.

1 48. Lead Counsel and their experts devoted substantial time to reviewing
2 and analyzing these documents and organizing them for depositions. Specifically,
3 Lead Counsel prepared for eight depositions, which the Parties had either scheduled
4 or were in the process of scheduling at the time that they agreed to the Settlement.
5 Through their analysis of these documents, Lead Counsel were also able to
6 determine which additional custodians were likely to have relevant documents and
7 information, and to develop further insight into the key departments and personnel
8 likely to have been involved in the events that gave rise to this Action.

9 49. The productions came in a wide variety of formats and styles,
10 necessitating detailed analyses of emails, spreadsheets, text messages, and other
11 complex compilations of data. To analyze and process this vast amount of
12 information within the discovery period, Lead Counsel required an effective and
13 efficient discovery plan. This plan leveraged a sophisticated electronic document
14 hosting system, and a dedicated team of attorneys experienced in electronic
15 document discovery and deposition and trial preparation. Staff attorneys were
16 trained to code documents based on specific issues in the case and their potential
17 relevance to specific deponents. Lead Counsel also developed reference resources
18 to aid members of the document review team, including lists of key witnesses and a
19 framework for understanding key facts supporting Plaintiff's claims. Throughout
20 document discovery, the attorneys regularly discussed key facts uncovered by the
21 review.

22 50. From May 2025 to June 2025, Plaintiff produced four (4) productions,
23 totaling over 2,400 pages of documents, along with an additional approximately
24 14,500 pages of documents produced on behalf of Plaintiff's expert, Chad Coffman.
25 Plaintiff's productions generally consisted of documents cited in the Complaint,
26 trade reports, investment policies, agreements with investment services providers,
27 and board minutes.

28 51. On May 16, 2025, Plaintiff moved for class certification. ECF No. 167.

1 **IV. THE SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, REASONABLE AND ADEQUATE**

2 52. The \$65 million cash settlement (plus interest) was the result of arm’s
3 length negotiations between experienced counsel, conducted under the auspices of
4 the Honorable Layn R. Phillips and Seth Aronson of Phillips ADR Enterprises, P.C.,
5 highly qualified and well-respected independent mediators with extensive
6 experience mediating securities class actions. The Settlement provides the Class
7 with an immediate and substantial benefit before trial, and eliminates the very real
8 risk of protracted litigation against Defendants under circumstances where a
9 favorable recovery—or any recovery at all—cannot be assured. Lead Counsel
10 accordingly believes that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and an excellent result
11 for the Class considering the risk of recovering a lesser amount, or nothing at all,
12 after substantial delays that would likely have lasted several years.

13 **A. The Parties’ Mediation Session and Preliminary Settlement**
14 **Approval**

15 53. The Parties engaged Judge Phillips and Mr. Aronson to facilitate a
16 mediation between the Parties scheduled for September 3, 2025. The Parties agreed
17 to exchange detailed mediation statements setting forth their respective arguments
18 on several key issues prior to the mediation, to ensure that the Parties thoroughly and
19 completely understood the likely issues that would be extensively litigated should
20 the Action continue. The Parties exchanged their comprehensive opening mediation
21 statements and reply mediation briefs addressing the facts and law of the case,
22 including, among other things, Defendants’ challenges on the key issues of falsity,
23 scienter, loss causation, and damages.

24 54. On September 3, 2025, the Parties and Defendants’ directors’ and
25 officers’ liability insurance carriers (the “D&O Insurers”) participated in a mediation
26 session. During the mediation session, the Parties discussed the merits of the case,
27 including liability and damages.
28

1 55. At the conclusion of the mediation session, Judge Phillips issued a
2 mediator’s recommendation to resolve the Action for \$65,000,000, which the Parties
3 subsequently accepted, subject to the negotiation of the terms of a term sheet and a
4 stipulation of settlement and subsequent approval by the Court.

5 56. On October 27, 2025, Lead Plaintiff filed its motion for preliminary
6 approval of the proposed Settlement and memorandum of law in support
7 (“Preliminary Approval Memorandum”), along with the Stipulation and related
8 documents. ECF No. 183.

9 57. On December 3, 2025, the Court issued its Tentative Ruling on
10 Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement
11 (“Preliminary Approval Ruling”). ECF No. 187. On December 4, 2025, following
12 a hearing, the Preliminary Approval Ruling was adopted as the Court’s Final Ruling.
13 ECF No. 188.

14 58. The Preliminary Approval Ruling certified the Settlement Class (*see*
15 ECF No. 187 at 8-13), found that “each of the requirements delineated in Rule
16 23(e)(2) is satisfied” (*see id.* at 14-20), and held that the notice plan “appear[ed] to
17 the Court to lack any apparent deficiencies and to be adequate to apprise Class
18 Members of their status and associated rights” (*id.* at 20-21).

19 59. Specifically, regarding class certification, the Court: (i) was “satisfied
20 that the proposed settlement class is so numerous that joinder of all members would
21 no doubt be impracticable”; (ii) found “the commonality requirement is met”; (iii)
22 found that given there was “no conduct alleged unique to Plaintiff[] or apparent
23 defenses unique to their claims, the Court would conclude that Plaintiff[s] claims
24 are sufficiently typical”; (iv) held that based on “[Plaintiff’s] representations and the
25 litigation that ensued before settlement was reached, the Court is persuaded that
26 Lead Plaintiff understands its duties and is sufficiently motivated to perform them,
27 that there is no apparent conflict with other Class Members, and that Lead Counsel
28 has substantial experience in litigating large securities class actions”; (v) held “that

1 common questions predominate”; and (vi) concluded “that a class action is the
2 superior method for fairly and efficiently adjudicating Lead Plaintiff’s securities
3 fraud claims.” *Id.* at 9-13.

4 60. The Court found no signs of collusion, noting that “the proposed
5 settlement was reached with the assistance of two experienced mediators and after
6 the parties exchanged opening and reply mediation briefs that set forth their
7 respective views of the merits of this action and any supporting evidence obtained
8 through discovery. . . This suggests that the proposed Settlement was negotiated at
9 arm’s length and that neither the process nor the result has any apparent indicia of
10 collusion.” *Id.* at 15. The Court added that “the fact that Lead Counsel is highly
11 experienced in litigating securities class actions and has worked extensively on this
12 case cuts in favor of finding the Settlement procedurally robust.” *Id.*

13 61. The Preliminary Approval Ruling also stated that given “the settlement
14 of this action provides an early resolution, ensuring a recovery and eliminating the
15 risk of no recovery at all. . . the Settlement is in the best interest of the Class and that
16 this factor thus weighs in favor of approval.” *Id.* at 18.

17 62. Also on December 4, 2025, the Court issued its order preliminarily
18 approving the Settlement and authorizing notice for the proposed Settlement to be
19 sent to potential members of the Settlement Class. ECF No. 190 (“Preliminary
20 Approval Order”).

21 **B. Reasons for the Settlement**

22 63. Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel fully endorse the Settlement. *See* Ex.
23 A (Rankin Declaration) attached hereto. Lead Plaintiff is the Court-appointed Class
24 representative and a sophisticated institutional investor who has actively overseen
25 the prosecution of this Action and who understood its fiduciary duty to act in the
26 best interest of the Settlement Class.

27 64. Lead Counsel is a law firm that specializes in complex securities class
28 action litigation, and is highly experienced in such litigation. *See* Ex. D (Saxena

1 White firm resume, attached as Exhibit C). Based on their experience and
2 knowledge of the facts and applicable law in this Action, Lead Counsel and Lead
3 Plaintiff have determined that the Settlement is in the best interest of the Settlement
4 Class.

5 65. Although Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel believe that the claims
6 asserted in this Action are meritorious, continued litigation against Defendants posed
7 significant risks that made any recovery from them uncertain. Indeed, at the pleading
8 stage, the Court dismissed 17 of the 18 alleged misstatements as inactionable and
9 concluded that Plaintiff had not adequately alleged scienter with respect to the sole
10 remaining statement. The substantial risk associated with proving liability for this
11 single surviving statement further supports approval of the Settlement.

12 66. For example, Lead Plaintiff was aware of the significant challenges
13 Defendants raised at the motion to dismiss stage, on appeal, and in their mediation
14 statement on the key issues of falsity, scienter, loss causation, and damages.

15 67. Defendants vigorously asserted that the Class suffered no cognizable
16 damages attributable to the alleged fraud, and even if damages could be established,
17 Lead Plaintiff was further aware that Defendants' damages expert had calculated
18 maximum possible damages far below the maximum aggregate damages Lead
19 Plaintiff's expert had calculated—which would undoubtedly result in a “battle of the
20 experts” at trial with no certainty as to which of the experts the jury would credit.
21 Thus, there were very significant risks attendant to the continued prosecution of the
22 Action against Defendants.

23 68. Had any of these arguments been accepted in whole or in part, any
24 potential recovery would have been dramatically limited or completely eliminated
25 altogether. Moreover, Lead Plaintiff would have had to prevail against Defendants
26 on these and other issues at class certification, summary judgment and trial, and even
27 if they prevailed at those stages, on the appeals that would most assuredly follow.

28

1 69. The Settlement eliminates these substantial risks and guarantees the
2 Settlement Class a favorable cash recovery. Lead Counsel firmly believes that
3 settling the Action with Defendants at this stage of the litigation is in the best interest
4 of the Settlement Class.

5 **C. Notice to the Settlement Class**

6 70. As required by the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, beginning on
7 January 6, 2026, Plaintiff, through the Court-approved Claims Administrator A.B.
8 Data, notified potential members of the Settlement Class of the Settlement by
9 mailing and emailing a copy of the Postcard Notice to potential members of the
10 Settlement Class and their nominees. *See* Ex. B (“A.B. Data Declaration”).

11 71. A.B. Data used several resources of data to reasonably identify
12 members of the Settlement Class. For example, under the Preliminary Approval
13 Order, Snap was required to provide A.B. Data records reasonably available to Snap
14 or its transfer agent concerning the identity and last known address of Settlement
15 Class Members. A.B. Data also sent the Postcard Notice to entities identified on a
16 proprietary list maintained by A.B. Data of the most common banks, brokers, and
17 other nominees. *See* Ex. B, ¶¶4-5. In total, 4,892 copies of the Postcard Notice were
18 mailed in the initial mailing. *Id.* at ¶5.

19 72. The Preliminary Approval Order also requires brokers and nominees,
20 within seven calendar days of receipt of the Postcard Notice, to either (i) request
21 additional copies of the Postcard Notice to send to the beneficial owners of the
22 securities, or (ii) to provide to A.B. Data the names and addresses of such persons.
23 A.B. Data has mailed 38,076 copies of the Postcard Notice to potential Settlement
24 Class Members whose names and addresses were received from individuals or
25 nominees, 200,950 Postcard Notices to nominees who requested same to forward to
26 their customers, and 368 Postcard Notices to record holders identified in a data file
27 provided by counsel to Defendants. *Id.* ¶¶8-10.

1 73. In the aggregate, as of March 12, 2026, A.B. Data has disseminated
2 244,286 Postcard and Email Notices to potential members of the Settlement Class
3 and their nominees. *Id.* ¶11.

4 74. In addition, on January 21, 2026, the Summary Notice was published
5 in the national edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and over *PR Newswire*. *Id.* ¶12.
6 Information regarding the Settlement, including copies of the Notice, Stipulation,
7 and Claim Form, was posted on the website established by A.B. Data specifically
8 for this Settlement, and on Lead Counsel’s website. *Id.* ¶13. This method of giving
9 notice is appropriate because it directs notice in a “reasonable manner to all class
10 members who would be bound by the propos[ed judgment].” Fed. R. Civ. P.
11 23(e)(1).

12 75. The Postcard Notice, Summary Notice, and Notice advise members of
13 the Settlement Class of the essential terms of the Settlement, sets forth the procedure
14 for objecting to or opting out of the Settlement, and provides specifics on the date,
15 time and place for the Final Approval Hearing.

16 76. The Postcard Notice, Summary Notice, and Notice also contain
17 information regarding Lead Counsel’s fee and expense application and the Notice
18 outlines the proposed plan of allocating the Settlement proceeds among members of
19 the Settlement Class.

20 77. As explained in the Final Approval Memorandum, the notices fairly
21 apprise members of the Settlement Class of their rights with respect to the
22 Settlement, and therefore is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and
23 complies with the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, Federal Rule of Civil
24 Procedure 23, and due process.

25 78. In addition, Lead Counsel were informed that Defendants caused the
26 notice contemplated by the Class Action Fairness Act of 1995 (“CAFA”) to be
27 served.

1 79. As the Court held in its Preliminary Approval Ruling, “[t]he (long-
2 form) Notice provides all of the required information in plain, easily understandable
3 language, and the Postcard Notice and Summary Notice list most of the required
4 information. As such, the Court finds the proposed notice and notice plan sufficient
5 to satisfy both Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(ii) and the PSLRA requirements.” ECF No. 187 at
6 20-21.

7 **D. The Plan of Allocation**

8 80. Lead Plaintiff has proposed a plan to allocate the proceeds of the Net
9 Settlement Fund among members of the Settlement Class who submit valid proofs
10 of claim. The objective of the proposed Plan of Allocation (the “Plan”) is to
11 equitably distribute the Settlement proceeds, on a *pro rata* basis, to those members
12 of the Settlement Class who suffered economic losses as a result of Defendants’
13 alleged misrepresentations and omissions.

14 81. Lead Plaintiff engaged Peregrine Economics as an expert to assist in
15 formulating the Plan. The Plan reflects the assumption that Defendants’ alleged
16 false and misleading statements proximately caused the price of Snap common stock
17 and Snap call options to be artificially inflated and Snap put options to be artificially
18 deflated throughout the Settlement Class Period. In calculating the estimated
19 artificial inflation (deflation) allegedly caused by Defendants’ alleged
20 misrepresentations, Lead Plaintiff’s damages expert considered price changes in
21 Snap common stock and Snap call and put options in reaction to the public
22 announcement allegedly revealing the truth concerning Defendants’ alleged
23 misrepresentations, adjusting for price changes that were attributable to market or
24 industry forces.

25 82. The Notice set forth and explained the proposed Plan to members of the
26 Settlement Class. It was prepared in consultation with Lead Plaintiff’s expert, tracks
27 a theory of damages asserted by Lead Plaintiff, is substantially similar to numerous
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1 other plans that have been approved in this District and around the country, and is
2 fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class as a whole.

3 83. Notably, there have been no objections to date to the proposed Plan of
4 Allocation.

5 84. As the Court noted in its Preliminary Approval Ruling, “The Plan of
6 Allocation appears to treat Class Members equitably, dividing the settlement
7 proceeds among Authorized Claimants on a *pro rata* basis with each eligible Class
8 Member subject to the same formulas for distribution.” ECF No. 187 at 19.

9 **V. LEAD COUNSEL’S APPLICATION FOR LEAD COUNSEL’S**
10 **ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF LITIGATION**
EXPENSES

11 85. In addition to seeking final approval of the Settlement and Plan of
12 Allocation, Lead Plaintiff also requests approval of Lead Counsel’s application to
13 the Court for an award of attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses.
14 Specifically, Lead Counsel is applying for a fee of 30% of the Settlement Fund
15 (\$19,500,000, plus interest earned at the same rate as the Settlement Fund). Lead
16 Counsel also requests reimbursement of \$602,359.78 in litigation expenses (plus
17 interest earned at the same rate as the Settlement Fund).

18 86. In determining whether a requested award of attorneys’ fees is fair and
19 reasonable, district courts are guided by the factors enumerated in *Vizcaino v.*
20 *Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1048-50 (9th Cir. 2002), which include: (i) the
21 results achieved; (ii) the risk of litigation; (iii) the skill required and the quality of
22 work; (iv) the contingent nature of the fee; and (v) awards made in similar actions.

23 87. Based on consideration of these factors, and on the additional legal
24 authorities set forth in the Fee Memorandum, filed contemporaneously herewith,
25 Lead Counsel respectfully submits that its requested 30% fee should be granted.

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27
28

1 **A. Lead Counsel’s Application for Attorneys’ Fees**

2 **1. The Result Achieved Supports a 30% Fee Award**

3 88. For its extensive efforts on behalf of the Settlement Class, Lead
4 Counsel is applying for compensation from the Settlement Fund on a percentage
5 basis. As set forth in the Fee Memorandum, the percentage method is the preferred
6 method of fee recovery in the Ninth Circuit because, among other things, it aligns
7 the attorneys’ interest in being paid a fair fee with the interest of the Settlement Class
8 in achieving the maximum recovery efficiently and in the shortest amount of time.
9 Indeed, use of the percentage fee method to calculate attorneys’ fees in common
10 fund cases represents the overwhelming current trend in the Ninth Circuit and in
11 other circuits.

12 89. Based on the highly favorable result Lead Counsel achieved for the
13 Settlement Class before trial, the extent and quality of work Lead Counsel
14 performed, and the risks of the litigation and the contingent nature of the
15 representation, Lead Counsel submits that a 30% fee award is justified and should
16 be approved. Lead Plaintiff, who is a sophisticated institutional investor, approves
17 of Lead Counsel’s fee request.

18 90. Lead Counsel respectfully submits that the work it completed in
19 prosecuting this case, and arriving at the successful Settlement, has been both time-
20 consuming and challenging. As explained above, litigation against Defendants
21 posed substantial risks that made any recovery against them uncertain. In the face
22 of those risks, Lead Counsel took this case on a contingent basis, committed
23 significant resources to the prosecution of the Action, and litigated the Action for
24 over four years now without any compensation or guarantee of success against
25 Defendants.

26 91. As the Court stated in the Preliminary Approval Ruling, “it would be
27 noted that said counsel did very successfully represent the positions of the Lead
28 Plaintiff/class. For example, it took a strategic decision not to file a fourth amended

1 complaint but rather to take an adverse judgment and appeal this Court’s decision as
2 to whether the Lead Plaintiff had adequately alleged scienter; and convinced the
3 United States Court of Appeals to overturn this Court’s determination.” ECF No.
4 187 at 16 n.9.

5 92. Despite the numerous challenges that Lead Counsel faced in
6 prosecuting the Action, Lead Counsel successfully obtained a recovery of \$65
7 million. The \$65,000,000 Settlement Amount is more than four times the \$14
8 million median settlement amount for securities class actions in 2024, and almost
9 six times more than the \$11.3 million median settlement amount for federal
10 securities class actions from 2015-2023. It is also \$55 million more than the \$10
11 million median settlement for securities class actions in the Ninth Circuit from 2015-
12 2024. Class Members will enjoy the benefit of the Settlement immediately while
13 avoiding the credible prospect of obtaining no recovery at all.

14 93. Based on the excellent result achieved for the Settlement Class, the
15 quality of work performed, the significant risks of continuing the Action against
16 Defendants, and the contingent nature of Lead Counsel’s representation, Lead
17 Counsel submits that a 30% fee award is fair and reasonable, and consistent with
18 similar cases in the Ninth Circuit.

19 **2. The Risks of Litigation**

20 94. Lead Counsel undertook this Action on a wholly contingent basis. Lead
21 Counsel understood, from the outset, that it was embarking upon a complex and
22 expensive litigation with no guarantee of compensation for its investment of time,
23 money and effort that a case of this size would undoubtedly require. Lead Counsel
24 also anticipated that Defendants would raise a myriad of challenges to the
25 sufficiency of the pleadings and to Lead Plaintiff’s ability to prove liability and
26 damages. Further, had the litigation continued against Defendants, Defendants
27 would have continued to dispute essentially all elements of the claims during all
28 phases of the litigation, including on class certification, summary judgment, at trial,

1 and on appeal. Additionally, this significant recovery for investors captures virtually
2 the entirety of Defendants’ remaining available directors’ and officers’ insurance
3 tower—funds that would have quickly depleted had the litigation continued.

4 95. In undertaking the responsibility for prosecuting the Action, Lead
5 Counsel ensured that sufficient attorney resources were dedicated to the
6 investigation of the claims, and that sufficient resources were available to advance
7 the expenses required to pursue and complete such a complex litigation. Plaintiff’s
8 Counsel, in total, incurred \$602,359.78 in expenses prosecuting this Action for the
9 benefit of the Settlement Class.

10 96. Significantly, Lead Counsel bore the risk that it would obtain no
11 recovery at all. As discussed herein, this case presented a number of significant risks
12 and uncertainties which could have eliminated the possibility of any recovery against
13 Defendants. Indeed, despite the vigorous and competent efforts of Lead Counsel,
14 success in contingent-fee complex litigation such as this is never certain.

15 97. Lead Counsel firmly believes that the commencement of a securities
16 class action does not guarantee a settlement, particularly in light of the heightened
17 pleading standards of the PSLRA. To the contrary, it takes hard work and diligence
18 by skilled and experienced counsel to develop the facts and theories necessary to
19 sustain a complaint or win at trial, or to induce sophisticated defendants and their
20 insurers (and their equally sophisticated counsel) to engage in serious settlement
21 negotiations.

22 **3. The Skill Required and Quality of Work**

23 98. Lead Counsel completed considerable work to prepare allegations it
24 believed would be sufficient to overcome Defendants’ motion to dismiss, be
25 successful at class certification, summary judgment and at trial. To accomplish this,
26 Lead Counsel conducted an extensive investigation, including, as stated above,
27 review and analysis of publicly available information concerning Snap, SKAN, and
28 ATT; identifying and interviewing percipient witnesses with direct knowledge of the

1 facts alleged; consulting with experts on the specialized issues of mobile technology
2 and advertisement, SKAN, loss causation and damages; and reviewing over 63,000
3 pages of documents produced by Defendants and third parties that directly bore on
4 key issues in the case. Lead Counsel also engaged in significant discovery and
5 defended depositions of Plaintiff, Plaintiff’s expert, Plaintiff’s investment
6 consultant, Plaintiff’s investment manager, and Plaintiff’s confidential witness; and
7 prepared for three additional fact witness depositions.

8 99. Lead Counsel also committed substantial time and resources to, among
9 other things, drafting and filing the consolidated and amended complaints;
10 successfully defeating Defendants’ motion to dismiss on appeal; moving for class
11 certification; preparing comprehensive mediation statements; preparing materials in
12 response to Defendants’ equally comprehensive mediation statements, which raised
13 significant issues pertaining to materiality, loss causation, and damages; engaging
14 and conferring with various consultants and experts; researching the applicable law
15 related to Lead Plaintiff’s claims and key issues in the case, including Defendants’
16 potential defenses; participating in a full-day mediation session; engaging in hard-
17 fought settlement negotiations with experienced defense counsel who vigorously
18 disputed several key issues in the case; and drafting and negotiating the Stipulation
19 and preparing related documents.

20 100. Lead Counsel’s experience and expertise should be considered in
21 approving an appropriate fee. As shown by Saxena White’s firm resume (*see* Ex. C
22 to Ex. D), each of Saxena White’s attorneys are experienced and skilled class action
23 securities litigators, and each has a successful track record in securities cases across
24 the country—including before this Court and within this Circuit.

25 101. Regarding Appellate Counsel, Joseph Hage Aaronson LLC (“JHA”), a
26 preeminent firm with a national reputation for handling complex, high-stakes
27 appellate litigation in federal and state courts, with a focus on finance, securities,
28 civil RICO, and white-collar matters. JHA is recognized for integrating appellate

1 strategy from the earliest stages of a case through final resolution and is frequently
2 engaged to navigate cases involving substantial financial exposure or
3 precedent-setting questions.

4 102. Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP (“BKLW”) provided essential
5 support by applying their deep familiarity with the District’s local rules, ensuring
6 that filings, motions, and procedural steps were executed. BKLW also has extensive
7 experience in all types of complex civil litigation, including securities class actions.

8 103. The quality of the work performed by Plaintiff’s Counsel in achieving
9 this favorable Settlement should also be evaluated in light of the quality of opposing
10 counsel. Defendants here were represented by Paul Weiss, a global and highly-
11 respected defense firm with extensive experience litigating complex securities class
12 actions. Defendants’ Counsel spared no effort in the vigorous defense of their
13 clients, and yet, in the face of this knowledgeable and formidable defense, Lead
14 Counsel was able to develop a case that was sufficiently strong to persuade
15 Defendants to settle on highly favorable terms prior to class certification, summary
16 judgment and trial.

17 **4. The Contingent Nature of the Fee and Financial**
18 **Burden**

19 104. Courts have repeatedly recognized that it is in the public interest to have
20 experienced and qualified counsel privately enforce the securities laws. However,
21 as recognized by Congress through the passage of the PSLRA, vigorous private
22 enforcement of the federal securities laws can only occur if private plaintiffs, and
23 particularly institutional investors, take an active role in protecting the interests of
24 investors. If this important public policy is to be carried out, Plaintiff’s Counsel
25 should be adequately compensated, taking into account the substantial risks
26 undertaken in prosecuting securities class actions. Indeed, Lead Counsel took this
27 case on a contingency basis, committing its resources and litigating it for over four
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1 years, without any compensation or guarantee of success, a factor which supports
2 the requested fee.

3 **5. Awards in Similar Actions**

4 105. Lead Counsel respectfully submit that the requested 30% fee award is
5 merited under the circumstances here, and is in line with the range of fee awards
6 approved by courts within this District, Circuit and nationwide in complex common-
7 fund cases involving comparably sized settlements.

8 106. Indeed, as the Preliminary Approval Ruling held, “several courts in the
9 Ninth Circuit – including this Court – have noted that ‘in most common fund cases,
10 the award exceeds that benchmark.’” ECF No. 187 at 16, *Rentech II*, 2019 WL
11 5173771, at *10 (citing cases). The Court added, “[i]ndeed, ‘[d]istrict courts in this
12 circuit have routinely awarded fees of one-third of the common fund or higher after
13 considering the particular facts and circumstances of each case,’ and the Ninth
14 Circuit has upheld such awards.” ECF No. 187 at 16 (citing cases). “Accordingly,
15 the Court does not find the anticipated 30% attorney fee request so unreasonable or
16 disproportionate on its face as to weigh against granting the present Motion.” ECF
17 No. 187 at 16.

18 **6. Lead Plaintiff’s Approval and the Reaction of the**
19 **Settlement Class to Date**

20 107. Lead Plaintiff—a sophisticated institutional investor with extensive
21 experience in successfully serving as a lead plaintiff in complex securities class
22 actions—wholly endorses the Settlement and Lead Counsel’s request for an
23 attorneys’ fee award of 30% of the Settlement Fund. Moreover, as set forth above,
24 244,286 notices have been disseminated to potential members of the Settlement
25 Class and their nominees. In addition, the Summary Notice was published in *The*
26 *Wall Street Journal* and over *PR Newswire*. The Notice explains the Settlement and
27 that Lead Counsel would seek fees of up to 30% of the Settlement Fund. The
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1 deadline to object to Lead Counsel’s fee request is March 26, 2026. To date, no
2 member of the Settlement Class has objected.

3 **7. A Lodestar Cross-Check Confirms that Plaintiff’s**
4 **Counsel’s Requested Fee is Reasonable**

5 108. As described in the Fee Memorandum, the reasonableness of Plaintiff’s
6 Counsel’s requested fee is verified by the lodestar “cross-check.” Attached hereto
7 as Exhibits D-F are declarations from Plaintiff’s Counsel in support of an award of
8 attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, which include schedules
9 detailing Plaintiff’s Counsel’s lodestar amount (by showing each specific
10 timekeeper, title, time, hourly rate and lodestar), as well as the expenses incurred,
11 listed by category.

12 109. As set forth in Exhibits D-F, Plaintiff’s Counsel expended a total of
13 12,315.15 hours in the prosecution and investigation of this action up through March
14 9, 2026. The resulting lodestar is \$10,484,366.25. In light of this, the requested fee
15 of 30% of the Settlement Fund, or \$19,500,000 (plus interest thereon), yields a
16 multiplier of 1.86, which is at the lower end of the range of multipliers commonly
17 awarded in comparable securities class actions. Such a multiplier is fair and
18 reasonable based upon the significant risks in this litigation against Defendants, and
19 by Lead Counsel’s substantial efforts to obtain the highly favorable Settlement –
20 which, again, exceeds the rate of recovery for most securities class actions. Lead
21 Counsel also obtained this successful Settlement after success at the motion to
22 dismiss stage on appeal, sparing the Settlement Class from significant risks and years
23 of delays caused by protracted litigation.

24 110. As stated in Exhibits D-F, the lodestar summaries were prepared from
25 daily time records regularly prepared and maintained in the ordinary course of
26 business. Plaintiff’s Counsel’s hourly rates are the same as, or comparable to, the
27 regular current rates charged for their services in non-contingent matters and/or the
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1 rates submitted by comparable firms for lodestar cross-checks in other securities
2 class action fee applications that have been granted in this Circuit.

3 111. Additionally, as shown in Plaintiff’s Counsel’s firm biographies, many
4 of the firms’ attorneys – at all levels – have worked for counsel for years, and have
5 extensive experience in securities class action litigation and appellate practice. Each
6 attorney that prosecuted this Action performed substantive work that directly
7 benefitted the Settlement Class. The time spent by each attorney was reasonable,
8 non-duplicative, beneficial to effective and efficient litigation, and was important to
9 Plaintiff’s Counsel’s and Lead Plaintiff’s ability to understand the strengths and
10 weaknesses of the case in order to negotiate intelligently and evaluate the Settlement,
11 which ultimately led to the successful and favorable resolution of the case.

12 112. In sum, based on the excellent result achieved for the Settlement Class,
13 the quality of work performed, and the risks of prosecuting the Action against
14 Defendants, Lead Counsel submits that its request for a 30% fee award is fair,
15 reasonable, and consistent with other similar cases in this Circuit.

16 **B. Lead Counsel’s Application for Reimbursement of Litigation**
17 **Expenses**

18 113. Lead Counsel also requests \$602,359.78 in reimbursement of litigation
19 expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in prosecuting this Action, to be paid
20 from the Settlement Fund. Lead Counsel respectfully submits that reimbursement
21 of the Litigation Expenses is fair and reasonable.

22 114. As stated above, from the outset of the case, Lead Counsel was aware
23 that it might not recover any of its expenses, and, at the very least, would not recover
24 anything until the Action was successfully resolved (whether through trial and
25 appeals or settlement). Lead Counsel also understood that, even if the case were
26 ultimately successful, an award of expenses would not compensate Lead Counsel
27 for the lost use of the funds advanced to prosecute this Action. Thus, Lead Counsel
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1 was motivated to, and did, take significant steps to minimize expenses whenever
2 practicable without jeopardizing the vigorous prosecution of the Action.

3 115. Plaintiff’s Counsel’s expenses were necessary and appropriate for the
4 prosecution of this Action. They include charges for experts and consultants,
5 mediation costs, computer research, travel expenses to attend client meetings,
6 hearings, depositions and mediations, photocopying, investigation expenses,
7 discovery costs, and other case-related costs. *See* Exhibits D-F.

8 116. Because of the complex issues presented by this case and how deep this
9 Action went into the litigation process before a fair and reasonable settlement could
10 be achieved, Lead Counsel was required to utilize the services of multiple experts.
11 For example, via Round Table Group, Saxena White consulted with Stephen
12 Johnson, a mobile advertising expert. Via IMS Consulting and Expert Services LLC,
13 Lead Counsel also consulted with Ashley Black, a digital marketing technology
14 expert. Saxena White consulted with Global Economics Group LLC (“Global
15 Economics”) and Peregrine Economics LLC (“Peregrine”), economic consulting
16 firms to analyze data and provide expert opinions and consultations regarding the
17 issues of market efficiency, class certification, price impact, insider trading, loss
18 causation, and damages. Additionally, Peregrine also consulted directly on the
19 development of the Plan of Allocation.

20 117. Plaintiff’s Counsel also incurred significant expenses for electronic
21 storage, photocopying, imaging and electronic management of thousands of pages
22 of documents, and online factual and legal research. In particular, Plaintiff’s
23 Counsel utilized the services of Gemean to create an electronic document review
24 platform that allowed Plaintiff’s Counsel to review, code, and classify the documents
25 produced in this case. This allowed Plaintiff’s Counsel to categorize documents
26 based on, among other things, relevance, issue, and potential use in class certification
27 briefing, depositions, settlement negotiations, and trial. These expenses are a
28 necessary part of litigation of this magnitude and scale and were essential to enable

1 Plaintiff’s Counsel to achieve the results now before the Court—the \$65 million
2 Settlement.

3 118. Lead Counsel’s application for Plaintiff’s Counsel’s Litigation
4 Expenses of \$602,359.78—over \$112,000 less than the upper limit of \$715,000
5 contained in the Notice mailed to the Settlement Class—supports approval. Further,
6 as noted above, in response to the dissemination of over 244,000 notices, to date, no
7 objections have been received to Lead Counsel’s seeking of reimbursement of
8 Litigation Expenses.

9 **C. Lead Plaintiff’s Reimbursement Request**

10 119. In accordance with the PSLRA, Oklahoma Fire seeks reimbursement
11 of its reasonable costs and expenses incurred directly in connection with their
12 representation of the Settlement Class, in the amount of \$10,531.75. The amount of
13 time and effort devoted to this Action by the representatives of Lead Plaintiff—who
14 expended considerable time and effort in actively supervising the litigation over a
15 multi-year period, including by collecting and producing numerous documents;
16 preparing for, traveling to and attending its deposition; attending the Court’s and
17 Ninth Circuit hearings, and participating in ongoing settlement discussions—is
18 detailed in the accompanying Lead Plaintiff Declaration. Ex. A (Rankin Decl.).

19 120. Lead Plaintiff respectfully submits that the reimbursement requested is
20 fully consistent with congressional intent, as expressed in the PSLRA, encouraging
21 institutional and other highly experienced plaintiffs to take an active role in bringing
22 and supervising actions of this type. As set forth in the Lead Plaintiff declaration,
23 Oklahoma Fire has throughout the litigation of the Action been fully committed to
24 pursuing the interests of the Settlement Class. Lead Plaintiff has actively and
25 effectively complied with all of the many demands that arose during the litigation
26 and settlement of this Action. Lead Plaintiff’s effort is precisely the type of activities
27 that courts have found to support reimbursement to class representatives, and fully
28 support Lead Plaintiff’s request for reimbursement.

1 **VI. CONCLUSION**

2 121. For all the reasons discussed above, Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel
3 respectfully submit that the Settlement and the Plan of Allocation should be
4 approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. Lead Counsel respectfully request that
5 the Court award attorneys' fees in the amount of 30% of the Settlement Fund and
6 expenses in the amount of \$602,359.78, plus the interest earned thereon. In addition,
7 Lead Counsel respectfully submit that Lead Plaintiff should be awarded the total
8 sum of \$10,531.75 related to its active participation in the Action.

9 I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing facts are true and correct
10 under the laws of the United States of America.
11 Executed this 12th day of March, 2026.

12
13 /s/ Lester R. Hooker
14 Lester R. Hooker
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